

# TRANSPAC

## Meeting Notice and Agenda

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\*\*\*\*

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Pleasant Hill City Hall – Community Room  
100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill

TRANSPAC reserves the right to take formal action on any item included on this agenda, whether or not a form of resolution, motion or other indication that action will be taken is included on the agenda or attachments thereto.

**1. Meeting Opening: Pledge of Allegiance/Self-Introductions**

- 2. Public Comment:** At this time, the public is welcome to address TRANSPAC on any item not on this agenda. Please complete a speaker card and hand it to a member of the staff. Please begin by stating your name and address and indicate whether you are speaking for yourself or an organization. Please keep your comments brief. In fairness to others, please avoid repeating comments.

**Consent Items**

- 3. Approval of March 10, 2011 TRANSPAC minutes (Attachment)**

**End Consent Agenda**

- 4. Presentation/discussion on the SR4/I-680 Interchange project with Ray Kuzbari, Transportation Manager, City of Concord**

TRANSPAC may recall that CCTA completed a preliminary phasing plan for the interchange in the 2008 Strategic Plan. Phase 3, the "missing third lane", was reviewed as part of the "sooner/cheaper" analysis completed in 2009 at the request of TRANSPAC. Please see the Attachments for excerpts from the May 14, 2009 TRANSPAC agenda.

At its March 24, 2011 meeting, the TRANSPAC TAC supported moving forward with the analysis proposed by Ray Kuzbari.

**Attachments:** "Proposal to Conduct Focused review of SR4 Third EB Lane" by Ray Kuzbari; CCTA 2008 Strategic Plan Fact Sheet for the I-680/SR4 Interchange Improvements includes standard phasing for interchange reconstruction; May 14, 2009 TRANSPAC agenda staff report for the URS presentation on a "sooner/cheaper" Interim Phase III improvements (the "missing" lane)

**ACTION: Receive report, approve TAC recommendation and/or as determined**

**5a. Report on the RTP Outreach (SCS) for the Bay Area and an update on SB 375 Implementation presented by Martin Engelmann, CCTA Deputy Executive Director, Planning**

**Attachments under item 5 in the packet:** CCTA "postcard" used as part of the Public Outreach Plan for the 2013 RTP/SCS to invite public participation in the RTP at RTPC and CCTA meetings in April; "Update on SB 375" report, April 6, 2011

**ACTION:** Receive report and/or as determined

**5b. Presentation on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by Hisham Noeimi, CCTA Engineering Manager**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission issued a "Call for Projects" for the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in February 2011. CCTA staff has been assisting the RTPCs, transit operators, Caltrans and the Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA) to update the three project lists that comprise the core of the RTP. The Committed Project list is for locally funded projects, the Financially Constrained list is for projects seeking Federal and State funding and the Vision list for future projects and project phases that are not yet ready to be programmed for funding.

Any project that impacts air quality, the capacity of the transportation system or is expected to require a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance must be included on either the Committed or Financially Constrained List.

**Attachments under item 5 in the packet:** April 6, 2011 CCTA Planning Committee staff report "2013 Regional Transportation Plan Call for Projects"

**ACTION:** As determined

**5c. Review of TRANSPAC Jurisdiction Updates for the Committed, Financially Constrained and Vision Project lists for the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) By the TRANSPAC Manager**

The attached lists include the updated cost, fund sources, and funding needs for projects on the Committed, Financially Constrained and Vision RTP lists. The update is focused on projects that could begin in the next 4-7 years as top priority and only projects that impact capacity need to be listed separately in the RTP.

Please note the following general information. While WETA is a Direct Submitter for Committed List project #230612, both TRANSPAC and TRANSPLAN were requested to add this project to their respective lists by CCTA staff, please note that there was no provision to split the cost.

CCTA staff updated Projects 21205 and 22353 on the Financially Constrained list. These changes have a white background. All changes in Gray were recorded by TRANSPAC. Please note that TRANSPAC staff input the BART projects for SWAT, TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC and these additions have a gray background as well. Each RTPC is seeking comments on its own lists. The Financially Constrained List is within the allowable 5%

increase for STP/TE (Surface Transportation Program/Transportation Enhancement Activities) funds and is considered to have met the CCTA's required target amount.

On the Vision List, please note the two SR 4 projects proposed by the City of Concord and discussed by Ray Kuzbari as part of his presentation. Please also note the Caltrans project added to the Vision List by the TRANSPAC Manager as a result of a lengthy discussion at the March 24, 2011 TAC meeting and a TAC e-mail dialogue after that meeting.

**Attachments under item 5 in the packet:** The following updated 2013 RTP project lists are attached for review/revision: Committed List of Projects, Financially Constrained List of Projects, and Vision Project List. Please see the color code information listed under item 5c.

**ACTION: Approve the TRANSPAC TAC recommended RTP Lists for submission to CCTA and/or as determined**

**6. Presentation/Discussion of the CCTA's Proposed Guidelines for both the Measure J Transportation for Livable Communities and the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail Facilities (PBTF) Proposed Guidelines by Brad Beck, CCTA Senior Transportation Planner**

The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed the proposed guidelines for the CC-TLC (TRANSPAC - \$29 million) and PBTF (TRANSPAC - \$2.5 million) at its March 24, 2011 meeting. Prior to the TRANSPAC TAC meeting, the TRANSPAC Manager was contacted by a SWAT TAC member who had been requested to convey that TAC's concerns with the proposed guidelines for the CC-TLC Program. These concerns regarding scoring, application content and minimum requests were conveyed to the TRANSPAC TAC.

TRANSPAC TAC offers the following comments which are consistent with the SWAT TAC discussion on these programs and comments reflected in the letter to CCTA from Amy Worth, SWAT TAC Chair.

SWAT comment letters are attached. The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed the SWAT TAC comments and had no objections. The attached SWAT comments are more detailed than the TAC letters. An issue is on Page 6 of the March 18, 2011 Draft Guidelines for the Measure J TLC Program. The word "Scoring" is used as paragraph header while the paragraph text refers to "review and ranking" on how the proposed projects would help realize the six goals of the CC-TLC program (see the referenced memo).

As part of its discussion regarding the SWAT TAC comments and its own review, the TRANSPAC TAC suggests:

- a) Removing the referenced "Scoring" header and rely on the word "Ranking".
- b) RTPCs may be relied upon to exercise care and judgment in choosing projects for TLC projects that meet the program's criteria;
- c) The current CCTA Peer Review Process should be used for these projects;
- d) Applicants need to pay close attention to proposed schedules to ensure timely progress on the project and drawdown of funds;
- e) CCTA funding resolutions may be used as monitors of timely use of these funds;

- f) The Program Guidelines may be revised after the first and/or subsequent funding cycles.
- g) CC-TLC funds may fund (see page 4 of the Program Guidelines) "Plans", "Preliminary Engineering and Design" as well as "Design, development and construction of Projects". The project or requested phases require a local match which may be funded in whole or in part with staff time provided by the sponsor agency or agencies. The same is true for PBTF projects

**Attachments:** SWAT comment letters on the CC-TLC and PBTF; March 2, 2011 Planning Committee action report to CCTA on the proposed guidelines for the Measure J Transportation for Livable Communities and Pedestrian , Bicycle and Trail Facilities Programs; CCTA March 18, 2011 Memo from Randell H. Iwasaki, CCTA Executive Director, "Release of Draft Guidelines for the Measure J TLC Program"; the following Measure J excerpts: "Pedestrian Bicycle and Trail Facilities Program"; "Transportation for Livable Communities Project Grants" and "Summary of the Contra Costa Transportation for Livable Communities Program"

**ACTION: Forward TAC and any additional comments to CCTA and/or as determined**

**7. Presentation on the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program by Brad Beck, CCTA Senior Transportation Planner; Review of Staff discussion items by the TRANSPAC Manager and the TDM Program Manager**

As part of its Climate Initiatives Program, MTC has established a SR2S program funded in Contra Costa through a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program allocation of \$2.47 million programmed for FY 2011-12. The fiscal year allocation dictates that the funds be obligated by February 1, 2012. TRANSPAC's share of these funds is \$683,500 and its local share requirement is \$78,397. Obligation of federal funds means that a project has received a federal commitment for reimbursement and does not necessarily mean that the project was initiated or completed in that year or indicates the cost of the project.

The CCTA is responsible for the allocation of these funds and has worked with the SR2S Task Force, the TDM/511 Contra Costa Program Managers and the RTPC Managers on a variety of SR2S issues. At its meeting on March 28, 2011 there was general agreement on the following issues regarding the use of federal funds:

- a) The Task Force and RTPC Managers have recommended a 50% population and 50% school enrollment allocation formula; and
- b) Seek the revision of the project threshold amount from a \$500,000 per jurisdiction allocation to \$250,000 per jurisdiction allocation and, if possible, to "bundle" small projects together using a single project sponsor to meet the threshold requirements.

CMAQ funds are federal funds governed by the federal project process which is considered to be cumbersome for smaller jurisdictions. At the March 28, 2011 meeting, a proposal was drafted which proposed the exchange of CMAQ federal funds for Measure J funds which enjoy a less difficult approval and allocation process. This is commonly referred to as changing the "color of money". Unfortunately this proposal proved to be unworkable.

On April 13, 2011, the CCTA staff convened a meeting of RTPC and TDM Program Managers as well as CCTA projects staff and engineering staff from some local jurisdictions in an effort to craft an approach that would work for each of the RTPCs.

Key to this discussion is that if the CMAQ funds are used for programs rather than projects, the federal process is less burdensome. Also key is that the CMAQ funds and the Measure J funds discussed in this staff report are not programmatically interrelated. Please note that in a more perfect world, the federal funds would be used for the sidewalk gap closure projects.

This proposal requests using federal monies for school programs because the funds are difficult to effectively use for school capital projects. Funding for school projects, especially sidewalk gap closures, would then be funded with \$683,500 in Measure J funds which can be allocated with TRANSPAC approval from an existing capital Measure J category. Use of the CC-TLC category is the current idea, however, that may change by the time of this TRANSPAC meeting.

All of the RTPC and TDM Program Managers are interested in the completion of sidewalk gap closure projects near schools. Capital projects require a sponsor to complete the federal process and obtain an E76, which is formally called an "Authorization to Proceed". This is the federal authorization of funds to establish the reimbursement date for a phase of work. A separate E-76 request is required for preliminary engineering (PE), right of way, utility relocation, and construction phases if federal funds are to be used in that phase of work; in addition, the capital projects must be under contract by April 30, 2012. This is a very tight schedule which is considered by those familiar with the federal process to be basically impossible to achieve. In addition, the gap closure projects are usually small and do not warrant a large investment of staff time necessary to complete the federal process.

The process to obtain CMAQ funds for programs also requires an E-76 and a local share; however, the overall process is less burdensome and can be accomplished in less time. The downside to this approach is that no additional capital benefit is derived for sidewalk gap closures, so the idea is to use additional Measure J funds for gap closure projects and to cover the cost of the required local share contribution (\$78,397) for the CMAQ funds to be used for programs.

West County is the only RTPC with an opportunity to exchange CMAQ funds for local dollars in a Contra Costa County federalized project. However, at this juncture, the WCCTAC Manager would like to retain the option to use the CMAQ funds for TDM programs and to use Measure J funds for gap closure projects.

Please note that these ideas have not been circulated and most RTPCs and TACs have not had an opportunity to review/discuss this proposal.

An expanded SR2S Task Force plans to meet again on April 18, 2011 in preparation for the CCTA Board meeting on April 20, 2011. The TRANSPAC and 511 Contra Costa Managers will provide an oral report on the most current discussions and issues.

**Attachments:** SWAT comment letter; April 6, 2011 CCTA Planning Committee Staff Report re: Contra Costa Safe Routes to School Program and Approach to Allocating Funds from MTC; March 22, 2011 Memo from Randell H. Iwasaki, CCTA Executive Director re:

Notice of "Forthcoming Call for Projects for Safe Routes to School Funding"; March 2, 2011 CCTA Planning Committee Staff Report requesting authorization to issue the notice in the March 22, 2011 memo, to convene the RTPC Managers and TDM Program Managers to craft options for allocation of the available funds and general background information on the SR2S

**ACTION: Accept/revise recommendations a and b, review/accept/revise the approach described, forward comments to CCTA and/or as determined**

**8. Allocation Request for TRANSPAC Measure J School Access funds (Measure J line 21a) presented by Lynn Overcashier, 511 Program Manager**

The 511 Contra Costa Manager is requesting allocation of Measure J School Access Funds to implement Central County school-based programs and projects detailed in the attachment. Please note that as of packet preparation, a local match for federal CMAQ funds discussed in item 7 is expected to be required. The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed this request at its March 24, 2011 meeting.

**Attachment:** Allocation request from the 511 Contra Costa Program Managers. The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed this request at its March 24, 2011 meeting as well as a revision via e-mail sent subsequent to the TAC meeting and had no objections.

**ACTION: Approve the 511 Contra Costa Program Manager's allocation request and/or as determined**

**9. TRANSPAC CCTA Representative Reports: Reports on the most recent CCTA Administration and Projects Committee (Member Pierce), Planning Committee (Member Durant), and CCTA meetings (Members Pierce and Durant)**

**Attachments:**

- Items approved by the Authority on March 16, 2011 for Circulation to the Regional Transportation Planning Committees (RTPCs), and items of interest;
- March 16, 2011 CCTA Executive Director's Report;
- February 16, 2011 CCTA meeting minutes

**ACTION: As determined**

**10. 511 Contra Costa and TRANSPAC Staff Reports**

**511 Contra Costa:** Oral report

**TRANSPAC Report:** Oral report

**ACTION: Receive reports and/or as determined**

**11. TAC Reports by Jurisdiction: Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County**

**Attachment: Excerpt from the April 7, 2011 CCTA Administration and Projects Committee Staff Report: Cities of Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek – Geary Road Improvements, Phase 3 (Project 24007): Request for Appropriation of Measure J funds for Environmental Studies and Design**

**ACTION: As determined**

**12. Correspondence/Copies/Newsclips/Information:**

**Attachments:**

- April 5, 2011 Board of Supervisors Chair Gayle Uilkema letter to Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner re: AB 710
- April 2, 2011 The Examiner, "SamTrans close to disappearing"
- March 30, 2011 "Queen of the Road: Solo hybrid drivers banned from the carpool lane" (7/1/11)
- March 25, 2011 WCCTAC meeting status letter to CCTA;
- March 18, 2011 City of Concord letter to Assemblywoman Bonilla re: AB 710;
- March 16, 2011 TRANSPLAN March 10, 2011 meeting status letter;
- March 14, 2011 TRANSPAC meeting status letter to CCTA;
- County Connection: Fixed Route Operating Report for February 2011; LINK Monthly Operating Report for February 2011;
- CCTA March 2011 Project Status Report;
- February 7, 2011 Time Magazine Traffic Gem - match the first page color section with the second page color section at the centerline to get the full view.

**ACTION: As Determined**

**13. For the Good of the Order**

**14. Next meeting Date:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2011 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room at Pleasant Hill City Hall. Mike Wright, Project Director, City of Concord Naval Weapons Station project will provide an update.

**15. Adjournment**

