

SUMMARY MINUTES
TRANSPAC Meeting – March 11, 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Elected Officials: Cindy Silva, Walnut Creek, TRANSPAC Chair; Guy Bjerke, Concord, TRANSPAC Vice Chair; Julie Pierce, Clayton, CCTA Representative; Mark Ross, Martinez; David Durant, Pleasant Hill, CCTA Representative. Absent (excused): Susan Bonilla, Contra Costa County.

Planning Commissioners: Bob Armstrong, Clayton; Jon Malkovich, Walnut Creek; Bob Hoag, Concord. Absent: (excused): Diana Vavrek, Pleasant Hill. Vacant Seat: Martinez

Staff: Ray Kuzbari, Concord; John Greitzer, Contra Costa County; Tim Tucker, Martinez; Martin Engelmann, CCTA; Eric Hu, Pleasant Hill; Jeremy Lochirco, Walnut Creek; Deidre Heitman, BART; Lynn Overcashier, Corinne Dutra-Roberts, 511 Contra Costa; Barbara Neustadter, Connie Peterson, TRANSPAC staff.

Meeting convened without a quorum by Chair Silva at 9:05 a.m. Member Ross arrived at 9:10 a.m. and Member Bjerke arrived at 9:12 a.m.

1. Convene meeting: Pledge of Allegiance/Self-Introductions - Completed

2. Public Comment – None.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA: Durant/Pierce/unanimous**

The consent calendar was approved at 9:46 a.m. following discussion of Item 4, when a quorum had been established.

END CONSENT AGENDA

4. **SB 375 - Sustainable Communities Strategy**

Martin Engelmann, CCTA Deputy Executive Director, Planning, provided an update on the development of SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in Contra Costa. He handed out a document called the “The Top Six Things TRANSPAC Should Know About SB 375”, which outlined the effects that this bill would have on housing element requirements, GHG emissions targets for cars and light trucks, requirements for a sustainable communities strategy, and CEQA exemptions for GHG analysis. According to this analysis of SB 375, the bill would not directly affect land use decisions and should have no discernable impact on the Measure J Expenditure Plan.

Also included in the packet was “Contra Costa County’s Principles for Collaborative Development of the SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy”. These principles will serve as a guide for elected officials in their roles at all levels as the SCS is developed. A list of appointments to the SB 375 Joint Policy Committee (JPC) CEO and Working Group Committees was included as well. Appointments to the CEO Committee include executive directors from the regional agencies, executive directors of the Bay Area CMAs, and city managers. The JPC Working Group will consist of staff-level appointees. The first meeting will be scheduled for April.

Member Bjerke asked what would be the impact of SB 375 on the Measure J Expenditure Plan if the Plan is amended. Mr. Engelmann answered that there would be little impact on the Expenditure

Plan because all current major projects are in the RTP. However, if Measure J is amended, any new projects would need to be in the SCS in order to get State funding after the year 2016.

Member Bjerke asked if any kind of hierarchy chart is being developed that outlines the responsibilities of the Authority or the cities. Mr. Engelmann replied that there is no chart but thought it would be a good idea to create one. There is a work program for consultant support that was developed in a collaborative effort among JPC staff, planning directors, the TCC and Authority staff. Authority staff will fund the consultant support for this to help local jurisdictions “digest” the data provided to them from MTC and ABAG. MTC and ABAG will be responsible for all the analysis of the SCS and GHG targets.

Member Ross commented that this mandate was dropped into the laps of local level staff and there needs to be some type of clearinghouse established among these agencies that will be available to help local staff. Member Bjerke asked who will be responsible for different elements and who would staff people go to with questions. Chair Silva asked which agency is most likely to have the expertise. Member Ross thought all these agencies should have a minimum staff available on call to handle SB 375 questions.

Bob Hoag commented on Item #5 regarding requirements of GHG targets for cars and light trucks, noting that there are separate requirements for GHG emissions depending on the region. He asked if any new projects would be affected if the targets are not met, and if it was possible that projects having nothing to do with cars and trucks would be affected. Mr. Engelmann noted that there are two different kinds of projects—transportation and development—and the issue here concerns transportation projects. Mr. Hoag believed there was a fundamental element of fairness that was missing, and if everyone is driving the same cars and trucks, there should be one standard to work towards rather than regional standards. Member Ross thought that regional standards would better address the needs of Contra Costa, which are different from Alameda or any other county. The goal is to determine how to reduce VMT in each region, even though the cars and trucks might be the same. Member Bjerke said he understands Mr. Hoag’s point, but added that we have freeways which generate a lot of GHG emissions; the rules need to be fair for all, but the way we address these goals regionally may be different.

Member Pierce brought up an issue that will also need to be addressed concerning the number of refineries in Contra Costa and how this might affect GHG targets. She asked Mr. Engelmann about the meetings being held with local planners at the Authority at which SB 375 has been discussed. Member Pierce also added that the next Mayors’ Conference in Antioch will be a primer on the impact of CEQA guidelines.

Mr. Engelmann commented on Member Ross’ concern about the need to have resources for help from the regional agencies, noting that the regional agencies seem to be understaffed and overwhelmed at this point. Informal meetings have taken place with the planning directors and regional staff. The creation of an SCS task force also had been proposed to include one or two transportation planners from each of the subareas and as well as representatives from ABAG and MTC. The Authority would bring in planning services consultant Dyett and Bhatia to present the information and make it workable for staff. Regional staff indicated that it would not have time to participate, and this was the purpose of having the CEO Committee and Working Group. Mr. Engelmann estimated that there could be up to 150 people attending the working group, which would be good for sharing information and giving presentations but not for getting work done.

Lynn Overcashier asked if those who implement TDM programs on behalf of the jurisdictions could be included at some level. Mr. Engelmann responded that anyone will be able to sign up to receive notices of JPC Working Group meetings. Mr. Engelmann added that these meetings should be webcast to save travel time and to provide a record of the meetings that can be archived. He called upon elected officials to make this recommendation to MTC and ABAG.

An e-mail from Bob Armstrong dated March 6, 2010 stated: "I find the whole exercise a waste of taxpayer time and money as the whole cult of "Climate Change" has assumed the role of a state religion, and is by any measure, a scam based on faulty/doctored science....I would like a minority opinion placed on the record."

ACTION: Thanked Mr. Engelmann for the presentation.

5. 2008-2009 Conditions of Compliance Report

The Conditions of Compliance report is prepared by TRANSPAC and 511 Contra Costa staff to assist jurisdictions in fulfilling the requirement to summarize the various steps taken to implement the Central County Action Plan. The report is reviewed by the TAC (this year in January and February) and then electronically transmitted to the jurisdictions to use as appropriate for individual circumstances. A jurisdiction may use the report as it stands or may customize the information for its own use.

Action: With thanks to Barbara Neustadter and Lynn Overcashier, report was accepted.

6. TRANSPAC and CCTA Representatives' Reports. Items approved by the Authority on February 18, 2010 for Circulation to the Regional Transportation Planning Committees (RTPCs), items of interest, the February 17, 2010 Executive Director's Report and the January 20, 2010 CCTA meeting minutes were included in the packet. Also attached was a CCTA staff report on the City of Pittsburg's proposal to withdraw from East County Fee and Financing Authority (ECCRFFA).

a. Administration and Projects Committee (APC) meeting

Member Pierce reported that the APC elected Mike Metcalf as Chair and Ed Balico as Vice Chair. The APC approved revisions to the Authority's record retention policy and public records accessibility. Approval was given to issue a Request for Qualifications for financial advisory services. Mid-year budget adjustments were approved based on lower than expected sales tax revenues. Discussion of legislative issues included SB 83, which allows the Authority to place a measure on the ballot to increase motor vehicle registration fees up to \$10 to help fund local projects and programs. The APC recommended bringing in a public opinion polling consultant to evaluate public support for such a fee. The APC also discussed plans to go forward with the Authority's office relocation to the Vodaphone building mid-summer.

b. Planning Committee (PC) meeting

Member Durant reported that the PC elected Newell Arnerich as Chair. The March meeting was postponed because of conflicts with the interview schedule for the Authority's new Executive Director. At the last meeting, the PC reviewed guiding principles for SB 375 implementation. It was noted that Martin Engelmann would be in charge at the Authority during the time that Interim Executive Director Paul Maxwell is on vacation.

Member Durant reported on the City of Pittsburg's proposal to withdraw from ECCRFFA. The City believes that an equitable share of funds is not being directed towards projects in the City, particularly the James Donlon Boulevard project. Member Bjerke noted that this was the second time that Pittsburg has considered withdrawing from ECCRFFA, and the City has been encouraged to try to work it out cooperatively as its compliance with regional cooperation requirements could be impacted.

ACTION: Reports accepted.

7. Reports from Staff and Committees

Corinne Dutra-Roberts, Senior Transportation Analyst, reported that in addition to the staff report in the packet, 511 Contra Costa has received recognition for its use of social media to provide information and to "exert positive social pressure" as shown in the eContent article that was handed out. 511 Contra Costa was mentioned along with the BAAQMD, PG&E and BART for effectively using social media. Ms. Dutra-Roberts reported that the City of Pleasant Hill has taken delivery of a new electric vehicle, which is being leased for a year with the help of Measure C funds. 511 Contra Costa had provided funding for an electric charging station in December. 511 CC has been asked to speak at the City of Antioch's Climate Action public meetings, where the City will solicit input from citizens and discuss the results of its GHG emissions report.

Chair Silva noted that the May TRANSPAC meeting occurs on Bike to Work Day, and encouraged members to bike to the meeting if possible. She also mentioned the comment last month about cities' websites linking to 511 Contra Costa, noting that she asked the City of Walnut Creek to make sure it was pointing properly to 511CC's website. Bob Armstrong suggested getting a link on the Claycord.com blog, and Chair Silva suggested linking to the blog Crazy in Suburbia. Bob Hoag brought attention to an interesting YouTube video that demonstrated a folding electric bicycle called the "Yike Bike". (See also page 169, 12/10/09 TRANSPAC packet)

ACTION: The 511 Contra Costa report was accepted.

8. TAC reports on local jurisdiction and agency transportation projects since the last TRANSPAC meeting.

Concord – Ray Kuzbari reported that a pedestrian improvement project on Monument Boulevard was about to begin. The project will include widening of sidewalks and installing pedestrian level lighting between Oak Grove and Victory Lane as well as installing bike lanes on Meadow and a new traffic signal at Robin Lane.

Martinez – Tim Tucker reported that ground will be broken on the Marina Vista improvement project, part of a Transportation for Livable Communities grant that the City is coordinating with PG&E. The project includes brick sidewalks, decorative street lights, enhanced crosswalks and a bike lane.

ACTION: TAC reports were accepted.

9. Correspondence/Copies/Newsclips/Information - Information accepted

10. For the Good of the Order

- The City of Concord was congratulated on its successful completion of a CCTA FY 08-09 Compliance Audit for a jurisdiction receiving 18% Local Street and Road Maintenance funds.
 - Chair Silva has proposed that the May meeting be convened at Walnut Creek City Hall at the usual time to handle action items and then proceed to a walkability/mobility audit tour of downtown Walnut Creek conducted by Rafat Raie of the Walnut Creek City staff. Jeremy Lochirco noted that bike e-lockers would be available for those riding bikes to City Hall that day. Parking passes will be available for others. For the June meeting, a tour of Central County BART stations is being planned, complete with presentations on issues surrounding each station. Chair Silva welcomed suggestions for field visits to other jurisdictions, such as the Martinez Intermodal Station.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m. The next TRANSPAC meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2010 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room, City Hall, City of Pleasant Hill.

