

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 16, 2014, 3:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Botelho, Director Boch, Director De La Cruz, Director Gomez, and Director Scattini

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Heather Adamson, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Botelho called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

C. ELECT COG Chairperson for 2014

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors elected Victor Gomez as COG's Chairperson for 2014. Vote: 5/0 motion passes

D. ELECT COG Vice Chairperson for 2014

Upon a motion duly made by Boch, and seconded by Director Botelho, the Directors elected Jaime De La Cruz as COG's Vice Chairperson for 2014. Vote: 5/0 motion passes

E. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

1. Associate Member to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and an Alternate

Chair Gomez stated that he would hold off on appointing an Associate Member at this time. Unless, there is a particular issue that comes up, it can be addressed at that time.

2. Delegate and Alternate to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG)

Chair Gomez stated that he would hold off on appointing a Delegate and Alternate to CALCOG at this time.

3. Representative to Speak on Behalf of COG at California Transportation Commission Meetings

Chair Gomez appointed himself to speak on behalf of COG at California Transportation Commission Meetings for 2014.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Gomez stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated October 30, 2013 through January 2, 2014. The correspondence was entered into the public record

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the Local Transportation Authority will be constructing bus stop shelter improvements in the beginning of February. Staff anticipates arrival of the shelters at the end of the month. One shelter will be located at Central and Graff Roads, the other will be located near the Health Foundation on Felice Drive.

H. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT:

Caltrans provided a written report.

I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Director Botelho stated that he enjoyed his time as Chairman and thanked his fellow Directors and staff for a successful 2013.

The COG Board thanked Director Botelho for his leadership and hard work in 2013.

Chair Gomez provided a brief overview of his goals and objectives for 2014 as follows:

1. Continued support of the Highway 156 project and moving the project forward.
2. Expediting work on the Highway 25 Route transfer and work in the downtown area.
3. Have LTA staff continue to look into a taxi voucher program to address issues with the Dial-A-Ride service.
4. Work in collaboration with the Cities and County to ensure pedestrian safety/friendliness so that students are provided a safe route to school.
5. Work with LTA staff and continue to look into ideas to increase ridership.
6. Have LTA staff look into possibly partnering with Pinnacles National Park to provide transportation service to the Park on certain days.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated December 19, 2013 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** COG Transaction Report (Financial Claims) dated December 2013 (Postigo)
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Route Transfer and Relinquishment ADOPT Resolution 2014-01, Requesting that the State of California Department of Transportation Transfer State Route 25, From its Existing Route Along San Felipe Road, San Benito Street, Tres Pinos Road and Nash Road to the Highway 25 Bypass – Gilbert

5. **ADOPT** Resolution 14-02 Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept funds through the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Caltrans's Transportation Planning Grant Program for an Intelligent Transportation Systems Transit Plan – Valentine
6. **SET** Public Hearings on Unmet Transit Needs for March 18 and 20, 2014 in Hollister – Lezama

Director De La Cruz asked to pull Item 1 for discussion.

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy noted a correction on Item 4. There was a typo on the meeting date in the last paragraph of Resolution 2014-01, which was corrected to January 16, 2014. Staff provided a corrected Resolution for the Chair to sign.

There was no public comment on the Consent agenda.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Scattini, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors unanimously approved Items 2-6 from the Consent Agenda. Vote: 5/0 motion passes

Item 1

Approve Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated December 19, 2013.

Director De La Cruz pulled the meeting minutes to clarify the action that was taken on Item 7: Review options for distributing the 2014 Regional Housing Need and issue proposed methodology to Cities and County.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that it was her understanding that the Board wanted staff to submit an explanation to the State for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment stating that the document is being submitted to them, however, it does not preclude us from doing some of the "smart growth and smart planning" locally.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the information will be relayed to the Cities and County in February when the final methodology is issued.

The Board directed staff to work collaboratively with City and County staff to ensure that the housing numbers are allocated accurately.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff developed the methodology by working with City and County staff and would continue to do so. She stated that last month the Board issued a draft methodology to the Cities and County and the next opportunity to finalize the methodology is in February.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors unanimously approved Item 1 from the Consent Agenda. Vote: 5/0 motion passes

REGULAR AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

7. **APPROVE** Allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program Funding for Completion of the Highway 25 Widening Project Environmental Document in an Amount not to Exceed \$60,000 and **RECOMMEND** Caltrans Select a No Build Project Alternative – Gilbert

Lisa Rheinheimer provided some background information on the Highway 25 Widening Project. She provided an overview of the recommendation to select the No Build alternative in the document as the preferred alternative in the Environmental Impact Report.

The Board had discussion about the recommendation from staff to allocate Regional Surface Transportation Program Funding of \$60,000 and selecting a No Build Project alternative.

The Board expressed concern about selecting a No Build Project alternative. They acknowledged the importance of Highway 25 to San Benito County residents as well as the high volume of commuters that travel to the County of Santa Clara.

Chair Gomez inquired if it was possible to inform Caltrans that COG would like to build on the existing roadway and determine what the cost would be to do so. He stated that he was not comfortable moving forward with a No Build alternative until all options are exhausted.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she would have to speak with Caltrans and report back to the Chair at a later date.

The Board expressed interest in pursuing project alternatives that include passing lanes. After brief discussion Chair Gomez appointed himself and Director De La Cruz to an ad-hoc committee to meet with project partners to consider alternatives.

There was no public comment on this item.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Boch, seconded by Director Botelho, the Directors approved Item 7, to allocate Regional Surface Transportation Program Funding for Completion of the Highway 25 Widening Project Environmental Document in an Amount not to exceed \$60,000, Without selecting a No Build Project Alternative, as the item will be discussed at a future date. Director Gomez opposed.
Vote: 4/1 motion passes.*

The COG Board convened to closed session at 4:05 p.m.

8. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: COG Executive Director

The COG Board reconvened from closed session at 4:38 p.m.

Deputy County Counsel Shirley Murphy stated that the Board would have to report out regarding Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: COG Executive Director as it appears under 54957.1 that an action was taken that may affect the employment status of a public employee in terms of compensation.

Chair Gomez reported out of Closed Session that the COG Board accepted the Executive Director's proposal extending her contract another two years effective January 1, 2015, with a salary increase to begin July 1, 2014 to run through the contract period. The contract will be on a future agenda.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Boch, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors unanimously adjourned the COG meeting at 4:40 p.m.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2014.