

Transportation Planning Workshop

April 2014

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# TCAG 101

The Many Faces of our Organization

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## Who Are We?

TCAG is an organization of 9 agencies

TCAG is governed by

- 5 County Supervisors
- 8 City Council Members
- 3 At Large Members



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## TCAG Core Functions

**Planning**

**Programming**

**Finance**

**Modeling**

## TCAG Roles



### What TCAG Does

The Tulare County Association of Governments is made up of nine member agencies (Tulare County and the eight cities) and provides transportation planning, programming, modeling and funding for the region. In addition to preparing the region's long-range transportation plan, TCAG approves the distribution of housing and assists in planning for transit, bicycle networks, clean air, and other collaborative projects. It includes the eight federal, state, and local roles listed below:

#### MPO

##### Metropolitan Planning Organization

An MPO is a federal designation for a policy-making body made up of local and transportation agencies. It is linked to a metropolitan area of over 50,000 people and is responsible for the distribution of federal transportation funds, as well as planning for transit, housing, air quality and modeling.

#### RTPA

##### Regional Transportation Planning Agency

An RTPA is a state designation for a policy-making body made up of local and transportation agencies. The RTPA administers the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan, the Regional Housing Needs Allocations, the Regional Bicycle Plan, bus service, unmet transit needs and Transit Development Plans.

#### COG

##### Council of Governments

A Council of Governments delivers a wide variety of federal, state and local programs. Through technical assistance and collaboration with local governments, COG's provide a regional perspective to support member agencies and activities. This includes transportation impact fees, lobbying, and mitigation banking.

#### TA

##### Transportation Authority

The Tulare County TA was created with the passage of Measure R, a sales tax designed to fund transportation projects in the region. The TA manages Measure R activity.



#### AVA

##### Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

The AVA is made up of local elected officials that oversee local efforts to abate abandoned vehicles. This includes collecting and distributing funds.



#### RDC

##### Regional Data Center

An RDC is a state designated center for handling and coordinating census activity. This includes providing data to interested agencies and tracking annual projections.



#### LC

##### Local Clearinghouse

An LC is a state designated center for handling state grants, which includes circulating notices and collecting comments, followed by reporting to the TCAG Board.



#### LAFCo

##### Local Agency Formation Commission

TCAG is contracted with LAFCo to provide staffing and facilities. LAFCo acts as a regional agency, but is not focused on transportation and has its own board and laws.



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# TCAG is Controlled by Many Groups

**Member Agencies:**

Tulare County  
City of Visalia  
City of Tulare  
City of Porterville  
City of Dinuba  
City of Lindsay  
City of Exeter  
City of Woodlake  
City of Farmersville



**TCAG**



**Federal  
Government**

**State  
Government**

## What Do We Do?

Plan and finance transportation projects to meet the needs of future growth in Tulare County:

- Highways and Roads
- Railroads
- Public Transit (Buses)
- Bicycle Paths
- Sidewalks and Trails
- Other Forms of Transportation

Work Collaboratively with Tulare County and its Cities on issues of mutual interest.

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## What Do We Do?

Help local jurisdictions meet a number of federal, state, regional and local regulations and requirements

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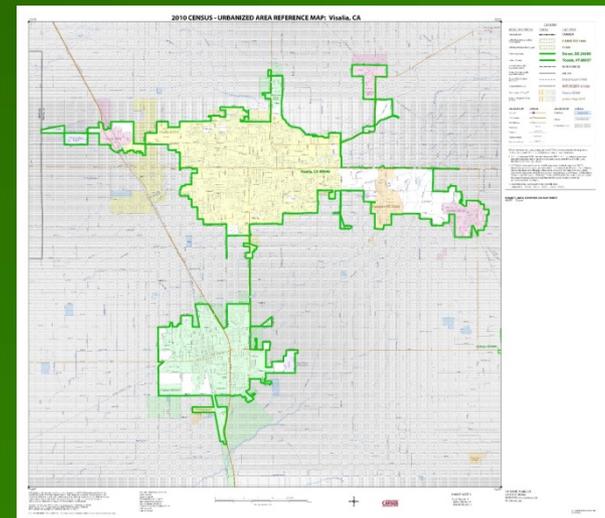
# Federal Designation

Metropolitan Planning Organization



## 1. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

- Federal Designation, TCAG elevated to a “Tier II” (urban area over 200,000)
- Exists under federal transportation authorization bill: MAP-21
- Board includes all members originally approved under JPA



## MPO Functions-RTP

- Regional Transportation Plan
  - Feds require some elements, expanded by state
  - Fed requirements:
    - Determine project demand over 20 years and estimate cost and funding sources. Must be “financially constrained”
    - Long and short range strategies to develop an integrated intermodal system for the movement of people and goods (except for air and water transportation)

## MPO Functions-RTP (cont.)

- More Federal Requirements:
  - Look at current operations and maintenance, and propose new capital projects based on future population and employment growth
  - Analyze Air Quality impacts of projects (cannot be a net increase in pollution)



## MPO Functions-RTP (cont.)

- Additional Federal RTP requirements:
  - Conform to:
    - Air Quality Plans if required
    - State Transportation Plans (California Transportation Plan (CTP))
- Update at least every 4 years for “non-attainment” areas.

## MPO Functions-RTP (cont.)

- **State RTP requirements**

California Transportation Commission (CTC) publishes the guidelines

- Analysis
- Model
- Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS)
- Regional Housing Needs Allocations
- Be Consistent with other Plans
- Use “Latest Planning Assumptions”

## MPO Functions- FTIP

- Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
- Must include all projects using Federal Funding for the next 4 years
- Update every 2 years, including many amendments
- Multiple funding sources for projects, and multiple phases

# MPO Functions-OWP

13  
14



TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

## OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

- Overall Work Program
  - Our annual budget
  - Includes detail on what we're using our funds for
  - Also includes many amendments

# MPO Functions-Conformity

- Air Quality Conformity
  - A technical process
    - Transportation Model has all road projects in it.
    - Projects population, driving patterns, etc.
    - Use those projections to see how much pollution we are emitting in the county in the future (Ozone and Particulate Matter).
    - Must show that all plans meet our emissions budgets, i.e. the maximum emissions we're allowed to produce.

## MPO Functions-Conformity (cont.)

- Pollutants
  - Ozone; a gas created by chemical reaction when certain pollutants interact with sunlight
  - Particulate Matter; small particles in the air that we inhale
  - The San Joaquin Valley is in “non-attainment” status for these two pollutants

### 2013 Conformity Results Summary -- TULARE

| Pollutant   | Scenario    | Emissions Total |                | DID YOU PASS? |     |
|---|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----|
|   |             | ROG (tons/day)  | NOx (tons/day) | ROG           | NOx |
| Ozone   | 2014 Budget | 6.7             | 13.2           |               |     |
|   | 2014        | 5.3             | 10.2           | YES           | YES |
|   | 2017 Budget | 5.8             | 10.1           |               |     |
|   | 2017        | 4.8             | 7.9            | YES           | YES |
|   | 2020 Budget | 5.3             | 8.1            |               |     |
|   | 2020        | 4.5             | 6.5            | YES           | YES |
|   | 2023 Budget | 4.9             | 6.2            |               |     |
|   | 2023        | 4.0             | 4.6            | YES           | YES |
|   | 2025        | 3.9             | 4.2            | YES           | YES |
|   | 2035        | 3.2             | 3.5            | YES           | YES |
| 1997 PM2.5 24-Hour & Annual Standards and 2006 24-Hour Standard | 2014 Budget | 0.5             | 13.8           |               |     |
|   | 2014        | 0.4             | 10.8           | YES           | YES |
|   | 2017 Budget | 0.5             | 13.8           |               |     |
|   | 2017        | 0.3             | 7.3            | YES           | YES |
|   | 2025 Budget | 0.5             | 13.8           |               |     |
|   | 2025        | 0.4             | 4.9            | YES           | YES |
|   | 2035 Budget | 0.5             | 13.8           |               |     |
|   | 2035        | 0.5             | 5.0            | YES           | YES |

# MPO Functions-Modeling

- Integrated into other activities (RTP, Conformity, Development Proposals)
- Have specific requirements as a Tier II MPO
- Required for RTP, FTIP, and Conformity

## MPO Functions-Transit

- Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan aka Coordinated Plan
  - Put together via outreach among public and private transit and human services agencies, along with the public
    - Required for certain types of grant funding (5300 series)

## MPO Partner Agencies

- Agencies we work with:
  - FHWA (Federal Highway Administration)
  - FTA (Federal Transit Administration)
  - EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
    - Federal and California Departments
  - Caltrans (State Department of Transportation); implements and/or administers many tasks for FHWA



## MPO Activities

- What can we do?
  - Basically anything related to transportation planning. Light Rail feasibility, RTP.
  - Planning only, no project implementation, including funding the first specific studies, Project Study Reports (PSRs), or funding design or construction.

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# Federal Designation Transportation Management Agency



## 2. Transportation Management Agency (TMA)

- Federally designated when the Visalia Urbanized Area exceeded 200,000 in population with a census.
- Congestion Management Plan (CMP) must be prepared. Shows congestion and puts together a plan to address it.
- Reviewed by FHWA

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# State Designation

Regional Transportation Planning Agency



## 3. Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA)

- State Designation
- The state adds, elaborates on or further implements some federal requirements
- Board positions are the same as those outlined in the JPA, including the ex-officio Caltrans position for District 6 Director.

## RTPA Functions-RHNA

- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
  - An RTPA requirement that the state has legally integrated into the RTP with SB375
  - State tells RTPA how many housing units and what type need to be accommodated over the next several years
  - RTPA assigns a number of units to each agency and they must accommodate them in their plans

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# RTPA Functions-Regional Bicycle Plan

- Regional Bicycle Plan
  - We prepare a regional plan
  - Agencies can adopt it and/or a more specific agency plan
  - Required to be eligible for some state bike grant funds

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# RTPA Functions-Transit

- Specifically, bus service.
- TCAG primarily allocates funds, programs projects, and coordinates regional activities and programs.



## RTPA Functions-Transit (cont.)

- Unmet needs
  - Hold a hearing every March to hear transit requests
  - TCAG Board determines which requests must be fulfilled
  - Agencies cannot use some state funds for street projects until their required needs are fulfilled

## RTPA Functions-Transit (cont.)

- Transit Development Plans (TDPs)
  - Examine existing service
  - Project future needs
  - Result in capital, service, and financial plans
  - Make recommendations for future service, needed coordination and projects

## RTPA Partner Agencies

- Includes a number of state agencies:
  - Caltrans
  - California Transportation Commission (CTC)
  - CalEPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
  - California Air Resources Board (ARB)
  - State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
  - Department of Finance (DOF)
  - And more...

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# Regional Designation

Council of Governments



## 4. Council of Governments (COG)

- Organization created with original JPA
- Agreement among all the agencies to work collaboratively
- Collect dues
- Currently fund things like: lobbying, film promotion, mitigation banking activities, and evaluating a regional transportation impact fee

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# Regional Designation Transportation Authority



## 5. Tulare County Transportation Authority (TCTA)

- Board initiated with the passage of Measure R in 2006
- Manages all things Measure R
- Board consists of only the elected officials (by law)
- Governed under state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) laws



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# Regional Designation

Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority



## 6. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Authority

- Board members include only elected officials
- Funding provided by a \$1 vehicle registration fee

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# State Designation

Local Clearinghouse



## 7. Local Clearinghouse

- State designation
- An agency applies for a grant and some require clearinghouse distribution.
- We circulate the grant request for comments to a specific group.
- Collect comments, if any, and notify grant holder and TCAG Board.
- Essentially, agencies are checking for conflicts.

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# State Designation

Regional Data Center



## 8. Regional Data Center

- State designation (State Data Center local affiliate)
- Primary data sources are Census and State Department of Finance (DOF)
- TCAG Board was 2010 Census Coordination Committee (CCC)

## Regional Data Center (cont.)

- Services include providing data requests to member agencies and the public.
- Present annual DOF population projections to the Board
  - Population projections used for many things:
    - Transportation Model
    - Sustainable Communities Strategy
    - Distribution of Measure R Funds
    - Etc.

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# Other Designation

Local Agency Formation Commission Staff



## 9. (Staff to) LAFCo

- Local Agency Formation Commission
- LAFCo has its own Board
- Is not a transportation function
- Is also a regional agency
- TCAG contracts with LAFCo to staff the agency, provide facilities, etc.

## What Makes TCAG So Successful?

- Positive and Professional Working Relationships with All Agencies, including State and Federal
- Positive Working Relationship with Elected Officials
- Very Competent and Helpful Staff
- Track Record of Success
- Track Record of Doing what we Say
- Measure R

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Questions?

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