

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

**May 6, 2010 2:00 PM**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa Rheinheimer, Council of Governments; Abraham Prado, City of Hollister Planning Department; Steve Wittry, County Public Works Department; Mitch Gabriel, City of San Juan Bautista; Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planner; Monica Gomez, Secretary

**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 Steve Wittry, and seconded by Mark McCumsey, the Committee unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Dinkuhn distributed a handout on an Erosion and Sediment Control class.

Ms. Rheinheimer distributed information from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) on Community Planning Forums. This year the forums will be on water, water efficiency, recycled water, and the coastal water project.

Mr. Wittry announced that San Benito County Public Works has completed their ARRA projects, which were the construction improvements at Union and Fairview Roads.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that AMBAG will be hosting Regional Blueprint Workshops at the Veteran's Memorial Building, June 16 and June 26, 2010.

Mr. McCumsey announced that the State is working with Metropolitan Planning Agencies on transportation modeling with health facilities. Workshops will be held in Oakland, Fresno and Los Angeles. Mr. McCumsey asked to contact Bhupendra Patel at AMBAG for more information.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that Bike Week is coming up next week. Ms. Rheinheimer encouraged people to participate in Bike to Work day on Thursday, May 13, 2010. Staff will be providing breakfast at the Briggs Building lawn area from 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. for those who participate.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the State Transportation Improvement Program recommendations for the 2010 Cycle are out. They have pushed out the Highway 156 Widening Project from the 2011/12 Fiscal Year to the 2012/13 Fiscal Year.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that she will be working over the next year and a half with the American Public Works Association's Monterey Bay Chapter on an infrastructure report card. They will be looking at transportation infrastructure, highways, local streets and roads, aviation, flood control, waste water facilities, and possibly looking at energy/alternative energy, communications and broadband, etc. Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she will be contacting TAC members to ask if they are available to attend some meetings.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE** TAC Meeting Minutes dated February 4, 2010 – Gomez

*Upon a motion duly made by Steve Wittry, and seconded by Mark McCumsey, the Committee approved Item 1 from the Consent Agenda.*

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

2. **RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Safety Project – Dinkuhn

Ms. Dinkuhn provided an update on the project and stated that work in May will be driven by weather conditions. Work may include excavation and construction of the roadway shoulders and driveway access roads on the east side of the highway and north of Shore Road. Pavex will continue work as weather permits and wet conditions subside. Construction is still on schedule to be complete in June or July.

Mr. McCumsey inquired about the detour that had been discussed at the previous TAC meeting.

Staff stated that the detour will not occur as it was determined that it would not be beneficial. The contractor will perform the work at night instead.

Staff will inform TAC members once the dates are determined for the night time work.

3. **RECEIVE** Report on Grant Funding Available through the Strategic Growth Council – Rheinheimer

Ms. Dinkuhn reported that the Strategic Growth Council will be accepting applications for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program. Cities, Counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are eligible to apply.

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that Individual grant awards are limited to a minimum of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$1 million. The funding will be divided among three grant categories.

Ms. Dinkuhn noted that a timeline for the grant application has not yet been provided. More information is available online at [http://www.sgc.ca.gov/planning\\_grants.html](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/planning_grants.html).

4. **RECEIVE** Report on the Gas Tax Swap for Transportation – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that in March, the Governor signed several bills dealing with transportation financing. The first is a gas tax swap that eliminates the sales tax on gasoline and replaces it with an excise tax. The second tax swap increases the sales tax on diesel fuel and reduces the excise tax by an equivalent amount. The price at the pump is predicted to be consistent to what it would have been under current law.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that San Benito County will get approximately \$300,000 over this current fiscal year and next fiscal year for Transit Operations, which is good news because Transit has been operating in a deficit this fiscal year.

There was brief discussion on the Gas Tax Swap.

5. **RECEIVE** Report on Hollister to Gilroy Route 25 Widening and Route Adoption Draft Environmental Impact Report and Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that Caltrans has released for public comment the Hollister to Gilroy State Route 25 Widening and Route Adoption Draft Environmental Impact Report and Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement. There are two alternative alignments under consideration in the environmental document.

Ms. Rheinheimer noted that a Public Hearing is scheduled for May 11, 2010, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the R.O Hardin Elementary School in Hollister. Comments will be accepted until June 10, 2010.

Staff reviewed the two Route Adoption Alternatives that are under consideration with TAC members and asked for comments to be forwarded to the COG Board.

After some discussion, TAC members recommended Alternatives 2 and sB as the recommended route to the COG Board.

*Upon a motion duly made by Steve Wittry, and seconded by Lisa Rheinheimer, the Committee recommended Alternatives 2 and B as the preferred alternative to the COG Board, with abstentions from Mark McCumsey and Abraham Prado.*

6. **RECEIVE** Report on Grant Funding Through AB2766 Emission Reduction Grant Program and Safe Routes to School – Lezama

Ms. Lezama stated that the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District is accepting grant applications for the AB2766 Emission Reduction Grant Program.

Staff will be submitting three applications to the Air District for consideration of FY 10/11 AB2766 Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant Program funding for the following projects:

1. Website Development for the Regional Rideshare Program
2. Tri-County Bike Week Application
3. Safe Routes to School and Countywide Bicycle Maps Printing

Ms. Lezama also noted that Caltrans is accepting applications for the State Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant program. Applications are due to Caltrans on July 15, 2010.

AB2766 Emission Reduction Grant Program applications are due to the Air District Office by June 14, 2010. Grants will be awarded by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors at their September 15, 2010 meeting. Applications are available online at [www.mbuapcd.org](http://www.mbuapcd.org).

Mr. Prado inquired if the grants are for the planning part of the projects or for the construction of the projects.

Ms. Lezama stated that COG has received grants through AB2766 for both planning and construction of projects. The majority of the grants awarded are for actual construction of the projects.

Mr. Wittry inquired if COG staff would be available to provide assistance with some of the grant writing for the City and County.

Mr. Wittry noted that there are at least two projects that the Board of Supervisor's have brought to his attention. People walk from the South Street and Westside Boulevard towards the City's Corporation Yard to get to R.O. Hardin School. The other unsafe location is an asphalt path for pedestrians on Buena Vista Road near Calaveras School.

Ms. Lezama stated that both projects would most likely fall into the Safe Routes to School grant program.

Mr. Wittry stated that City and County staff will coordinate with COG staff for assistance with the grant applications.

Ms. Lezama mentioned that the Council of Governments staff is available for assistance on determining funding eligibility for San Bautista, San Benito County, and City of Hollister projects.

Mr. Gabriel stated that any assistance for the City of San Juan Bautista would be appreciated.

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

**ADJOURN TO MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2010 AT 2:00 P.M.**