

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

January 8, 2009 2:00 PM

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Rheinheimer, Council of Governments; Bill Avera, City of Hollister Planning Department; David Rubcic, 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; Monica Gomez, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Arman Nazemi, County Public Works Department

CALL TO ORDER:

Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Dinkuhn reminded the Committee about the San Juan Road Interchange Project Public Hearing, February 5, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Aromas Elementary School Gym. Comments are due February 15, 2009.

Lisa Rheinheimer stated that COG staff will be attending the public hearing and will report back to the Committee at the next TAC meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve TAC Meeting Minutes dated December 4, 2008

Upon a motion duly made by Bill Avera, and seconded by Janelle Cox, the Committee unanimously approved Item 1 from the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Receive Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Project.

Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn, stated that the project construction is 97% complete.

The contractor has completed final paving on several sections of the roadway. There is still some traffic signal work that has to be completed by PG&E, however, the project is expected to be complete in mid-February, weather permitting.

Staff is planning a scaled back ribbon cutting ceremony for the Highway 25 Bypass and will be forwarding invitations to committee members as soon as a date is confirmed.

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that she has been in contact with law enforcement and noted that the police chief is working with the California Highway Patrol to ensure that law enforcement is aware of the bypass opening.

3. Discuss Project Nominations for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)

Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama requested that Committee members submit project nominations for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Ms. Lezama mentioned that staff received a list of projects from the County.

The City nominated Nash Road, and San Benito Street.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that COG staff will work with the Committee in preparing a list of project nominations which will be forwarded to the Council of Governments Board of Directors for inclusion of the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

4. Receive Update on Senate Bill 375, the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan, and the Blueprint Plan: Envisioning Monterey Bay

Executive Director Lisa Rheinheimer and Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn provided a presentation on Senate Bill 375, the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan, and the Blueprint Plan: Envisioning Monterey Bay.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that Senate Bill 375 is new legislation that requires regional transportation plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a sustainable communities strategy. An update to the San Benito County Regional Transportation Plan is due in 2010. The Blueprint Plan will help set the stage for SB 375 requirements and the update of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn stated that AMBAG is refining a schedule for the 'visualization' portion of the Blueprint planning process. Blueprint visualization compares growth based on current trends, as approved in the General Plans, with future scenarios of land use and development. Each scenario will explain a different distribution of housing and employment.

The schedule for the visualization process includes public outreach meetings to determine community preferences for different scenarios. The meetings are tentatively planned to be held in late winter and early spring 2009.

A technical working group met in December to refine the performance measures that will be used to evaluate each Blueprint scenario. The updated list of performance measures was provided in committee members packets for review and discussion.

There was brief discussion regarding the performance measures used to evaluate the Blueprint scenarios.

5. Receive Report on the Proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package

Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer stated that both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have recently proposed economic stimulus legislation that would have included funding for transportation infrastructure. President Elect Obama has stated that as one of his first acts of office, he wants to approve a stimulus bill that would create 2.5 million jobs. This bill would include funding for infrastructure and it is expected that the share of funding devoted to transportation will be substantial.

Representatives from state, local, and regional agencies have been reviewing the potential formula for distribution of funding, as well as the mechanism through which the funds would be disbursed; a 3-way split between the state, local, and regional agencies is considered likely. It is likely that the funding will come with a “use it or lose it” clause to ensure timely completion of projects. A need for regulatory relief to expedite environmental review has been identified and will be considered.

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 duly made by Steve Wittry and seconded by Janelle Cox, the Committee voted to adjourn the TAC meeting.

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