

TRANSPAC Meeting Summary Minutes

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2011

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Cindy Silva (Chair), Kristina Lawson, Walnut Creek; Mark Ross, Martinez; David Durant, Pleasant Hill; Julie Pierce, Clayton; Karen Mitchoff, Contra Costa County

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bob Armstrong, Clayton; Rick Clark, Contra Costa County; Diana Vavrek, Pleasant Hill; John Mercurio, Ron Leone, Concord; Dave Powell, Walnut Creek

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Hu, Pleasant Hill; Martin Engelmann, CCTA; Abdul Hossain, Concord; John Greitzer, Cliff Glickman, Contra Costa County; Tim Tucker, Martinez; Andrew Smith, Walnut Creek; Lynn Overcashier, Corinne Dutra-Roberts, Munni Krishna, 511 Contra Costa; Barbara Neustadter, TRANSPAC; John Gilbert, Greenbelt Alliance East Bay
Guests: Randy Iwasaki, Susan Miller, Ross Chittenden, CCTA

MINUTES PREPARED BY: C. L. Peterson, TRANSPAC Staff

Chair Silva convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance/Self introductions – Completed

2. Public Comment – None

Consent Items

3. Approval of the December 9, 2010 minutes – Pierce/Durant/Unanimous

Action Items

4. Presentation by Ross Chittenden, CCTA Deputy Director, Projects and Susan Miller, Director, Projects on the Caldecott Tunnel and the SR 4 East projects as well as a glimpse into Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) financial programming

Randy Iwasaki, Executive Director of CCTA, introduced Ross Chittenden, the Authority's Deputy Director, Projects. Mr. Iwasaki announced that he plans to attend each RTPC's meetings at least four times a year, and he extended an offer to the cities and County to call upon the Authority when in need of assistance or funds for projects. He noted that the Caldecott Tunnel project at one time was considered to be the largest Recovery Act project in the nation. The SR 4 widening/eBART project is the third largest project in Bay Area and is responsible for generating many jobs in the region.

Susan Miller gave a presentation on the SR 4 widening project from Pittsburg to Antioch. The construction phase is now underway on Loveridge Road, the first of five construction projects. The highway will be widened to double its capacity, add carpool lanes, and reconstruction of the interchange. The project also provides a wide median for the proposed eBART project. In March, work on the Century Boulevard undercrossing will begin, requiring a two-month road closure. Soundwall construction in residential areas along the corridor will begin, as well as the removal of the large Home Depot sign. Construction on the Loveridge bridge structure will involve closure of the southbound direction and then the northbound direction to minimize disruption of business and local cross traffic. The project should be completed by 2013.

The next project is Segment 1, the Somersville Road project, which will begin in March 2011 and is estimated to be completed in September 2013. Segment 2 will make Contra Loma a full interchange and G Street will be an overcrossing. Existing berms and vegetation in this area need to be removed, and high retaining walls will be constructed. Because of the visual impact, an element of aesthetics has been incorporated into the wall design. An artist was commissioned to create 11 different designs depicting marshland and Delta images which fit in with the community's unique character. The relief designs are carved in clay, molds of the designs are formed, and the retaining wall material is poured into the molds (liners). The other projects include Segment 3A, which involves widening of SR 4 at Lone Tree Way, and Project 3B, where the Hillcrest eBART location is located.

Ms. Miller discussed the different funding sources for this project, noting that the primary sources include Measure C and Measure J, RM1/RM2 bridge toll funds, ECCRFFA developer fees, and STIP and CMIA state funds, which are being watched closely. Member Durant asked about the City of Pittsburg's commitment to contribute money separately to the project. Ms. Miller understands that the City is funding the same projects, but hasn't seen a schedule showing the dollars available by fiscal year. Mr. Chittenden added that even with funding risks, it is likely the projects will stay on track. With the trend of low bids continuing, the Authority wants to get bids out as soon as possible to take advantage of the competitive low bid climate.

Ms. Miller noted that the Highway 4 Project has a website at <http://widensr4.org>, which provides regularly updated information on activities at the various segments including lane closures, detours, maps, photos and a hotline for questions.

Chair Silva commented that incorporating aesthetics into the retaining walls is a good idea, and asked what the cost difference was compared to standard walls. Ms. Miller said that although it is more expensive (more than 10%), the landscaping in this area could not be restored, so money that would have been spent on landscaping was redirected towards special aesthetics. The liners will be re-used throughout the job. When the walls are finished, the liners will be stored by Caltrans for future replacement or repairs. Mr. Iwasaki noted that Caltrans is trying to incorporate more art and design work in its soundwalls and retaining walls to fit into the community.

Mr. Chittenden began the presentation on the Caldecott Tunnel noting that the third bore was built in the 1960s when traffic flowed in a typical commute pattern. Over time, when

both weekday and weekend travel patterns became bi-directional, Caltrans had to switch the middle bore several times a day, which was not only costly and disruptive but also dangerous for workers. The new fourth bore will relieve congestion and enhance safety for both Caltrans workers and travelers.

Mr. Chittenden described the current major activities at the Caldecott, including tunneling from the east, canopy pipe drilling at the west portal and tunneling from the west. He described the roadheading equipment and discussed the ventilation pipe system needed for working in a "gassy tunnel". When asked about the creation of local jobs, he said that contractor Tutor-Saliba employees work in the tunnels, but drivers and outside area workers are local hires. He noted that there is also a full time paleontologist on staff to inspect for any fossils unearthed during excavation. After being examined for hazardous components, excavated material is trucked to Treasure Island or Hunter's Point. Member Mitchoff asked about construction of the tunnel's cross passages. Mr. Chittenden said they have just begun excavating the first cross pass, which will be ADA compliant. Work on the new Operations and Maintenance Control (OMC) building is starting now.

Mr. Chittenden talked about the various funding sources, and noted how the \$420 million budget is lower due to bids that came in at 20% below estimate. However, some of the funding partners have requested their proportional share of the savings be de-allocated from the project. Progress is going well now, but if any unforeseen problems occur, it is expected that the de-allocated funds could be recovered. Mr. Chittenden said that if the project continues to progress well and is kept within budget, one half of the savings will be released back to TRANSPAC. John Greitzer asked if the contractor would receive an early completion bonus, to which Mr. Chittenden replied that there are only penalties for delays. Member Pierce added that the contractor has an ambitious schedule.

Mr. Armstrong asked about the fire suppression plan. Mr. Chittenden said it is designed for 1700F with fire suppression and an emergency response plan. Transport of hazardous materials will be restricted to the hours between 2 and 4 a.m., the same as the other bores. The fourth bore is scheduled to open in late 2013. More information is available on the website at <http://www.caldecott-tunnel.org>.

Action: Reports received

5. Report by Martin Engelmann, CTA Deputy Executive Director, Planning, on the January 31, 2011 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) briefing and an update on SB 375 Implementation and the Development of a SCS for the Bay Area

Mr. Engelmann provided an update on the SCS meeting held on January 31. Over 65 people came together to learn about SB375, including elected officials, city managers, planning directors, and city public works directors. MTC and ABAG are now embarking on the initial Vision Scenario which will be released on March 11. Comments will be due in April.

Mr. Engelmann relayed information from the previous day's meeting of the MTC Planning Committee. MTC has developed a new activity-based model that looks at individual families and tours of where the families travel. This model shows that we have achieved a 5% reduction. A new forecast called Projections 2011 is being used for the next RTP and

accounts for the economy. It shows the number of Bay Area jobs being reduced by three-quarters of a million by 2035. When these jobs are removed, MTC's latest figures show a 10% reduction in per capita greenhouse gases over 2005. The SCS is the land use component that will make possible a total 15% reduction.

Member Pierce noted that the economy has reduced the volume of traffic to 1991 levels. The results in Projections 2011 don't assume any increase in road pricing other than the recent tolls introduced last year. The projections indicate that we are within 5% of making the legally-mandated target and it appears that the effort will not be as drastic as feared. However, cities will have to follow through with their General Plans and Vision to accomplish the rest.

Chair Silva asked if the Initial Vision will reflect the new model, what it will look like, and if it will include anticipated density in the area. Mr. Engelmann answered that it will use the new tour-based model and will include PDAs and the plans that the cities submitted to ABAG. It will also include ideas of what to do for areas outside of PDAs. Pricing is not expected to be included. Mr. Engelmann said the Vision will look like a map of Contra Costa and the Bay Area showing where will people live and work in 2035. Member Pierce added that it will include place types similar to Shaping Our Future, showing the anticipated location of commercial, employment centers, residential and mixed use, based on PDAs and the information that ABAG has collected from the General Plan buildouts through 2035.

The initial Draft is expected to generate considerable feedback as Councils and Supervisors consider whether the projections for Central County are reasonable and what refinements are necessary. ABAG is planning to have a regional meeting where everyone receives information at the same time, and which could possibly include breakout groups for individual jurisdiction discussion. Member Mitchoff informed TRANSPAC that the County Board of Supervisors has invited ABAG to give the Board a presentation.

Lynn Overcashier asked about enforcement of the Transportation System Management (TSM) ordinances that all jurisdictions have in the Growth Management Program to strengthen demand management integration with land use. Intellicarpooling and teleworking should be encouraged in addition to the other logical opportunities built into the TSM structure. Member Pierce said as Mr. Engelmann stated, this is part of the plan involving land use that will enable us to reach our targets.

Bob Armstrong asked if the model would reflect the number of retiring Baby Boomers. Member Pierce answered that Projections 2011 will, and as new census data is incorporated, will also show housing patterns such grown children living with parents, parents moving in with children, multiple families living in one unit, and assisted living situations.

ACTION: Report received

6. 511 Contra Costa Report on School-Based Programs for Central and East Counties presented by Lynn Overcashier, Program Manager, 511 Contra Costa

Lynn Overcashier gave an update on TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN 511 Contra Costa School-Based Programs activities. One hundred thirty public and private schools have been contacted

about school-based trip reduction programs. A week long safety training program called "Peace on the Streets: Ride On!" was developed as a pilot program for schools, and is currently planned for implementation at Clayton and Walnut Creek middle schools. The program is being coordinated in cooperation with school officials, parents, and police. Details about the program are included in the packet. Member Mitchoff noted that bike riding and walking fits in with the emphasis on the health benefits of exercise. John Mercurio asked if there was any coordination with the East Bay Bike Coalition, which currently there is not.

ACTION: Received report

- 7. SR 4 Integrated Corridor Analysis (ICA). Appointment of at least two representatives, preferably from jurisdictions on the SR 4 corridor and an alternate, if available, to serve on the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC).**

ACTION: Appointed Mark Ross and Bill Shinn as representatives to the PAC and Karen Mitchoff as the alternate. Durant/Pierce/Unanimous

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

Planning Committee (PC) meeting

Member Pierce reported on the PC meeting for Member Durant. The PC received annual reports on Measure J Transportation Programs for Seniors and People with Disabilities and on Measure J Bus Transit and Express Bus Programs. The PC discussed initiation of the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan "Call for Projects" and Measure J Transportation for Livable Communities and Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail Facilities Programs. Staff provided a "State of the System" update that indicated trends traffic levels in 2010 were lower than levels at 2000. Staff reported on recent SB375 activities.

Administration and Projects Committee (APC) meeting

Member Pierce reported that the APC received its monthly legislative report; an update was provided by staff on Measure J revenue projections, key policy issues to be addressed and the schedule leading to adoption in July. APC discussed proposed Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Regulations pertaining to municipal advisors which may require Authority Commissioners to register with the SEC as a "municipal advisor." The Authority will comment on the proposed regulations and urge that appointed commissioners be excluded from SEC registering.

Action: Reports received

- 9. 511 Contra Costa and TRANSPAC Staff Reports**

Barbara Neustadter thanked everyone who helped organize the TRANSPAC SCS meeting at the Authority's offices on January 31.

- 10. TAC Reports by Jurisdiction - None**

- 11. Correspondence/Copies/Newsclips/Information** – Information received
- 12. Election of TRANSPAC Chair and Vice Chair for the 2011 term commencing immediately**
 - 12. A. Election of TRANSPAC Chair for the 2011 term**
ACTION: Elected Bill Shin as TRANSPAC Chair. Pierce/Durant/Unanimous.
 - 12. B. Election of TRANSPAC Vice Chair for the 2011 term**
ACTION: Elected Julie Pierce as TRANSPAC Vice Chair. Durant/Ross/Unanimous.
 - 12. C. Acknowledgment of Chair Silva's year of service as 2010 Chair.**
ACTION: Member Pierce thanked Chair Silva for her excellent service as Chair, noting that her questions and comments were refreshing and helpful to the general public. Member Pierce also acknowledged Chair Silva's efforts in revising and updating the Action Plan. Barbara Neustadter thanked Chair Silva for her many contributions and for initiating all the tours and the crossing guard contract study. Chair Silva said that it has been an honor to serve in this capacity and hoped to come back for some of the meetings.
- 13. Appointment/reappointment of a TRANSPAC Representative to CCTA for the 2011-13 term commencing February 1, 2010.**

ACTION: Appointed David Durant as TRANSPAC Representative to CCTA for the 2011-13 term commencing February 1, 2011. Pierce/Mitchoff/Unanimous
- 14. Appointment of TRANSPAC alternate(s) to CCTA for both TRANSPAC representatives to CCTA**
ACTIONS:
 - 1) Appointed Kristina Lawson as designated second alternate for the CCTA representative appointed for the 2011-13 term and for the completion of current 2010-12 term (Member Pierce) or for both CCTA representatives. Durant/Mitchoff/Unanimous
 - 2) Appointed Bill Shinn as third alternate to serve if the first and second alternate(s) is not available. Durant/Ross/Unanimous
- 15. For the Good of the Order** – None
- 16. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2011, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room at Pleasant Hill City Hall.