



**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Butte County Association of Governments
Conference Room
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico CA
(530) 879-2468**

***Thursday** – November 6, 2008 – 10:00 A.M.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA DURING CONSIDERATION OF THAT ITEM.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATION

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS OR COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA MAY DO SO AT THIS TIME. COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD.
FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA, NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME. IF IT REQUIRES ACTION, IT WILL BE REFERRED TO STAFF AND OR PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

COPIES OF STAFF REPORTS OR OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS REFERRED TO ON THE AGENDA ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (BCAG). PERSONS WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS MAY CALL BCAG TO MAKE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE ITEM DESCRIBED ON THE AGENDA.

ITEM**STAFF**

- 3. Minutes from September 4, 2008 TAC Meeting** Ivan Garcia
For review and approval
- 4. BCAG Regional Transportation Model** Brian Lasagna
Informing committee of traffic model completion and data availability
- 5 2008 Regional Transportation Plan & Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination** Ivan Garcia
Requesting committee support staff's recommendation to BCAG Board of Directors to adopt 2008 Regional Transportation Plan & Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination scheduled for Adoption on December 11, 2008
- 6. 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) – Formal Amendment** Ivan Garcia
- Requesting committee support to program new Congestion Mitigation And Air Quality funding for Transit
 - Updating Expedited Project Selection Procedures
 - Updating Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination
- 7. Caltrans Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) – Call for Projects** Ivan Garcia
Informing committee of the completion of the BCAG Traffic Model Update
- 8. Unmet Transit Needs Schedule for 2008/09** Ivan Garcia
Informing committee of UTN schedule
- 9. BCAG Transit Update** Ivan Garcia
Informing committee of various B-Line Activities
- 10. Other Items**



ITEM # 3

Butte County Association of Governments Transportation Advisory Committee Draft Summary Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2008

The following minutes are a summary of the Transportation Advisory Committee. The Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting of the Butte County Association of Governments was held at their office, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, CA. The meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

Item #3 – Minutes from June 12, 2008 TAC Meeting

No comments were received.

Item #4 – 2008 Regional Transportation Plan Development

Staff informed the committee that the draft 2008 RTP had been completed. In addition, staff said the draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination, and Environmental Impact Report were expected to be circulated in September. Staff indicated that the RTP was developed in accordance with BCAG's Public Participation Plan and was posted online at BCAG's website. Hard copies would be provided upon request.

As part of the agenda packet, staff provided the delivery schedule for the RTP. Staff also included the STIP "regional" priorities as well as the programming for the next four federal fiscal years which ensures consistency between the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the RTP.

This item was presented to keep the committee informed.

Item #5 – Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination for the 2008 RTP/2009 FTIP

Staff informed the committee that the administrative draft air quality conformity analysis and determination to support the 2008 RTP and 2009 FTIP, as required by federal law, has been completed. The administrative draft document was currently being reviewed by the Interagency Consultation Review (ICR) group. The ICR includes representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Caltrans, Butte County Air Quality Management District and BCAG.

At the conclusion of the ICR groups review, BCAG staff will incorporate recommendations and inform the TAC of any significant changes prior to release of an official draft document and 30-day public review period.

Hard copies of the administrative draft document were made available at the TAC meeting.

Item #6 – Federal Particulate Matter 2.5 Non-Attainment Area Designation for Butte County - Update

Staff informed the committee that a recent recommendation by the U.S. EPA, if approved, would require BCAG to include a transportation conformity determination for PM 2.5 emissions. In the case that either Butte County or the Chico Urbanized area be designated non-attainment for PM 2.5, BCAG will be required to demonstrate transportation conformity for PM 2.5 emissions for both the RTP and FTIP one year after the area is officially designated. Staff stated that EPA intends to make final decisions regarding designations for the 2006 24-hour PM 2.5 standards by December 18, 2008. A complete timeline for U.S. EPA's implementation of the new 24-hour PM 2.5 standard was included in the item attachment.

Item #7 – BCAG Regional Transportation Model - Update

BCAG informed the committee that staff is working with the consulting firm Fehr & Peers to complete the comprehensive update of the BCAG regional transportation model. To date, the model has been validated to the 2006 base year and future road network and land use data have been implemented for the year 2035. The model is required as a result of being a federal non-attainment area for ozone and a maintenance area for carbon monoxide. Staff indicated that the regional model was required to be more than 5 years old and therefore needed to be updated. Once the model was complete, staff would inform the committee. The expected completion date was October 2008.



BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee

Item # 4 Information

Date: October 29, 2008

BCAG REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MODEL – UPDATE

PREPARED BY: Brian Lasagna, Senior Planner

ISSUE: The last BCAG transportation model update was completed in 2003, with a base year of 2002. Federal air quality planning regulations require the latest planning assumptions to be no more than 5 years old. As a result, the BCAG transportation model has received a comprehensive update.

DISCUSSION: As a Federal non-attainment area for ozone and a maintenance area for carbon monoxide as defined under the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments, BCAG must maintain a regional traffic model in order to develop an Air Quality Conformity determination for the RTP and the FTIP. This is necessary in order to demonstrate conformity to the air quality goals established in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the region.

BCAG, working with the consulting firm Fehr & Peers, has recently completed the comprehensive update of the BCAG regional transportation model. A final model development report was mailed to each jurisdiction, and Caltrans, in late September 2008.

In addition, BCAG staff has prepared GIS layers for base year (2006) and forecasted (2035) traffic volumes of the regional road network for distribution to BCAG member jurisdictions. It is important to note, the forecasted traffic volumes are subject to change with the adoption of new general plans by the local jurisdictions.

Information regarding accessing the traffic model GIS layers and associated data will be distributed via email to the Public Works Directors and the traffic modeling project development team (PDT) on November 7th, 2008.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None. This item is presented for the committee's awareness.

Key Staff: Chris Devine, Planning Manager
Brian Lasagna, Senior Planner



BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee

Item # 5 Action

Date: August 29, 2008

2008 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN & AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS & DETERMINATION

PREPARED BY: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

ISSUE: BCAG is required to adopt a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every 4 years. The 2008 RTP includes a new Air Quality Conformity Analysis & Determination. These documents are scheduled to be adopted on December 11, 2008 by the BCAG Board of Directors.

DISCUSSION: The purpose of the RTP is to identify BCAG's transportation project priorities for all modes of transportation over the next 27-years through 2035. The RTP serves as the foundation for developing the future Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP document) and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP document). The RTP can be amended at any time by the BCAG Board of Directors.

Staff has completed the draft RTP document and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination.

Both documents have been distributed to all Butte County Public Libraries, each of the cities and County, each of the Butte County Rancherias, Caltrans, FHWA, FTA, EPA, Butte County Air Quality Management District and posted on BCAG's website at www.bcag.org. A notice on the development of the RTP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination was also sent to an extensive list of potential interest groups provided by Caltrans. A public notice has been placed in the local newspaper as well. Various public workshops were held early in the development of the RTP and throughout the process.

The RTP was developed in consultation with the BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee which includes each of the cities and County, Butte County Rancherias, citizen representatives, BCAQMD and Caltrans. In addition, staff held two Interagency Consultation Review meetings with the Air District, Caltrans, FHWA and the EPA to ensure BCAG was appropriately addressing the regional emission analysis requirements.

The entire RTP document is available for review on BCAG's webpage at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/2008-RTP/index.html>. Hard copies of the RTP are available upon request. None of the projects have changed since the last committee meeting. Any changes made prior to Board adoption will be communicated to the committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff is requesting committee support staff's recommendation to the BCAG Board that the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Analysis & Determination be adopted at the December 11, 2008 Board meeting.

Key Staff Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager
 Chris Devine, Planning Manager
 Brian Lasagna, Senior Planner
 Jon Clark, Executive Director



BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee

Item # 6 Action

Date: October 30, 2008

2009 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – FORMAL AMENDMENT

PREPARED BY: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

ISSUE: BCAG is required to amend the 2009 FTIP for the purposes of:

1. Program new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Funds for Transit
2. Update the Expedited Project Selection Procedures for the 2009 FTIP
3. Update the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination consistent with the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan

DISCUSSION:

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program – As part of the development of the initial call for new CMAQ projects, staff indicated remaining programming capacity will be used for transit and for new projects. Staff is requesting committee support of the revised programming for the B-Line Paratransit Project from \$220,000 in CMAQ funds to \$300,000 for an increase of \$80,000. In addition, BCAG is proposing to equip the entire transit system with AVL/GPS technologies to increase system efficiencies resulting in emissions reduction amongst other system operation improvements. The cost of the new AVL/GPS system is \$700,000. The following is a summary of the programming recommendation. The programming of \$780,000 in new CMAQ funding does not affect any existing CMAQ projects.

2008/09 CMAQ Programming Request

(Dollars * 1,000)

Applicant	Project	Year 1 '08/09 CMAQ	New Request	Total
BCAG	Farebox - Paratransit	220	80	300
Paradise	Park & Ride Lot/ Transit Stop	200		200
BCAG	New Project – B Line AVL/GPS Project		700	700
Totals		420	780	1,200
Capacity				2,202

Expedited Project Selection Procedures - The purpose of Expedited Project Selection Procedures (EPSP) is to increase flexibility to manage the FTIP and projects programmed. EPSP allows BCAG to move funds within the period of the FTIP without having to process an amendment. This amendment changes the Highway Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program (HBRRP) to the Highway Bridge Program (HBP). In addition, this amendment adds the following fund types: Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS and SR2S) for both Federal and State Programs; High Risk Rural Roads (HR3); and the Section 130 Rail Program fund type.

Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination - The purpose of this amendment is to include the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination that was prepared for the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan to ensure consistency between the RTP and the FTIP. All projects in the 2009 FTIP are specifically identified in the 2008 RTP.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff is requesting the committee support staff's recommendation to the BCAG Board to approve Amendment #01 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

Key Staff: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager
Jim Peplow, Senior Transit Planner



BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee

Item # 7 Information

Date: October 31, 2008

CALTRANS BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNT (BTA) - CALL FOR PROJECTS

PREPARED BY: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

ISSUE: Bicycle Transportation Account grant applications are due to Caltrans by December 1, 2008 for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

DISCUSSION: Caltrans anticipates an appropriation of \$7.2 million for the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA). Cities and counties are eligible to apply for the BTA funds. BTA- provides state funds for city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. To be eligible for BTA funds, a city or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that complies with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2 and the following:

1. The governing body of a city or county must adopt the BTP by resolution or certify that it is current and complies with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2.
2. The city or county must submit the BTP to the appropriate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for review and approval for compliance with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2 and the regional transportation plan (RTP).
3. Following regional approval, the city or county must submit the BTP, the resolution adopting the BTP, and the letter of approval from the MPO/RTPA to the Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit (BFU) for review and approval.
4. BTP adoption establishes eligibility for five consecutive BTA funding cycles. Example: BTPs adopted in 2008 and submitted December 1, 2008; with an application for 2009/2010 BTA funding would establish eligibility for state fiscal years 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, and 2013/2014. The state fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.
5. Projects not identified in the local agency's BTP will not be eligible for BTA funds.

The following is a link to the NOFA website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bta/btawebPage.htm>

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information.

Key Staff: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager



BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee

Item # 8 Information

Date: October 31, 2008

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PROCESS FOR 2008/09 – PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

PREPARED BY: Kristy Bonnifet, Assistant Planner

ISSUE: As the administrator of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for Butte County, BCAG is responsible for performing the annual Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) process. This process requires at least one public hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments on unmet transit needs that may exist within the jurisdiction.

DISCUSSION: In Butte County the UTN process entails a comprehensive public outreach program and series of open house style meetings throughout the county, culminating with a public hearing before the BCAG Board of Directors, to obtain testimony on perceived unmet transit needs that may be reasonable to meet. The purpose of this process is to ensure that all unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet are met before funds are expended for non-transit uses, such as streets and roads.

Once the testimony is obtained, it is analyzed to determine if there are any transit needs that meet the adopted definitions of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet”. This analysis report, called the Transit Needs Assessment, is reviewed by the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), which provides a recommendation for Unmet Transit Needs Findings to the BCAG Board of Directors. If the Board determines there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, the affected jurisdiction must satisfy those needs before any TDA funds may be expended for non-transit purposes.

This year’s meetings will be held during the month of November. Attached is the Unmet Transit Needs Meetings Schedule which will be published in the local newspapers, posted on BCAG’s website and posted in each of the B-Line buses.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None, this item is provided for the group’s awareness.

Key Staff: Kristy Bonnifet, Assistant Planner
Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager



Is Transit Taking You Where You Need to Go?

Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is requesting comments from the public on unmet transit needs that may exist in the county. Members of the public are invited to submit comments by **mail, email, phone, fax, internet or in person** at one of the below meetings. All testimony received is given equal consideration.

Annual Unmet Transit Needs Meetings Schedule

- **Chico**
Thursday, November 6, 2008, **3:00 pm – 4:00 pm** ~ Butte County Library – Chico Branch, Conference Room ~ 1108 Sherman Avenue
- **Oroville**
Friday, November 7, 2008, **12:30 pm – 1:30 pm** ~ Butte County Public Health, Tahoe Room ~ 202 Mira Loma Drive
- **Gridley**
Friday, November 7, 2008, **2:00 pm – 3:00 pm** ~ Gridley City Hall, EOC Room (upstairs) ~ 685 Kentucky Street
- **Paradise**
Monday, November 10, 2008, **12:30 pm – 1:30 pm** ~ Paradise Town Hall, Rm #9 ~ 5555 Skyway
- **Butte County**
Thursday, December 11, 2008, **9:00 am** ~ Public Hearing held at regular meeting of BCAG, City of Chico Council Chambers ~ 421 Main Street

Please note that workshops will not end until all comments have been received – everyone present will get an opportunity to submit testimony.

If you have comments and are unable to attend, please contact BCAG:

Mail: Butte County Association of Governments, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terr., Ste 100, Chico, CA 95928

Email: kbonnifet@bcag.org

Phone: (530) 879-2468

Fax: (530) 891-2979

Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 11, 2008



BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee

Item # 9 Information

Date: October 31, 2008

BCAG TRANSIT UPDATE

PREPARED BY: Iván García, Programming Manager

DISCUSSION: The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Council with a B-Line Transit System update.

- Bus Stop Improvement Plan –BCAG is currently in negotiations with Stott Advertising Agency. It is anticipated new shelters will begin installation in the Spring of 2009. Approximately 50 new shelters will be installed over a five month period.
- BCAG Market Based Transit Plan – BCAG was awarded \$160,000 in Caltrans Grant Funds to develop the Transit Plan. Staff is currently developing a Request for Proposals and hopes to have the project underway by late December.
- New Paratransit Buses - 8 New paratransit vehicles have arrived and are near ready for service. In addition, BCAG has a pending grant with the California Transportation Commission for 6 additional paratransit vehicles. BCAG hopes to have the additional 6 vehicles by the Fall of 2009.
- Paratransit Fleet Electronic Fareboxes – BCAG intends to equip the paratransit fleet of vehicles with the same type of electronic fareboxes as fixed route in the 2008/09 fiscal year.
- GPS / AVL Transit Technologies – BCAG is in the process of researching Global Positioning Satellite / Automatic Vehicle Location technologies to equip the entire transit fleet. This will improve the day-to-day monitoring of the system operations and assist in using the transit in the event of a natural disaster.
- Safety and Security Cameras - BCAG received \$182,000 in Homeland Safety and Security funds to retrofit the existing transit fleet with surveillance cameras.
- Smart Card Implementation – BCAG has begun utilizing the “smart card” capabilities with the electronic farebox system on the fixed routes. The smart card is an electronic chip embedded in a credit card type of media. This allows individuals with dexterity issues and others the ability to not have to physically swipe other media or exchange money to board the bus. This is a “proximity” card, and therefore does not have to do much to register other than be near the sensor.

Key Staff: Jim Peplow, Senior Planner
Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager