



**Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2017**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

*Meeting Host:*  
*Fresno Council of Governments*

*Meeting Location:*  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721

*Teleconference Number: 1-712-432-1212*  
*Participant Code: 432-600-639*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Enclosure*

- |                                     |            |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. April 6, 2017 Directors' Meeting | T. Smalley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- |   |            |                                     |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality<br><i>Update and Discussion</i>   | R. Niblock |                                     |
| 3. Rural Transit Alternatives Study<br><i>Discuss ARB Pilot Project Proposal</i>  | C. Rodier  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee<br><i>a) Discuss Valley Voice D.C. 2017</i><br><i>b) Discuss RTP Cycle Timeline Proposed Change</i> | B. Kimball |                                     |
| 5. Regional Policy Council Meeting June 23, 2017<br><i>Discuss Meeting Logistics and Agenda Items</i>                                       | M. Sigala  |                                     |

Tulare County  
Association of  
Governments  
Ted Smalley- Chair

Merced County  
Association of  
Governments  
Marjie Kirn - Vice Chair

Fresno  
Council of  
Governments  
Tony Boren

Kern  
Council of  
Governments  
Ahron Hakimi

(559) 623-0450  
(559) 314-6015 (Fax)



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Kings County  
Association of  
Governments  
Terri King

Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission  
Patricia Taylor

San Joaquin  
Council of  
Governments  
Andrew Chesley

Stanislaus  
Council of  
Governments  
Rosa Park

210 N. Church St. Suite B.  
Visalia, CA 93291



**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

*The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. Written summaries of Informational Items are included in the agenda packet.*



- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 6. Caltrans Directors' Report                         | S. Ehlert /D. Agar |
| 7. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail                 | D. Leavitt         |
| 8. California High Speed Rail                         | D. Gomez           |
| 9. Goods Movement Planning                            | M. Sigala          |
| 10. Proposition 84/Blueprint/Greenprint               | M. Prince          |
| 11. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley | K. Biawogi         |
| 12. Regional Energy Planning                          | M. Sigala          |

**OTHER ITEMS**

13. Director Items

14. Public Presentations for Items Not on Agenda.

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes. The general public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.*

**ADJOURN MEETING.**

***Directors Only Session if Necessary***

**Next Directors' Meeting: Thursday, June 1, 2017 (Madera)**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations** The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies at (559) 266-6222, at least three days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the meeting.



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2017**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

ITEM 1

Meeting Location:  
 Fresno Council of Governments  
 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
 Fresno, CA 93721

Directors	MPOs
Andrew Chesley	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Tony Boren	Fresno Council of Governments
Ahron Hakimi (via ph)	Kern Council of Governments
Terri King	Kings County Association of Governments
Stacie Dabbs, Interim	Merced County Association of Governments
Rosa Park	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Patricia Taylor	Madera County Transportation Commission

*Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. February 2, 2017 Directors' Meeting**

T. Boren

There was a motion to approve the February 2, 2017 Directors Committee Minutes.

First Motion: Mr. Andrew Chesley  
 Second Motion: Ms. Rosa Park  
 No Nays  
 Motion Carried

Tulare County  
 Association of  
 Governments  
 Ted Smalley- Chair

Merced County  
 Association of  
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Stanislaus  
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**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- 2. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality** R. Niblock  
***Update and Discussion***

Mr. Ryan Niblock reiterated discussions from the March 23<sup>rd</sup> ARB board meeting on target setting in relation to SB-1. ARB board members mainly focused on the financial aspects, and recommended a forum to discuss transportation funding. ARB staff will be looking for more MPO staff to provide tests on how pricing will impact our region. Mr. Niblock reported the deadline for final target recommendation is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, the deadline for ARB scoping plan comments on the environmental analysis is April 10<sup>th</sup>. Further discussions on target setting followed.

- 3. Rural Transit Alternatives Study** C. Rodier  
***Receive Update from Caroline Rodier, UC Davis ITS, and Discuss Critical Next Steps***

Ms. Caroline Rodier and Ms. Laura Podolsky, UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, provided a project overview presentation on “Opportunities for Shared-Use Mobility Services for Rural Disadvantaged Communities in the San Joaquin Valley.” Ms. Rodier discussed project objectives and goals, findings related to shared-use mobility projects by locations, MPO priority projects and locations, and critical next steps. Further discussion on technical aspects, logistics, and available grant opportunities for the project ensued. Ms. Rodier recommended three potential areas to implement pilot programs.

There was a motion to approve three concept pilots.

First Motion:	Mr. Ahron Hakimi
Second Motion:	Mr. Andrew Chesley
No Nays	
Motion Carried	

- 4. MPO Planning Coordination and Planning Area Reform** S. Dabbs  
***Consider Approving Letter of Support for HR 1346***

Ms. Stacie Dabbs requested the Directors consider a joint letter of support for the house legislation.

There was a motion to write a joint letter of support.

First Motion:	Mr. Andrew Chesley
Second Motion:	Mr. Ahron Hakimi
No Nays	
Motion Carried	

- 5. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee** R. Phipps  
***a) Valley Voice Sacramento 2017, Follow Up Discussion***

Mr. Robert Phipps reiterated concerns, observations, and comments from lobbyist Mr. Gus Khouri following Sacramento Valley Voice trip. Recommendations included having greater participation and synergy among elected officials, a clear and definitive call-to-action for legislative delegation, and paring down the platform to a more manageable number of issues.

**b) Discuss Valley Voice D.C 2017**

To be more effective in terms of follow-ups and maintaining presence, Mr. Phipps presented the idea of splitting Valley Voice into two trips to each location per year as opposed to one. Further discussion on this recommendation followed but no action was taken.

**c) Discuss RTP Cycle Timeline Proposed Change**

Mr. Phipps reported that a revised letter of support incorporating comments received will be circulated.

**d) Discuss Proposed California Transportation Funding Package**

Mr. Phipps discussed the possible passing of SB-1.

**6. Valleywide Overall Work Program FY 2017-18**

M. Sigala

**a) Consider Approving OWP**

**b) Consider Approving Valleywide Coordinator Contract FY 2017-18**

Mr. Michael Sigala presented a revised overall work program and requested approval from Directors. Fresno and Merced Directors, as chairs, will be switched for the coming two years.

There was a motion to approve the OWP and Sigala, Inc Valleywide Coordinator Contract FY 2017-18.

First Motion:

Mr. Andrew Chesley

Second Motion:

Mr. Ahron Hakimi

No Nays

Motion Carried

**7. San Joaquin Valley Annual Policy Conference 2017**

B. Veenendaal

**Post Conference Discussion**

Ms. Brenda Veenendaal provided a recap of the policy conference. The conference had a peak of 156 attendees, 20 sponsors, and \$21k in sponsorships. Fresno COG contributed \$15k, which allowed the conference to break even financially. Overall, feedback from the conference have been positive. StanCOG will host the next conference. Discussions circulating around the possibility of standardizing the logistics and planning of future conferences followed.

**8. Community and Regional Planning Center at Fresno State**

M. Dozier

**Receive Update**

Mr. Mike Dozier provided an update on resources available and responsibilities held at Fresno State's Community and Regional Planning Center. Mr. Dozier expressed concern over loss of funding, which may result in the possibility of losing the center. He requested approximately \$100k from the COGs to support the functions of the center. Directors will take the request into consideration and follow up with Mr. Dozier. Mr. Dozier is to submit a list of leveraging opportunities should the MPOs support the center.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**9. Caltrans Directors' Report**

S. Ehlert/D. Agar

**10. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail**

D. Leavitt

**11. CA High Speed Rail Authority**

D. Gomez

An open house in Fresno was held.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>12. Goods Movement Planning</b><br/>Moved to Directors Only session.</p> <p><b>13. Proposition 84/Blueprint/Greenprint</b><br/>Continuing to wrap up the project.</p> <p><b>14. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley</b></p> <p><b>15. Regional Energy Planning</b><br/>Continuing to wrap up the project.</p> | <p>M. Sigala</p> <p>M. Prince</p> <p>K. Biawogi</p> <p>M. Sigala</p> |
|---|--|

**OTHER ITEMS**

- 16. Director Items**
- 17. Public Presentations for Items not on Agenda**  
There were no public presentations.

**Meeting Adjourned at Approximately 12:50 P.M.**

**Next Directors' Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 in Fresno**

Appendix A – Additional Meeting Attendees

<b>In Attendance:</b>	
<b>Individual(s)</b>	<b>Organization(s)</b>
Tom Jordan	Valley Air District
Trai Her	Fresno Council of Governments
Kamara Biawogi	Fresno State Community & Economic Development
Kristine Cai	Fresno Council of Governments
Matt Fell	Merced County Association of Governments
Robert Phipps	Kern Council of Governments
Mike Dozier	Fresno State Community & Economic Development
Meg Prince	Fresno Council of Governments
Laura Podolsky	UC Davis ITS
Michael Sigala	Valleywide Coordinator, Sigala Inc
Brenda Veenendaal	Fresno Council of Governments
Ryan Niblock	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Gail Miller	Caltrans
Caroline Rodier	UC Davis-ITS
Amy Volz (ph)	Air Resource Board
Tom Dumas (ph)	Caltrans D10
Elisabeth Hahn (ph)	Stanislaus Council of Governments

## **Improving the Efficiency of Dial-a-Ride and Expanding Volunteer Driving Programs: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improving the Mobility in Rural Disadvantaged Areas in the San Joaquin Valley**

### **Problem**

The cost of providing Dial-a-Ride (DAR) service is very high because it serves large, sparsely populated areas. Taking one rider from their home to the doctor and back, for example, can cost \$80. Users must book rides in advance, which precludes use for urgent or unexpected trips, and reduces the frequency by which residents can access fixed route transit. When only one DAR van is available to service the ADA population in specific geographic area, cost reduction is very difficult, for example, by introducing ridesourcing (Uber or Lyft type services) for those who do not need wheelchair equipment.

Residents of rural areas in Riverbank (Stanislaus County) and Escalon, Lathrop, and Manteca (San Joaquin County) can only access fixed route transit via DAR service. Only one DAR van is available in rural Riverbank and the City of Escalon and only two vans serve the non-incorporated areas of San Joaquin County (rural Escalon, Lathrop, and Manteca). There is significant cross county travel in these areas. The cost of providing the DAR is about \$30 per one-way trip. These areas are relatively close to major destination areas (i.e., the cities of Modesto or Manteca) and the cost to provide a ridesourcing ride is about one third that of the DAR service. Because only one or less DAR van serves each area, there is no way to reduce costs by using a ridesourcing service to meet the travel needs of those who may not need specially equipped vehicles for their travel. To remain ADA compliant, at least one vehicle must be available to meet the needs of those who do need these specially equipped vehicles.

At the same time, there are two very successful and high demand volunteer transportation organizations the service the San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties (MOVES and Catholic Charities). Catholic Charities has limited funding to reimburse volunteers for mileage and thus this restricts their ability to recruit volunteers. Moreover, for both programs there are often empty seats in the volunteer driver vehicles because of the complexity of the manual dispatching challenge to match various passengers, volunteer drivers, and destinations.

### **Proposed Alternatives**

- (1) Pool the 2-3 dial-a-ride vans that serve Riverbank, the City of Escalon, and the unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County so that all vehicles are available to provide service in across the Riverbank-Escalon-Manteca-Lathrop area to major destinations.
- (2) Lease dynamic routing technology to optimize the efficiency of pick-up and delivery of passengers across the area. This technology (e.g., RideCell) uses historical and current passenger travel demand to dynamically schedule routes to maximize passengers loads and minimize travel distances. This technology may enable the retirement of one or more vehicles.
- (3) Lease one or more electric van for paratransit and volunteer ride services service. (this is new)
- (4) Expand volunteer driving programs, for example, MOVES and Catholic Charities, which are active in these areas, by taking advantage of existing applications to reimburse drivers' per mile cost of travel (\$0.54 federal reimbursement rate) (for example, Waze carpool application). Additional funding could be set aside to reimburse volunteer drivers. MOVES is not currently restricted by funding levels but Catholic Charities is restricted.
- (5) Examine the potential to integrate the volunteer driving program with the DAR dynamic routing technology program to fill empty seats, reduce costs, and expand access.

### **Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities**

- (1) Transit Agencies (SJRTD, SRT, and City of Escalon): (a) purchase and coordinate use of dynamic routing technology, (b) purchase and operate one or more electric van, (c) coordinate respective DAR vehicles to meet demand across jurisdictions, and (d) explore additional route efficiencies through collaboration.

- (2) MPOs (SICOG and STANCOG) and Volunteer driving programs (MOVES and Catholic Charities): Work with MOVES and Catholic Charities to purchase and integrate application that automates payments to volunteer drivers and allows for volunteer drivers to connect with other passengers and fill empty car seats in the MOVES and Catholic Charities network. MPOs would administer the funds that would come from the ARB grant to reimburse drivers. We could purchase electric vans to replace existing vans for Catholic Charities.
- (3) Transit agencies, MPOs, and Volunteer driving programs: Work together to identify DAR trips that could be accommodated by the volunteer program and feasibility of integrating the volunteer driving program into the dynamic routing system operated by the transit agencies.
- (4) UC Davis: Provide assistance with program design and evaluation of program
- (5) Shared-Used Mobility Center: Lead the development of the business plan, assist with shared use mobility provider contracting, and assist with pilot implementation

**Examples:**

Southwest Transit in Minneapolis has purchased dynamic routing software from Ride Cell to operate its ADA compliant Dial-a-Ride service that feeds the fixed route transit in a low density suburban area. This program appears to be cost-effective.

Smart-phone application Waze pairs drivers and riders with similar destinations. Riders pay up to 54 cents per mile, which is paid to drivers after a fee is retained by Waze for providing the service. Available in San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Monterey. Could this program be adapted for use in volunteer driver programs?

There is also a volunteer driver program in Watertown, NY. They have developed an application similar to the application we envision in the project for their volunteer driver program. We are working to get an interview with them for the development of this proposal.



## **Expanding Low Emission Vehicle and First and Last Mile Transit Access in Rural Disadvantaged Areas of the San Joaquin Valley**

### **Location**

- Cutler, Dinuba, and Orosi, Tulare County
- Lamont, Kern County

### **Challenge**

- Access to existing transit service is limited when residents can only access transit stops by Dial-a-Ride (DAR) services because of limited service capacity and advanced reservations requirements (up to 5 days).
- DAR service is extremely expensive (upwards of \$100 per one-way trip).
- Moreover, DAR services to the general population is provided by large high-emitting vans that can transport wheelchair equipment for the disabled and meet ADA requirements.

### **Concept:**

- Carsharing vehicles (BEV or plug-in) will be located in affordable housing developments in the pilot communities.
- Renters can use these vehicles via subsidized carsharing membership.
- Renters will be recruited to join ridesourcing companies (Uber or Lyft) to provide subsidized first and last mile access to transit and/or direct destination access.

### **Goals:**

- Substitute low-emission ridesourcing vehicles for non-ADA use of DAR service via vans. In other words, reserve ADA van use for those who need the specific services provided.
- Increase transit use by improving the first and last mile access to transit.
- Reduce DAR service costs, which could ultimately be redirected to fund the on-going operation and expansion of the pilot.

### **Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities:**

- San Joaquin Valley Air District: Applicant, Administrator, and recharging infrastructure
- Transit Agencies (Tulare County Area Transit, TCaT, and Kern Transit) and Metropolitan Transportation Organizations (MPOs) (TCAG and Kern COG): For each pilot site need to (a) determine who will contract with carsharing organization and ridesourcing organization for provision of service and payment of subsidies and (b) provide the leadership to project partners to implement the pilot at your county location.
- Affordable Housing (Self-Help and Veterans): Support necessary to (a) install and operate infrastructure and carsharing services and (b) recruit users
- Need community based organization in both communities: Conduct engagement and recruitment activities to shape the ultimate pilot design and recruit participants
- Carsharing service and ridesourcing service (vetting these right now): Make service modifications to meet the needs of the pilot and provide service
- UC Davis: Overall program design and evaluation
- Shared-Use Mobility Center: Business plan, carsharing and ridesourcing contracting, and pilot implementation
- Michael Sigala Inc.: Administration and coordination

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – MAY 9, 2017



### **6. Caltrans Directors' Report**

**S. Ehlert/D. Agar**

Sharri Ehlert (District 6 Director) and Dennis T. Agar (District 10 Director), or their representatives, may be in attendance to provide an update and answer any questions.

### **7. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail**

**D. Leavitt**

Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives, or his representative may be in attendance to provide an update and answer any questions.

### **8. California High Speed Rail**

**D. Gomez**

Diana Gomez, Central Valley Regional Director, or her representative may be in attendance to provide an update and answer any questions.

### **9. San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Planning**

**M. Sigala**

- I-5/SR 99 Goods Movement Corridor Study – Work is ongoing with Cambridge Systematics. At this time, Task One - Existing and Future Conditions is complete. Task Two and Three - Strategic Programs and their Feasibility Assessment technical memo is complete. Task Four, the Impact Analysis of Strategic Programs is complete. The Demonstration Project, showcasing truck platooning and advanced technologies, cannot be completed by the contract deadline and we are in discussions with Caltrans and Cambridge regarding this. A final report is due from the consultants. All work and invoicing for this study needs to be complete by June 30, 2017, according to Caltrans.
- SJV Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan – Work is ongoing with Cambridge Systematics. At this time, the revised technical memos outlining Critical First-and-Last-Mile Connectors, Truck Parking and Routing, Priority Rural Corridors, and Freight Modeling is complete. A final report is due from the consultants.
- The last Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held April 27, 2017 at 10 am.
- We have asked the Consultant team to present of summary of work to date to the Directors at the June 1, 2017 meeting.
- Major deliverables and other information for both studies is posted on the sjvcog's website: [http://sjvcogs.org/valleywide\\_activities/good-movement/](http://sjvcogs.org/valleywide_activities/good-movement/)

### **10. Proposition 84/Blueprint/Greenprint**

**T. Herr**

**Prop 84 activities are complete. A final report/presentation will be made at the June 2017 Directors' meeting.**

For any questions regarding SCS Implementation activities, please contact Meg Prince at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 203 or via email at [mprince@fresnocog.org](mailto:mprince@fresnocog.org).

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – MAY 9, 2017



### **11. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**

***K. Biawogi***

Kamara Biawogi, Project Coordinator, may be in attendance to provide an update and answer any questions.

### **12. Regional Energy Planning**

***M. Sigala***

**Sustainable Energy Roadmap for the San Joaquin Valley** (Strategic Growth Council). Roadmap development with Valley jurisdictions is complete. To date, the cities of Visalia, Fresno, Avenal, Firebaugh, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, San Joaquin, Sanger, Kerman, Corcoran, Huron, McFarland and the Biola Community Services District participated in the program. The program seeks to develop and implement sustainable energy policy objectives participating jurisdictions would like to pursue. For more information, visit the Sustainable Energy Roadmap web page: <http://my.cleanenergyroadmap.com/partner/sanjoaquinvalley>

The final report and invoice has been submitted to the Strategic Growth Council for approval.