

# THE COORDINATOR

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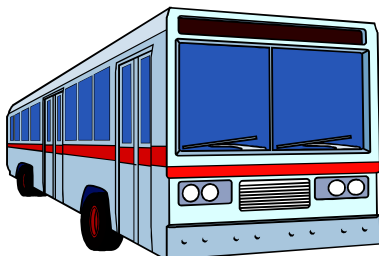
## Resolution of Appreciation Presented to Outgoing Supervisor Shirley Bianchi

The SLOCOG and SLORTA Boards presented a joint resolution of appreciation to outgoing SLOCOG Delegate, County Supervisor Shirley Bianchi at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The resolution highlighted the broad range of transportation related actions she energetically advocated and championed during the eight years she represented the North Coast. During this time, Shirley Bianchi served as Vice President from April 2004 to February 2005 and President from February 2005 to February 2006.



Supervisor Bianchi was lauded for supporting the provision of comprehensive public transit service throughout the region, funding for the Cambria Cross-town Trail, implementation of Park-and-Ride lot improvements, ridesharing programs, highway safety improvements, acquisition and protection of environmental resources & open space, and implementation of responsible growth policies.

Shirley Bianchi also championed the successful designation of the Highway 1 Corridor as an All American Road in the National Scenic Byways Program, and helped secure \$1.5 million for pedestrian & aesthetic improvements and scenic acquisitions in the Corridor. She was also recognized as a vital supporter of the acquisition of the Hearst Ranch Scenic Conservation Easement, providing permanent protection for approximately 82,000 acres and 18 miles of beautiful California coastline. SLOCOG staff wish her the very best in her future endeavors and expect that she will continue to be an equally active and productive member of the community.



## Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing

The annual unmet transit needs public hearing is scheduled for the SLOCOG Board meeting of February 7, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the SLO County Board of Supervisors' Chambers in the new County Government Center located at 1055 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

As part of its responsibility in administering Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds, SLOCOG is conducting the unmet needs hearing and soliciting public input on transit services and bicycle facilities. All comments are welcome and will be evaluated by the SLOCOG Board and staff based on 8 criteria. Once the Unmet Transit Needs that are reasonable to meet are determined, operators of the transit systems are required to implement them. All unmet bicycle needs requested are advisory and will be referred to the applicable jurisdiction for comment.

SLOCOG is now accepting public comments by mail, telephone, fax, and e-mail. Send written comments to 1150 Osos St., Suite 202, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Call Tim Gillham at 805-781-1520. Fax requests to 805-781-5703; e-mail requests to [Unmet\\_needs@slocog.org](mailto:Unmet_needs@slocog.org), or visit our website at [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org).

# 2007 State & Federal Legislative Programs Adopted

The programs will be used to develop recommended positions on proposed legislation, administrative policies and procedures and recommended budgets for consideration by the SLOCOG Board. The State program included applicable policies under consideration or adopted by the California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG), the California Transportation Commission (CTC), Metropolitan Planning Organizations, League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and County of San Luis Obispo.

Many of the policies in the State program are based on the likelihood that a likely focus of attention during the 2007 session will be development of legislation to clarify the provisions of the newly authorized funding programs approved by the electorate in Propositions 1B, 1C, 1E and 84. Other policies involve issues related to Public Transportation Account finding, Caltrans project delivery process, transportation funding, and Smart Growth & Housing. The Federal Program is focused on funding for Amtrak, High-Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Passenger Rail programs.

The following policies are among the most important in the State Program:

1. Ensure that the eligible sources of funding for the local match required for the State-Local Partnership Program funded by Proposition 1B include impact fees and Mello-Roos assessments.
2. Ensure that funding guidelines being developed for Proposition 1C compliment and reward the region's efforts on Smart Growth, such as the Transportation Enhancement Program, and Community 2050 Vision effort.
3. Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of funding while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate city, county or SLOCOG revenue sources

The following policies are the most important included in the Federal Program:

1. Support increased funding for infrastructure improvements to improve the reliability and speed of intercity passenger rail, including expansion of the Surfliner service.
2. Support legislation to correctly redefine the LOSSAN (Los Angeles to San Diego) passenger rail corridor as the network between San Diego and San Luis Obispo.

For more information call Michael Harmon at 781-5724.

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## Programmed Projects Status Reviewed

SLOCOG annually reviews the progress of SLOCOG programmed transportation projects. Currently 125 projects, totaling about \$363 million of federal, state, and local funds are included in the recently adopted 2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is designed to provide an equitable distribution of funding to its member agencies over time. It includes funding for Federal high-priority and intermodal regional projects. In October, staff briefed the SLOCOG Board information on key funding programs, project delivery status, administration policies, and programming strategies. The purpose of the briefing was to emphasize efforts being undertaken to achieve aggressive project delivery objectives. Caltrans "Use It or Lose It" policies were also reviewed, and member agencies were informed of the status of projects in their jurisdictions and the circumstances in which reprogramming of funding may be required should projects not proceed in a timely manner.

Increased funding, schedule advances, and some project substitutions were approved by the Board in December as summarized below:

- o Increase STIP enhancement funds from \$150k to \$500k for the Cayucos Scenic Viewshed project.
- o Advance the funding allocation year for Vine St Rehab. & Safety project in Paso Robles (\$600k) from FY 10/11 to FY 06/07.
- o Advance up to 20% of the capital budget from future STIP shares for unexpected cost increases for local projects programmed in FY 06/07 and FY 07/08.
- o Replace the El Camino Real Streetscape project with the River Road Bike Path project in Paso Robles.



# Over \$15 Million to roll in for Transit Improvements

On December 6<sup>th</sup> the SLOCOG Board urged a conservative pace to dole out \$1.5 million for operational improvements and \$14 million for capital projects over the next several months. The \$15.5 million comes from a combination of increased gasoline prices and California voter's approval of Proposition 1B in November. The SLOCOG Board approved a "call for projects" from transit operators to determine which kind of improvements they see fit immediately, while the \$14 million in state bond money will likely roll in over the next couple years.

Transit operators must submit applications for transit improvements by January 4<sup>th</sup>. The criteria for evaluating these projects lean towards funding operations, since a large amount of transit capital funding (buses, vans, bus stops) is anticipated later in 2007 for distribution. Contact Peter Rodgers for further information.



## Passage of Prop 1B Provides Funding Opportunities

*SLOCOG Project Recommendations Scheduled in Early 2007*

Proposition 1B, the \$19 billion transportation infrastructure finance bond approved by the voters in November, provides a number of opportunities to address local and regional transportation needs in the San Luis Obispo region. The measure included a number of programs providing funding for the full range of transportation modes in California. The most important opportunities for the San Luis Obispo region come from Corridor Mobility Investment Account Program, which provides a total of \$4.5 billion between FY 07/08 and FY 10/11. At its December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the SLOCOG Board approved a list of projects to be submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by the January 16, 2007 deadline for submitting nominations. On March 1, 2007 the CTC will decide which requests submitted by regional agencies and Caltrans districts will be funded.

A core principle used in the development of this program by the CTC was the encouragement of joint proposals from Caltrans Districts and their neighboring regional agencies. In recognition of this, SLOCOG staff held discussions with Caltrans District 5, Kern County COG, and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) with regard to candidate CMIA projects. The following projects were recommended for submittal by the SLOCOG Board.

### **2006 STIP Augmentation**

*Proposition 1B provides supplemental funding to SLOCOG's 2006 program of projects. On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the SLOCOG Board will discuss how to program approximately \$17m in new funding. Regional priorities will be discussed and a recommendation made for submittal to the CTC, which will likely take action in June 2007. Some of the funding is expected to be available as early as the FY 07/08.*

- o Highway 101 Operational Improvements (Five Cities Area) - Supplement currently programmed funding to construct four auxiliary lanes and Avila Road intersection improvements (Phases 1a and 1b: \$11.2m).
- o Highway 101 - Widen the Santa Maria River Bridge to 6 lanes (\$59m), matching the current expansion of Highway 101 through the City of Santa Maria; Split the cost for completion of final engineering (PS&E) with SBCAG and Caltrans (\$1.4m, {20%, 20%, 60%}) funded thru 2006 STIP Augmentation.
- o Highway 46 Corridor - Continue widening to 4 lanes east of the City of Paso Robles to the Shandon Rest Stop (\$90m). Supplement currently programmed funding.

The Legislative Intent of the CMIA program was to improve the performance of highly congested travel corridors. The funding is to be split 60% to the thirteen southern counties (including SLO) and 40% to northern counties. All CMIA Program funded projects are required to go to construction by 2012. The program focus is mainline improvements on major corridors. In our region the most viable projects are mainline highway improvements on Highway 46 East and Highway 101. For more information call Richard Murphy at 781-5754.



## ***Down the Road...***

The next scheduled meeting of the SLOCOG Board will be held in the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers Wednesday, February 7th, 2007. The Board meetings are broadcast live and replayed on Channel 21 (Charter communications Cable TV)

Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment by contacting SLOCOG offices at 781-4219. -Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor your request.

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an area wide planning and programming agency for issues of area wide concern. SLOCOG is also the federal-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), and the Census Data Affiliate (CDA) for the San Luis Obispo region. Member Agencies and their designated representatives are listed below:

***President – Tony Ferrara, Mayor Arroyo Grande***  
***Vice President – James Patterson, District 5 Supervisor***

*Paso Robles – Fred Strong, Council member*  
*Atascadero – Tom O'Malley, Mayor*  
*Grover Beach – John Shoals, Council member*  
*Morro Bay – Betty Winholtz, Council member*  
*Pismo Beach – Mary Ann Reiss, Mayor*  
*Ex-Officio, Richard Krumholz –Director, Caltrans District 5*

*San Luis Obispo – Dave Romero, Mayor*  
*District 1 Supervisor – Harry Ovitt*  
*District 3 Supervisor – Jerry Lenthall*  
*District 4 Supervisor – Katcho Achadjian*  
*District 2 Supervisor – Shirley Bianchi*  
*Executive Director – Ronald De Carli*



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

*1150 Osos St, Ste 202*  
*San Luis Obispo, CA 93401*