

# THE COORDINATOR

December 2003 \* 1150 Osos Street, Suite 202, SLO, CA 93401 \* Phone 805-781-4219 \* Fax 805-781-570

## ***Cuesta Grade Project Advisory Committee Recognition***

At the December meeting, the Board acknowledged the contribution made by the Cuesta Grade Aesthetic Design Advisory Committee. Plaques were prepared for the citizens who participated, and Mr. George Sullivan thankfully accepted his plaque. Other citizen members recognized for their participation included: Dr. David Chipping, Dr. Polly Cooper, Mr. Jack McKissack, Mr. Brian Stark, and Mr. Don Swearingen. Caltrans staff (Ms. Cathy DeGrazia, Mr. Bob Carr, Ms. Wendy Waldron, and Mr. David Beard), SLOCOG staff (Mr. Steve Devencenzi), and San Luis Obispo City staff (Mr. Neil Havlick).

## ***Federal Transit Administration Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Section 5307, 5310, and 5311 Programming***

The SLOCOG Board programmed the Federal Transit Administration fiscal year 2003/2004 funding in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) at the December meeting.

The Section 5310 funding, which is designated for the elderly and disabled, is \$261,000. Work Training Programs, Inc. and NCI Affiliates will each receive \$73,000 and provide a match of \$18,200 toward the purchase of two vehicles. United Cerebral Palsy (Ride-On Transportation) will provide \$28,800 to match \$115,000 for the purchase of three vans.

Section 5307 funding is an urbanized area formula program. The San Luis Obispo urban area will receive \$890,765. San Luis Obispo City will implement bus stop improvements (\$31,200 with a \$7,800 match), conduct a Smart Card Study (\$4,000 with a \$1,000 match), provide capital cost of contracting (\$220,000 with a \$55,000 match), and conduct operations (\$635,565 with a higher than required match of \$1,417,954). With the urbanized designation in the 2000 Census for North County, North County transit operations will receive \$550,000 in 5307 funding. Agreement was reached on how to distribute the funds, and Atascadero Transit will receive \$194,000 and provide a match of \$194,000. San Luis Obispo County will receive \$26,000 and provide a \$26,000 match for Templeton area transit operations. Paso Robles City Area Transit (PRCATS) will provide a \$218,000 match for the same amount of funding. The San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will receive \$112,000 (and provide matching funds of \$112,000) for North County operations.

Section 5311 and 5311 (f) funds are for non-urbanized areas and are only available for rural areas in the county. RTA will receive all Section 5311 and 5311 (f) funds in exchange for Transportation Development Act Funds. Section 5311 funds in the amount of \$218,500 will go towards RTA operations, and RTA will provide the same amount in matching funds. RTA will received \$34,000 in Section 5311 (f) funds, and will provide \$34,000 in matching funds.

Also included in the FTIP was \$500,000 secured by Congresswoman Capps in High Priority funding through the Transportation Equity Act for

the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA 21) for the San Luis Obispo City to the Sea Bike Path. San Luis Obispo City will match the funds with \$100,000.

All of these projects were approved and modified into the 2002 FTIP.

## **2004 SLOCOG Officers Elected**

At the SLOCOG Board meeting on December 3, 2003, the Board elected Mr. Frank Mecham, Mayor, City of Paso Robles, as President and San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Mike Ryan (District 5) as Vice President. The Board appointed representatives to the Executive Committee (Members Pinard, Mecham, and Ryan), California Association of Councils of Governments (Members Elliott and Pinard), and Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Coast Rail Coordinating Council (Member Pinard and Former Member and current Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee member Mr. Fred Munroe).

***Reminder: Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing  
February 4, 2004***

The annual unmet transit needs public hearing is scheduled for the SLOCOG Board meeting of February 4, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. in the SLO County Board of Supervisors' Chambers in San Luis Obispo.

SLOCOG is now accepting public comments by mail, telephone, fax, and e-mail. Send written comments to 1150 Osos St., Suite 202, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Call Philip Chu at 805-781-4223. Fax requests to 805-781-5703; e-mail requests to [Unmet\\_needs@slocog.org](mailto:Unmet_needs@slocog.org), or visit our website at [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org).

***Fund Estimate for the STIP Released***

Biennially the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is required by statute to adopt a five-year fund estimate for the various transportation funds. The methodology is developed in consultation with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs). The 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which will cover the five-year period through 2008-2009, will have no new funding capacity. Each RTPA is being asked to reschedule their existing funding programmed for delivery over the next three to over the next five years. Approximately \$43M of \$66M already programmed in the 03, 04, and 05 years of the 2002 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) will need to be rescheduled to the 06, 07, 08, and 09 fiscal years.

One opportunity for programming new STIP projects in all fiscal years is for projects eligible for Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. Until this year, TE programs were programmed and allocated outside of the STIP. The fund estimate provides separate targets for TE-eligible projects, with funding available in all years of the STIP. The SLOCOG Board has directed staff to consider programming approximately 50% of the target provided by the CTC.

Although new funding capacity will not be available in the STIP, SLOCOG staff has identified a number of projects in need of additional funding; i.e. Highway 41/101 intersection and Price Street Extension in South County. Both projects are important to the region, yet could be delayed significantly without additional funding.

In order to provide additional capacity for regionally significant transportation projects, existing TE-eligible "programmed" projects may be programmed using the new TE funds. This will allow existing programmed projects (Promenade IV and Morro Bay Waterfront Boardwalk) to move forward more expeditiously and in turn provide "regular" STIP funding for projects with funding shortfalls. The SLOCOG Board will review draft staff proposals at the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Congressman Thomas Secures Federal Assistance for  
Local Conservation Project**

The effort to secure funding for the purchase of the Ahearn Ranch, northeast of the City of San Luis Obispo, has been in the works by the City for several years. This important local conservation project that straddles Highway 101 along the Cuesta Grade will protect and enhance significant wildlife habitat within the watershed, and it will provide for a safe, separated grade crossing underneath the highway for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists using the National Forest. Congressman Bill Thomas informed city officials about the inclusion of \$1.5M in federal funding for the Ahearn Ranch as part of Department of Interior Appropriations Act.

The SLOCOG Board supports this important conservation project and is appreciative of the Congressman's efforts in making this conservation project happen.

**New Trails Now  
Under Construction**

The next segment of the Pismo Beach Promenade will connect with the Grover Beach Boardwalk. Beginning at the Addie Street Promenade in Pismo Beach, this pedestrian improvement will travel along Addie Street, across the Cypress Bridge, adjacent to Highway 1 to the State Park Campground, and finally into the Monarch Butterfly Preserve at Pismo State Park. As the Promenade meets the city limits line, it switches into "the Boardwalk" and traverses the dunes between the Pismo State Beach Golf Course and the ocean until it reaches Grand Avenue.

At the November meeting, both cities requested SLOCOG shift existing funds to fully fund the minimum project. In December, the Coastal Conservancy granted \$115,000 in funds for several unfunded options. Many funding sources – totaling over \$1.3 million – were tapped to create this 1.2-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail. For additional information, contact James Worthley at SLOCOG (788-2002).

## ***New Bi-Lingual Transportation Coordinator Coming on Board!***

The SLOCOG Board approved a contract for a pilot project – the Bi-lingual Transportation Contractor. The funding is a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant. The grant has several objectives:

- \* Improve awareness and understanding of public transportation within the Hispanic-speaking community;
- \* Improve marketing of alternative transportation with bi-lingual means;
- \* Train dispatchers at transit and ridesharing offices to direct Hispanic customers to the proper services; and
- \* Increase participation by Hispanics in public transportation services.

With a larger market share for public transportation, the entire region will benefit from greater visibility plus more efficient and productive services. Ride-On Transportation will manage the grant in coordination with SLOCOG and Regional Rideshare.

## ***FY 2004/2005 PRELIMINARY OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY ASSUMPTIONS***

The Board conceptually approved the development of the 2004/2005 Overall Work Program (OWP) and budget assumptions. The major work elements include:

- Transportation Development Act (TDA) Funding (\$8m): administer funds, secure audits, and assess unmet transit needs.
- Transit Planning, Programming and Administration: Short Range Transit Plans for Morro Bay, South Bay, Cambria, and Ride-On Transit Systems; compliance, programs, and assistance.
- Transportation Planning: intergovernmental coordination, regional plans, system plans, modal planning, rideshare support, project, and plan review.
- Financial Management and Project Programming: project scoping, capital improvement plans and allocation, project review and development, and emergency call boxes.
- Regional Data and Support: census data, traffic model, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and transportation data.
- Agency Administration and Intergovernmental Coordination.

Additional work tasks include:

- Update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – this will be a significant effort and is scheduled for completion in December 2004.
- Update the Street and Road Maintenance Needs Study.
- Participate with Caltrans in multi-county freight movement (truck) assessment study.
- Complete the Regional Traffic Model (Phase II).
- Surface Transportation Program: adopt an updated Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for federal transportation funds.
- Possible absorption of the Rideshare Program into SLOCOG – as state funding is being curtailed, the program may be absorbed into SLOCOG to keep services going while cutting costs.

Budgetary assumptions include:

- No change in staffing, maintain one unfilled position, increase in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Planning funds, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds, and TDA funds.
- No Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Planning, Programming, and Monitoring funds are expected until 07/08; partial backfill with Regional State Highway Account (RSHA).
- No Ridesharing RTIP funds until 08/09; partial backfill with RSHA, and consider consolidation into SLOCOG.

The preliminary work program is available on the SLOCOG web page. Next steps: address state and federal programming priorities, develop a more detailed

scope of work, schedules, and line-item and program budget. Final draft will be scheduled for Board consideration in February.

## ***Rideshare Special Program Update***

Fill Up Your Carpool II is a program funded by a grant from Air Pollution Control District (APCD). If you carpool and are interested in registering in this program, there is space available. Call Diane at 781-4362 or visit the Rideshare web site at [www.rideshare.org](http://www.rideshare.org).

Fill Up Your Carpool II has 218 teams with 538 registered individuals. The average vehicle ridership is 2.47. For the month of October, there were 259 recipients of gas cards.

The Commute + Program is for San Luis Obispo County employees and promotes the use of transit, vanpooling, carpooling, biking, teleworking, and walking. Employees who use any of these forms to commute to work are eligible to participate in the Rideshare Lucky Bucks Incentive Program. Participants are eligible for the Guaranteed Ride Home Program and Commuter Choice Tax Incentive Program. There are 238 registered participants with 117 carpoolers, 32 transit riders, 22 vanpoolers, 33 walkers, 33 bicyclists, and 1 telecommuter. County employees interested in participating in the Commute + Program should contact Diane at 4362.

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL!***

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEMBERSHIP (AS OF 12/3/2003)

Down the Road...The next scheduled meeting of the SLOCOG Board will be held in the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors' Chambers Wednesday, February 4, 2004. The Board will conduct a public hearing to receive testimony on unmet transit needs and bikeway needs, receive the draft proposed 2004 state and federal legislative program for adoption, receive the proposed 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for approval, and receive the draft 2004/2005 Overall Work Program and Budget for adoption. If you would like to see the Board meetings, they are broadcast live and replayed on Channel 21 (Charter Communications Cable TV).

*The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an area wide planning and programming agency for issues of area wide concern. SLOCOG is also the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), and the Census Data Affiliate (CDA) for the San Luis Obispo region. Member Agencies are listed below with designated representatives.*

***New President – Frank Mecham, Mayor, Paso Robles (effective January 2004)***

***New Vice President – Mike Ryan, District 5 Supervisor (effective January 2004)***

*Arroyo Grande – Tony Ferrara, Mayor*

*Atascadero – Wendy Scalise, Council member*

*Morro Bay – Dave Elliott, Council member*

*Grover Beach – Dave Ekbohm, Council member*

*Pismo Beach – Rudy Natoli, Council member*

*San Luis Obispo – Ken Schwartz, Council member*

*District 1 Supervisor – Harry Ovitt*

*District 2 Supervisor – Shirley Bianchi.*

*District 3 Supervisor – Peg Pinard*

*District 4 Supervisor – Katcho Achadjian*

*Ex-Officio, Gregg Albright –Director, Caltrans District 5*

*Ronald De Carli, Executive Director*

### SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



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