

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the April 12, 2006, Meeting

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A regularly scheduled meeting of the Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Richard S. Staub, Vice Chairperson Charles Des Jardins, and Members Shelly Aldean, Larry Hastings, Dennis Taylor, and Michael Zola

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Engineer Larry Werner, Senior Deputy District Attorney Michael Suglia, RTC Engineer Harvey Brotzman, Transportation/Transit Planner Michael Dulude, and Recording Secretary Katherine McLaughlin (BOS Recording 4/12/06 5:30:08)

**A. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM** - Chairperson Staub convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present although Member Holler was absent.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 1/11/06 (5:30:35)** - Member Des Jardins moved to approve as submitted. Member Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**C. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (5:31:01)** - None.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT (5:31:15)** - None.

**E. DISCLOSURES (5:31:48)** - None.

**F. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS - PRESENTATION BY THE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY REGARDING PLANNING ACTIVITIES AND EFFORTS WITHIN THE LAKE TAHOE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AREA (5:31:54)** - Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Deputy Director Carl Hasty referenced his one page report highlighting the planning activities and efforts of the Lake Tahoe MPO. (The Clerk did not have a copy.) He noted the challenges of the bi-state Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) and their local jurisdictions. The need to implement a program was stressed. There have been many planning efforts. TRPA is the planning agency. TTD as the authority to implement the plans. TTD, however, has never "gotten its own legs". The current transit services are bifurcated—the north shore covers Truckee, Squaw, the north end of the Lake and the south shore coordinates multiple small public and private transit services, e.g., Blue Go. There is no connection between the two. The Forest Service needs to have a role in helping create additional transit services. Service outside the basin is warranted. This includes to Carson City. They have planning funds, however, lack implementation funding. Efforts will be made to pursue a Federal funding source for this purpose. There are some funds available to assist with the current transit programs but none for additional programs. Justification for dealing with the Lake Tahoe clarity issues was provided. The road system's impact on the Lake was described. It requires a lot of infrastructure and funding to stabilize the slopes and keep the slopes' runoff from reaching the Lake. A funding source for additional infrastructure and maintenance of the current infrastructure is needed. Attempts to create this funding source including proposing a dedicated gas tax have been unsuccessful. He urged CAMPO to work with them in focusing on

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the Lake's clarity, its water quality, and providing a transit system. The Forest Service's ability to obtain funding through SAFETEA-LU makes it a viable partner in the effort.

Member Aldean explained for the record that Carson City recognizes the Lake as a valuable asset for tourism. Tourism is a very clean industry. Everyone in the industry recognizes the need to capitalize on new tourist dollars. Tahoe and the V&T Railroad are an integral part of the City's tourism plan. She questioned whether additional revenue sources have been developed for implementation of the TTD plan, acknowledged the controversy that these programs may encounter, and asked if local jurisdictions will have representatives on the committee(s) that will work to develop these programs. Mr. Hasty felt that having local participants on the committee(s) is important. The current consultant has been doing a lot of work on the transportation planning side of the issue. There is an economist involved with his team. The present effort is to create an awareness of the need, to map the need, and develop the type of advisory group that will be needed. He also explained the weekend population explosion that occurs at the Lake as a result of its tourism activities. This creates a need for transit services with linkages to Carson City and surrounding areas. For these reasons they must work with Carson City and local jurisdictions.

Member Des Jardins supported the need to work together regardless of the amount of Federal cooperation. He briefly noted his experience as a student at U.C. Davis and work on the impact transportation has on the Lake. The loss of the Lake will have a major impact on everyone. Mr. Hasty explained the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) which began 10 years ago. The 1997 Presidential forum was the political unveiling of the program. It had generated funding for the improvements. NDOT has done a good job with these funds and improved its highway system as have local governments, the State of Nevada, and the State of California. This progress is continuing. They have learned a lot from the efforts including things about the fine sediment found in the basin. It creates more challenges when designing a project. Progress has been good. The desire is to sustain that ability and maintain those improvements. This is where the gap in the program has been encountered. They believe that the public will support the effort.

Discussion between Mr. Hasty and Member Hastings noted that 2/3rds of the Lake is located in California and 1/3rd is in Nevada. The majority of the large developments surrounding the Lake are located in California. Discussions have been held with all of the local elected representatives on both the MPO and TRPA Governing Boards. They have received positive support from these individuals. Efforts are now underway to take the program to the local jurisdictions in California. It must be a bi-state approach. Therefore, representatives from both sides of the Lake will be on the committee(s).

Mr. Hasty then explained that additional multi-modal transportation opportunities and adequate funding for them are needed at the Lake. The Forest Service must be included in the planning. There are bicycle trails at various locations surrounding the lake, however, they lack connectivity. The highways lack adequate bicycle lanes. They may need to construct a separate lane/roadway for bicycles and pedestrian usage. This roadway will also need funding for maintenance. They are willing to consider auto free zones, limiting access to the basin, parking locations, etc., due to the housing and residential patterns at the Lake. This pattern is created by the high cost of housing at the Lake and the need for the work force to reside elsewhere and commute to work. They need to work together to resolve these interdependent issues. For this reason their

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transportation program must be designed to address a broad spectrum of transit issues covering the entire Lake in addition to providing a funding source for its implementation.

Mr. Hasty then explained for Member Zola that Federal funding has been obtained for buses and their replacements. He also indicated that funding has been provided for transit planning regarding the ability to use ferry services. A funding source for operating the buses needs to be found. He did not believe that the Feds will provide funding for this purpose. Mr. Hasty then explained that the plan is to develop a program within the calendar year. At the end of the year he will know if the program is viable and supported by the political jurisdictions. At that time the options and the meaning for everyone who is involved will be known. He acknowledged that the program is in its infancy due to the lack of knowledge and awareness of the effort. They have almost finished this educational effort. They will then establish the committee(s) and find/develop potential funding sources. An inventory of the capital infrastructure is now being developed. They have an idea of the amount of transit operating funds that are needed. These items should be finished within two months.

Chairperson Staub noted the magnitude of the job and its challenges. He also noted that Mr. Hasty has been in the business for a longer period of time than CAMPO, however, CAMPO has a bus service operating. He thanked him for the information. Public comments were solicited but none were given. No formal action was required or taken regarding any of these issues.

Member Aldean introduced TRPA Principal Transportation Program Manager Nick Haven. Mr. Haven looked forward to working with the MPO Members.

**G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (NON-ACTION ITEMS) (5:53:37)**

**G-1. STAFF COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS** - Transportation/Transit Planner Michael Dulude distributed to the Board and Clerk and highlighted a flyer on an Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations 2006 Annual Conference. (A copy is in the file.) Board Members interested in attending the conference were asked to contact staff. Mr. Werner indicated that funding is available for the Members to attend the conference. Mr. Dulude and City Engineer Werner explained that the Transportation Manager and Mr. Dulude will be attending this conference. No formal action on these items were taken or required.

**G-2. PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON APRIL 19, 2006 (RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>) FOR NORTH STEWART STREET EXTENSION PROJECT (5:55:36)** - Transportation/Transit Planner Dulude explained that this item should be discussed by the RTC. No formal action was taken or required.

**H. ADJOURNMENT (5:55:48)** - Member Aldean moved to adjourn and invited Member Taylor to stay for the following RTC items regarding the PRIDE and JAC transit programs. She indicated that he will not be voting on these items. Member Taylor agreed to remain. Members Des Jardins and Hastings seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Chairperson Staub adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

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A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours

The Minutes of the April 12, 2006, Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting

ARE SO APPROVED ON June 14, 2006.

/s/  
Richard S. Staub, Chairperson