

Summary Minutes
TRANSPAC – March 12, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

Staff: Qamar Khan, Concord; Eric Hu, Pleasant Hill; Anne Muzzini, County Connection; Brad Beck, CCTA; John Hall, Walnut Creek; Tim Tucker, Martinez; John Greitzer, Contra Costa County; Lynn Overcashier, 511 Contra Costa; Barbara Neustadter, Connie Peterson, TRANSPAC staff.

1. **Meeting was convened without a quorum by Chair Ross at 9:05 a.m. Member Pierce arrived at 9:25 a.m. Quorum established.**

Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions – Completed

Michael Murray, Contra Costa County Planning Commission representative, was welcomed to TRANSPAC.

2. **Public Comment – None**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA: Pierce/Durant/Unanimous
Approved the February 12, 2008 minutes**

END CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda was postponed until a quorum was present.

4. **Presentation of the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) by Brad Beck, Senior Transportation Planner, CCTA.**

Mr. Beck gave a presentation on the 2009 CTP, one of the key planning tools called for in the Measure J Growth Management Program (GMP). The CTP is intended to provide the overall direction and a coordinated approach for achieving and maintaining a balanced and functional transportation system within Contra Costa while strengthening links between land use decisions and transportation. It outlines the Authority's vision for Contra Costa and establishes goals, strategies, specific projects and other actions for achieving that vision. The CTP establishes the Authority's vision for the County's future, outlines the goals and strategies for achieving the vision, and implements the plans developed by the RTPCs through the respective Actions Plans for Routes of Regional Significance.

Mr. Beck discussed the four parts of the CTP: Introduction and Background; Vision, Goals and Strategies; Applying the Strategies; and Implementing the Plan. He discussed issues related to the forecast increase in population, median age, jobs and traffic. Chair Ross asked what "balanced" means in the vision for a "balanced, safe and efficient transportation network." Mr. Beck said that finding the right balance is difficult to achieve when looking at the Authority's four goals: enhance the movement of people and goods on highways and arterial roads; manage the impacts of growth; expand safe and affordable alternatives to the single occupant vehicle; and maintains the transportation system. The problem is the limited amount of funding available for all these goals.

Diana Vavrek arrived at 9:28 a.m.

Lynn Osborn noted that the plan did not address the issue of school impacts on local streets as much as it could have. Bob Armstrong said that one of the goals is to “enhance movement of people and goods,” but service was not mentioned. It was suggested that the word “commerce” be included because service is as important as goods. Further discussion raised questions about how Vehicle Miles Traveled are projected, and if the traffic studies done by local jurisdictions are collated and used. A number of issues regarding changes in development patterns including Transit Oriented Development (TOD) were discussed.

ACTION: Thanks to Mr. Beck. The TRANSPAC Manager will work with the Chair to develop comments for transmission to CCTA.

5. Central County Action Plan - Consideration of Joint TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN/WCCTAC TAC recommendation to jointly develop a Corridor Management Plan for SR 4

RTPC staff has crafted the following language to be inserted into the Action Plan in Chapter 4 under SR 4 if approved by the participating RTPCs (TRANSPAC, TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC). WCCTAC has approved and TRANSPLAN is scheduled to consider its TAC’s recommendation to approve this action at its March 12, 2009 meeting.

“Partner with TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC to develop a Corridor Management Plan for SR4 from East County through Central County (boundaries to be defined) including connecting and/or supporting arterials. This process will identify an MTSO(s) for SR4, actions, projects and define an approach to managing arterials in the corridor. TRANSPAC, TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC jointly will seek funding for the Corridor Management Plan from CCTA and other available sources.”

In addition, it was recommended that the current SR 4 MTSO in each Action Plan (5.0 Delay Index in Central County) be annotated as follows: “Upon acceptance of this recommendation by TRANSPAC, TRANSPLAN, and WCCTAC, the current SR 4 MTSOs in the respective Action Plans will be annotated to indicate that the current MTSOs are expected to be revised upon completion and adoption of the Corridor Management Plan by TRANSPAC, TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC.”

ACTION: Approved the proposed language with the revisions as noted, for insertion into the Central County Action Plan that would establish a partnership with TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC to jointly develop a Corridor Management Plan for SR 4. Silva/Pierce/Murray abstained

6. Review and Approval of the Central County Action Plan Proposal for adoption

CCTA staff requested that TRANSPAC action on this item be labeled as approval of the Central County Action Plan Proposal for Adoption which makes clear that the 2009 TRANSPAC Action Plan supersedes the 2000 Action Plan Update and will be incorporated into the CCTA’s Countywide Transportation Plan.

Work on the GMP is going on and it may be advisable to insert the language into the Action Plan then. Member Silva suggested that the numbers be cross-checked for accuracy. Member Durant congratulated the subcommittee for doing a good job of making the document readable. Neustadter and Peterson were also thanked for their efforts in the preparation of this document.

ACTION: Approved the latest version of the Central County Action Plan Proposal for adoption (including the language in item 5, map and chart edits from CCTA, as well as any minor edits and corrections as may be necessary). Durant/Silva/Unanimous.

7. Discussion of the Use of TRANSPAC's Measure J Enhancement Funds (line items 19 and 20)

In February 2009, the Authority approved the development of a mechanism that, with respective RTPC approval, would allow eligible bus and paratransit operators to use funds from the Measure J Additional Bus Transit (line item 19) and the Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities (line item 20) funding categories for existing services as well as enhanced and supplemental services. The Authority's action was taken in response to the serious funding cuts experienced by bus and paratransit service providers during this economically challenging time. TRANSPAC is one of the two RTPCs with allocation recommendation authority over Measure J line items 19 and 20. TRANSPAC takes this responsibility very seriously.

TRANSPAC views these actions as short-term measures and looks forward to working with County Connection to provide transportation alternatives for Central Contra Costa in the future.

Anne Muzzini added that because of operating fund losses, the County Connection needs all the funding it can get. She described some of the details of the new route reconfiguration and commented that many riders liked the change.

Murray asked how much money was being requested for this year. Muzzini said the amount requested for the fourth quarter is \$168,000.

Member Pierce expressed concern about this request, but acknowledged that the loss of funding has made it necessary. An annual review and approval process is important so this does not set a precedent which negates Measure J's intention of establishing categories for more innovative local services. CCCTA is not always the best provider of these services because of its constraints, and the intent was to create more personalized services tailored to local communities. This decision would be restricted to line item 19 in FY2008-09 fourth quarter and FY2009-10. Other members also shared concerns that this category might never be restored in the future. Member Durant noted that these extraordinary times have created serious shortfalls, and the intent of these measures is not to be long term. Annual approval will be at the RTPC's discretion.

ACTION: Approved a request to CCTA to amend Measure J to allow the use of TRANSPAC's Measure J line items 19 and 20 for support of existing/modified bus service, and all future funding from these line items remains subject to annual allocation recommendation by TRANSPAC. TRANSPAC approved the allocation of Measure J funding from line 19 for FY2008-09 (fourth quarter) and FY2009-10 to support County Connection Routes 16 and 316 only. Pierce/Durant/Unanimous

8. Letter of support on behalf of the City of Pleasant Hill for a 2009-10 Caltrans Planning Grant Application for Contra Costa Boulevard

The City of Pleasant Hill is applying for a Caltrans Planning Grant to develop a Corridor Concept Study for Contra Costa Boulevard and has requested a letter of support for this application. The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed this request at its February 26, 2009 meeting and recommends approval. It was noted that this is a project that involves signal timing, lane alignment, coordination flow, standardization and widening in order to improve safety.

ACTION: Approved sending a letter of Support for the City of Pleasant Hill's 2009-10 Caltrans Planning Grant for Contra Costa Boulevard. Pierce/Durant/Unanimous

URGENCY ITEM

The City of Pleasant Hill request for a TRANSPAC letter of support for a Caltrans Planning Grant application.

ACTION: Approved adding this urgency item to the agenda. Pierce/Durant/Unanimous.

The City of Pleasant Hill requests a TRANSPAC letter of support for a Caltrans Planning Grant application. Applications must be submitted by April 1, 2009. The TAC had not previously reviewed this request because of time constraints.

This project will study new and enhanced mobility linkages between newly redeveloped communities in Pleasant Hill including the Crossroads Shopping Center and Crescent Drive retail area and the commercial employment center in proximity to the Pleasant Hill BART Station area transit oriented development (TOD). The project will assess the demand for additional mobility options within a key transportation corridor to provide a reasonable level of midday service between the TOD in proximity to the Pleasant Hill BART Station and the redevelopment areas of downtown Pleasant Hill.

Kelly Calhoun, Pleasant Hill's Economic Development Manager, stated that the amount of money requested for this planning grant is \$50,000.

ACTION: Approved sending a letter of support for the City of Pleasant Hill's Caltrans Planning Grant for the Downtown Pleasant Hill/Pleasant Hill Transit Village Area Connector Study. Pierce/Durant/Unanimous

9. Appointments to the CCTA Technical Advisory Committee (TCC)

The TAC has recommended appointments to the CCTA TCC for a two-year term ending in March 2011.

ACTION: Approve the TAC's recommendation to appoint John Hall, Ray Kuzbari, and Eric Hu as TRANSPAC representatives and John Greitzer as alternate to the CCTA TCC for a two-year term ending in March 2011. Durant/Silva/Unanimous

10. Federal Stimulus Package Update

Staff reported on actions proposed as a follow-up to the submission of the stimulus package.

Action: Staff received direction on proceeding with follow-up.

11. TRANSPAC and CCTA Representatives are requested to report on the most recent CCTA Administration and Projects Committee (Member Pierce), Planning Committee (Member Durant), and CCTA meetings (Members Pierce and Durant).

A. Administration and Projects Committee meeting

Member Pierce reported that the Administration and Projects Committee heard legislation concerning HOT lanes and the proposed principles from staff for an amendment to allow local control over its implementation. The APC also discussed mid-year budget adjustments taking into account reduced sales tax revenues. The list of projects for the Federal Transportation Reauthorization was reprioritized to the projects that are most likely to be approved.

B. Planning Committee meeting

Member Durant reported that the Planning Committee's consent calendar included approval of Lafayette's Growth Management Program checklist. A number of allocations were approved: Multiple cooperative agreements with eligible recipients of Measure J Program funding; fourth quarter FY 2008-09 (first quarter Measure J) allocation for the Countywide Bus Services program; fourth quarter FY 2008-09 (first quarter Measure J) allocation for the Express Bus Program; FY 2009-10 Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Expenditure Plan and Measure J Commute Alternatives Allocation for fourth quarter of FY 2008-09. The PC also approved a letter of support for Pleasant Hill's grant application for the Contra Costa Boulevard corridor study. Most of the discussion focused on the Joint Policy Committee and its proposed policies for implementation of SB 375.

12. Reports from Staff and Committees – Report received

Lynn Overcashier, Program Manager of 511 Contra Costa reported on several items.

- 511 CC is holding two seminars on telework programs in March and April. Invitations to the seminars were sent to about two thousand employers in Central and East County, and all jurisdictions also have been invited to attend. A national authority on the development of telework and alternative work schedules will deliver a presentation on how businesses and municipalities can save money by instituting telework programs.
- 511 Contra Costa is working on developing an electric vehicle charging station program. Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill have expressed interest in this program [and \[verify\] will be installing electric charging stations for the next generation of plug-in electric vehicles.](#) Because local TFCA Program Managers funds for clean fuel infrastructure are no longer available, Measure C money will be initially used. Staff is looking at a TFCA regional grant to help develop the program.
- Staff has been working with the Pleasant Hill Economic Development Manager on the evaluation of a mid-day shuttle to downtown.
- The recent stimulus bill included pre-tax benefits of \$230 a month for transit riders, a benefit that has already been available for parking costs. Information about this tax benefit is posted on the 511 Contra Costa website.

13. Correspondence/Copies/Newsclips/Information – Accepted

14. For the Good of the Order – Chair Ross said that he would like to see the Authority showcase its many accomplishments so that they are made known to the public. TRANSPAC should consider sending a letter suggesting this. Chair Ross also asked that everyone come to the meeting at least once by any mode other than a single occupancy vehicle. TRANSPAC agreed by acclamation.

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m. The next TRANSPAC meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room, City Hall, City of Pleasant Hill.