

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

**February 4, 2009 2:00 PM**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa Rheinheimer, Council of Governments; Bill Avera, City of Hollister Planning Department; Michael Krausie, County Planning Department; Steve Wittry, County Public Works Department; Mitch Gabriel, City of San Juan Bautista; Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5; Tim Saxon, California Highway Patrol

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planner; Monica Gomez, Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Anthony Botelho, Board of Supervisors; Mike Zen, MNS Engineers; Dean Russu, MNS Engineers

**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 Steve Wittry, and seconded by Mike Krausie, the Committee unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mark McCumsey announced that applications for the Transportation Planning Grants are due March 1, 2010 to Caltrans. The Transportation Planning and Community-Based Transportation Planning grants are due to Caltrans April 1, 2010.

Steve Wittry announced that the County was successful in receiving the Hazard Elimination Grant for a new signal at the Santa Ana Road and Fairview Road.

Lisa Rheinheimer stated that the Council of San Benito County Governments was awarded the 2010 Project of the Year Award for the Highway 25 Bypass Project. Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the Project will be forwarded to the American Public Works Association at a national level to compete with other projects for project of the year as well.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE** TAC Meeting Minutes dated October 1, 2009 – Gomez

2. **RECEIVE** Update on the 2010 San Benito County Regional Transportation Improvement Program – Rheinheimer

*Upon a motion duly made by Michael Krausie, and seconded by Mitch Gabriel, the Committee approved Items 1 and 2 from the Consent Agenda, with an abstention on Item 1 by Steve Wittry.*

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

3. **DISCUSS** Truck Routes in San Benito County – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that several issues have arisen on the subject of truck routes in San Benito County over the last year. There are farming operations that need additional truck route access and the Highway 25 Bypass is not yet on the truck route system.

Ms. Rheinheimer introduced Supervisor Botelho, who provided comments on the subject.

Supervisor Botelho stated that the agricultural community is concerned about trucks lacking terminal access to farming and packing facilities. He explained that 54-foot trucks have a tendency to come off of the T-Routes and onto roads that are not designated as truck routes, which results in drivers getting ticketed. This is causing a major problem for packing facilities that depend on shipping produce. Supervisor Botelho asked Committee members if they could come up with a solution or ideas to improve the situation.

Ms. Rheinheimer noted that the Highway 25 Bypass should be the designated truck route through Hollister as a result of the McCray Street connection being eliminated. Ms. Rheinheimer provided procedures from the Caltrans website to begin the process of designating truck routes.

Mr. Wittry stated that the problem is with the turnaround which occurs at the end of a truck route. The turnaround, which may be at a facility, needs to allow the truck enough room to turnaround and get back onto the road.

Mr. Wittry stated that Public Works would have to conduct a study and deal with packing facilities on an individual basis to see if the turnaround is legal and meets California Highway Patrol's regulations. However, the facilities would be responsible for the cost of improvements at their location.

With regard to the Highway 25 Bypass truck route, COG staff will coordinate with the City and County staff to develop an ordinance and get the Bypass designated as a truck route.

Captain Saxon suggested putting a T-route map on the County website for the public to download.

4. **RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Safety and Operational Enhancements Project and **DISCUSS** Possible Daytime Detour Plan – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer introduced Mike Zen and Dean Russu of MNS Engineers to report on the proposed daytime detour plan of Highway 25 for the Safety Project construction.

Mr. Zen stated that the detours would allow them to complete paving during the spring given warmer temperatures during the daytime. Mr. Zen stated that the advantage to the detours would be that the project could be completed one month sooner than originally scheduled. The detours will not be run concurrently and would last 2-3 weeks (approximately 5 to 10 days per detour Monday through Friday).

Mr. Zen asked TAC members to provide feedback on the feasibility of detouring traffic to alternate routes during the daytime.

After some discussion between Mr. Zen, Mr. Russu, and Committee members, the Committee provided the following feedback:

- Have flaggers available at intersections during peak hours
- Changeable message signs on Highway 101, Highway 156, and on San Felipe Road
- Engineers report back with actual dollar cost savings to determine if the detour is beneficial

Mr. Zen will work on coming up with a cost savings for the detour and report back to COG staff.

#### 5. **Federal Funding for Transportation Projects** – Rheinheimer

- a. **RECEIVE** Update on Delivery of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Projects in San Benito County,
- b. **RECIEVE** Report on Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, and
- c. **DISCUSS** Possible Projects for Future Federal Funding.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding has been obligated by Caltrans for City of Hollister and County of San Benito Projects. Additional American Recovery funding may become available if other States fail to use their entire apportionment. Additionally, the US House of Representatives passed the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010. The Act of 2010 includes infrastructure funding for highways, streets, roads, and transit capital.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the City of Hollister, County of San Benito, and the Local Transportation Authority were able to obligate their full apportionment of American Recovery Act funding to a total of six projects. Ms. Rheinheimer reviewed an updated list of projects with the Committee.

Mr. Wittry stated that the City and County will have to present the list of projects to their respective Board's as a draft and once they approve they can move forward with a final list.

Mr. Gabriel expressed interest in receiving a similar funding exchange which occurred with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act distribution. The City of San Juan Bautista exchanged an amount equal to 10% of the Recovery funding for local transportation dollars. Should the Jobs for Main Street Act pass, the City of San Juan Bautista expressed interest in this funding swap.

#### 6. **RECEIVE** and **COMMENT** on the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan – Lezama

Ms. Lezama reported that COG has completed the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan. The Draft Plan will also be presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Social Services Transit Advisory Committee for input.

Ms. Lezama stated that COG is coordinating the required Environmental Impact Report with AMBAG, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. The Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Report will be released for a 45-day public review period in March. The Draft Report will be provided to the Committee for comment upon its release for public comment.

Ms. Lezama stated that COG Board members directed staff to include the Meridian Road Extension to the Plan Project List.

Ms. Rheinheimer mentioned that the San Juan Road Interchange Project, Route 152 Realignment Project, and Route 101/25 Interchange Project have been added to the list of projects under “funded by others”

There was discussion about the inclusion of the High Speed Rail Project in the Plan.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff would include the High Speed Rail Project in the Plan in the 2012 update.

The Environmental Document will be released for comment February 19, 2010. The Environmental document will be available on COG’s website at [www.sanbenitocog.org](http://www.sanbenitocog.org).

#### 7. **DISCUSS** State Transportation Planning Grants – Lezama

Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama, stated that Caltrans is accepting applications for fiscal year 2010/2011. Transportation Planning Grants are intended to promote strong and healthy communities, economic growth, and protection of the environment. The final result of these grants should lead to the adoption, initiation, and programming of transportation improvements that improve mobility, access, and economic viability.

Applications for transit related projects are due on March 1, 2010. The Environmental Justice Transportation Planning and Community-Based Transportation Planning grants are due to Caltrans April 1, 2010.

Ms. Lezama mentioned that the Local Transportation Authority will be applying for Google transit, which would allow you to find transit information on Google Maps.

Ms. Rheinheimer mentioned that the Local Transportation Authority will also be applying for a transit grant to fund a transit professional development for two transit planning interns.

There was discussion amongst Committee members about a possible partnership plan for truck route planning.

*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 4, 2010 AT 2:00 P.M.**