



Solano Transportation Authority

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Alternative Modes Committee

Thursday, June 15th, 2006
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Suisun City Hall
701 Civic Center Blvd
Suisun City, CA 94585

Members:

Benicia
Dixon
Fairfield
Rio Vista
Solano County
Suisun City
Vacaville
Vallejo

Committee Members:

Jim Sperring, Committee Chair, City of Suisun City
Alan Schwartzman, City of Benicia
Michael Smith, City of Dixon
Marilyn Farley, City of Fairfield
Ron Jones, City of Rio Vista
Duane Kromm, County of Solano
Steve Wilkins, City of Vacaville
Gary Cloutier, City of Vallejo
Marci Coglianesse, Public Member
Eva Laevastu, Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair
Glen Grant, Solano Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair
Birgitta Corsello, Solano County Resource Management Agency Director
Solano County Planning Directors Group Representative

Invited Participants

Kathy Hoffman, Congressman George Miller's Office
James Corless, MTC – Planning
Don Erickson, Solano EDC
Mike Amman, Solano EDC
Jeff Matheson, SolanoLinks Transit Consortium
Ed Huestis, STA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Jim Antone, Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD)
Chambers of Commerce: Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo

STA Staff:

Daryl Halls, Executive Director
Dan Christians, Assistant Executive Director/Director of Planning
Elizabeth Richards, Director of Transit and Rideshare Services
Robert Guerrero, Associate Planner
Sam Shelton, Assistant Project Manager

- I. **CALL TO ORDER- SELF INTRODUCTIONS-**
(9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m) Chair Spering
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2006**
ALTERNATIVE MODES MEETING- (9:05 a.m. to 9:10a.m.)
Pg 1 Chair Spering
- IV. **INFORMATION ITEMS-Pg 6 (9:10a.m. to 10:25 a.m.)**
 - A. **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)**
“Focusing Our Vision” Paul Fassinger
 - B. **I-80 Capitol Corridor Smarter Growth Study Update** Dan Christians
 - C. **Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC)**
Program Outreach Dan Christians/
Robert Guerrero
 - 1. **Planning Commissioners Workshop- June 17, 2006**
 - 2. **Countywide TLC Call for Projects**
 - 3. **Transportation Land Use Coordination Brochure**
 - 4. **Presentation to City Councils**
 - D. **Status of TLC Planning Grants** Robert Guerrero
- V. **Committee Member Comments** (10:25-10:30 a.m.)
- VI. **Adjournment** (10:30 a.m.)
Next Alternative Modes Committee meeting tentatively proposed for October 19,
2006, 9:00 a.m.



ALTERNATIVE MODES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting
February 2, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER – SELF INTRODUCTIONS

The regular meeting of the Alternative Modes Committee was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the Suisun City Hall Council Chambers.

**Alternative Modes
Committee Members**

Present:

Jim Spering	Committee Chair, City of Suisun City
Alan Schwartzman	City of Benicia
Marilyn Farley	City of Fairfield
Ron Jones	City of Rio Vista
Duane Kromm	County of Solano
Gary Cloutier	City of Vallejo
Marci Coglianese	Public Member
Eva Laevastu	STA Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Member Chair
Glen Grant	STA Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Member Vice Chair (representing J.B. Davis, BAC Chair)
Brigitta Corsello	Solano County Resource Management Agency Director

Members not present:

Michael Smith	City of Dixon
Steve Wilkins	City of Vacaville

Others Present:

Jim Antone	Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
Scott Sexton	City of Vacaville
Paul Wiese	Solano County Resource Management
Don Erickson	Solano EDC
Theresa Karr	California Apartment Association
Ed Huestis	City of Vacaville
Mike Duncan	Fairfield Public Works
Ricardo Blanco	Congresswomen Ellen Tauscher
Daryl Halls	STA
Dan Christians	STA
Elizabeth Richards	STA
Robert Guerrero	STA
Sam Shelton	STA

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MAY 24, 2005 ALTERNATIVE MODES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Marci Coglianese and a second from Alan Schwartzman, the September 22, 2005 Alternative Modes Committee meeting minutes were approved.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Alternative Modes Funding Strategy

Robert Guerrero described the process of creating the Alternative Modes funding strategy to the committee. Mr. Guerrero asked for direction from the committee regarding the funding amounts in the strategy and asked for their recommendation for the STA to approve the strategy and the implementation schedule.

Eva Laevastu asked if the BAC and PAC would be asked to make funding recommendations for all of the funding allocations for bicycle and pedestrians found in the strategy. Mr. Guerrero stated that in the past the BAC and PAC have not made recommendations for YSAQMD Clean Air funds since those funds go before a separate screening committee. Mr. Guerrero further clarified that the BAC and PAC will make recommendations for funds under the Solano Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, composed of TDA-Article 3 funds, Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Funds (from MTC), and Eastern Solano Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds.

Ms. Laevastu asked if it was possible for the BAC and PAC to provide input on bicycle and pedestrian projects applying for clean air funds. Robert Guerrero said that project sponsors could bring their projects to the BAC and PAC for their review and obtain a recommendation for funding from the BAC and PAC to help strengthen their clean air funds application.

Jim Spring asked if there would be any drawbacks to including the BAC and PAC in the clean air funding recommendation process. Robert Guerrero stated that air quality funds are not always for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Spring suggested the BAC and PAC could at least review the bicycle and pedestrian projects proposed for the Clean Air Programs and even make a recommendation on them.

Marci Coglianese asked how the STA balanced the funds between the various modes of travel and funding sources. Mr. Guerrero stated that the allocations were based on the funding needs identified in the Solano Transportation for Livable Communities Plan and the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans with 20% of the funds dedicated to an "Other" Alternative Modes Category. Daryl Halls reminded the committee that identifying specific amounts for specific modes will help project sponsors plan to deliver projects. Mr. Halls clarified that the "Other"

category will give the committee flexibility with their recommendations.

Alan Schwartzman asked how the Alternative Modes Strategy relates to the proposed Transportation Sales Tax “Traffic Relief and Safety Plan” and the Safe Routes to School funding included in the plan. Daryl Halls replied that the funding in the proposed sales tax plan includes a portion for safety projects, including funds for Safe Routes to School. Mr. Halls further stated that the Alternative Modes Strategy can be taken into account when implementing the Safe Routes to School program since the strategy potentially has funds dedicated to this program in the “Other” category.

Alan Schwartzman asked if monitoring the air quality would be an eligible project. Jim Antone replied that monitoring programs are eligible for air district funding.

Duane Kromm was concerned about allocating air district dollars in a strategy before the air districts formally program funding towards a project. Jim Antone answered that the amount of air district funding in the Alternative Modes Strategy is based on a 5-year average of funding given to these particular modes and concluded that the strategy is a reasonable guide. However, Mr. Antone reminded the committee that the air districts will fund immediate emissions reduction technology before other projects.

Marci Coglianese asked if the air districts have formulas for the cost effectiveness of projects to reduce emissions. Jim Antone replied that the air districts do have such formulas and use the results in funding decisions.

Jim Spering requested staff provide the Alternative Modes Committee periodic updates as to how the strategy is being implemented and how well it is working.

Jim Antone asked that “clean air technologies” be added to the “other” category of funding.

Glen Grant made a motion to recommend adoption of the Alternative Modes Funding Strategy to the STA Board with the amendment that the BAC and PAC would be given a chance to review bicycle and pedestrian projects funded through the strategy. Alan Schwartzman seconded Mr. Grant’s amended motion. The Alternative Modes Committee passed the amended motion unanimously.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. I-80 Capital Corridor Smarter Growth Corridor Study

James Corless described the concepts behind the I-80 Capital Corridor Smarter Growth Corridor Study and the partnership between MTC, ABAG, STA, and SACOG.

Duane Kromm warned that a model of this nature could suffer if based on older ideas about housing and jobs. Mr. Corless explained that employment is becoming more “portable”, making it harder to predict.

Marci Coglianesi asked how 2-lane roads will be modeled. Mr. Corless explained that the study and the STA's plans will account for 2-lane roads and enhancements to those roads. Ms. Coglianesi suggested that San Joaquin Council of Governments should be involved in the effort.

Marilyn Farley asked how the study would take into account Solano County's role as the housing supplier for bay area workers. Mr. Corless suggested that new housing requirements from ABAG's may help to address that problem and also added that the I-80 Smarter Growth Corridor Study will contribute to that policy discussion.

While on the topic of housing policy, Daryl Halls asked Brigitta Corsello to present agenda item V. B, City County Coordinating Council (4C's) Presentation. Ms. Corsello stated that the 4Cs, a council of all the mayors and the county supervisors, received several presentations at their last meeting: from ABAG regarding the livability footprint & housing, from Solano County staff regarding the Solano County General Plan update in coordination with the STA's CTP 2030, and from the STA regarding alternative modes and Transportation for Livable Communities projects. Mr. Halls further explained the 4Cs role in connecting transportation and land use through partnerships. Mr. Halls used Rio Vista's General Plan update process of involving and consulting the STA's CTP 2030 plan as an example of a land use and transportation connection.

Jim Sperring asked if James Corless could explain how the region's job/housing policies work for Solano County. Mr. Corless explained how "ABAG's Projections" for housing and jobs aids ABAG in distributing the housing demand throughout the region. Mr. Corless also discussed the smart growth efforts which attempt to place "more housing in the right places." Mr. Sperring stated that ABAG needs to consider how to place "more jobs in the right places." Mr. Corless responded that jobs are expected to become more "portable" in nature (e.g., telecommuting) and that ABAG will need to be prepared for those types of jobs. Jim Sperring stated that job centers need to be targeted and included in the study's policy recommendations.

Marci Coglianesi noted that state policy is not doing enough to link land use and transportation planning. Ms. Coglianesi asked that this study provide policies that representatives can bring to state lawmakers. Mr. Sperring explained that current state laws are causing Bay Area counties to compete for jobs while putting pressure on Solano County to provide housing for those workers.

James Corless stated that this study will be brought before the 4Cs and other local smarter growth groups.

B. City County Coordinating Council (4Cs) Presentation

The Committee discussed this item with agenda item V.A I-80 Smart Growth Study. Brigitta Corsello gave the committee an overview of the 4C's participants and role (see above paragraph five of Item V.A. for more details on this discussion)

C. County TLC Planning Grant Status Report and Capital Grant Program Workshop

Robert Guerrero provided a status summary sheet of the three TLC planning projects funded by the STA's TLC program. Mr. Guerrero also gave a brief overview on STA's anticipated TLC Capital Program and stated a call for projects will tentatively take place in June followed by an application workshop to assist potential applicants in developing their submittals.

D. Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

The committee adjourned without discussing this item.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jim Spering and a second by Marilyn Farley, the Alternative Modes Committee adjourned at 11:30 am.



DATE: June 8, 2006
TO: Alternative Modes Committee
From: Robert Guerrero, Associate Planner
Re: Information Items

A. **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) “Focusing Our Vision”**

(Paul Fassinger, ABAG)

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) have joined together in a Joint Policy Committee (JPC) to work toward the refinement and achievement of a collective Vision for the entire Bay Area. The regional Vision calls for development that revitalizes central cities and older suburbs, supports and enhances public transit, promotes walking and bicycling, and preserves open spaces and agricultural lands. The Vision seeks to revitalize the already-built environment and ensure that new development occurs in the most efficient manner possible. It aims to create more livable communities with sufficient housing for the region’s workforce.

The principles utilized in creating the vision may assist local governments and regional agencies in working together to build a more livable region composed of more livable communities. The principles provide a set of general qualities against which we may test our choices regarding where development occurs. Paul Fassinger, ABAG is scheduled to provide an overview of ABAG’s joint effort.

B. **I-80 Capitol Corridor Smarter Growth Study Update**

(Dan Christians, STA)

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the STA received a grant from Caltrans to analyze the potential benefits of smart growth along the Bay Area and Sacramento region’s I-80 corridor. The planning project will be focused in Solano, Yolo, Sacramento and Placer counties and will include development assistance from several stakeholder agencies including Caltrans, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District, and local governments. On May 11th, 2006, a kick-off meeting was held with the Stakeholder/Steering Committee. The Committee discussed which consultant team was selected to assist in the study, the role of the Steering Committee, background and context of the study, and overall benefits of the study.

C. **Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Program Outreach**

Dan Christians, STA/ Robert Guerrero, STA

1. *Planning Commissioners Workshop- June 17, 2006*

A workshop is scheduled for Planning Commissioners to learn more about their roles and responsibilities. Planning Commissioners from each city in the Solano County is invited to attend. Dan Christians, STA is scheduled to provide a presentation on the STA's Transportation for Livable Communities program. Mr. Christians will provide a brief presentation highlighting the program's history, current activities and upcoming funding opportunities.

2. *Countywide TLC Call for Projects*

The STA Board is scheduled to issue a call for TLC projects at their June 14th, 2006 meeting. Deadline for applications to be submitted to the STA is scheduled for September 11th, 2006. STA staff will provide an application workshop in late June or early July.

An independent TLC application review committee consisting of staff from regional planning agencies (including: the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District/Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Caltrans) will meet in September 2006 to recommend applications for the Alternative Modes Committee to consider recommending to the STA Board for approval. The Alternative Modes Committee is scheduled to take action on this item at the next Alternative Modes Committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 19th, 2006.

3. *Transportation Land Use Coordination Brochure*

As part of the STA's TLC Outreach effort staff has developed a Solano TLC Program Brochure. The informational brochure is an attractive handout (see enclosure) that provides an overview of the STA's TLC program including:

- Brief articles about transportation and land use planning coordination.
- Summaries of the various plans associated with making livable communities a priority.
- Descriptions of upcoming funding opportunities and programs.
- Attractive photos highlighting the various TLC projects throughout the county.

STA staff intends to distribute this brochure at several upcoming events and to each city and county offices in Solano for their distribution.

4. *TLC Presentations to City Councils*

As part of the STA's TLC outreach efforts, STA staff is planning to visit each city council during the months of July and August. Staff will discuss the TLC Program and encourage cities and the county to continue participating in the program. As part of the presentation staff will outline the program's timeline and the upcoming TLC Capital Call for Projects.

D. **Status of TLC Planning Grants**

Robert Guerrero, STA

The cities of Fairfield, Rio Vista and Vacaville continue to make progress on their TLC planning projects. Attached is a brief status summary of each of the projects (see Attachment IV.D). These projects were awarded TLC Planning funds by the STA Board on October 12th, 2005.

Solano Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Planning Grants Status Summary

Fairfield Allan Witt Park Transportation Linkage Design Project

Project Description:

Plan development to improve pedestrian, bicycle and transit linkages, as well as forge strategic links between transit nodes and activity hubs in a vital city gateway area. The plan will provide a clear design for West Texas St., Woolner Ave., and Beck Ave. that will reduce traffic congestion; encourage pedestrian and bicycle use; and will improve walkability, pedestrian safety, and transit access from Allan Witt Community Park to area retail stores, nearby schools, FTC, and Downtown.

Project Status- January 2006

Fairfield is working to secure a contract with the consultant. Consultant team will develop specific designs and refined cost estimates for improvements along the length of West Texas Street from the Fairfield Transportation Center (West Texas Street and Pennsylvania Avenue) to Downtown Fairfield (Texas Street and Beck Avenue) over the next several months. The design for each of the areas will include samples, tearsheets, graphics, and quantities for street furnishings (pots, tree grates, crosswalk paving), plantings, signage, hardscape, transit-friendly enhancements (benches, shelters, etc) and lighting. The total project costs exceed the TLC Planning funds provided by the STA and will be funded through Fairfield's Redevelopment Funds.

Rio Vista Waterfront Plan

Project Description:

Project will provide pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle connections between recreation, retail, restaurant, office and residential uses in the historic eastern section of Downtown Vacaville.

Project Status- January 2006

SFE design has been selected and is under contract for preparation of the Waterfront Specific Plan. The design firm and its subconsultants have begun the initial steps in the process. Field investigations of the site have been conducted and stakeholders are being contacted to arrange the first stakeholder meeting (tentatively scheduled for July/August of this year).

Vacaville Creek Walk Extension/Eastern Downtown Vision

Project Description:

Specific Plan for redevelopment of the downtown waterfront district. The plan will address public access and development potential of the downtown waterfront, provide for specific land use, zoning and development standards or a financing program for implementing the plan.

Project Status- January 2006

The land use and architectural sketches have been provided by the consulting architect. Redevelopment Agency staff is completing the public outreach presentation materials, confirming consistency with City infrastructure master plans, and preparing a schedule for presentations to stakeholders.