

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE, TIME, AND
LOCATION:**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2004, WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

**Board of Supervisors Conference Room A
County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.**

2. **Public Comments.** Any member of the public may address the Committee for a period not to exceed three minutes on any item not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Council. The Committee will listen to all communication, but in compliance with the Brown Act, will not take any action on items not on the agenda.

3. **EMERGING ISSUE:**

Price St. Extension Project in Pismo Beach. SLOCOG has committed \$16M for the engineering and construction of the Price St. Extension Project in Pismo Beach. The project extends Price Street frontage road to connect with 5 Cities Drive. The City of Pismo Beach is reviewing the scope of the project that calls for the closure of the south-bound off-ramp at Price St. and the impacts that may occur to the businesses in downtown Pismo Beach. This issue was not raised at two previous public workshops. In order for the ramp to remain open, Caltrans would require the construction of an auxiliary lane between the off and on ramps at Price St. This requirement would add an additional \$3-\$4M to the project cost estimate. SLOCOG has informed the City that no additional regional funding is available for this project, unless local rehabilitation projects are deleted from the SLOCOG RTIP. The City Council will be reviewing this issue more closely and may likely petition the SLOCOG Board for additional funding.

4. **SLOCOG October 6, 2004 Agenda. Review. Attached.** (REVIEW & COMMENT, re: timing, sequence, advisory committee agenda items, etc.). The following identifies several key issues requiring Executive Committee direction:

Major Agenda Items Include:

A-1, 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). A Regional Transportation Plan is a needed plan to meet the requirements that allow federal transportation money to be spent in the region. State law requires each COG to adopt and submit an updated RTP to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) every three years. The 2001 RTP is being updated and repackaged into this 2004 RTP to: comply with supplemental state guidelines, to ensure the planning strategies presented in the RTP are achievable with projected revenues, and to provide a realistic vision for meeting current and future transportation mobility needs. The environmental documentation for this effort is proposed to be an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the 2001 RTP. In August, the Board provided direction to: A) Retain but simplify policy direction B) Restructure to simplify and address state guidelines & examples of "best practices." and C) Schedule public hearing to review draft document in October.

Issues:a. Substantive Plan Issues:

1. Clarify any new policy issues:
 - Long range transit plan (to be presented as stand alone agenda item in October – See B-1 below);
 - Rte 46 as a freeway versus expressway;
 - Assess and confirm adopted 2001 RTP strategies to address congestion considering increasing traffic volumes and reduced levels of service.
2. Delay and delete projects to be consistent with reduced revenue projections.
3. Consider supplemental funding opportunities.

b. Schedule. The RTP is required to be updated by December 31st (RECOMMENDATION: present the draft plan for discussion in December, with adoption by the new Board in February).

c. Board Review of Draft Plan. Two options are presented:

1. Both board and advisory committee review of plan components as they become available (*see attached table of contents and scheduled milestones*). (Note: To meet this schedule a special meeting on November third is required (the day following the election), focused on the RTP starting at 10 am); or
2. Only advisory committee review of plan components as they become available (October and November meetings) and bring a complete draft report to the Board for consideration in December.

(RECOMMENDATION: Option 1. *Note: A complete draft document for public review will be ready for the December meeting*).

PRESENTATIONS:

B-1, Long Range Transit Plan (LRTP) Update. This item was pulled from the August agenda and moved to the October agenda. Jim McLaughlin, a consultant with Urbitran and Associates, will present the final set of draft LRTP deliverables. This set includes a comparison of the San Luis Obispo region with peers regarding approach to transit delivery: *local versus regional governance, fixed route versus dial a ride service mix, capital and operating funding sources*. The draft plan presents financial implications of three long-range transit scenarios over the three planning horizons of the Regional Transportation Plan. It also covers more specific LRTP objectives with quantitative and qualitative tools to track progress out to the year 2025.

Finally, it provides several distinct policy choices for transit planning over the next 20 years (RECOMMENDATION: accept report, and integrate into the RTP in December).

B-2, Action for Healthy Communities Presentation/Request for SLOCOG to Coordinate and House the Triennial Countywide Community Indicators Report. The *Action for Healthy Communities group (AHC)* will present a request to SLOCOG to authorize staff to work with the group to coordinate and house the *Triennial Countywide Community Indicators Report*. SLOCOG staff has been looking at coordinating with specialty entities (such as this group) on transportation related issues. A partnership would be beneficial for both SLOCOG and the AHC. SLOCOG can use AHC's data and AHC can benefit from using SLOCOG's performance indicators report (RECOMMENDATION: approve).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:

C-1, Draft SLOCOG Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2003/04. This report summarizes all major activities, products and accomplishments over the past year (RECOMMENDATION: approve Draft Report; authorize staff to finalize and distribute).

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

D-1, Propositions 68 and 70. These Propositions (*Proposition 68, Tribal Gaming Compact Renegotiation; and Proposition 70, Tribal Gaming Compacts – Exclusive Gaming Rights, Contributions to State, and Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute*) are two competing state propositions on the November ballot that, if passed, would negate the expected positive effects of AB 687, "Tribal State Gaming Compacts: ratification and payment securitization" (this bill will take effect in December 2004). AB 687 provides \$1.4 billion to reimburse the state highway account for loans taken to balance the state budget (RECOMMENDATION: distribute information on Proposition implications; oppose Propositions).

D-2, Congressional Approval Requests. Status of requests submitted to federal legislators regarding funding of high priority transportation projects (INFORMATION).

D-3, Free Bus Fare Program for Rail Passengers. Staff is recommending approval of \$3,000 in State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to allow rail passengers to use fixed route transit services without paying a fare. It will be linked to the new Surfliner services anticipated to begin in November (RECOMMENDATION: approve \$3K in State Transit Assistance Funds and authorize Executive Director to sign Memorandum of Understanding with operators).

D-4, Cooperative Agreement between SLOCOG and Caltrans for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES) Permit Requirement for Public Education Outreach and local (city and county) Coordination Activities. Staff received a request from Caltrans and the SLO County Partners for Water Quality (staff from each agency that address NPDES requirements) for SLOCOG assistance to administer Caltrans funding for the program (\$20k) for member agencies to streamline and reduce costs. (RECOMMENDATION: Approve Memorandum of Agreement [MOA]).

CONSENT AGENDA: See attached agenda. Some Notable items:

E-3, FY 2004/05 SLOCOG Year-to-Date Financial Report. This report identifies costs and revenues through August 2004. A notable unforeseen cost involves salaries. The Accountant position was revised from 40% to 50% and a *salary range adjustment* approved in July 2002 was not implemented. A range adjustment only affects staff members that are at the top of their salary range. The corrected oversight resulted in the payment of back wages to four employees totaling \$5,859.23. The budgetary impact is moderated by an actual 1.7% versus a budgeted

2.5% cost-of-living increase. The net difference is \$5,349.00 (RECOMMENDATION: receive and file; staff will assess mid-year and try to make up the difference from salary/other savings).

E-5, Award of Consultant Contracts for Transportation Development Act (TDA) Fiscal and Compliance Audits. SLOCOG is required to contract with independent auditors to complete fiscal and compliance audits on all recipients of TDA funds. As a normal practice, SLOCOG conducts a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) every three years for consultant services to perform these audits. A three-year contract for the selected consultant will be presented to the board.

E-6, Award of Triennial Performance Audit Contracts. SLOCOG is required to contract with independent contractors to conduct Performance audits for all transit operators once every three years. This year, the following audits are scheduled: *Regional Transit Authority, Regional Rideshare, SLO Transit and Nipomo transit*. RFPs have been distributed and interested consultants will be rated. A recommended contract will be presented to the board.

E-7, Transit Maintenance Facility Study – Phase 2. A discretionary grant was secured to identify which components of a consolidated maintenance facility would work in San Luis Obispo County and to determine annual cost savings if such facility were developed (RECOMMENDATION: approve consultant contract).

5. **Proposed Year-End Reception:** Considering there will be a lot of changes in the Board membership next year and a number of current SLOCOG Board members will be leaving office by December or by the end of the year, staff proposes a year-end dinner/lunch gathering (DISCUSSION).
6. **Executive Committee Minutes, July 14, 2004, Attached** (APPROVE).
7. **Late Breaking News.**
8. **Committee Member Comments and Adjournment.**

Next Meeting: October 13, 2004 Wednesday.