



MEETING SUMMARY

SOUTH COAST MEASURE D POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE October 24, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Carbajal called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and introduced the new meeting facilitator, Pat Saley, who reviewed the goals for the meeting, agenda and meeting ground rules.

South Coast Subregional Planning Committee Members Present: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor Second District; Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Jonny Wallis, Councilmember, City of Goleta.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dave Murray, Caltrans District 5; Richard Weinberg, SBMTD Board of Directors

Advisory committee members proceeded with self-introductions. Policy Development Committee members in attendance included: Ralph Fertig, Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition; Eva Inbar, Coalition for Sustainable Transportation; Hamid Bahadori, Automobile Club of Southern California; Jan Evans, Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association; Dennis Story, Coastal Rail Now; Steve Greig, Carpinteria Valley Chamber, Dave Pritchett, PUEBLO.

SBCAG Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Steve VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programming & Project Delivery; Gregg Hart, Public Information Officer; and Fred Luna, Transportation Engineer.

2. SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING REVIEW

Jim Kemp briefly reviewed the meeting summary from the September 12th meeting. There were no comments on the meeting notes.

3. REVIEW OF RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

Steve VanDenburgh of SBCAG reviewed the questions posed at the last meeting and staff's responses that were distributed with the meeting packet. The Committee's comments on staff's responses are included in the notes under #4 below.

4. MEASURE D 2008 DRAFT INVESTMENT PLAN DISCUSSION

SBCAG staff reviewed the Draft Investment Plan that had been distributed with the agenda packet.

a. Local Flexible Funding

- SBCAG staff reported that MTD and the South Coast Public Work Directors met with SBCAG staff as requested by the committee and reached agreement on funding for MTD operations and transit capital. They also proposed additional funding for Specialized Transit for Elderly and Disabled.
- There was concern expressed by a committee member that characterizing the changes to the plan to fund MTD was the result of local agencies “giving up” funding.
- Some committee members expressed concern that the amount allocated to locals had been reduced from \$365 million to \$277 million.
- A question was asked what “transportation hub” meant in the transit capital program definition and a request made that the definition be modified to remove that reference.

Supervisor Firestone left the meeting at this point in the discussion.

- There was a consensus of elected officials on the committee that the amount of funding proposed in the plan for alternative transportation modes is acceptable and there is no need to place requirements on local flexible funding for minimum percentage going to alternate modes.

b. Safe Routes to School and Bike/Ped Programs

- Committee members discussed whether the programs should be competitive grant processes or a program where funding is distributed by population to local agencies for Safe Route and Bike\Ped projects. Some committee members commented that population ensures equity and simplicity. Others expressed support for a grant process that ensured the highest priority projects are chosen using established criteria; this approach could allow small agencies that would receive a small annual amount through a population formula to complete projects sooner.
- SBCAG staff stressed that grant proposals would be evaluated per guidelines that have not been developed yet. The Committee’s task is to recommend a plan identifying projects and allocations. “Process” issues will be worked on after the draft plan is completed, approved by SBCAG board, and put out for public review and polling.
- Some committee members supported allowing Safe Routes and Bike\Ped funding to be used for maintenance projects; Maintenance, may not be a higher priority than new facilities under the criteria to be developed .
- Language in the plan was modified to make the program sponsorship consistent and clarify that colleges, universities, Caltrans and school districts could compete for funding but only with a city or county as a project co-sponsor.
- Some committee members expressed concern about spending Measure D funds on colleges & universities. Others believed this

expenditure is legitimate and that partnerships should be encouraged to strengthen projects and support for passing the renewal.

c. MTD Operations and Transit Capital Program funding

- MTD commented that being able to use transit for operating and vice versa would be most helpful to them. SBCAG staff noted that funding should be distributed to projects that are consistent with MTD's transit plan and that the \$28 million capital program is not just for MTD but also for Easy Lift.

d. Commuter Rail

- SCBAG staff explained that funding could be used to support rescheduling of Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains to serve Ven-SB commuters.
- Committee members requested that the City of Santa Barbara's On-TRAC proposal be presented to committee. It was noted that the Ventura Co. Transportation Commission and Cities of Goleta & Santa Barbara have endorsed this plan.
- One committee member was concerned that the current amount allocated to Commuter Rail (\$15 million) is not adequate and shows a lack of political will. A request was made to increase rail funding to \$40 million. SBCAG staff commented that a ½ cent renewal does not generate sufficient revenues for a full scale commuter rail system without significantly reducing or eliminating funding for other needs. Funding would be used for a pilot program to determine demand for commuter rail. And rescheduling Amtrak is only one potential approach for determining demand for commuter rail.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Pujo, representing COAST, reminded the committee to consider complete streets and statements of principle in general in its work and encouraged the committee to look at the pie charts created by the Bicycle Coalition.

7. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS:

The next meeting will be November 7, 2007 – 1:30 p.m. at SBMTD. Jim Kemp said the goal is for the committee to reach consensus on a plan on November 7 and that the SBCAG South Coast Subregional Committee will meet on Nov 7 following the Policy Development Committee meeting to consider recommending approval of the plan to the SBCAG Board. The Committee asked for the following information and discussion at the November 7th meeting:

Agenda items for the next meeting (or a future discussion) should include:

- Verify percentages to alternate modes based on existing proportion of trips by mode (request withdrawn after the meeting by SCAA)
- On-TRAC presentation by City of Santa Barbara
- Provide copies of Bicycle Coalition pie charts (handout at meeting)

- Specifics of “grant” program and process (can be discussed in early 2008)

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.