

“DRAFT”

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES - “SPECIAL MEETING”

July 18, 2007

SLOCOG

Members Present: James Patterson, President
John Shoals, Vice President
Tony Ferrara, Past President

Staff Present: Ronald De Carli, Executive Director (SLOCOG)
Peter Rodgers, Administration Director (SLOCOG)
Wyatt Cash, Legal Counsel (SLOCOG/SLORTA)
Aida Nicklin, Executive Secretary (SLOCOG)

Also Present: Eric Greening, Citizens’ Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) representative

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: President James Patterson called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. Silent roll call was taken.

2. Public Comments: Mr. Eric Greening, Atascadero, noted that part of the action that the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board recently took regarding the service changes for Route 10 might fall on the SLOCOG August agenda and that is approving a “Free Transfer Policy.” He stressed the need to look at the transfer policy comprehensively, taking into consideration regional equity and farebox implications.

3. Executive Committee Minutes, May 16, 2007 and April 11, 2007: Past President Tony Ferrara moved to approve the minutes of May 16th and April 11th. President Patterson seconded to approve the May 16th minutes, and the motion carried (Vice President John Shoals abstained). Vice President Shoals seconded to approve the April 11th minutes and the motion carried (President Patterson abstained).

4. Draft SLOCOG August 8, 2007 Agenda: Mr. Ronald De Carli reviewed the draft SLOCOG August 8th agenda:

Public Hearing Item:

A-1, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Formal Amendment No. 4: Mr. De Carli stated a public hearing will be conducted to hear testimony on Formal Amendment No. 4 of the TIP, which covers approved projects receiving federal funds from the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient*

Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (i.e., High Risk Rural Roads project to improve shoulders on Templeton Road from South El Pomar to State Route (SR) 41, etc.).

Public comments: **Mr. Greening** expressed a concern relative to the Templeton Road project, noting he wants assurance that before the TIP amendment comes before the Board for approval in August, SLOCOG and County Public Works staffs have come into agreement relative to the Nacimiento project and the timeline for construction. He said it would be better to wait for the road project until the pipeline project is done. **Mr. De Carli** remarked, “Good suggestion!” He indicated SLOCOG staff would make certain there is coordination between the Public Works staff working at both projects.

A-2, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Grant application being submitted by San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare to acquire Speech-Powered Bus Trip Technology for the Regional Interactive 511 Phone System: This is in response to the new federal requirement for the submittal of discretionary grants. San Luis Obispo (SLO) Regional Rideshare is submitting a grant to purchase speech-powered bus trip technology that would be used for the Regional 511 phone system. **Mr. De Carli** distributed copies of a handout on the *511 Deployment Status*, and briefly discussed the purpose of 511 and what it means to this region.

A-3, Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan: This Plan is a new Federal requirement. The Plan has taken a very comprehensive look at social services as well as public transit. It generally received broad stakeholder and staff support. Staff will be providing a detailed presentation to the advisory committees. Staff recommendation at this time is for the Board to review and comment, and schedule for adoption in October. The only real issue that is building up momentum in discussions is the recommendation to create a Regional Mobility Manager to look and field questions of all transit systems. There were some questions about the assignment of this responsibility, whether San Luis Obispo City or Ride-On or SLOCOG or RTA staff should take up the role.

Presentation Item:

B-1, Triennial Performance Audits – Findings and Recommendations: Atascadero and Morro Bay: The Triennial Performance Audit reports are ready to go. The consultant will conduct a presentation on the findings and recommendations. Highlighted will be the audits done on the City of Morro Bay (Dial-A-Ride and Trolley services) and the City of Atascadero (Dial-A-Ride and Fixed route services). No major issues have been identified. However, the performance audits found that both operators’ fiscal audits have been late and that the City of Atascadero is having difficulty meeting the new farebox ratio requirement of 20% (20% is now required as the City has been designated as an urbanized area).

Transportation Items:

C-1, 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Cycle: Draft Schedule and Programming: **Mr. De Carli** noted that every two years, SLOCOG does a major STIP Program cycle. Once the State budget is adopted, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will adopt a STIP Fund Estimate (FE). The FE is crucial as it shows how much funding is allocated to this region. Staff will be discussing the schedules and general programming criteria, including any issue of “set asides,” SLOCOG is expected to program approximately \$25m to \$35m for Board adoption in January or February.

C-2, 2006 Proposition 1B State Transit Assistance (STA) Fund Program: This is a State funding that was approved for transit by formula from Proposition 1B. The exact amount of funding for transit projects will be known following the adoption of the State budget. A total of \$12.4 million (\$2m to \$3m a year) in Proposition 1B funding is anticipated for the San Luis Obispo region for public transit Capital

and/or transit-related improvements (i.e., transfers centers, etc.). For Fiscal Year 2007/2008, approximately \$2.4 million will be available (subject to the final State budget). **President Patterson** asked for how long the \$2-3m per year is expected to last. **Mr. De Carli** said it is unclear at present; it depends upon what is in the Governor's budget and subsequent legislation. Transit is one of the targets for shifting funding from in order to balance the State budget. Staff will be recommending programming this in conjunction with the 2008 STIP funds.

C-3, New Programs to Improve Transportation System Performance: This is a follow-through of the Performance Indicators Report that was presented to the Board in February. The Report identified that some of the performance of the transportation system in this region is going the wrong direction. (e.g., Vehicle Miles Traveled [VMT] continues to increase, higher than population; Park-and-Ride lot numbers have gone down, etc.). In April, the Board asked if there is something that can be done to reverse the negative trend. Staff presented some general ideas and indicated that there are a number of programs that could be implemented. Those ideas will be flushed out a little bit more and staff will likely bring back to the Board at the next meeting a recommendation to set aside some monies to do certain things – i.e., defining potential Park-n-Ride lots and those that need enhancements, maintenance, etc. **President Patterson** inquired how much money would be needed for this kind of program. **Mr. Peter Rodgers** brought to attention that staff looked at the performance trends and has ranked them into tiers relative to significance and funding availability. He noted that the key project to fund would be PnR lots and construction of more facilities.

C-4, 2007 State and Federal Legislation Update: **Mr. De Carli** noted that staff would provide the latest information on the State Legislation. One of the key bills relative to the State-Local Partnership Program now has broader support. Staff worked with legislators, advocating support for the amendments to the State-Local Partnership Program bills. Senator Abel Maldonado came through as one of only six republican legislators to support SLOCOG proposed changes.

C-5, Comparison of Recent Shuttle Performance: This is a comparison of various shuttles –Senior Shuttle, Shandon Shuttle, Templeton Shuttle, Five Cities Shuttle, and Nipomo Mesa Shuttle. Most of these were previously taxi subsidy programs. **Mr. Rodgers** noted that ridership for the Nipomo Mesa Shuttle is not doing well; it has only nine or ten riders per month. **Mr. De Carli** said staff will be reporting to the Board on the performance of the shuttles, including suggested changes and information on what is working.

C-6, Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): SAFETEA-LU Gap Analysis and Update Schedule: **Mr. De Carli** noted that since the last RTP update (April 2005), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) came up with new guidelines to implement RTPs. SLOCOG's RTP at the time of approval of the last update was in compliance with all federal guidelines. The California Transportation Commission (CTC), in response to the new federal guidelines, is coming up with their own new guidelines to address RTPs and is starting to focus on greenhouse reduction and blue print planning issues. **Mr. De Carli** also noted that the RTP needs to be fiscally constrained, which means that SLOCOG will be cutting a lot of projects. The current biggest issue is a major funding shortfall.

President Patterson brought to attention that last night, the San Luis Obispo City Council acted on the Prado Road Interchange project. He inquired about how that project would fit into SLOCOG's RTP and its possible impact on other projects/issues. **Mr. De Carli** indicated, "It is too early in the process, it has yet to begin the environmental review; total time to construction is typically 12 to 18 years from now." He said staff would identify some of the tradeoffs. **Past President Ferrara** said, "We were told that this project would not have any impact on SLOCOG." **Mr. De Carli** clarified that the project has a potential impact as it relates to other projects. However, this project does not have the same regional significance as other interchanges (i.e., Los Osos Valley Road & Madonna Road). It would be been different if it were a major regionally significant route serving another city or a state-to-state route.

Regional Rideshare Program Items:

D-1, San Luis Obispo (SLO) Regional Rideshare Program Update: This item is a general update on the SLO Regional Rideshare Program focusing on the Bike Month activities.

D-2, 2007 Commute Profile (Survey Results) San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties: SLO Regional Rideshare staff will present to the Board an update on the survey results, including information on the areas where this region is doing well and the areas where SLO County needs to improve to start reversing the negative trends.

Intelligent Transportation System Items:

E-1, Central Coast (five county) Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Video: In order to receive federal funds, SLOCOG is required by federal law to update its Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture and Implementation Plan. The full plan is expected to be ready for public consideration in November and Board adoption in December.

E-2, 511 Traveler Information System Scope of Work: **Mr. De Carli** said that the 511 Traveler Information System is a national program that is starting to become operational in some areas of the state of California. He then reviewed the handout titled "511 Deployment Status (San Francisco Bay Area)," noting that SLOCOG staff is looking at doing something similar to this and that SLOCOG is moving forward with the grant that came through SLO Regional Rideshare.

E-3, Motorist Aid Program (Call Box Program) Update and Next Steps: Staff will update the Board on the Call Box Program - where it is going.

E-4, Traffic Signal Preemption Grant Update: **Mr. De Carli** brought to attention that SLOCOG's application for Traffic Signal Preemption Grant (\$350K) was not approved, for the reason that the project is not a site-specific safety problem. Staff met with County Public Works staff and fire chiefs to see what next steps to follow. One funding option is the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) (programming in December).

Consent Agenda Items: No discussion occurred.

Closed Session: There will be two closed session items – 1) Executive Director's annual performance evaluation; and 2) Employee Benefits – a reconsideration of an employee benefit that was approved by the Board in November 2006. This is a result of the Public Employees Retirement System's recent rejection of the Board-approved Employee benefit.

5. 2007 California Regional Progress Report: **Mr. De Carli** briefly reviewed the 2007 California Regional Progress Report, highlighting pages 13 (*Summary of Regional Progress*) and 18 (*What Progress are regions making? = New building permits Ratio – multi-family versus single family; Ratio of Jobs to Housing Units*) of the report. He noted that this report is now in circulation and the information is very similar to what the Board has already seen; only this one is statewide. **Mr. De Carli** requested direction from the Executive Committee on whether staff should agendize this item or just distribute the report to the Board. **During the short discussion that followed, the Executive Committee directed staff to agendize this item, distribute the report with the August agenda packet, present to the Board at the August meeting (10 minutes maximum), and send copies of the report out to city managers, planning directors, and city council members.**

6. 2006/07 Annual Report: This item will be presented at the October Board meeting.

7. Community 2050 Telephone Poll: **Mr. De Carli** noted that the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has already contracted out to do a public opinion poll. He also noted that SLOCOG received

only one proposal from the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was distributed in June. The total budget for this poll was \$20K, which per the proposal would provide only 95% confidence from a poll of 400 respondents. Staff will present to the Board options (*i.e., tying the funding to the RTP funding or tying this with APCD's report, merging into a broader report*) to complete this survey at an acceptable confidence level. **Mr. De Carli** recommended expanding the Community 2050 poll to become more comprehensive and increase the number of respondents to get a better representation (600-800 respondents). Staff recommends using the firm that submitted the proposal to do the expanded survey.

8. Proposed "Funding Summit/Workshop:" **Mr. De Carli** briefly discussed the item, noting three options for a more comprehensive assessment of fiscal needs and potential revenues. Of the three options staff recommends Option #3, which is to hold off on the consultant contract (a contract to assess the potential of a regional impact fee program), conduct a funding summit/workshop in October with a transportation fiscal consultant, independent of regional impact fee consultant (cost – up to \$2K), and contract out with a firm that is familiar with the state and federal finances and funding options. Under a workshop format, the Board will be consulted for input and policy direction for the RTP update and the proposed regional impact fee study.

Vice President Shoals remarked that he thinks this workshop approach is a lot better.

President Patterson noted that a similar project is currently conducted by the County. He suggested staff confer with the County Planning and Public Works Department. He said, "Talk to Dana Lilley and see if SLOCOG can benefit from the work they have done on this project."

Public Comments: **Mr. Greening** said he concurs with the direction this is going. He stressed the need to recognize that the best way to fund transportation (in order to be consistent with the purpose of reversing the negative trends reflected in the Performance Indicators Report, such as diminishing ridership, etc.), is "User fees."

9. Regional Housing Needs Assessment: **Mr. De Carli** brought to attention that SLOCOG received a notification letter (Executive Committee agenda page 9-1) from the California State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), regarding the need to start the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan process. He noted that staff would be meeting with HCD staff to commence this process.

Past President Ferrara commented, "*Statewide, you are going to see more and more cities that are close to build out. Most cities are still trying to figure out how to meet the last allocation numbers assigned to them.*" **Mr. De Carli** noted that none of the housing legislations moved because of the high cost of housing, etc. Following a brief discussion that ensued, **Mr. De Carli** indicated staff would update the Board on this issue as soon as they can – in August or October.

10. Late Breaking News: There was no late breaking news.

Prior to adjournment, **Mr. De Carli** brought to the Committee's attention that the next LOSSAN meeting will be held in Santa Barbara on the same day of the SLOCOG Board meeting (August 8th). He noted that it is critical that SLOCOG has a representative in attendance as this is a policy meeting. Since SLOCOG's rail representative and alternates (Shoals, Reiss, and Patterson respectively) would not be able to attend, **Mr. De Carli** recommends sending Mr. Fred Munroe, a CTAC (Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee) member. **Mr. Munroe** is a rail advocate and has vast experience on Rail issues; he once was a SLOCOG representative for rail. **The Committee concurred.**

11. Executive Committee Member Comments and Adjournment: There were no Committee member comments. **President Patterson** adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Aida Nicklin