

**West Contra Costa Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, 24, February, 2012**

Members Present: Janet Abelson, Chair (El Cerrito); William Wilkins, Vice-Chair (Hercules); Roy Swearingen, (Pinole); Tom Hansen (WestCAT); Genoveva Calloway (San Pablo); Courtland Boozé (Richmond); Jeff Ritterman (Richmond); Christopher Peeples (AC Transit, alternate). Absent: John Gioia (County).

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Valerie Jenkins, Joanna Pallock, John Rudolph, Linda Young; Ben Reyes, Legal Counsel; Hisham Noeimi, CCTA

Location: San Pablo Council Chambers, 13831 San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo, CA 94806

1. **Call to Order and Self-Introductions.** *Chair Abelson* called the meeting to order 8:06 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Commendation of Honorable Roy V. Swearingen.**

ACTION: On behalf of the Board and staff, *Chair Abelson* presented commendations to outgoing Chair, Director Swearingen, for his service to the Board as Chair in 2011. *Director Swearingen* thanked the Board and staff for their support and commitment to making his time as WCCTAC Chair very productive, credited numerous individuals, and stressed the value of teamwork. *Director Ritterman* complimented Director Swearingen for his kind and generous speech and noted that it was one of the best he has heard. *Director Boozé* also complimented Director Swearingen for his efforts and leadership.

4. **Election of CCTA Alternate**

ACTION: *Director Ritterman* nominated Director Wilkins to replace him as the CCTA Board alternate. No need for a second; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Executive Director Christina Atienza* gave a report on the role of the CCTA alternate. *Director Boozé* nominated Director Swearingen. *Director Ritterman* noted that Director Wilkins had previously expressed interest in the position. *Director Swearingen* thanked Director Boozé for the nomination, respectfully declined, and expressed his support for Director Wilkins.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Director Peeples* moved to adopt items 5, 6, and 7; seconded by *Director Hansen*; and passed unanimously.

5. **Minutes and Summary of Jan. 27 Board Meeting, Summary of Jan. 12 TAC Meeting**
6. **Monthly Program and Projects Status Report**
7. **Financial Report for Jan. 2011**

DISCUSSION

8. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) Project**

ACTION: *Director Ritterman* moved to adopt Resolution 12-01, which authorizes the Executive Director to execute the I-80 ICM MOU and make non-substantive changes; seconded by *Director Calloway*; passed with one abstention from *Director Swearingen*.

DISCUSSION: *Executive Director Christina Atienza* presented the MOU for operations and maintenance on the I-80 ICM project. The MOU confirms support for the project, particularly for ramp metering and other freeway elements; articulates key O&M principles for continuing project development; clarifies ownership, O&M, and management responsibilities; clarifies the distribution of costs and funding sources; outlines the framework for multi-agency cooperation, collaboration, and conflict resolution; and identifies which Smart Corridor devices will be deployed as part of the project. At the Board's direction, a public information workshop was held in Richmond on February 13, which engendered a number of thoughtful questions and no significant opposition. Full project roll-out is scheduled in 2014.

Director Boozé commented that he received a lot of calls from the public on this project after the workshop. He noted that ramps are not backed up in Richmond and until the MacArthur Maze is fixed, any efforts to mitigate traffic on I-80 would be useless. *Director Boozé* raised the issue of local hire under the project contracts. He stated that jobs are important since Richmond is experiencing a 19% unemployment rate. He also requested that phone numbers be placed on the on-ramp signals so people know who to contact about the project.

Director Swearingen stated there is nothing to preclude the contractor from allowing local hires in the bids. *Ms. Cristina Ferraz* from Caltrans addressed the Board and stated that State contracts do not allow local hire policies. She did state that Caltrans is willing to host local public outreach meetings in Richmond after contracts are released and before bids are opened to help prime contractors get in touch with local businesses. *Director Swearingen* mentioned that all public contracts are done in a good faith effort. *Legal Counsel Ben Reyes* stated that Richmond is a local charter city and thus has more flexibility but that local hire cannot be required from State contracts. *Director Boozé* said he would be happy to work with Caltrans to hold a meeting in Richmond at the City Hall to show residents what jobs are available.

Director Swearingen asked if the project would permit HOV lanes to be opened to all traffic during an incident. *Ms. Atienza* responded that it can be done from a technical

standpoint, but that it may be statutorily prohibited; she offered to look into the matter further and report back. *Director Swearingen* asked if all the ramp meters will be on at the same time. *Hisham Noeimi* stated that they will all be on but rates will change based on local conditions. *Director Swearingen* asked about the Pinole Valley Road grade and the impact ramp metering will have on a vehicle's ability to get up to speed. *Mr. Noeimi* responded that this issue is being investigated and that the results would be shared.

Director Ritterman asked who signs the MOU. *Mr. Noeimi* referred him to the list of signatories. *Director Ritterman* asked if Solano County was included. *Mr. Noeimi* said it was not. *Director Ritterman* asked if *Ms. Atienza* could present at the Richmond City Council meeting. *Ms. Atienza* said yes. *Mr. Ritterman* asked where the County's share of maintenance costs come from. *Mr. Noeimi* said CCTA will cover their costs. *Mr. Ritterman* asked if the City can maintain the system and be paid for their costs. *Mr. Noeimi* stated that they can reimburse the city under this kind of an arrangement.

Director Peebles asked to follow-up on *Director Boozé's* concern with contracts. He asked if the contract sizes were broken into smaller contracts so local contractors could compete well. *Ms. Ferraz* said yes and added that there are six contracts in the project. *Director Peebles* asked which contracts were going out first. *Ms. Ferraz* stated two contracts are underway now, a portion of the I-80 work and San Pablo Avenue work. *Director Peebles* described a situation in Minneapolis where the ramp metering was turned off after the public complained, but the impact was so noticeably negative that the public asked for the ramp meters to be turned back on after three months.

Director Boozé asked how this project would get people out of their cars. *Ms. Atienza* stated that the project was not designed to get people out of their cars, but that it will make transit more attractive.

Director Wilkins voiced his support for the project. He asked if the posted speeds could result in a citation if a driver does not follow the suggested speed. *Mr. Noeimi* noted that the signs are advisory only and no citations would be issued.

Director Ritterman motioned to adopt the MOU and was seconded by *Director Calloway*. *Director Swearingen* noted that Pinole would abstain until the City Council received the presentation from WCCTAC at the March 20 City Council meeting. At that time, Pinole council members can weigh in on the issues.

STANDING ITEMS

9. Correspondence/Other Information

a. Incoming

- Jan. 19, from CCTA, Items Approved by the Authority on Jan. 18

b. Outgoing

- Feb. 6, to CCTA, Request for Measure J Subregional Transportation Needs (Program 28b) Allocations for the West Contra Costa Transportation Investment Study and for Smart Corridors Operations & Maintenance Dues
 - Feb. 13, to California Strategic Growth Council, Support for San Pablo's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant
- c. **Workshops/Conferences/Events**
- Mar. 20-22, San Jose, Planners Institute and Mini Expo, California League of Cities (<http://www.cacities.org/prof/courses/index.jsp>)

10. Board and Staff Comments

Director Swearingen thanked the staff for his cake. *Director Boozé* thanked Caltrans for their willingness to come to Richmond. *Director Peebles* described the recent conference he attended at U.C. Berkeley on technological issues dealing with traffic control and smart growth. He described smart phone applications being developed to assist drivers with information on real time conditions. *Chair Abelson* announced that she has been elected Vice-Chair of CCTA.

- a. Board Member Comments, Conference/Meeting Reports (AB 1234 Requirement), and Announcements
- b. Report of CCTA Representatives (*Directors Abelson & Calloway; Director Ritterman, alternate*) *Director Abelson* announced that she was elected Vice-Chair of the CCTA Board.
- c. Executive Director's Report

11. Other Business. None

CLOSED SESSION

12. **Conference with General Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.** Government Code Section 54956.9(b) One Matter.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

13. **Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.** There were no reportable items.
14. **Adjourn.** Next meeting is Friday, March 23, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.
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