



Section Report

Central California Section

April 19, 2006 Meeting

Our April 19, 2006 meeting was held at the Grand Occasions in Fresno. The meeting was sponsored by TJKM Transportation Consultants.

Over 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent Tri Tip lunch buffet and two excellent speakers.

Technical Sessions

Our first speaker was Gary Kruger, P.E., Principal Associate of TJKM Transportation Consultants. Gary presented the findings and conclusions of the Fresno-Madera County Interchange Deficiency Study conducted from mid-2004 through 2005. Fifty-six interchanges were listed for analysis at the outset of the study. The consultant team of TJKM and HDR developed evaluation criteria to screen out interchanges with few, if any problems so that study resources could be better applied to the truly deficient locations. The initial screening resulted in 21 interchanges proposed for detailed analysis, and six more were added for a total of 27 interchanges. The detailed analysis included conceptual plans for small to major improvements. Interchange spacing, while an issue, is something that could not generally be resolved, because deletion of interchanges is a difficult issue. The study developed a \$200+ million improvements program, and included a "what-if" analysis of funding through traffic impact fees, CEQA actions, and assessment district financing. The study recommended a "Next Steps" program that is expected to be addressed in a Phase 2 study in the future.

Raffle

Raffle prizes were provided by TJKM Transportation Consultants, URS Corporation and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency.

Our second speaker was Ron Silva, CEO of Westar Transport. Ron shared with us his "Westar Transport Short Sea Shipping Vision: A National Water Highway System for the west Coast". Short Sea Shipping has the potential to remove thousands of trucks (big rigs) each day from I-5 and HWY 99.

Westar Transport proposes a National Water Highway System (NWHS) service for California and the West Coast. The proposed coastal shipping service consists of large Roll-On/Roll-Off (Ro-Ro)

ships servicing (Northern and Southern California, Portland and Seattle port terminals.) As well as Ro-Ro barges serving as feeders' to/from the ports of Oakland and LA/Long Beach providing port congestion relief The coastal Ro-Ro service would connect Northern California with the Pacific Northwest, and L.A/Long Beach with destinations further south to Mexico and North to Canada. The proposed service will move trucks from long-haul routes to local radiuses around the port terminals, and convert these trucks to run on clean-burning LNG or other alternative fuels. The proposed NWHS service will dramatically improve goods movement, and simultaneously

Generate jobs

- Increase mobility and relieve traffic congestion
- Improve air quality and protect public health
- Enhance public safety and port safety
- Improve quality of life for truck drivers and the general public
- Contribute national security by providing military utility
- Provide port congestion relief

For more information on Short Sea Shipping go to the WestarTransport Web Site at www.westartransport.com

Future Meetings

July 19, 2006 – Luncheon – Visalia

Sponsored by Citilabs

Using strategic model data for operational level analysis

Moving data from the travel demand model to HCM and Micro simulation

October 18th, 2006 - Fresno

Sponsored by PRISM Engineering

Roundabouts

Submitted by;

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