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# A G E N D A

Wednesday, May 25, 2005  
10:45 am

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
175 Fulweiler Avenue  
Auburn, California 95603

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes: April 6, 2005 Action  
Pg. 1
- C. Agenda Review
- D. Public Comment
- CLOSED SESSION:** This closed session is being held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 – Consideration of Potential Litigation
- E. Contract Award for Toll Road Concept Feasibility Study for the Placer Parkway Action  
Pg. 3
- F. Federal Environmental Consulting Services for Placer Parkway Action  
Pg. 4
- G. Executive Director's Report
- H. Board Direction to Staff
- I. Informational Items Info  
Pg. 5
  - 1) Technical Advisory Committee Minutes: May 10, 2005
  - 2) Status Report: Placer Parkway Corridor Preservation Project and Tier 1 EIS/EIR

**SOUTH PLACER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
April 6, 2005**

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The South Placer Regional Transportation Authority met on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at 10:45 a.m. at the Placer County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, California.

**ATTENDANCE:** Peter Hill                      Celia McAdam  
Rocky Rockholm                      Cynthia Page  
Primo Santini                      Stan Tidman  
Bill Santucci

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Hill and second by Rockholm, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 1, 2005 meeting as submitted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR TOLL ROAD CONCEPT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PLACER PARKWAY**

Celia McAdam stated that, during development of the concept for the Placer Parkway in 1999, it was envisioned to use traditional funding strategies. Economics have changed dramatically since then, and STIP funds have been diverted. Staff is looking at more creative financing strategies for transportation projects. At the direction of the SPRTA TAC, an Request for Proposal (RFP) has been developed for a toll road feasibility study for the Placer Parkway. The study would determine if there is a market and an interest in financing this facility with a toll road. Ms. McAdam would like to add an additional task to the RFP to gather information on development of an implementation plan. Upon motion by Santini and second by Rockholm, the Board approved the issuance of the RFP.

**LETTER OF TASK AGREEMENT FOR COST UPDATE FOR SIERRA COLLEGE BOULEVARD**

Staff is requesting approval of a letter of task agreement with Fehr & Peers to estimate construction costs for the widening of Sierra College Boulevard between SR 193 and the Sacramento/Placer County line. Upon motion by Rockholm and second by Santini, the Board approved such letter of task agreement.

**LETTER OF TASK AGREEMENT FOR TRAFFIC MODELING UPDATE**

Staff is requesting a letter of task agreement in the amount of \$30,000 with Fehr & Peers to update the SPRTA comprehensive fee program. This modeling work is within the \$95,000 budgeted for FY 2004/05. Upon motion by Hill and second by Rockholm, the Board approved the aforementioned letter of task agreement with Fehr & Peers.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND AIR QUALITY MITIGATION FEE ALLOCATION REQUEST FOR LINCOLN BYPASS**

In August, 2004, the Board approved \$500,000 towards embankment work between Industrial Blvd and the South Ingram Slough for the Lincoln Bypass project. An

additional \$786,111 is being requested to complete this effort. The SPRTA TAC has reviewed this request and recommends approval.

Carl Walker from the City of Lincoln stated that by doing this work at this time, the City saved approximately \$825,000, possibly \$1 million. He also acknowledged the cooperation of the TAC members. Upon motion by Santini and second by Hill, the Board allocated \$786,111 of Regional Transportation and Air Quality Mitigation Fees to the Lincoln Bypass for embankment work.

**PLACER PARKWAY CORRIDOR PRESERVATION: CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL ALIGNMENTS**

Celia McAdam stated that this is a continuation of the agenda item considered by the Board at last month's meeting. At that time, four alternatives were brought forward for inclusion in the environmental document. A local landowner requested that two additional alignments be considered. The Board decided to include the two additional alternatives for study with the property owners paying for the additional work, specifically directing staff not to begin the additional efforts until an agreement was signed. At the March meeting, staff estimated the work would cost approximately \$50,000. In developing a specific estimate with the consultant including SPRTA staff time for additional outreach, the estimate came in at \$67,419 and a contract has not been agreed upon between SPRTA and the property owner.

Staff presented the Board with five alternatives in order to proceed. Celia McAdam stressed the importance of moving forward with whatever option the Board decides upon, as time is of the essence due to funding timelines. Staff's recommendation is for the property owners to pay for \$40,000 of the additional consulting work plus half of the amount over \$40,000, with the County paying the other half of the amount over \$40,000.

Each Board member shared thoughts on the two new alignments, the previous alternatives screening process, the importance of the proposed university, and funding options. Marcus Lo Duca, a representative for the proposed De La Salle Specific Plan, outlined their willingness to pay up to \$50,000 for the required work. Tim Hackworth, Placer County Director of Public Works, requested that the County's contribution for the work be capped at \$10,000.

Upon a motion by Hill and second by Santini, the Board agreed to the property owners paying \$50,000 for the additional work, Placer County contributing \$10,000, and SPRTA paying any remaining costs.

Meeting adjourned.

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Celia McAdam  
Executive Director

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Bill Santucci, Chair



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**TO: Board of Directors**

**DATE: May 11, 2005**

**FROM: Celia McAdam, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT AWARD FOR TOLL ROAD CONCEPT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PLACER PARKWAY**

**Action Requested**

Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and sign a contract for a Toll Road Feasibility Study for the Placer Parkway with HDR/HLB Decision Economics in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

**Background**

At the direction of the Board in April, SPRTA released a Request for Proposal for a Toll Road Feasibility Study for the Placer Parkway. Proposals were due on May 9, 2005.

The purpose of this study will be to determine, on a very preliminary basis, whether the Placer Parkway has any potential attraction to investors as a toll road. This information will provide some actual facts and figures to determine if there is merit to pursuing this idea further.

**Discussion**

Three firms provided proposals for the Toll Road Feasibility Study. A committee of three members authorized by the SPRTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and ranked the three proposals, and have recommended HDR/HLB Decision Economics as the preferred bidder.

The HDR/HLB Decision Economics proposal was ranked highest because of their superior understanding of the study requirements, extensive experience with transportation economics and bonding/investment, and ability to meet schedule needs. Of bonus benefit is their location in the Sacramento area. Other proposals were provided by some exceptionally competent teams, but were judged to be less responsive to the specific needs of the study.

CM:ss



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**TO: Board of Directors**

**DATE: May 11, 2005**

**FROM: Celia McAdam, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PLACER PARKWAY**

**Action Requested**

Join with the City of Lincoln and/or other jurisdictions in a Request for Proposal for consulting services to help expedite the federal environmental process for the Placer Parkway.

**Background**

The Federal environmental process is immensely complex. While the FHWA, staff, and environmental consultants are committed to meet each and every requirement of the federal regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these requirements are often convoluted and contradictory. At worst, they are capriciously applied or blatantly unreasonable. There are decision making hierarchies, personalities, lack of staffing, and other issues that are not specifically “environmental” but play a huge role in the approval process. As a result, even with the most diligent staff efforts, progress can be hampered by issues outside of our knowledge or control.

**Discussion**

Some of the lessons learned on the environmental process for the Lincoln Bypass have indicated that early intervention at a higher decision making level can be valuable. By enlisting the expertise of firms skilled in the intricacies of the federal decision making hierarchy, we can make sure our efforts are most effective.

The City of Lincoln is currently pursuing the idea of hiring a firm to help expedite federal environmental clearances for their new General Plan. It is likely that an economy of scale for these services might be available by joining in with the City of Lincoln on a Request for Proposal. Other jurisdictions may also be interested in joining this effort to deal with projects within their areas facing the same federal regulatory challenges.

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**SOUTH PLACER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2005**

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ATTENDANCE: Carl Walker, City of Lincoln  
Rick Dondro, Placer County Public Works  
Larry Wing, City of Rocklin  
Rob Jensen, City of Roseville  
Bob Grandy, Fehr & Peers  
Brad Lane, Fehr & Peers  
Ron Milam, Fehr & Peers

Celia McAdam, PCTPA  
Cynthia Page, PCTPA  
Stan Tidman, PCTPA

**Bus Rapid Transit Presentation**

Bob Grandy and Ron Milam from Fehr & Peers distributed a Conceptual Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plan for South Placer County report they wrote under contract with Placer County. Maps included in the plan showed proposed BRT stations throughout planned developments in South Placer County. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance to the County and developers about land use and station requirements for a future BRT system. This information will be useful while developing specific plans in this area and identifying potential alignments of new roadways. An outline was provided for Phase II of this effort to include specifics on transit stations, transit route alignment, technology options, cost estimates, funding sources, and institutional arrangements.

Rick Dondro stated that the County is working with the developers of the Vineyards project to preserve right-of-way to support both BRT and regular fixed route transit systems. This way, the transportation plan is driving the land use planning, rather than vice versa.

The next phase of the Bus Rapid Transit study would be to identify transit stations and transit route alignment, at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Further phases would look at technical and engineering issues, funding, operations, and institutional arrangements, with a cost of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

After discussion, the TAC considered a motion from Rick Dondro to proceed with a contract for the stations and route alignment study. Carl Walker and Larry Wing wanted to defer a recommendation until they could get more information and consult with their jurisdiction. The TAC decided to continue this item to the June meeting.

**Comprehensive Free Program Update Status**

Alan Telford and Brad Lang from Fehr & Peers distributed a memo and spreadsheet showing the land use data they have been working on in their update of the model. They asked TAC members to review this information. They need to meet further with the City of Lincoln on their projections on the Villages project. They will also revise the Curry Creek numbers to 15,000 per direction from Rick Dondro.

### **Placer Parkway Issues**

The SPRTA Board will meet in closed session prior to the Board meeting to meet with SPRTA legal counsel about potential litigation on the environmental process. We are still on schedule for Board action in August for the two additional alternatives.

Staff will be proposing to the SPRTA Board that we participate in a multi-jurisdictional RFP for federal environmental consulting services to expedite agreements with federal regulatory agencies on the Placer Parkway. The City of Lincoln has already begun work on this effort for their General Plan update. Both Roseville and Placer County expressed some interest in using such consulting services for their individual jurisdictions. Assuming Board approval of this action, Celia McAdam will send out the RFP for the individual jurisdictions to review.

Three proposals were received for the Toll Road Feasibility Study contract. Ms. McAdam requested volunteers for review of the proposals. Rick Dondro offered to sit on the panel along with Celia McAdam and Stan Tidman. The TAC agreed to support the selection made by the panel.

### **Allocation Request for Roseville Transit -- \$1,125,000**

A letter from the City of Roseville requesting SPRTA funds in the amount of \$1,125,000 for transit capital equipment was distributed to TAC members. Originally, this request was for alternative fuel buses, but the City has since decided to go with diesel vehicles which would reduce the amount required significantly. Celia McAdam noted that \$7 million was set aside for commuter bus and rail projects. However, no expenditures for transit projects were submitted by the City of Roseville for the current cash flow plan. Ms. McAdam requested that each of the jurisdictions look at the cash flow plan for the next five years and work towards a comprehensive update for all projects. In addition, because the transit and rail funds were not designated for specific projects or jurisdictions, she suggested we start work on a plan for distributing transit and rail funds at the next TAC meeting.

Meeting adjourned.



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**TO: Board of Directors and Sutter County Board of Supervisors**                      **DATE: May 11, 2005**

**FROM: Stan Tidman, Senior Planner**

**SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT: PLACER PARKWAY CORRIDOR PRESERVATION PROJECT & TIER 1 EIS/EIR**

**Action Requested**

None. For information only.

**Discussion**

**Project Management.**

- Throughout April and May, PCTPA staff attended several Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) – Interagency Working Group meetings. In October 2004, the SPRTA Board directed the staff to develop a draft PCCP MOU with Placer County and bring it back to the Board for consideration. Attendance at these meetings is to more fully define SPRTA’s role as a PCCP participating agency, to have the Placer Parkway considered as a covered activity, and to determine immediate/direct vs. long-term/implementation costs. At this time, it is anticipated that the Parkway, via the PCCP, would meet the requirements for federal and State endangered species acts. The PCCP would address the Parkway’s direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts as well as mitigation requirements.

On May 5, the staff prepared comments to an ‘agency review draft’ of the PCCP. A number of issues still need to be reviewed before bringing this item back to the SPRTA Board for action. These issues include Lead Agency status for corridor preservation vs. construction/operation, corridor alternatives impact analysis, costs, and implementation.

- On April 7, PCTPA staff and URS staff meet to review adjustments to the contract’s work plan and budget. The original work plan recognized that various tasks could not be specifically scoped or finally budgeted until there was more certainty. For example, because the Tier 1 EIS/EIR is a relatively new, untried process in northern California, the project team expected FHWA guidance at various times, which would require work plan amendments. The scope of work would not change – only the level of detail.

The proposed adjustments would eliminate or re-scope original project tasks and new ones identified. The rights-of-entry letters task would be eliminated. Additional work was required for the data collection and GIS database task (more resource maps, expanded study area – south of Baseline, farm operations map, specific plan developer coordination). The public outreach program (specifically advisory committee meetings, newsletters, and mailing list) increased in scope. The extent of early coordination with federal resource agencies and the modified NEPA/404 MOU were not anticipated. And, a new task – early mitigation and corridor acquisition planning, was added.

The project is funded for \$4.7 million. The original scope of work is for \$3.5 million. Adjustments would add approximately \$500,000 to this. Additional funding may be required to complete the work.

- On April 13, the project team met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff for a project orientation and summary of the modified NEPA/404 process.
- On April 16, interagency meeting #11 was held. Its purpose was to recap Purpose & Need Statement concurrence and to continue discussion on corridor alternatives screening criteria. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended focusing on Section 404. Joanne Koegel (Koegel & Associates) facilitated the meeting. She introduced ideas to improve meetings and decision-making. A follow-up screening criteria meeting was scheduled for May 18.

#### Alternatives

- At the April 6 SPRTA Board meeting, the Board resolved funding issues to complete the screening of two more alignments.
- In mid-April, Foothill Associates assembled the data sets used for the two alignment analysis and provided them to URS. URS is reviewing this work to assure common data and methodologies. Over the next several weeks, the project team will:
  - Complete the screening analysis
  - Conduct meetings with the City of Roseville and Placer County
  - Complete the screening evaluation summary report with recommendations
  - Carryout a public outreach program via the advisory committee and a public newsletter,