

SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

Meeting held at
Commercial Exchange Club
2305 Washington Street, Stockton

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Blair King.

Attendance and Self Introductions:

Leon Compton, Ripon City Manager; Donna DeMartino, SJRTD General Manager/CEO; Greg Greeson, Escalon City Manager; Blair King, Lodi City Manager; Steve Salvatore, Lathrop Public Works Director; Stacey Mortensen, SJRRC Executive Director; Gordon Palmer, Stockton City Manager; Steve Pinkerton, Manteca City Manager; Andrew T. Chesley, SJCOG Executive Director; Steve Dial, SJCOG Deputy Executive Director /CFO; Wil Ridder, SJCOG Senior Regional Planner; Aaron Hoyt, SJCOG Associate Regional Planner; Rosie Vargas, Support Services Supervisor.

2. Public Comment None

3. Approve Minutes of July 15, 2009

It was moved/seconded (Pinkerton/Compton) to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously 8/0 by voice vote.

4. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Delivery Progress Report

Mr. Ridder presented this item stating this item was amended to an action item. Mr. Ridder stated 80% of funds have been obligated for the first round of projects and are moving forward. For the second round of projects there has been changing guidelines from the department. Draft RFA's are due by December 1st to the District instead of January 2010 and has resulted in a challenge for two projects one is in the City of Tracy and one in the City of Manteca. COG staff has proposed a revenue neutral exchange of federal funds between the ARRA and Regional Surface Transportation Program which would allow the ARRA funds to be obligated within the required timeline. The RSTP projects are City of Ripon's Maintenance street rehab project and the City of Stockton chip seal program. Staff's recommendation is for M&F Committee recommend that the Board authorize SJCOG staff to coordinate funding exchanges on ARRA projects to ensure the use of ARRA funds and the delivery of ARRA projects.

Chairman King stated the City of Lodi accepted stimulus funds and now lost 6 months on a project that was shovel ready. Mr. Ridder said staff has been working on what can be done to get through the challenges for delivery.

It was moved/seconded (Greeson/Mortensen) to recommend that the SJCOG Board authorize SJCOG staff to coordinate funding exchanges on ARRA projects to ensure the use of ARRA funds and the delivery of ARRA projects. Motion passed unanimously 8/0 by voice vote.

5. 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update and Possible Programming Implications

Mr. Ridder gave a brief update on this item stating every two years the STIP is updated where funds are identified to the region. Mr. Ridder said in September it is anticipated that the 2010 STIP Fund Estimate is going to be significantly less with the possibility that it could also be a zero estimate. It's possible that some projects will be pushed out over the 2013-2014 & 2014-2015 timeframe. Mr. Ridder stated there is the potential that STIP funding will not be available for all currently identified STIP projects. If this occurs the eight MPO's could have a FTIP that is no longer financially constrained and out of air quality conformity. The result of this situation would be a programming freeze to the FTIP. Staff is continuing to work with the eight MPO's trying to understand which projects are likely to be impacted and there is still some uncertainty on the impacts to our region. Mr. Chesley stated staff was hoping to access STIP funds for the French Camp/I-5 Interchange project in order to keep on schedule however will not have that ability.

This item was for discussion only no action was taken.

6. Request for Public Sponsorship of TIGER Grant Proposals

Mr. Chesley discussed this item stating the COG Board submitted three TIGER applications which are due to the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation by September. Mr. Chesley stated Dana Cowell is on the Advisory Committee to recommend which projects should move forward. The I-5 Inside Widening/HOV Lanes and the Marine Highway Corridor projects are on the recommended list to move forward through the Caltrans process. These two projects are also on the Caltrans top ten priority list.

Mr. Chesley stated Union Pacific Railroad and Stockton Terminal Eastern has requested for SJCOG to be the Sponsor for two projects they will be submitting as part of this \$1.5 billion stimulus discretionary program. Mr. Chesley stated these requests require a public agency sponsor, it could be a city, county, regional entity or a special district, but must be a public entity that sponsors a project. Mr. Chesley stated staff's recommendation is not to be a public agency sponsor for these proposals because of the lack of public related benefit investments.

It was moved/seconded (Mortensen/Greeson) that it is recommended that SJCOG take no further action to become Public Agency Sponsor of these proposals. Motion passed unanimously 8/0 by voice vote.

7. Level of Service Refined Approach

Mr. Chesley introduced Aaron Hoyt stating he has been with COG for about the last seven weeks and is from the Sacramento Region who has a lot of experience with transit related issues. Mr. Hoyt stated this is a follow up to the M&F July 15 meeting. Mr. Hoyt stated the forum will consist of local elected officials, community development, and public works directors which will examine a broad spectrum of topics such as: local LOS policies and issues, current state of the practice, trade-offs and best practices. Mr. Hoyt discussed the outline of the four proposed meetings, the intent and the suggested panel members for each meeting.

Mr. King stated he likes the four different sessions and suggested session two be the first session because it sets off some trade-offs. Mr. King suggested to add pedestrian advocates to the forum. Mr. King stated in regards to the Blueprint his perspective density is not the concern to get to density you have to fight CEQA, regional Board, dense standards and the LOS issues. Mr. King suggesting introducing the concept of practical applications; the greatest enemy to the Blueprint is the State of California.

Mr. Ridder asked for recommendations from the committee members for the creation of the forum, along with cities that are a model of this item. Mr. King suggested Mike Fenton who works with other state's transportation departments.

This item was for discussion only no action was taken.

8. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Chesley reported on the RTAC targets throughout the State of California for GHG and emissions reductions. Mr. Chesley said he has been selected to sit on the RTAC panel with 21 other members to come up with a set of recommendations on how to proceed forward in regards to a remaining issue; how to balance this out between slow growth and faster growth areas in the State of California and the implications, also the in balance that occurs with jobs and housing.

Mr. Chesley stated Dana Cowell, Kevin Sheridan and himself are participating in a Caltrans process to streamline the project delivery process. Caltrans brought forward a proposal that would effectively shift all project development costs to project sponsors. Mr. Chesley said Caltrans has duplicate steps in their project delivery process, which adds to the cost and length of time.

Mr. Chesley stated the Blueprint session was held last week and the next Blueprint session will be in October which will focus on the implication of adopting a Blueprint. San Joaquin Regional Blueprint Vision will be brought before the SJCOG Policy Board for review and consideration for adoption in December 2009 or January 2010.

Mr. King asked if the Blueprint is adopted are we bound to the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint or do we have the option to go with SACOG or ABAG. Mr. Chesley said no were not bound to the Valley Blueprint were participants, and nothing in the

Valley Blueprint is a requirement or mandated. Mr. Chesley indicated another issue is the SB 375 process and stated it is impossible to fund adequately that effort in eight separate regional agencies. Mr. Chesley stated in terms of modeling he is looking into joining Stanislaus and Merced which the three of us have more in common with one another.

Other Matters of Business

Ms. Mortensen stated that Mr. Cowell and she discussed hosting jointly a rail round table that deals with HSR. As cities, counties, and transit providers there are some issues we need to pay attention to; like electrical substations, and transmission blinds that dot the corridor and transfers through the communities. Ms. Mortensen suggested developing a unified position with high level of participation to get a policy framework than work through Public Works and Community Development departments. If we can develop a unified position on how we want those lines to come through our county we can be better served and learn from mistakes that were made by other communities.

Ms. Mortensen stated there will be scoping meetings for the HSA on the Altamont Corridor in October and November timeframe, so we would like to set up one meeting the end of September or early October to get some initial consensus or concerns to get countywide input. Ms. Mortensen said information will be provided soon regarding this to every jurisdiction.

Mr. Chesley said there are implications that go beyond the rail line in Tracy. Their concern about decisions regarding passenger rail service going passed and the related impact of the rail line and grade separation in Tracy.

Mr. Pinkerton asked if it's going to be all on an existing rail corridor. Ms. Mortensen said there will be a few places where the railroads will cooperate on joint corridor use, but very few and don't anticipate very many in our region. Mr. Pinkerton stated originally it was coming through San Jose and is it in dispute or is it a done deal. Ms. Mortensen said it's a done deal until it gets further into the engineering process. Ms. Mortensen stated the Altamont is going forward regardless of the Pacheco Pass being the primary alignment through legislative efforts; it's both commuter and high speed which will serve us better.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, September 16, 2009.