

**NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY
AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

August 12, 2009

4:00 P.M.

STANISLAUS COUNTY BASEMENT TRAINING ROOM (B-300)

1010 10TH STREET (BASEMENT LEVEL), MODESTO CA 95354

www.stancounty.com/publicworks

Regular Meeting

Directors Present:

Jim Ridenour and Farrell Jackson

Also Present:

Ex-Officios: Vince Harris and Ken Baxter (Caltrans)

Authority Manager: Matt Machado

Legal Counsel: Thomas Boze

Not Present: William O'Brien; Jeff Grover; and Danny Fielder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Farrell Jackson at 4:00 p.m. We did not have a quorum. We will not be making any motions or decisions, but we will go through the agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Stanford had questions about property value impacts. Matt Machado said the presentation may answer his questions as well as others. Vice Chairman Jackson agreed that the public comments should be held until later in the meeting after the presentation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 8, 2009

The July 8, 2009 meeting minutes approval will have to be tabled until the next meeting since we do not have a quorum.

4. PRESENTATION BY CHRISTINE COX-KOVACEVICH, OFFICE CHIEF, CALTRANS CENTRAL REGION

- a. See attached Presentation Overview
- b. See attached Public Hearings Draft Format

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO PRESENTATION (cont'd)

Robert Stanford is concerned about property value impacts. Vice Chairman Jackson replied that at this time until a specific route is adopted, we don't know what properties are going to be impacted.

Denny Jackman asked if there is quite a difference in the way the review is done? Christine Cox-Kovacevich replied within the corridor rural versus urban developed areas, the main consideration is the number of small property owners. You still need permission to go beyond the study area within in urban areas.

Mr. Kristofferson stated that with our current economic situation, he feels this is a waste of money. He mentioned a bridge that was constructed in Alaska to an island. His feeling is that these are not to help the people, but these are done to help developers. He said he will be a whistleblower to Governor Schwarzenegger's office and encourages others to write letters to the Governor about this as well. He also stated that signal lights at Claribel and Coffee would solve 90% of the present problem. Vice Chairman commented that this is not the bridge to no where and that the City of Oakdale desperately needs a southern bypass.

Gary (on Coffee) had comments regarding the Kiernan widening project. Ms. Cox-Kovacevich said that Kiernan and Claribel are both part of the study area. She also reviewed federal and environmental laws and the levels of protection regarding various categories.

Emerson Drake asked why doesn't Caltrans have a route that makes sense. Why can't we make a limited access road to 99 and do something that really makes sense for the citizens of Stanislaus County? Matt Machado replied that there are some serious hurdles. State Route 219 (Kiernan) is in the study area and is being evaluated. Drafts will be available as early as this fall.

Questions were asked and answered regarding the presentation. Other Caltrans representatives present were Christina Hibbard (Senior Project Manager) and Dinah Bortner (Deputy District Director) who also participated in answering various questions.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

a. JPA Board Meeting Schedule Revision DISCUSSION

- Matt Machado provided overview. The staff report was developed based upon two basic criteria; Board Chambers availability and an effort to precede StanCOG Policy Board Meetings. Based upon discussion with the public and present board members there seems to be a desire to pursue options other than provided. We will be researching varying days of the month and evening times at locations such as Salida Community Library and Harvest Hall on Crows Landing Road. This item will be continued to the next meeting.

b. **Revised Study Corridor INFORMATION**

- Matt Machado provided overview. This information was posted about three weeks ago. Revised corridor between McHenry and Claus is in response to public comments. It reduced the corridor to 2,000' in the Oakdale Road area. Vice Chairman Jackson asked why McHenry is still the original width? Matt replied that at McHenry, it is fairly certain that there will be an interchange justified at that location. It is not recommended to narrow the study area because it may hinder future alternative discussions.
- Diana Vargas asked why Crawford is still on. Vice Chairman Jackson replied that this is a discussion and he will bring this topic up again as a full board.

c. **Project Schedule Update INFORMATION**

- Kris Balaji stated that the traffic analysis has been successfully completed and was approved by Caltrans. The information has been incorporated in the environmental reports. Caltrans' legal department is reviewing it. The report should be released to be the public next month followed by public hearings.
- Design update – draft project report is completed.
- Finalized the format for the public hearings scheduled on 9/22 and 9/24. The schedule is contingent on Caltrans' approval and release of the document.
- Update on route adoption bill 532 – the Legislature is in recess. They should reconvene on 8/14.
- Steve Burke had CEQA process questions. What is PEIR? Kris Balaji replied it is a preliminary EIR. Steve also asked if CTC is the final approval of the EIR? Ms. Cox-Kovacevich answered that CTC has the responsibility to submit under CEQA. Caltrans has the authority to sign the EIR and prepare the notice of determination. CTC adopts the route and prepares their own subsequent notice of determination. Caltrans has statutorily approval authority over the CEQA EIR. The District 10 Director will be the signatory on the final environmental document. Steve said, "So that happens in the black box?" He is accustomed to the supervisors or council members vote. He wanted to comment that the PEIR draft was going to be released two days ago, so now it won't be released until the 29th.
- Gary wanted to say thank you for adjusting the public hearing format.

d. **State Route 120 at Postmile 11.0 – 18.1 Safety Project – Caltrans Project Status and Update INFORMATION**

- Matt Machado gave an overview of this agenda item. Christina Hibbard (Caltrans Senior Project Manager) is not the safety

project manager, but she did discuss this matter with him. The project goes from east of Oakdale/Lancaster to the County line. It will be an installation of rumble strips. Through their traffic accident analysis, it was determined that cars are tending to drift to the right, overcorrecting, and then causes the car to go in the opposite traffic lane resulting in a head-on collision. With the installation of rumble strips on either side, this should help alleviate by waking up the driver. It will be in construction next summer. Monitoring will continue after the installation.

- Vice Chairman Jackson doesn't believe the rumble strips is the answer. He prefers the curves be straightened. He believes this is tied to the "project" and it would be an atrocity not to address this early on.
- Dinah Bortner (Caltrans Deputy District Director) said that according to traffic accident analysis, there is a pattern. This section of road is not considered a hot spot in their program. The rumble strip is the first step.
- Mr. Stanford said speed is the issue. He believes we're wasting money.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Richard Davis commented on Kiernan and Claribel and the upcoming traffic report. He believes that society is changing and that the idea of the corridor is predicated on "old" ideas instead of trains or something else.
- Emerson Drake wanted to thank the two mayors for attending. He would like the County or Caltrans to look at Kiernan again and take it to 99.
- Bob Kerr asked why can't we go over McHenry? Why can't we go over Coffee? A stop sign or light on Coffee will correct it. Matt Machado replied that the Claribel widening to Coffee is a project that is moving forward by the County. The overall widening from McHenry to Oakdale will occur in two or three years. We'll fix the intersections first. As we'll see in the draft environmental document there appears to be a real need for more than just a Claribel widening, a Kiernan widening, and signal improvements. It is hard to imagine because the projections are out so many years. It is important to do proper planning and projecting. The reality is maybe these corridors in 50 years as people change as was mentioned earlier, these corridors will be used for something else. Bob asked why can't we go on a straight line since it is shorter than a curved line?
- Steve Burke predicts that due to economic circumstances that it will get to the point that it won't be built.
- Emerson Drake stated that we built a nice road on Pelandale, but the planning department let us put a church right in the middle of where it should go through. This may have helped the access for the east-west corridor.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

7. AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A new District 10 Director will be in place on 8/17 (Monday). We would like to set up a meeting.

8. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

NONE

9. EX-OFFICIOS' REPORTS

NONE

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Vice Chairman Farrell Jackson advised that the next meeting would be on September 9, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the City/County Basement Training Room (Room B300), located in the basement level at 1010 10th Street, Modesto, California 95354.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

An audiotape of the entire meeting is available.

ATTESTED: MATT MACHADO, Authority Manager
of the North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority

BY: KEIMI ESPINOZA, Confidential Assistant
(The above is a summary of the minutes. Complete minutes are available from the Authority Manager, Matt Machado.)

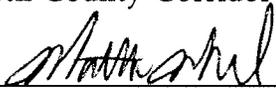
NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY

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There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Matthew Machado, Authority Manager of the
North County Corridor Transportation Authority



COUNTERSIGNED BY:

Farrell Jackson, Vice Chair of the
North County Corridor Transportation Authority

