



Meeting Date: 09 / 19 / 06

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Study Session

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson Agenda Item No. R-1

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature] City Attorney [Signature] Finance [Signature] Other (Specify) _____

DATE: September 7, 2006

TO: City Council

FROM: Ken Ortega [Signature]
Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Potential Merger of the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC).

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council consider and provide direction to the Public Works Director regarding the concept of merging the functions of VCOG into the VCTC.

DISCUSSION

In recent months there has been discussion regarding consolidating the functions of VCOG into the VCTC. This discussion has taken place as VCOG has been struggling to define a role for itself for some time.

Currently, VCOG and VCTC are separate agencies with separate boards. VCTC is comprised of seventeen board members (one elected official from each of the ten cities, the five County Supervisors, and two public members, one appointed by the Board of Supervisors and one by the City Managers Selection Committee) Councilmember Dean Maulhardt represents the City of Oxnard on VCTC. There are no alternates on the VCTC's Board. VCOG's Board is comprised of eleven members (one member from each of the ten cities and one member from the Board of Supervisors). Mayor Thomas E. Holden represents Oxnard on VCOG and Councilman Tim Flynn is the alternate.

Created by State legislation in 1988, VCTC establishes transportation policies and coordinates activities between the county, the cities, and all of the various transportation agencies and operators in Ventura County. VCOG is a voluntary joint powers authority that serves as the sub regional agency in Ventura County for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). SCAG is the largest regional planning agency in the nation (representing 18 million people) comprising the following six counties in Southern California: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.

Proponents of merging VCOG with VCTC argue that consolidation of the two agencies will lead to better coordination of land use and transportation planning. Those opposed to merging the agencies argue that VCTC should continue its focus on transportation, and that VCOG should exist as a separate agency. While VCTC has a clearly defined purpose and significant statutory funding responsibilities,

VCOG's functions (Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and coordinating solid waste issues) stem from its status as the sub regional agency for SCAG.

If Ventura County were a separate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and not a member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), combining the functions of VCTC and VCOG may make more sense. Breaking away from SCAG and becoming a separate MPO is a lengthy process, yet one which policymakers may choose to consider in the future.

The administrative committees of VCTC and VCOG met on May 4, 2006 to discuss these issues further and determined to recommend that the Boards of VCTC and VCOG meet jointly in September 2006 to discuss options. Four options were identified at that meeting and reviewed further at a second meeting of the administrative committees on June 22, 2006. The four options for consideration are:

1. VCOG and VCTC remain separate
2. VCOG and VCTC merge boards and operations
3. VCOG contracts with VCTC for administration only
4. VCOG reestablishes itself with full-time staff

While no other cities on Ventura County have taken a formal position on whether VCOG should merge with VCTC, the item was discussed under Council Business at the Camarillo City Council Meeting of March 8, 2006 where a majority of Councilmembers expressed their preference that VCOG and VCTC remain as separate agencies.

A joint meeting of Boardmembers of VCTC and VCOG will be held on September 28th, 2006 to determine whether or not to combine VCOG with VCTC, or pursue another course of action.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact at this time.

Attachment #1 – VCOG/VCTC Structural Options (from VCOG staff report for upcoming September 28, 2006 meeting).

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director
SUBJECT: Update on VCTC/VCOG Issues
DATE: September 5, 2006

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file this report.

Discussion: Attached are copies of the staff report and "pros and cons" attachment for the September 28, 2006 joint meeting of VCOG and VCTC.

Staff will walk through these documents and answer questions.

Attachments:
September 28, 2006 Joint Meeting of VCOG and VCTC Staff Report.

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**VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Boards of Directors

FROM: Ginger Gherardi, Executive Director
Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: VCTC/VCOG Structural Options

DATE: September 28, 2006

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Boards of Directors: 1) receive this report; 2) review the options presented regarding structural or agency management changes for VCTC or VCOG; 3) determine which option if any to pursue; 4) provide direction to staff as appropriate.

Discussion: Since July, 2005, the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) has been examining options for its structure and management. In the Fall of 2005, the VCOG Board of Directors decided to approach the Ventura County Transportation Commission Board of Directors (VCTC) to determine its willingness to discuss structural or agency management changes. The Chairs and Vice Chairs of VCTC and VCOG met on December 16, 2005 to discuss these issues and reported back to their Boards. Both agencies agreed to continue discussing these issues.

On May 4, 2006, the Administrative Committees of each Board met to discuss these issues further and decided at that meeting to recommend that the Boards of VCTC and VCOG meet jointly in September, 2006 to discuss various options. Specific options were identified at that meeting and further reviewed at a second meeting of the Administrative Committees on June 22, 2006.

From these meetings, four options were developed for consideration:

1. VCOG and VCTC Remain Separate
2. VCOG and VCTC Merge Boards and Operations
3. VCOG Contracts with VCTC for Administration Only
4. VCOG Reestablishes Itself with Full-Time Staff

For the purpose of this meeting tonight, options one through four are presented for consideration. If it is determined that the two agencies remain separate, then the VCOG Board of Directors would consider option four on their own.

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There is much history and background information associated with these options. To assist the Boards in their deliberations, staff is providing several documents as attachments to this report.

Staff recommends that the Boards consider these options, determine what option, if any, to pursue and to provide direction to staff.

Attachments

1. Pros and Cons of Each Option (developed by the two Administrative Committees in their discussions).
2. August 16, 2005 report to the VCOG Board that details VCOG history and initial discussion of these issues.
3. Minutes of December 16, 2005 meeting of VCTC/VCOG Chairs and Vice Chairs
4. March 3, 2006 report to VCOG Board that discusses governance models of other county transportation and planning agencies in California.
5. "Future of VCOG", May 19, 2001
6. VCOG Organizational Study and Regional Forum Notice, October 5, 2001
7. Joint Powers Agreement – Ventura Council of Governments
8. Government Code Section XXXXX – Authorizing Ventura County Transportation Commission

**PROS AND CONS
VCOG / VCTC OPTIONS**

Option #1 – VCOG and VCTC Remain Separate

PROS	CONS
Allows both organizations to focus on their existing core responsibilities.	Agencies continue to work on regional efforts separately, except where issues cross at SCAG
No impact on length of Governing Board meetings.	VCOG continues to struggle with resources and staffing.
Two elected officials from cities and all five County Supervisors continue to be engaged in regional planning.	No formal subregional connection between regional planning and transportation issues.

ISSUES:

- Are planning and transportation issues best served with two staffs working on regional issues?
- Are issues regarding planning and transportation so significant that two boards and two staffs are required to properly address them?
- Ventura County is a unique place and a unique structure of dealing with planning and transportation issues is appropriate.
- Allows more elected officials to be involved in regional issues.
- Takes advantage of expertise developed in various areas, ie., housing, emergency preparedness, animal control, solid waste, transportation, etc.
- Provides greater opportunity for coverage of regional issues at SCAG and its various committee/subregional meetings.
- No change in Board structure or bylaws required – citizen members can fully participate on VCTC. VCOG can retain one supervisor on that Board.
- VCOG will need to hire staff and/or reorganize to continue.

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Option #2 - VCOG and VCTC Merge Boards and Operations

PROS	CONS
One organization focuses on regional transportation and planning issues.	Focus on non-transportation regional issues may be diluted.
One set of staff provides greater ability to cover issues.	Governing Board meetings could grow longer because of larger portfolio of issues.
Identity of one agency to public for regional issues.	Board membership issues. Only one elected official from each City, public members and all five Board of Supervisors.
Governing Board may be required to use more advisory committees, which could give more elected officials and members of the public opportunity to participate.	Loss of identify of existing organizations could confuse public.

ISSUES:

- One agency (VCTC or VCOG) would be the “lead” agency acting as VCOG and VCTC in the same manner that VCTC now operates as the ALUC, SAFE, and CTSA.
- Merger of boards would require VCOG JPA Agreement to be amended with agreement of all ten cities and the Board of Supervisors.
- VCTC would be required to amend its bylaws to include VCOG as a standing Committee and to restrict its two citizen members from participating on or voting on VCOG issues.
- VCTC would need to hire an additional planner to deal with VCOG issues not paid for with transportation funds.
- Who would be voting members of VCTC Board of Directors?
- Cities may wish to change their representation on VCTC (requiring additional bylaw changes) but this may result in a loss of “expertise” on various regional issues of importance to the county and create turf issues within cities.
- Use of more “advisory” committees will greatly increase the administrative workload, perhaps requiring that more than one new employee be hired. Any decision made by these recommending agencies would need to be acted upon by the full Commission, also increasing the workload.
- Would identity as a “transportation” agency get diluted – there is a great deal of advertising for buses, carpools and trains and there is considerable name recognition among the general public.
- How would time of the VCTC Executive Director be allocated to VCOG activities?

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Option #3 – VCOG Contracts with VCTC for Administration Only

PROS	CONS
Professional and administrative staff available for administration of VCOG.	VCTC staff could encounter conflicts if staff time demands between VCOG and VCTC emerge.
Minimal negative disruption to existing operations of each agency.	Difficult balance of which agencies issues get priority when.
Focus of both Boards remain as is.	Issues on time and level of staff support for VCOG issues.

ISSUES:

- Would VCOG issues be lost with VCTC staff providing administration?.
- VCTC would need to hire an additional planner to deal with VCOG issues not paid for with transportation funds.
- How would time of the VCTC Executive Director be allocated to VCOG activities?
- Allows more elected officials to be involved in regional issues.
- Takes advantage of expertise developed in various areas, ie., housing, emergency preparedness, animal control, solid waste, transportation, etc.
- No change in VCTC Board structure or bylaws required – citizen members can fully participate on VCTC. VCOG can retain one supervisor on that Board.

Option #4 – VCOG Reestablishes Itself with Full-Time Staff

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