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MEETING SUMMARY

NORTH COUNTY SUBREGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 12, 2007

1:00 p.m.

Marriott Santa Ynez Valley
555 McMurray Road
Buellton, CA

The North County Subregional Planning Committee (NCSPC) is a Board subcommittee of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact SBCAG at least three working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton and committee chairperson; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Jim Richardson, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe;.

Members Absent: Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District;

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Steve VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs; Gregg Hart, Public Information Officer; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Following a motion by Mayor Lavagnino, seconded by Mayor Alvarez, the Committee voted unanimously to receive the June 2007 meeting summary.

3. MEASURE D RENEWAL

Following the approval of the June 2007 Meeting Summary, Chair Hicks introduced the Measure D Policy Development Committee Meeting Facilitator, Matt Dobberteen.

Jim Kemp welcomed and thanked the committee members for their participation. He provided a brief overview of the Measure D 2008 Renewal efforts and discussed the committee's role in the development of the Measure D 2008 Transportation Investment Plan.

Jim Kemp continued to review the purpose of the committee as a venue to share ideas, understand priorities and recognize that there will be compromise in the process of developing the investment plan. He reminded the committee that they will need to take information from the committee and share it with the groups they represent to facilitate an open process. He told the committee they would present their recommendations to the North County Subregional Planning Committee which in turn will put their recommendation before the SBCAG Board. At that point a draft investment plan, that includes both the North and South recommendations, will be developed and advertised for public review. Mr. Kemp stated that the investment plan recommendations need from the committee need to be completed and submitted to the SBCAG board for approval by November 2007 to adhere to the proposed November 2008 ballot schedule.

Members of the North County Measure D Policy Development Committee introduced themselves. Members in attendance included: Vibiana Saavedra, PUEBLO; Deborah Brasket, Santa Barbara County Action Network; Linda Jackson, Solvang Chamber of Commerce; Andy Caldwell, Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business; Sam Cohen, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians; Phillip Greene, Marian Medical Center; Noreen Nims, Parent Teacher Association – 15th District; Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5; Hamid Bahadori, Auto Club of Southern California; Bill Marsalek, Associated General Contractors; Cindy Norlin, Buellton Chamber of Commerce; Dennis Hendrick, Lompoc Chamber of Commerce; Greg Baldwin, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau; Don Oaks, Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association; and Harrell Fletcher, Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce.

Matt Dobberteen reviewed meeting procedures and the schedule. He presented ground rules for the committee meetings related to the facilitated discussion format and goal to ultimately reach committee consensus.

Matt Dobberteen summarized key points of the Brown Act as they pertain to the committee and their actions. He reminded the committee that they are subject to the Open Meetings Act and encouraged members to discuss issues openly. Mr. Dobberteen concluded the review by thanking the committee for their commitment to the process.

Matt Dobberteen introduced Gregg Hart, SBCAG Public Information Officer, to begin a slideshow presentation and discussion related to Measure D.

Gregg Hart reviewed the existing Measure D program that will sunset in 2010. In response to several questions from the committee, Mr. Hart provided the following information:

- There is no existing, working definition of a local project versus a regional project in the current program except that the Regional Program projects in the current measure are specifically identified in an approved expenditure plan and Local Program projects are selected by the cities and the county annually.
- The current program divides revenues between 3 programs: 70% local program; 29.5% regional projects; and 0.5% Specialized Transit. This committee will need to determine distribution for the new program.
- All but one of the regional program projects was delivered in the existing measure, the undelivered project being the widening of Highway 101. The \$15 million programmed to widen Highway 101 was redistributed to smaller operational improvements, including the upcoming Milpas to Hot Springs project, and interregional bus service.
- Funding from the current measure coupled with the state Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) program will widen approximately eight miles of the four-lane

stretch of Highway 101; leaving an approximately eight-mile gap. The CMIA project widens six miles of Highway 101, three in Santa Barbara County and three in Ventura County.

Committee members asked if the \$140 million identified for widening Highway 101 on the South Coast was what was spent up to this point on the project and why local funds would be used to fund a state highway. They also asked questions about how Prop 1B funds and state gas tax are distributed. SBCAG staff responded that the figure is what would be allocated from the Measure D Renewal to the project but the total cost for widening the remaining 4-lane gap is estimated to be about \$400 million.

Staff also explained that Local funds are being used because there are not enough State and federal gas tax funds received because the gas taxes do not increase with inflation and their purchasing power has been diminished. The state is more likely to provide funding for the widening project if local funds from Measure D are committed.

Aileen Loe of Caltrans explained that some state funds are distributed to counties on a formula basis taking into account population and lane miles, but some state funding is discretionary. SBCAG staff mentioned that some of the Proposition 1B funds are competitive with one of the programs specifically reserved for self-help counties, thus a "self-help county" can leverage more state funds for projects in its region.

Gregg Hart reviewed key elements of the Measure D 2006 ballot measure including the tax rate, term, modal and geographic distributions. Committee discussion following the presentation included the suggestion to discontinue use of the term "alternative transportation" and call out each individual mode by name.

Gregg Hart reviewed the election results of Measure D 2006 and outlined reasons for the 2006 failure as discovered in conversations with voters. He also reviewed the framework for Measure D 2008 as determined by the SBCAG Board.

Committee members questioned the funding division between north and south inquiring if a true return to source model had been considered. Gregg Hart replied that the current county population split is approximately 50% north/50% south; however projections indicate that the north county population will surpass the south coast during the 30-year measure term. He noted that other factors could be considered but this results in winners and losers and the proposed split is a straight forward formula that jurisdictions and voters will understand.

Steve VanDenburgh presented slides outlining the countywide need for transportation funding and estimated revenues over the next 30 years. He reviewed important points for the committee to consider in developing the investment plan. He reminded the committee that Measure D is an important funding source, but not the only funding source available and that we will need to consider factors like the availability of other funding and ability to leverage new dollars when crafting the investment plan.

A member of the committee inquired about other funding sources and staff was asked to prepare information about state Proposition 1B as well as the other funding sources available to Santa Barbara County. Members would like to understand restrictions on funding and how measure funds fit in. Members also asked staff to quantify the estimated revenue from other sources that will be lost if Measure D is not renewed.

Steve VanDenburgh introduced and reviewed the information displayed in a table of regional North County programs and projects taken from the Measure D 2006 renewal expenditure plan.

Some committee members expressed concern with the list of projects from the 2006 Measure Expenditure plan and discussed which projects should be included on the list as regional priorities, such as the Santa Maria River Bridge widening, Highway 246 improvements, interregional bus service and Safe Routes To School. It was suggested that the regional project list be revised to remove South Coast projects and that the Union Valley Parkway Interchange project be added.

Committee members discussed possible changes to the Local-Regional split in terms of percentage allocations and how other regions have allocations determined in their expenditure plans. The committee also discussed how members of the community would be able to participate in the allocation of funds from the Measure D Local program.

Jim Kemp indicated that the distinction between local and regional projects can be somewhat arbitrary and is less important to voters than knowing the specific projects and the benefits they will see if the Measure is approved. He suggested that some of the funds allocated in the investment plan to local agencies could be dedicated in the plan for specific purposes (eg., transit) according to each agency's needs, while remaining local program funds could remain flexible.

For future Policy Development Committee meetings it was suggested that representatives from other counties that succeeded in passing their sales tax measures (eg., Madera, Orange) could present information on how they developed their plans.

Committee members requested that staff arrange presentations from local jurisdictions to discuss their local needs. They also requested revisions to the North County Regional Project list with the removal of South Coast projects and that the list is brought back to the committee.

Jim Kemp asked that committee members in preparation for the next meeting consider project priorities and identify projects on the regional list that are missing or that should be reduced or eliminated. Mr. Kemp also requested that additional questions and ideas for projects be sent to Gregg Hart by email or phone by July 20 so that staff can provide responses by the next meeting. He also announced that information related to this meeting and the process will be posted on the SBCAG website, including handouts, presentations, and summaries. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Aug 1 at 9:00 a.m. in Buellton.

There being no other business, the committee adjourned.