

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	August 8, 2007
SUBJECT:	Correspondence and News Articles

SUMMARY: Correspondence and News Articles:

May 31, 2007: Letter of support from Steven Kahn, Atascadero Director of Public Works, to Pete Rodgers, SLOCOG Administration Director, for SLO Regional Rideshare's application for 2007 Section 5311 Discretionary Subsidy Funding. This grant will fund research to reduce barriers and increase marketing of the Summer Break Pass thereby increasing transit ridership (F-3-3).

June 4, 2007: Request from Dave Flynn, SLO County Transportation Manager, to Ron De Carli, SLOCOG Executive Director, for funding for changeable message signs on Routes 101 and 227. Mr. Flynn explained Caltrans has rejected installing the signs, but suggested the County and SLOCOG work together and they (Caltrans) would pay half of the cost which is estimated at \$100k - \$120k. He is asking for up to \$30k from the Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways (SAFE) funding programs (F-3-4). SLOCOG staff response: consider as a candidate for programming in 2008 STIP fund cycle.

June 22, 2007: Correspondence from R.J. Chappelle, California Highway Patrol (CHP) Chief Information Management Division, giving formal notice that the CHP will no longer approve SAFE Implementation Plans or SAFE system changes unless the submitting SAFE's call boxes are all equipped with Teletypewriter-Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TTYs) by June 30, 2007, in accordance with a Federal lawsuit settlement agreement (F-3-5). (Note: SLOCOG call boxes satisfy the requirement.)

June 27, 2007: Copy of notice of approval from Muhaned Aljabiry, Caltrans Office of Federal Transportation Management Program Chief, to Gene Fong, Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Division Administrator and Leslie Rogers, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Regional Administrator, of Administrative Amendment No. 7 to the 2006/07- 2007/08 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This amendment does not affect air quality conformity, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCM's) or financial constraint, and does not result in major scope change and has been amended into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) (F-3-6).

June 29, 2007: Request for consideration from Norm Grecius, San Miguel Area Residents Trust (SMART) Chairman, to Steve Devencenzi, SLOCOG Planning Director, of changes to the land use projections on the west side of U.S. Highway 101 in the San Miguel area. Mr. Grecius explained the concerns of SMART: 1) residents, not Community 2050 participants, should decide on land use policy in San Miguel and SMART recommends Community 2050 land use questions be modified to retain agriculture land use not urban development; 2) Community 2050 should use the County water use policies; water resources should not be guaranteed; 3) there should be opportunity to voice opinions on regional land use planning through participation in the Community 2050; 4) the 2050 model should discourage leapfrog development without connectivity components of Smart Growth; 5) the 2050 model should incorporate Community Design Plans that have been adopted by each unincorporated community and can be accessed on the County web site; 6) SMART believes the developer's statement misrepresents the Community 2050 process. More information is available at www.sanmiguelsmart.com (F-3-7).

July 2, 2007: Copy of notice of approval from Muhaned Aljabiry, Caltrans Office of Federal Transportation Management Program Chief, to Gene Fong, Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Division Administrator and Leslie Rogers, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Regional Administrator, of Administrative Amendment No. 8 to the 2006/07- 2007/08 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This amendment does not affect air quality conformity, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures

(TCM's) or financial constraint, and does not result in major scope change and has been amended into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) (F-3-9).

July 13, 2007: Copy of notices of approval from Rachel Falsetti, Caltrans Division of Transportation Programming Acting Chief, to Gene Fong, Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Division Administrator and Leslie Rogers, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Regional Administrator, of Administrative Amendment Numbers 5 and 6 to the 2006/07- 2007/08 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Amendment 5 adds, modifies or deletes various projects from various funding programs in San Luis Obispo County. Amendment 6 modifies projects funded from the Highway Bridge Program and adds FY 2009/10 programming to SLOCOG's FTIP. These amendments do not affect air quality conformity, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCM's) or financial constraint, and do not result in major scope change and have been amended into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis (F-3-10).

Staff report prepared by Pene McCullough



CITY OF ATASCADERO

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

May 30, 2007

Peter Rodgers
Deputy Director of Public Transportation
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
1150 Osos Street, Suite 202
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



RE: Summer Break Pass 5311 Grant Support Letter

Dear Pete:

On behalf of the City of Atascadero, I support SLO Regional Rideshares application for 2007 Section 5311 Discretionary Subsidy Funding. Their grant will support the marketing research and promotion of transit pass programs: Summer Break Pass and Employer Pass.

The City of Atascadero is a partner in providing transit service to K-12 students through the Summer Break Pass program. Encouraging more youth to ride the bus at a young age will create long-term transit riders. Last year, 479 rides were taken on the North County Shuttle (referred to as Atascadero Transit in 2006). This number makes up 33% of the total ridership for the Summer Break Pass, which has shown a decline from previous years. The price of the Summer Break Pass is affordable, but the promotion throughout the county especially rural areas where family vehicle miles traveled has increased is limited by the lack of dedicated outreach funds.

SLO Regional Rideshares request for funding for research to reduce the barriers and increase marketing of the Summer Break Pass will increase transit ridership, thereby reducing the number of vehicles on our roads.

The City of Atascadero will work to support the development and planning of the proposed marketing project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Valerie Humphrey at 805-470-3486.

Sincerely yours,

Steven B. Kahn
Director of Public Works
Administration

Engineering

Operations



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Noel King, Director

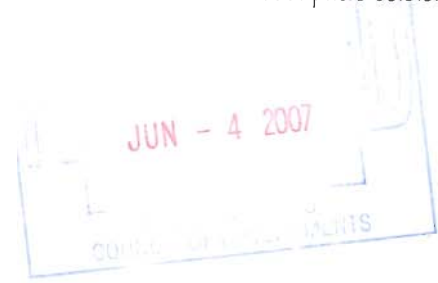
County Government Center, Room 207 • San Luis Obispo CA 93408 • (805) 781-5252

Fax (805) 781-1229

email address: pwd@co.slo.ca.us

June 1, 2007

Mr. Ron DeCarli, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
1150 Osos Street, Suite 202
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Subject: Funding for Changeable Message Signs, Routes 101 and 227

Dear Mr. DeCarli;

The County has had concerns regarding incident management on Price Canyon Road as well as needs to manage traffic flow on Price Canyon Road during the widening project to begin in 2008. Toward that end, we had requested an encroachment permit for static signs on Routes 101 and 227 to redirect traffic from Price Canyon Road during limited closures. Caltrans rejected this concept but has suggested we work together towards installing changeable message signs at these two locations which would be operated from the CHP traffic center. We have met and are working towards a cooperative agreement to have this work done as a Minor B project. The work is estimated at \$100,000 to \$120,000, of which Caltrans will pay half.

We would like to pursue the project and have the signs installed prior to the Price Canyon Road widening construction in the summer of 2008. As the signs will serve traffic management on Route 101 and 227 corridors, we would request SLOCOG to provide 25% of the project funding, up to \$30,000 from the SAFE funding program.

We would appreciate your response so we can pursue the matter while Caltrans is interested in designing the work under the 2007/08 FY Minor B program. The County will expedite the construction by advertising and inspecting the work.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at (805) 781-4463.

Sincerely,

DAVE FLYNN

Transportation Manager

c: Mike Britton, Project Manager
Phillip Chu, SLOCOG

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

2555 First Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818-2696
(916) 657-7171
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



Copies to:

Corres File Staff

W. CASH
RDC
PC

June 19, 2007

File No.: 047.010128.calcladlawsuit2005.doc

Mr. Jaime Maldonado
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
SAFE Program Coordinator
Joseph P. Bort Metro Center
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

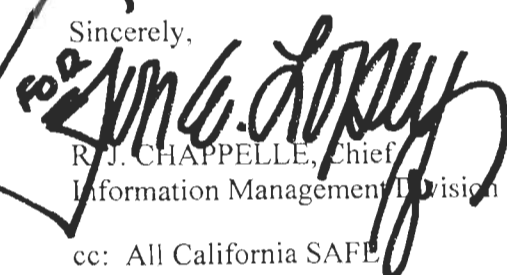
On April 14, 2005, a Federal lawsuit was filed in U. S. District Court by the California Center for Law and the Deaf, the Western Law Center for Disability Rights, and Morrison & Foerster, LLP, on behalf of deaf motorists against the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the California Department of Transportation, and numerous Service Authorities for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) who operate call boxes on California highways and roadways, alleging deaf and hard-of-hearing persons' inability to fully access SAFE call boxes that are not equipped with the Teletypewriter - Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TTYs).

All defendants have settled this lawsuit, and each defendant SAFE has entered into an agreement with plaintiffs requiring the SAFE to equip its call boxes with TTYs. Plaintiffs and the CHP have entered into a settlement agreement providing the CHP will not approve any future SAFE Implementation Plans or system change requests unless that SAFE provides assurances that no later than June 30, 2007, all of its then operating and planned call boxes will be equipped with TTYs or comparable equipment serving the deaf community if that equipment is identified as a TTY alternative by the U. S. Access Board's final Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines concerning call boxes.

In sum, this letter is to give you formal notice that the CHP will no longer approve SAFE Implementation Plans or SAFE system changes unless the submitting SAFE's call boxes are all equipped with TTYs by June 30, 2007.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at Information Management Division, at (916) 376-3120.

Sincerely,


R.J. CHAPPELLE, Chief
Information Management Division

AICHIEP

JUN 22 2007

cc: All California SAFE

Safety, Service, and Security

F-3-5



JUN 27 2007

June 20, 2007

Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall
Suite 4-100

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Sue Kiser

Attention: Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

With this letter, I am forwarding the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' (SLOCOG) Administrative Amendment No. 7, which makes technical adjustments to their 2006/07-2008/09 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This amendment does not affect air quality conformity, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCM's) or financial constraint, and does not result in major scope change.

Since administrative amendments do not require Federal Highway Administration and/or Federal Transit Administration approval, this FTIP amendment has been amended into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Please address any questions on this amendment to Abhijit Bagde of my staff, at (916) 654-3638 or Jody Tian at (916) 654-2853.

Sincerely,

Muhaned Aljabiry, Chief
Office of Federal Transportation Management Program

Enclosures

- c: Lisa Hanf - EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)
- Ronald L. De Carli – San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Richard Murphy – San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Muhaned Aljabiry – Caltrans
- Abhijit Bagde - Caltrans

Certified Mail

June 28, 2007

San Miguel Area Residents Trust
P.O. Box 192
San Miguel, CA 93451
www.sanmiguelmart.com

Steve Devencenzi
San Luis Obispo Council of Local Governments
1150 Osos St. Suite 202
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



RE: Community 2050 Comments

Dear Mr. Devencenzi:

As a North County grass roots organization dedicated to smart growth and preservation of agricultural lands, we are pleased to see SLOCOG taking bold steps in the direction of curbing urban sprawl throughout San Luis Obispo County with the Community 2050 blueprint for tomorrow's growth. Our experience centers upon the model project for urban sprawl in the County, known as the proposed "San Miguel Ranch" General Plan Amendment, Zone Change and Subdivision Map application. This project contains all of the essential ingredients of urban sprawl while being touted as the solution for local drinking water and affordable housing needs of North County and San Miguel.

SMART was formed by San Miguel residents who are concerned about the future of our community and the numerous negative impacts a large-scale development such as "San Miguel Ranch" could have on this ag-based area. We encourage you to visit our website for the most up-to-date information available. Our comments are as follows:

(1) The Growth Modeling Map that was based on various community participation sessions identifies agricultural properties along the west side of San Miguel as favorable for urban growth. We understand this was derived from one or more votes for urban expansion into this area by various participants. However, your agency should understand that the people currently residing both within these agricultural areas and/or directly adjacent to areas facing proposed land-use changes—which could result in potential major developments—believe it is unfair and unbalanced to have anonymous voting for growth in other people's backyards. We respectfully request that your model be adjusted to retain agriculture for any land use projections on the west of U.S. Highway 101 in the San Miguel area.

(2) The growth modeling should incorporate policies related to the Nacamiento water distribution project. The model should also incorporate County General Plan policies for retaining agricultural groundwater for agriculture and not diverting it to future urban uses. This is a hot topic that continues to defy County General Plan policies for groundwater use,

F-3-7

especially in San Miguel. The proposed “San Miguel Ranch” developer has convinced the San Miguel Community Services District that the groundwater beneath his agricultural land is a virtually unlimited resource—estimating peak usage of up to 2 million gallons per day—and has in fact agreed to supply water to the town of San Miguel, despite the lack of any guarantee this could not potentially have a devastating impact on both the residents and widespread agricultural activities on the west side. In the meantime, the communities of Paso Robles, Atascadero and Templeton are investing in the Nacamiento Water Project for existing and future urban growth.

(3) Please consider including Community Advisory Council participation in your 2050 program. This would provide an opportunity for SLOCOG to reach the public in the various unincorporated communities, and allow them to understand and voice their opinions on regional land planning.

(4) The 2050 model should incorporate more specific “detractors” to discourage leapfrog development across major highways and rivers without connectivity components of Smart Growth. “San Miguel Ranch” is a prime example of this, being virtually a detached community on the west side of 101 with absolutely no direct proposed or planned connection for either vehicles or pedestrians to the existing town of San Miguel on the east side of 101.

(5) The 2050 model should incorporate Community Design Plans that have been adopted by each unincorporated community and can be accessed on the County web site.

(6) The developers proposing the proposed “San Miguel Ranch” project justify their proposed conversions of 550 acres of locally significant farmland based on their published statement as follows: *“The County and LAFCO recently finished a lengthy series of workshops called the 2050 visioning process. The final consensus at the completion of these workshops was that existing small towns in the county should be encouraged to accommodate future housing development. Given these facts and the location of the San Miguel Ranch, we feel that this is the most acceptable conversion of agricultural land that could take place in San Luis Obispo County.”* We believe this statement misrepresents the Community 2050 process and certainly emphasizes comment # 1 above.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments and we hope you find them useful. You may also visit our SMART web site at www.sanmiguelmart.com which contains up-to-date information about how our community is addressing Smart Growth and Urban Sprawl.

Sincerely,



Norm Grecius, Chairman
San Miguel Area Residents Trust

cc. San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

F-3-8



June 22, 2007

Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall
Suite 4-100

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Sue Kiser

Attention: Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

With this letter, I am forwarding the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' (SLOCOG) Administrative Amendment No. 8, which makes technical adjustments to their 2006/07-2008/09 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This amendment does not affect air quality conformity, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCM's) or financial constraint, and does not result in major scope change.

Since administrative amendments do not require Federal Highway Administration and/or Federal Transit Administration approval, this FTIP amendment has been amended into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Please address any questions on this amendment to Abhijit Bagde of my staff, at (916) 654-3638 or Jody Tian at (916) 654-2853.

Sincerely,

for Muhaned Aljabiry, Chief
Office of Federal Transportation Management Program

Enclosures

- c: Lisa Hanf - EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)
- Ronald L. De Carli – San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Richard Murphy – San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Muhaned Aljabiry – Caltrans
- Abhijit Bagde - Caltrans

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

F-3-9



Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

July 10, 2007

Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall
Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Sue Kiser

Attention: Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

With this letter, and pursuant to the authority delegated to me, I approve the following amendment of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' (SLOCOG) 2006/07- 2008/09 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP):

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	State, Local and Transit Elements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adds, modifies or deletes various projects from various funding programs in San Luis Obispo County. The amendment includes projects with funding from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) augmentation, Highway Bridge Program (HBP), High Priority Projects (HPP), Corridor Mobility Program, State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), and various Federal Transit programs.

See enclosure.

I am also recommending that the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration approve this FTIP Amendment No. 5 for inclusion into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Projects included in this FTIP, in fiscal years beyond the three-year cycle of the current FSTIP, are not approved as part of this FTIP amendment and are for information only.

The updated programming has been found by SLOCOG to conform to applicable air quality regulations. Therefore, this FTIP amendment is consistent with the State Implementation Plan. The financial impacts of this amendment are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis.



July 10, 2007

JUL 13 2007

Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall
Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Sue Kiser

Attention: Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

With this letter, and pursuant to the authority delegated to me, I approve the following amendment of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' (SLOCOG) 2006/07- 2008/09 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP):

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	State, Local and Transit Elements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modifies various projects in San Luis Obispo County. These projects are funded from the Highway Bridge Program.• Adds fourth year, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/2010, programming to SLOCOG's FTIP in compliance with the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

See enclosure.

I am also recommending that the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration approve this FTIP Amendment No. 6 for inclusion into California's 2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). The updated financial summary also includes the financial information for FY 2009/2010 of programming. Projects included in this FTIP, in fiscal years beyond the four-year cycle of the current FSTIP, are not approved as part of this FTIP amendment and are for information only.

The updated programming has been found by SLOCOG to conform to applicable air quality regulations. Therefore, this FTIP amendment is consistent with the State Implementation Plan. The financial impacts of this amendment are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis.

In accordance with existing law, public involvement procedures are a part of the project selection process. SLOCOG prepared this FTIP amendment under that process permitting citizens, affected local agencies, other public agencies, and other interested parties reasonable opportunity for comment.

Please address any questions on this FSTIP approval request to Abhijit Bagde, of my staff, at (916) 654-3638 or Jody Tian , at (916) 654-2853

Sincerely,



RACHEL FALSETTI,
Acting Chief
Division of Transportation Programming

Enclosures

- c: Lisa Hanf- EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)
- Ronald L. De Carli – San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Richard Murphy – San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Muhaned Aljabiry - Caltrans
- Abhijit Bagde - Caltrans

F-3-12

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