

**COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 6, 2007**

**2:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa Rheinheimer, COG Executive Director; Jerry Lo, Public Works Director, San Benito County; Steve Wittry, Engineering Manager, City of Hollister; Bill Avera Development Services Manager, City of Hollister; Michael Krausie, Assistant Planner, San Benito County Planning Department; Mark McCumsey, Regional Planner, Caltrans District 5

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gary Ruggerone, Environmental Planner; Mike Guiliano, Local Assistance Administrator; Claudia Espino, Senior Transportation Engineer; Caltrans District 5

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary Dinkuhn, Transportation Planning Manager; Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planner; Betty Li, Transportation Planner; Monica Gomez, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING:**

*Upon a motion duly made by Bill Avera and seconded by Jerry Lo, it was unanimously approved to acknowledge the Certificate of Posting as submitted.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mike Guiliano announced that there is a new call for projects through the State for the Safe Routes to School Program for \$52 million and in one month Caltrans will announce the Federal Safe Routes to School call for projects totaling \$48 million. The application due date for the first call is November 16, 2007.

Executive Director Lisa Rheinheimer recognized Jerry Lo and Arman Nazemi of the Public Works Department for a successful Nash Road Bridge opening ceremony.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Approve TAC Meeting Minutes dated August 2, 2007.**
- 2. Receive Information about California High-Speed Train and Public Comment Period for the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley Environmental Impact Report**

### **3. Receive Update on FY 07/08 State Budget**

*Upon a motion duly made by Jerry Lo, and seconded by Steve Wittry, the committee unanimously approved Items 1-3.*

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **4. Receive Update on Highway 25 Bypass Project**

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that the contractor continues work on construction of the sound walls. Staff has also done a lot of outreach with the Hollister School District to discuss concerns regarding student safety in the construction zone. Staff prepared a Parent/Student Construction Information flyer that went out to all the local schools in Spanish and English. Ms. Dinkuhn mentioned that staff met with representatives from the school district last week and they were pleased with the school safety measures that have been taken.

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that staff will continue to meet with Caltrans to ensure that all Caltrans requirements are met.

### **5. Receive Presentation on National Environmental Policy Act Delegation**

Mike Guiliano, Caltrans District 5, Local Assistance Administrator introduced Gary Ruggerone, Caltrans District 5, Environmental Planner who provided a Power-Point presentation on the new delegation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities.

Mr. Ruggerone provided an overview of the effects of new National Environmental Policy Act delegation to Local Agency projects that will receive federal transportation funding. Mr. Ruggerone also discussed the new Regional Transportation Plan requirements resulting from the reauthorization bill and how these requirements will affect Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. (Refer to TAC Agenda packet for handouts).

Mr. Nazemi inquired if Caltrans anticipates the need for additional staffing due to this new responsibility.

Mr. Ruggerone stated that five new Environmental Planners have been added to facilitate organizational changes amongst the districts however; Caltrans District 5 did not gain an additional position.

### **6. Receive Presentation on State Highway Operation and Protection Program**

Claudia Espino, Caltrans District 5, Senior Transportation Planner provided a presentation on the ten-year State Highway Operation and Protection Program and the four-year State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Ms. Espino's presentation included an overview of how both the long-term program and short-term program work and what types of projects are eligible for this funding. (Refer to TAC Agenda packet for handouts).

Ms. Espino stated that the top two candidate SHOPP Projects in San Benito County are the

Route 25 CAPM (Preventive Maintenance) and the Route 156 San Juan Bautista CAPM (Preventive Maintenance). Ms. Espino noted that TAC members should contact the project manager, Richard Rosales for project-specific questions.

Ms. Espino provided an overview of the SHOPP development schedule. The final draft of 2008 SHOPP will be sent by Headquarters Programming to Regional Transportation Agencies for review November 21, 2007. The last day to receive follow-up comments from districts and headquarter program managers on the final draft of 2008 SHOPP is December 14, 2007. The final 2008 SHOPP document will be available on the internet May 2008.

Ms. Rheinheimer inquired about being provided with the 2008 and 2010 SHOPP project candidate list so that TAC members are able to view what projects are currently listed.

Ms. Espino will look into providing a 2010 SHOPP project candidate list for TAC members.

TAC members recommended the following potential project candidates which all require preventive maintenance, Northbound 101 to Highway 156 off ramp, Highway 25, and San Benito Street (downtown Hollister, Highway 25).

#### **7. Receive and Comment on Scope of Work for the San Benito County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan Update**

Transportation Planner Veronica Lezama reviewed the proposed scope of work for the Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan update with TAC members and requested comments. Ms. Lezama mentioned that a Request for Proposals to update the Plan will be considered by the COG Board at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Dinkuhn recommended adding a Public Health element to the scope of work.

#### **8. Receive Update and Presentation on the 2007 San Benito County Short Range Transit Plan and Provide Comments to Local Transportation Authority**

Transportation Planner Betty Li provided a Power-Point presentation of the 2007 San Benito County Short Range Transit Plan. (Refer to TAC Agenda packet for handouts)

Ms. Li reviewed the five service options that are under discussion as follows: a) keep the current system, b) revert back to the 2004 system, c) reduce service to two Fixed Routes and Dial-A-Ride, d) expand service by realigning current routes and adding one Fixed Route, and e) operate only Dial-A-Ride and elimination of Fixed Routes.

Ms. Li encouraged TAC members to provide comments on the draft plan.

Mr. Wittry suggested the use of numbered routes instead of color coded routes.

*Upon a motion duly made by Steve Wittry and seconded by Arman Nazemi, the Committee voted to adjourn the TAC meeting.*

**ADJOURN TO MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2007 AT 2:00 p.m.**