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Citizens Advisory Committee

AGENDA

December 1, 2003 – 4:00 p.m.

Sonoma County Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

ITEM

- I.** Introductions
- II.** Consent Items - **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2003
 - B. Approval of Agenda
- III.** Announcements/Reports – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
- IV.** 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Status of Highway 101 projects
 - B. 2004 STIP Fund Estimate
 - C. SHOPP Report
- V.** Regional Transportation Plan Update – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Possible RTP scenarios for funding available to SCTA
 - B. Schedule & next steps
- VI.** Update on SMART Project – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
- VII.** Announcements / Other Business - **DISCUSSION**
- VIII.** Adjournment - **ACTION**

The next **S C T A** meeting will be held **December 8, 2003**
The next **C A C** meeting will be held **January 26, 2004**

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability that requires the agenda materials to be in an alternate format or that requires an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact SCTA at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

SONOMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES Monday, October 27, 2003

ATTENDEES

Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers	Jim Killean, Local Union Operating Engineer #3
Charles Aver, League of Woman Voters	John McHugh, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce
Linda Branscomb, 2 nd District	Don Sanders, Sierra Club
George Ellman, Transportation & Land Use Coalition	Pat Siefers, SCTA
Elijah Henley, SCTA	Janet Spilman, SCTA
Maddy Hirshfield, 5 th District	Susan Wilford, SCTA

ITEM

I. Introductions

Ms. Wilford introduced new SCTA staff members Pat Siefers - Deputy Director of Projects & Programming, Elijah Henley – Senior Transportation Planner, and Marge Franco - Executive Assistant.

II. Consent Items - **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

A. Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2003

There are no minutes to report.

B. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted.

III. Announcements/Reports – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Ms. Wilford referred to the green handout and announced that SCTA and MTC would hold a Regional Transportation Workshop following the SCTA meeting on November 3, 2003 from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm in the PRMD Hearing Room.

The SMART Committee Meeting date was rescheduled from November 18th to November 12th at 1:00 pm.

Lillian Hames was nominated for the Women and Industry Award sponsored by the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women and the YMCA of Sonoma County.

IV. 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

A. Status of Highway 101 projects

There was not a report.

B. 2004 STIP Fund Estimate

Ms. Wilford referred to the white handout, which includes a schedule of items related to the 2004 RTIP the regional portion of the STIP. The CTC was supposed to release the fund estimate on October 30, 2003; however, staff received notification today that they will not release the fund estimate until they properly brief the new administration's transition team. We do not know if the fund estimate will be a zero STIP; which means no new money over the period of the STIP, or a negative STIP, which means removing projects completely. Meanwhile, projects are due to MTC by December 19th. This is a reshuffling of projects that we will have to work with MTC and the other counties over the next month in a half to figure out what the new STIP will look like until they release the fund estimate.

Ms. Wilford referred to the handout outlining the Summary of STIP County Shares of what projects are currently programmed over fiscal years, and the Summary of STIP Interregional Share which Sonoma County has a couple projects. This list is put together based on discussion by CMA Executive Directors, Caltrans, and MTC staff of every county listing each of the County's number one priority the cost in the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year.

Ms. Wilford stated that the question is what projects move out, do we have a priority, how do we keep it funded where it is currently programmed? There is not any funding available during this fiscal year 2003-2004. There are currently a billion dollars worth of projects pending allocation that should have been done this fiscal year statewide.

From Staff's perspective based on prior board direction and readiness the number one priority project is the Highway 12 to Steele Project. It's the next 101-project to be delivered, the environmental document is being finalized right now and the design is currently underway.

There was more discussion on the list of projects and their related funds on each of the Summary reports.

Mr. Chuck Avers made a motion to support staff's position to recommend that Highway 12 to Steele is the number one priority. Mr. John McHugh seconded the motion. The CAC unanimously agreed to this motion.

V. Regional Transportation Plan Update – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

A. Possible RTP scenarios for funding available to Sonoma Co.

Ms. Wilford stated that the Regional Transportation Plan is MTC's long range planning document that will be the topic of discussion after the SCTA Meeting on Monday, October 13th at 4:30 pm.

Ms. Wilford discussed the Transportation 2030 Plan Regional Program Investment Scenarios in the handout. Ms. Wilford provided a detailed explanation to the CAC on the different funding scenarios as they pertain to Sonoma County projects.

Mr. McHugh addressed the relationship between how all this gets programmed in terms of transit versus streets and roads. In the current situation the formula is that 85% of funds is allocated to transit and the remaining 15% goes to streets and roads. If the formula remains unchanged then in the new scenario 100% would go to transit and nothing would be allocated to streets and roads. Mr. McHugh would like to advocate for a change in the formula in this process from 85% -15% to balance of 50% - 50%. The rationale is that our transit system is primarily buses that run on the roads. Decent roads are needed which helps transit operators achieve lower maintenance costs and reduces the wear and tear on the buses. The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce recommends we look at a more equitable balance. We have sent several letters to MTC asking them to look at this issue. The City of Santa Rosa Public Works has had discussions with MTC on the issue. The road shortfall is significant and MTC needs to do something about it.

Ms. Wilford stated that the road shortfall and the transit shortfall across the board are not very equal in any of the proposed scenarios. Ms. Wilford reviewed in more detail the program assumptions for the Transportation 2030 Investments scenarios and explained MTC's regional program criteria are much different than Sonoma County's needs.

Mr. McHugh made a motion recommending a balanced scenario that is more equitable with a 50% – 50% split in funds for transit and roads, and yields a greater pool of money for a flexible discretionary pot. Taking a policy standpoint that we are recognizing a balance plus still maximizing some local flexibility so that suburban counties can spend more on roads and urban counties can spend more on transit. Ms. Branscomb seconded the motion. The CAC agreed with a unanimous vote.

B. Schedule & next steps

VI. Update on Discussions with Tribes & Casino – DISCUSSION

There is nothing to report.

VII. Update on SMART Project – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Ms. Wilford stated that the SMART meeting was changed to November 12, 2003 at 1 pm.

Mr. Avers asked when are we going to start talking about this project and funding. When is SMART is going to get organized around a sales tax measure? Ms. Wilford stated that a couple of procedural issues have to take place yet. If a policy board puts a measure on the ballot you have to do CEQA before it goes on the ballot. SMART is in the process of doing their EIR and hoped to have it completed before the November 2004 election. This may not be the case. The environmental review may not allow it to go forward in November 2004.

VIII. Announcements / Other Business – DISCUSSION

Mr. George Ellman reported that he attended a session in Marin County a week ago where a number of advisory groups from each supervisory district were in attendance. They were asked to consider the transportation needs of their districts and allocate funds among school services, transit, streets and roads, and local return. The majority of the group came up with a division of the percentage figures allocated to four different services; 10% to 15% for schools, 40% to 45% for transit, 20% to 25% for streets and roads, and the remaining 15% to 20% for local return. There was no discussion on whether they will have a tax measure on the ballot. We should be hearing more about this in the next couple of months. We should discuss how this would affect what we want to do in Sonoma County. SMART's present policy is to have a 2004 ballot measure; however, they have not decided yet and need to do something soon. Ms. Wilford stated that she would follow up with the SMART Project Manager on when she will have this discussion with the Board.

Ms. Wilford stated that she attended a conference last week on reducing the vote requirement for special sales tax to 55%. Apparently the polling statewide is not very good. The theory on the part of political consultants and the Santa Clara Manufacturing Group is that the polls are bad today, the economy is down, and we have the recall, so let's spend the next 18-months to 2-years discussing this idea with a promotional campaign on the local level so that people will have an idea what this measure is and poll again in 2004.

Ms. Wilford reported that she attended the Self Help County Conference where she heard about a proposal to expand the powers of the CTC, move Caltrans off budget, and create a transportation entity that is not reliant upon on the annual State Budget process that would create firewalls to protect funding. It would protect Proposition 42. The CTC would likely need to be expanded and they would have to give the Legislature some appointments to the CTC. It would remove it from a political process. It would be very similar to the UC regions, or the PUC, as opposed to the annual budget battles. This will be worked on over the next couple of years. They are looking at a legislative track and a parallel initiative track therefore if the legislative doesn't do it, then the signature gathering is completed.

IX. Adjournment – ACTION

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Marge Franco
Executive Assistant