

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

**February 5, 2009                      2:00 PM**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa Rheinheimer, Council of Governments; Bill Avera, City of Hollister Planning Department; Steve Wittry City of Hollister Public Works; Janelle Cox, County Public Works Department; Michael Krausie, County Planning Department; Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Arman Nazemi, County Public Works Department

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING:**

*Upon a motion duly made by Bill Avera, and seconded by Steve Wittry, it was unanimously approved to acknowledge the Certificate of Posting.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mark McCumsey, Caltrans 5 announced that there will be a one-day conference February 20<sup>th</sup> in Monterey regarding air quality and project analysis and strategies for addressing climate change. There will also be a panel discussion on how to implement AB32 and SB375.

Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer announced that the Monterey Bay and South Bay Chapters of the American Public Works Association are introducing a program to help educate and train public works employees. The program is intended for operators, supervisors, inspectors, engineers, and managers. Ms. Rheinheimer provided a flyer with contact information for anyone interested in attending.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

### **1. Approve TAC Special Meeting Minutes dated January 8, 2008**

### **2. Receive Report on a Grant Opportunity for Bikeway and Pedestrian Projects through the Safe Routes to School Program**

*Upon a motion duly made by Bill Avera, and seconded by Steve Wittry, the Committee unanimously approved Items 1 and 2 from the Consent Agenda.*

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **3. Receive Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Project.**

Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn, announced that the project was opened to traffic on February 5. Minor work on drainage inlets and other items is still outstanding and will be completed under traffic control and lane closures as needed.

Staff continues to work with Caltrans, the City of Hollister, and San Benito County to complete the transfer of the route to Caltrans. Caltrans has requested that traffic and safety data from one year be provided prior to the transfer of the roadway. Staff anticipates the transfer will be complete in 14-18 months.

There was brief discussion concerning the 35 mile per hour speed limit along the bypass.

Committee members noted some concern regarding the center median at Sunnyslope and Airline Highway (past Jiffy Lube). Drivers are making unsafe turns when traveling westbound on Sunnyslope to turn into the Rite Aid parking or when turning from Blackforest into Rite Aid. Committee members suggested looking into realignment at Blackforest and Sunnyslope to avoid potential accidents.

### **4. Receive Update on the San Juan Road Interchange Project in San Benito and Monterey Counties and Recommend comments on the Environmental Document.**

Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn reported that the project is currently in the environmental stage of development. A Draft Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment was released for public review on January 19, 2009. Comments are due to Caltrans by February 28, 2009. A public hearing on the environmental document will be held February 5 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Aromas School Gymnasium.

Three alternatives are being considered in the Environmental Assessment. Two are build alternatives and one is a no-build alternative.

Mark McCumsey provided copies of Alternative 10B, estimated to cost \$74.5 million, and Alternative 10D, estimated to cost \$64.8 million, for the Committee's review.

After a brief discussion, the Committee, along with staff, recommended comments in support of Alternative 10D, primarily due to the lower cost.

*Upon a motion made by Steve Wittry, and seconded by Bill Avera, the Committee recommended support of Alternative 10D to the Council of Governments Board.*

## **5. Receive and Comment on California Transportation Plan (Verbal Report).**

Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer continued this item to the March TAC meeting.

## **6. Recommend List of Projects for the Proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package to the Council of Governments Board (Verbal Report).**

Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer reported that the U.S. House of Representatives approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which authorizes \$30 billion in spending for transportation projects. The U.S. Senate has also deliberated on economic stimulus funding at similar funding levels. President Obama has indicated his support for economic stimulus to help jump start the economy and create jobs.

The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the list of projects and made the following recommendations to staff:

- Move San Benito County Southside Road AC Overlay project to Tier I
- Move City of Hollister LED Traffic Light Replacement project to Tier II
- Move San Benito County Guardrail Replacement project to Tier II

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will be meeting with representatives from the City and County to discuss the proposed economic stimulus package.

*Upon a motion made by Steve Wittry, and seconded by Bill Avera, the Committee unanimously recommended the list of Projects for the proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package to the Council of Governments Board.*

## **7. Receive and Comment on the Draft San Benito County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan Network Recommendations.**

Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama provided a Power-Point presentation for the Committee.

Ms. Lezama stated that Alta Design + Planning prepared the bikeway and pedestrian network recommendations for the San Benito County region. Facility recommendations were developed in coordination with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and with input from the public.

Ms. Lezama mentioned that a public workshop, which focused on receiving input on the draft bikeway and pedestrian facility recommendations, was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

Steve Wittry inquired if the plan includes the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements that Caltrans will be doing on Highway 25, to ensure that staff accounts for these improvements and does not include them in budgeting costs.

Staff will verify if the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements were included in the plan.

There was discussion regarding the maintenance page and how often the Cities and County perform street sweeping and minor repairs to the roads.

Janelle Cox stated that the County is in the process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and inquired if components from the Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan can be incorporated into the

County's Plan.

Ms. Lezama stated that the San Benito County Bikeway and Pedestrian Draft Plan will be out within the next few weeks; however it was noted that staff forwarded draft recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan consultant.

#### **8. Receive Report on Available Funding through Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants**

Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama stated that Caltrans is accepting applications for fiscal year 2009/2010 Transportation Planning Grants. The program provides funding for wide range transportation planning projects. Applications are due to Caltrans on April 1, 2009.

Ms. Lezama reviewed the list of potential planning projects that local jurisdictions and COG can respectively apply for.

Ms. Lezama will forward TAC members the link where they can find the application.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that COG staff will be able to provide letters of support for the Cities and County projects and will look for letters of support from them for COG projects as well.

Transportation Planner, Betty LiOwen reviewed the projects that the Local Transportation Authority will be applying for.

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

**ADJOURN TO MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2009 AT 2:00 p.m.**