

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

June 18, 2015, 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Muenzer, Vice-Chair Boch, Director Gomez, Director Velazquez, Alternate Director De La Cruz
Ex Officio: Brandy Rider, Caltrans District 5

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Interim Executive Director, Mary Gilbert; Administrative Services Specialist Kathy Postigo; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Transportation Planner, Sean Vienna; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5; Heather Adamson, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments; John Ristow, Valley Transportation Authority; Herb Kellogg, California Highway Patrol; Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Muenzer called the meeting to order at 3:06 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors acknowledged the Certificate of Posting. Vote: 5/0 motion passes.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Muenzer stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated June 2, 2015 through June 16, 2015. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert reported that she attended the San Luis Obispo Central Coast Coalition meeting.

In addition, she announced that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for the San Juan Road Interchange July 17, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. The location has not yet been determined.

Finally, Ms. Gilbert introduced Sean Vienna, COG's new Transportation Planner, who began working for the San Benito COG as of June 1, 2015.

E. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT: Gubbins

Brandy Rider announced that the Highway 25 Curve Realignment project construction is anticipated to go through to winter.

Also, the third edition of Caltrans Mile Marker is available on their website. The report provides a transparent, plain-language accounting of Caltrans' performance.

F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Special Joint Meeting Minutes Dated May 21, 2015 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated May 21, 2015 – Gomez
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **APPROVE** Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Council of Governments Final Budget – Postigo
5. **APPROVE** Amendment No. 1 to Contract with Apex Strategies, Extending the Contract through December 2015 – Gilbert
6. **APPROVE** the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Final Overall Work Program and **AUTHORIZE** Executive Director to Sign Overall Work Program Agreement – Lezama

Ms. Gilbert noted a correction to Item 4. She stated that the correct action was to **ADOPT** Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Council of Governments Final Budget.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez and seconded by Director Velazquez, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1-6 from the Consent Agenda, as amended by staff. Vote: 5/0 motion passes.

REGULAR AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

7. **APPROVE** Work Plan for Potential Transportation Sales Tax Measure in the 2016 Election Cycle – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert introduced Eileen Goodwin with Apex Strategies who is jointly working on a work plan timeline for a sales tax measure in San Benito County

Ms. Goodwin provided a review of the Expenditure Plan for the Council of San Benito County Governments Draft 2015-2016 Timeline

There was discussion and clarification from the COG Board regarding messaging related to Highway 25 and any sales tax effort.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors unanimously approved Item 7. Vote: 5/0 motion passes.

8. **RECEIVE** Presentation on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Projects in Southern Santa Clara County – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert introduced John Ristow of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). Mr. Ristow provided a Power-Point presentation on the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Projects in Southern Santa Clara County.

There was some discussion amongst the COG Board and Mr. Ristow regarding the SR 152 Trade Corridor and the US 101/SR 25 Interchange.

There was no public comment on this item.

9. RECEIVE Report on Assembly Bill 227 (Alejo) and **APPROVE** Letter of support by the Council of Governments Board of Directors – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert reported that unfortunately Assembly Bill 227 was currently in the suspense file. However, Assemblymember Alejo reported that his team would continue to fight for transportation funding and would continue to accept letters of support.

There was no public comment on this item.

Director De La Cruz stepped out of the meeting momentarily.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors unanimously approved Item 9. Vote: 4/0 motion passes.

10. APPROVE Staff Work Plan for Regional Transportation Plan Amendment for the Highway 25 Widening Project – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert provided background information regarding the Regional Transportation Plan amendment for Highway 25.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hamdy Abbass

“Stay Alive On 25”

Mr. Abbass stated that he was one of the co-founders of the “Stay Alive on 25” campaign from back in 2000. He stated that something had to be done once again to educate the public about safety on the roadway. Mr. Abbass stated that there use to be at least four signs back then, but now there is only one sign on the route. Mr. Abbass asked the Board to provide direction so that they could rally the public to do something all over again.

Chair Muenzer closed public comment.

California Highway Patrol Officer Herb Kellogg provided fatality and accident data on the route and answered questions from the Board. Officer Kellogg also agreed that drivers need to be educated because they are putting lives at risk when they drive recklessly.

There was discussion amongst the Board members regarding potential interim solutions and public outreach concepts. Ms. Gilbert stated she would include follow up on the safety corridor issues at the next meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors unanimously approved Item 10. Vote: 5/0 motion passes.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Velazquez, the Directors unanimously adjourned the COG meeting at 4:13 p.m. Vote:5/0 motion passes.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING JULY 16, 2015.