TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, April 12, 2013
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

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TTC Agenda and Annotated Agenda in pdf format - ALL EXHIBITS ARE AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Exhibits: April 12 2013 TTC Agenda April 12 2013 TTC Annotated Agenda

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Transportation Technical Committee will consider all items on the agenda. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items:

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of March 15, 2013 [APPROVE]

Exhibits: ITEM I A

B. Prop 84 / Blueprint Monthly Update [Terry][INFORMATION]

Summary: (Prop 84 Round 1) Blueprint Integration (BPI) outreach and circuit planning activities to the 46 valley cities with populations under 50,000 continues to be expanded to provide Blueprint Principle integration assistance to these cities through April 2013. 41 of the 46 cities are coordinating assistance efforts with their respective circuit planning team, with the five electing not to participate doing so based upon their lack of staffing and/or project needs. As of March 25, 2013, all of the participating cities have signed their agreement letters and are engaged in coordination efforts; including all 13 of the Fresno County cities participating. It is anticipated that the 13 Fresno County cities participating will receive their final deliverables in the month of April.
Transition of Toolkit management, from the Fresno COG to that of the Community and Regional Planning Center (CRPC) (overseen by the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) at Fresno State), has completed, with both Fresno COG and CRPC staff continually working together on training, management protocol and future needs assessments. The Valley Planner’s Network, which is comprised of various planning agency staff from around the Valley, will house a standing item for Toolkit reporting and discussion on their quarterly agenda.

In conjunction with representatives from SACOG and the Local Government Commission, remaining Blueprint balances at all of the eight Valley COGs/RTPAs are being combined to provide for training on the fiscal impact analysis tool IMPACS (created by SACOG as part of their Urban Footprint Model). It is anticipated that this training will provide each COG the knowledge and tools to assist their local member agencies in fiscal analysis, where requested. It has always been the goal of the Blueprint and Toolkit to provide assistance to local agencies in their planning processes. With the addition of IMPACS to the knowledge base, each COG/RTPA will have one more tool, free of charge, to assist their local partners in analyzing planning decisions and their potential fiscal impacts. Training is currently scheduled to take place April through June of 2013.

For any questions regarding the above noted items, please contact Rob Terry at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 222 or via email at rterry@fresnocog.org.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

C. Greenprint Update [Thompson] [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

Summary: The most recent meeting of the Greenprint Steering Committee was held March 26. Major agenda items included an update on project timelines, a tour of currently available data, and the establishment of a subcommittee to assist with a detailed scope of work for Phase 2 of the project. The Steering Committee, project consultants, and others are very mindful of the terminology and data layers (maps) to be used in the “State of the Valley” report that will conclude Phase 1. While the best available data will be utilized, its importance, source, accuracy, and limitations will be made transparent throughout the document. Enclosed is a draft outline of the TABLE OF CONTENTS for the “State of the Valley” report to provide you with a sense of what the report will include. Phase 1 of the project is estimated to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.


Summary: A new, federally approved, conformity determination must be in place prior to July 20, 2013 to comply with Transportation Conformity regulations required to address the new national ambient air quality standard designation for Ozone. The Environmental Protection Agency significantly strengthened its national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone on March 2008. Ozone is the primary component of smog. In compliance with regulations, Fresno COG released the Draft Conformity Analysis for the 2008 Ozone Standard for public review on April 5, 2013. The comment period will close on May 6, 2013. A public meeting will be held on April 25, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. during Fresno COG’s regularly scheduled Policy Board Meeting. All documentation associated with this Transportation Conformity Analysis is available for viewing on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org on April 5, 2013. For questions regarding the Draft Conformity Analysis for the 2008 Ozone Standard please contact Lauren Dawson at 559-233-4148 x 217 or ldawson@fresnocog.org.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

E. 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendments [Monge] [INFORMATION]

Summary: The update to the 2013 FTIP included changes to project descriptions, open to traffic dates, grouped projects, funding and phase changes. An update to the RTP and a corresponding conformity analysis was required. The final document was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on July 26, 2012 and received Caltrans approval on November 5, 2012 and FHWA approval on December 14, 2012. Below is a summary of recent amendments/modifications that have been made to the 2013 FTIP:

Formal Amendment No. 1 (Type 3): Amendment 1 included projects with cost changes greater than 40% of the total project cost or more than $10 million, new projects, changes to the Highway Bridge...
Program grouped project listing and updates to the financial summary tables. A 7-day public review and interagency consultation period was conducted and completed on April 31, 2012 at 4:30 pm. Five comments were received from the Cities of Clovis and Fresno, the County of Fresno and Caltrans pertaining to further project adjustments that needed to be included in the amendment and were responded to accordingly. This amendment was approved by the Executive Director of the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) as authorized by the Policy Board on April 31, 2012, and submitted to Caltrans along with the 2013 FTIP update. Caltrans approved the amendment on November 5, 2012 and FHWA approved it on December 14, 2012.

Administrative Amendment No. 2 (Administrative Modification): Amendment 2 included funding changes to projects of less than 40% of the total project cost and changes to the grouped project listing. This amendment was approved by the Executive Director of the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) as authorized by the Policy Board on December 18, 2012.

Administrative Amendment No. 3 (Administrative Modification): Amendment 3 included funding changes to projects of less than 40% of the total project cost. This amendment was approved by the Executive Director of the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) as authorized by the Policy Board on February 15, 2013.

Formal Amendment No. 4 (Types 2 and 3): Amendment 4 includes projects with cost changes greater than 40% of the total project cost or more than $10 million, new projects, programs new phases to exempt projects, deletes exempt projects, changes to the grouped project listing and updates the financial summary tables. A 7-day public review and interagency consultation period was conducted and completed on April 2, 2013 at 4:30 pm. No comments were received. This amendment was approved by the Executive Director of the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) as authorized by the Policy Board on April 2, 2013 and is pending Caltrans and FHWA approval.

Administrative Amendment No. 5 (Administrative Modification): Amendment 5 is currently open and available for project change requests. The deadline for change request submittals is Monday, April 8, 2013 at 5:00 PM. This amendment may only include changes to exempt projects. Project cost changes must be less than 40% of the total project cost and changes to the grouped project listing may be made. Please submit project changes to be included in Amendment 5 via FresnoTrak.

The 2013 FTIP as well as any amendments to the document are available online at www.fresnocog.org. Please contact Lindsey Monge at 559-233-4148 ext. 205 or lmonge@fresnocog.org or Melissa Garza at 559-233-4148 ext. 210 or mgarza@fresnocog.org if you have any questions.

**F. Free Traffic Safety Evaluations for California Communities [Bitner] [INFORMATION]**

**Exhibits:**

**Summary:** The Technology Transfer Program at the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies has offered evaluations to California cities and counties for more than 20 years.

The primary objective of a Traffic Safety Evaluation (TSE) is to improve traffic safety in a city or county. Improved local enforcement and engineering practices and programs can reduce traffic collisions that cause injury, death, and property damage. To achieve these objectives, Tech Transfer provides free Traffic Safety Evaluations, in which evaluators will review your city or county's traffic safety conditions, programs, and needs, and suggest new strategies to improve local traffic safety.

Any city or county public works department or police department in California can request a TSE. If the agency is selected for a TSE, Tech Transfer will assign a team of two traffic safety experts, one traffic engineer and one traffic enforcement expert, to conduct the TSE. The evaluators will begin with a thorough interview of local agency staff and then schedule a one-day visit to the city or county to observe conditions in the field. Following the visit, the TSE team will prepare a report presenting their findings and suggestions to improve traffic safety and traffic operations in the city or county.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

See the included Traffic safety Evaluation Brochure and/or http://www.techtransfer.berkeley.edu/tse/

**Action:** Information.

**G. High Speed Rail Update [Thompson] [INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** The California High-Speed Rail Authority will meet in Fresno at the Fresno City Council chambers on Thursday, April 4 beginning at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will focus on Valley issues,
including a recommendation for a preferred route between Fresno and Bakersfield. Planners also will present several options in the Chowchilla area of Madera County for connecting the north-south backbone of the rail system to a line that would branch off toward Gilroy and the Bay Area. Sometime soon, the Authority is expected to announce which of five construction teams submitted the lowest qualified bid to build the first stretch of the line from east of Madera to the south end of Fresno, a contract anticipated to be worth between $1.5 and 2.0 billion.

The state of California has filed a civil case against everyone, seeking to validate $8.6 billion in voter-approved bonds for the high-speed rail project. The lawsuit, titled "High-Speed Rail Authority v. All Persons Interested" is meant as a pre-emptive strike so the state can confirm that it's definitely legal to issue some of the bonds needed to begin construction this summer. By citing a somewhat obscure California civil code, the state can use the “sue now or forever hold your peace” strategy to prevent a string of future lawsuits and, instead, deal with the legal issues in one fell swoop, thereby validating the sale of the bonds. This validation process apparently isn’t necessarily uncommon among public agencies that want to create a legal shield against future lawsuits in order to provide certainty in the bond marketplace and give the state a better chance to find investors with low interest rates. The Authority has also indicated the state Attorney General's strategy “promotes judicial economy” by combining all potential lawsuits into one. However, lawsuits related to environmental law, another popular legal avenue for opponents to sue to block the high-speed train, would not be affected.

A “summons” for people interested in joining the lawsuit will be published once a week for three weeks in five major newspapers around the state. The summons will provide a detailed description of the bonds in question and directions for joining the suit. It’s not clear, however, when the hearing on this new case would be.

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

### H. Monthly Grant/Call for Project Reminders [Steck]

For the latest information on grants, contact Ishmael Herrera at isherrera@csufresno.edu

### I. FCRTA Items [Webster][APPROVE]

**Exhibits:**

**Summary:**


3. Approval of Upgrade for On-Board Audio Video Surveillance Equipment to Enable Remote Viewing in "Real Time" at the Dispatch Center, Resolution 2013-06.


Information on these items will be emailed prior to the Committee meeting.

**Action:** Approve.

### II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. FCMA Public Transportation Strategic Service Evaluation Contract Award [Downs] [AUTHORIZE]

**Exhibits:**

**Summary:** The Overall Work Program (OWP) includes Work Element 125, the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) Public Transportation Strategic Service Evaluation. This project is funded by an Urban Transit Planning Grant awarded through Caltrans.

On December 3, 2012, an RFP was released seeking qualified consultants with substantial experience in preparing comprehensive transit service evaluation and market analysis, and developing transit operating plans. The purpose of the FCMA Strategic Service Evaluation is to examine metro travel patterns through extensive origin and destination studies; transit ride check and transfer studies; and public and stakeholder input with a goal of reducing transit travel times, increasing service reliability,
and improving linkages to major trip generators. Improving transit travel time, reliability and responsiveness to community needs is critically necessary for making transit a viable alternative in contemporary urban environments.

Proposals were received from Nelson\Nygaard of San Francisco, California; TMD of San Diego, California; ARUP of San Francisco, California; and Parsons Brinckerhoff of Sacramento, California. A proposal selection committee comprised of staff from the City of Clovis, Fresno Area Express, Fresno COG and Caltrans, evaluated the proposals and interviewed of all proposing teams.

All four proposing teams were well qualified for this project; however, the selection committee is recommending Parsons Brinckerhoff and the associated team of sub-consultants for this contract. Parsons Brinckerhoff had the highest rated proposal, as well as the being the favored interview. Some of the strong points in their favor include: current experience in Fresno with the FAX BRT project management contract (Parsons Brinckerhoff); and their current involvement in the City of Fresno Public Transportation Gap Analysis (the Rios Company, Mobility Planners). In addition, Jarrett Walker & Associates will be tasked with transit network design. Jarrett Walker is an international consultant and author of the book and blog Human Transit. The Parsons Brinckerhoff project approach was clearly presented and well defined. Their familiarity with local stakeholders through the Rios Company is very strong.

**Action:** Staff recommends the Fresno COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and to enter into a contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff not to exceed $273,210 to conduct the FCMA Public Transportation Strategic Service Evaluation.

### B. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Monthly Update [Steck] [INFORMATION]

#### 1. RTP Scheduling Issues [Steck] [INFORMATION]

**Summary:** Due to modeling issues associated with revisions to one of the proposed scenarios, Fresno COG will need to revise the RTP adoption schedule. To do this, we will need to confer with our attorneys. We will report back next month on any changes in schedule.

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

#### 2. RTP Outreach Workshops [Veenendaal] [INFORMATION]

**Summary:** It was determined that the data and materials needed for the RTP/SCS workshops could not possibly be completed in time to do outreach workshops in April 2013 as originally scheduled. Therefore, Fresno COG staff and the Mini Grant Recipients are in the process of rescheduling the workshops to a mid to late May and early June timeframe. Our transportation modeling staff was working day and night to try to meet the April schedule but they absolutely cannot process the needed data fast enough to make it, and we want to make sure that everything the public sees is thorough, accurate and complete so that their decisions are well informed. An updated workshop schedule will be provided to the Committee at their meeting on April 12th.

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

### C. FY 2012/13 Obligation Plan [Garza/Monge] [INFORMATION]

**Summary:** On March 29, 2013 Fresno COG submitted the 2012/13 Obligation Plan to Caltrans Local Assistance. This plan documents Fresno COG’s estimated schedule for project and fund delivery for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012/13 (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013). The overall total Obligational Authority (OA) for CMAQ and RSTP in FFY 12/13 would have been $21,383,245; however, last year’s OA was under delivered by $5,118,637, and that amount was added to this year’s OA, leaving $26,258,169 as the projected FFY 2012/13 Obligational Authority Target.

As of January 31, 2013, $2,441,563 has been obligated which reduced our 2012/13 Obligational Authority Target balance to $23,816,607. Our region should deliver $26,258,169 of OA to comply with the “Use It or Lose It” provisions of AB 1012 enacted in October 1999. The obligation plan submitted by the local agencies outlines the delivery of $31,474,616 in combined CMAQ and RSTP, which is $5,216,447 above our Target OA. If our region remains on schedule and delivers more than our OA Target we may be eligible to capture any available funds during the statewide open obligation period. Please take advantage of the EPSP process to ensure that the OA target is met. Keep in mind that the use of toll credits may be applicable to for project phases that have not been obligated at 100% federal reimbursement if residual federal funds are available.

Due to financial constraint requirements of the FTIP, it is imperative that projects programmed within FY 12/13 get obligated within the programmed year to avoid reprogramming of those funds. If funds need to be reprogrammed and financial capacity is not available, it is possible that projects can become substantially delayed if moved to the outer years of the FTIP.

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.
D. **2013 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) [Monge] [INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan is a state required document that determines the number of housing unit’s cities and counties must plan for in their housing element section of the general plan. First, the Department of Housing and Community Development or HCD allocates RHNA units to us here at Fresno COG for the whole county. We are then tasked with developing a methodology in which we will allocate those units to our member agencies. Once the units are allocated, each jurisdiction will update their housing element to show proper zoning to accommodate the allocated units.

A RHNA is updated every 8 years and we’re now underway with the 2013 RHNA. A committee comprised of member agency housing element staff has been formed and will meet on a monthly basis to discuss the 2013 RHNA methodology as well as the actual allocation of housing units. The RHNA Technical Committee meeting agendas and attachments will be available online and a draft timeline of the RHNA process is also available at [http://www.fresnocog.org/fresno-county-regional-housing-needs-allocation-plan-0](http://www.fresnocog.org/fresno-county-regional-housing-needs-allocation-plan-0).

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

III. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. **Items from Staff**

B. **Items from Members**

IV. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note:** Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**JOINT Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee**

The TTC and the PAC will meet as a joint Committee to consider scheduled public presentations brought before the Committees. This portion of the meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

1. **Caltrans Report [CALTRANS] AT 10 AM PRIOR TO PAC MEETING**

   **Exhibits:** [CALTRANS REPORT] [DISTRICT 6 MAP]

   **Summary:** Caltrans staff will provide a verbal update.

   **Action:** This is an information item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Committees.

2. **Interagency Council Children's Summit [Debra McKenzie]**