

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

**October 21, 2010 2:00 P.M.**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Gomez, Director Bilich, Director Botelho, Director De La Cruz, and Director Emerson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5; Pauline Valdivia, Jovenes de Antaño; Tony Mercado, MV Transportation

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 2:01 P.M.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**Joe Thompson  
Tres Pinos, CA**

Mr. Thompson urged the COG Board to follow the Gilroy City Council's decision in saying "No" to the Mobility Partnerships Plan.

Chair Gomez stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated September 15, 2010 through October 15, 2010. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

**D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None**

**E. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

Director Emerson noted that the San Benito County Water District will be holding a recycled water demonstration on Flynn Road, Thursday, October 28, at 10:00 a.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated September 16, 2010 – Gomez

2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated September 2010 – Postigo
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **ADOPT** Resolution 10-17 Updating the Council of San Benito County Governments Purchasing Policy – Postigo
5. **San Benito County Vanpool Program - Lezama**
  - a. **ACCEPT** All Bids in Response to COG Invitation for Bids #2010-001, and
  - b. **AWARD** Bid to Tiffany Ford for an Amount not to Exceed \$22,837.74, and
  - c. **AUTHORIZE** Executive Director to Sign all Documents Necessary to Purchase One (1) Vanpool Vehicle from Tiffany Ford.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Emerson, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Director's unanimously approved Items 1-5 from the Consent agenda.*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:**

6. **RECEIVE** Update on the Mobility Partnership and the Route 152 Trade Corridor Summary Report (US 101 to Route 99) – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the Mobility Partnership met in late September to receive an update on the Route 152 Project status, the final report of the Route 152 Trade Corridor Project, and upcoming project activities.

Ms. Rheinheimer mentioned that Merced and Los Baños have shown an interest in joining the Mobility Partnership, the Mobility Partnership will consider adding Merced and Los Baños at a future meeting in December.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the project activities scheduled over the coming year include the initiation of the environmental document. As a part of conducting studies, the VTA, through its consultants, will seek access to private property in the study area. The purpose of accessing private property is to gather data for the technical studies to support the environmental document.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

#### **Joe Thompson**

Mr. Thompson stated that those who are elected to office are bound by the will of the voters. The voters of San Benito County said that the Mobility Partnership Plan should only support the Bullet Train if it doesn't take money out of taxpayer's pockets. Mr. Thompson stated that the Mobility Partnership defies the will of the voters.

Director Botelho stated that the Mobility Partnership is making a lot of progress. The corridor is absolutely critical for the State of California. As the community continues to read about the number of accidents in local newspapers, the need for an East/West connecting route is crucial. The Mobility's collective concern is to improve highway safety and there has already been tremendous progress with a minimal amount of resources.

Director Bilich commented on how nobody has mentioned that by going through with Caltrans plans, the County will end up with a loss of 80,000 bushels of fruits and vegetables, which is devastating for the County and especially San Juan Bautista.

**7. RECEIVE Report on Truck Route Planning in San Benito County – Rheinheimer**

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the City of Hollister and County of San Benito recently designated Highway 25 Bypass as a truck route, which allows the large semitrailer trucks to travel through Hollister and San Benito County. Council of Governments, County, and City staffs are also working on identifying other routes appropriate for the truck route designation.

Ms. Rheinheimer provided a Power-Point presentation on Truck Routes and answered questions from the Board.

Director Botelho inquired if something could be done to improve truck signage, road safety and maintenance, which is needed along the route.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that truck route signs need to be installed along the Highway 25 Bypass. These signs should be installed shortly by the County or City through the maintenance agreement. Ms. Rheinheimer stated that a more in depth analysis is needed to inventory the proposed truck routes and identify intersections needing modifications to accommodate truck route movements.

Director Botelho stated that Shore Road, and San Felipe Road, should be included in the inventory of identified truck intersections because he is concerned with trucks having to make very tight turns in those areas. Director Botelho also identified Lucy Brown (turning right off of HWY 156) as a concern because this road is too narrow for the big trucks.

Director Botelho stated that the idea of the circular mapping that was presented should work well and added that he is very supportive of this program.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that Lucy Brown was already identified as one of the truck routes however she noted that it may be more logical to put it at Bixby Road instead because the Highway 156 Project would have Bixby Road as the main intersection along that route.

Chair Gomez agreed with Director Botelho's comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Joe Thompson**

Mr. Thompson stated that the United States Congress said that “No State or Local Government can enact or enforce any law, rule, or regulation regarding a trucker’s rates, routes, and services.” Mr. Thompson stated that this business is the exclusive realm of the Federal Government.

Mr. Thompson stated that year after year Joint Powers Authorities refuse to make motorist safety their top priority.

Director Botelho directed staff to report back to the Board in a couple of months in regard to developing an inventory of needs for intersection modifications and prioritization.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will provide an updated report at its December meeting.

**8. Highway 25 Safety and Operational Enhancements Project – Gilbert**

- a. **RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Safety and Operational Enhancements Project, and
- b. **APPROVE** Contract Change Orders No. 26 and 27 for a Total Amount not to Exceed \$206,341

Ms. Gilbert reported that the project's Resident Engineer is completing project closeout. During project inspection, Caltrans identified a light pole at Hudner Lane that is in conflict with high voltage power lines and requires relocation. The light pole will be relocated across the intersection. A contract change order, in the amount of \$15,000, to complete the relocation was submitted to the Board for approval.

The contractor submitted a claim for \$219,000 associated with an unanticipated level of effort for roadway excavation. The Resident Engineer reviewed the claim and determined that the contractor was entitled to \$191,340 for the additional work required. A contract change order for this amount was submitted to the Board for consideration. Ms. Gilbert noted that although this contract change order will exceed the project contingency balance by \$72,578, monies were available through the fund balance that had previously been identified for the project.

Ms. Gilbert stated that the Resident Engineer finalized cost information for all project work and the fund balance totals \$465,271.

Upon approval of contract change orders, the Resident Engineer will prepare a Proposed Final Estimate for approval and staff will file a Notice of Completion for the project

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's unanimously approved Item 8b.*

#### **9. APPOINT Members to Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee – Gilbert**

Ms. Gilbert reported that at its August meeting, the Board directed staff to recruit members for a Regional Transportation Plan Advisory committee made up of no more than 11 members. Staff recruited membership from the entire community, and targeted recruitment to the interests identified based on best practices recommended in the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines.

Ms. Gilbert stated that staff received 14 applications from the community. Due to the number of applications received, staff recommended that the Board appoint 12 individuals to the Committee.

Director Botelho commented that it is a good group of 12 people and he believes that they will serve this committee well.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Bilich, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Director's unanimously approved Item 9.*

*Upon a motion made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Botelho, the Director's voted to adjourn the COG meeting.*

**ADJOURN TO COG MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2010.**