



**Citizens Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

DATE

Friday, March 4, 2022

The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee held Friday, March 4, 2022, held in-person at the MCAG Office, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced CA and via webinar was called to order by Chair Shane Smith at 8:32 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Maddie Brown, Student**
Jose Delgadillo, Citizen at Large
Rene Gutierrez, Citizen at Large**
Jack Jackson, Citizen-at-Large
Mike Jensen, Water/Irrigation***
Jean Okuye, Agriculture**
Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Economic Development***
Jaswinder Singh, Real Estate**
(Voted via hand raised icon)
Shane Smith, Citizen at Large, Chair
Ursula Stock, Citizen at Large, Vice Chair**
Michelle Symes-Thiara, Education
Paul Villarreal, Goods Movement
Yamilet Valladolid, Healthcare***
Paul Ward, Commerce/Finance***

STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director**
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Blake Dunford, Assistant Planner**
Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant**
Alicia Ochoa-Jones, Procurement Manager**
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager**
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
Skyler Summers, Assistant Transit Manager**
Joy Young, Administrative Assistant II**

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Beltran, Engineering
Bryan Kroeger, Construction
Vacant, Small Business

OTHERS PRESENT

None

*Arrived after roll call

**Attended via zoom

1. Call to order/roll call

At this time, Chair Shane Smith called the meeting to order and instructed that the roll call for attendance be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public comment

None.

3. Information items:

a. Merced County Association of Governments

- i. CAC highlights of the February 4, 2022 meeting
- ii. Sign-up sheet for CAC representative to the MCAG Governing Board meetings – 2022
- iii. CAC calendar – 2022
- iv. CAC attendance roster – 2022
- v. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
- vi. MCAG newsletter – March 2022
- vii. Minutes of the February 17, 2022 MCAG Governing Board meeting
- viii. Letter of Support for San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission/San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding (TIRCP) application

b. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County

- i. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2021

At this time, Chair Shane Smith asked for a volunteer for the March 17, 2022 Governing Board meeting and for any dates that were still open. Jack Jackson volunteered for the March 17, 2022 Governing Board meeting and Jose Delgadillo volunteered as an alternate for the November 17, 2022 Governing Board meeting and as the representative for the December 15, 2022 Governing Board meeting.

4. Consent calendar:

a. Merced County Association of Governments

- i. Approve the minutes of the February 4, 2022 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting

Rene Gutierrez moved to approve the consent calendar with revisions to the February 4, 2022 meeting minutes correcting the attendance.

Seconded by Jose Delgadillo.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Jaswinder Singh, Shane Smith, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Yamilet Valladolid, Paul Villarreal Jr.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Maddie Brown

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

5. Action items:

- a. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a three-year construction contract for bus shelter repairs, removal, and installation in an amount not to exceed \$570,000

Christine Chavez summarized the request to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a three-year construction contract for bus shelter repairs, removal, and installation in an amount not to exceed \$570,000 with Lawrence Backhoe Services Inc. as the selected vendor.

Rene Gutierrez asked if bus stop installations will be placed along high ridership routes. Staff replied that the agency works with the jurisdictions and gives ridership information, but it is the jurisdiction that decides where the stops will be located.

Paul Villarreal Jr. moved to recommend the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a three-year construction contract for bus shelter repairs, removal, and installation in an amount not to exceed \$570,000.

Seconded by Paul Villarreal Jr.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Maddie Brown, Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Jaswinder Singh, Shane Smith, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Yamilet Valladolid, Paul Villarreal Jr., Paul Ward

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this time, item 7a was taken out of order due to time constraints.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

7. Action items:

- a. Adopt the 2022 One Voice Legislative Platform

Mary-Michal Rawling summarized the request to adopt the 2022 One Voice Legislative Platform.

Jose Delgadillo stated that he thinks it is important to have a representative from the Citizens Advisory Committee on the One Voice Delegates list.

Chair Shane Smith stated that he remembers the request for a Citizens Advisory Committee representation on the One Voice Delegates list a few years ago and that the request is being heard again. He stated that possibly a letter can be written to the Governing Board regarding this request. The Chair also expressed disappointment that the platform included many policies that benefited only one jurisdiction rather than a process whereby the TRB would propose a platform with regional policies that would benefit all jurisdictions.

Ursula Stock stated that she would like to see more of a representation of agriculture/water preservation on the priorities list and would like to be involved in the process if that representation becomes available.

Jose Delgadillo moved to recommend the Governing Board adopt the proposed 2022 One Voice legislative platform.

Seconded by Jack Jackson.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Maddie Brown, Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Jaswinder Singh, Shane Smith, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Paul Villarreal Jr., Paul Ward

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

6. Discussion items:

a. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County monthly update

Jose Perez gave the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County monthly update and discussed the following topics:

- January 2022 ridership
- Fixed-Route Emergency Service Reductions
- New bus purchases
- Electric bus infrastructure
- Bus stop improvements projects
- Short Range Transit Plan
- Public Transit Security Guard Services
- Transportation Security Administration face mask requirement

Rene Gutierrez thanked Jose Perez for the update regarding service maps at transfer locations.

Patricia Ramos-Anderson asked if maps will be available for rural areas too and if they will be available online. Staff responded that when the maps are updated, they will be available online.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

8. Discussion items:

a. Transportation Planning and Measure V update

Nav Bagri presented the Transportation Planning and Measure V update and discussed the following topics:

- Regional Transportation Plan
- Regional Housing Needs Allocation
- Regional Early Action Planning Program
- Finish the 99
- SB 743/VMT Implementation Plan
- Short Range Transit Plan
- Measure V Annual Report
- Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

b. Modernization of Merced County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

Blake Dunford summarized the modernization of Merced County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) and asked for direction on next steps of the program.

Several committee members discussed the researched eligible projects, and the results are as follows:

1. There was a general approval of the need to update the call boxes to 5G technology.
2. Most but not unanimous interest in the litter removal program
3. A request was made to justify the need or better explain the Freeway Service Patrol
4. A request for more information on the doppler traffic radar system used by Ventura Council of Governments.

c. Draft Overall Work Program Budget 22/23 Presentation

Nav Bagri presented the Draft Overall Work Program Budget 22/23.

9. Committee reports

a. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee

Paul Ward gave the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee update.

At this time, Chair Shane Smith handed over the meeting to Vice Chair Ursula Stock.

b. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy Advisory Committee

Maddie Brown gave the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy Advisory Committee update.

10. Announcements

Mary-Michal Rawling distributed the battery recycling information for the Big Green Box program.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:49 a.m.