

Visalia City Council Agenda

For the special meeting of: MONDAY, December 14, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia, Visalia CA 93291

Mayor: Bob Link
Vice Mayor: Amy Shuklian
Council Member: Warren Gubler
Council Member: Mike Lane
Council Member: Steve Nelsen

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. If anyone desires discussion on any item on the Consent Calendar, please contact the City Clerk who will then request that Council make the item part of the regular agenda.

4:00 p.m. **BADGE PINNING CEREMONY** - newly promoted Police Sergeants: James Andrews, Damon Maurice, Chris McLain, Amy Watkins

4:05 p.m. **WORK SESSION AND ACTION ITEMS (as described)**
4:05 p.m.

Public Comment on Work Session and Closed Session Items

1. Authorization for City Manager to sign a joint letter with Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) and any other documents as needed to request and acquire funding from State Route 198 Widening Tulare/Kings project savings. **Receive public comment.**
2. Authorize the City Manager to approve a one-year Professional Services Agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates in the amount of \$89,000 for federal legislative services, effective January 1, 2010. **Receive public comment.**

The time listed for each work session item is an estimate of the time the Council will address that portion of the agenda. Members of the public should be aware that the estimated times may vary. Any items not completed prior to Closed Session may be continued to the evening session at the discretion of the Council.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

CLOSED SESSION

6:00 p.m. (Or, immediately following Work Session)

3. Public Employee Release/Discipline/Dismissal (G.C. 54961)
4. Public Employee Appointment (G.C. Section 54957)
Title: Police Chief
5. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation
Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9: two potential cases

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION MATTERS FINALIZED BETWEEN COUNCIL MEETINGS

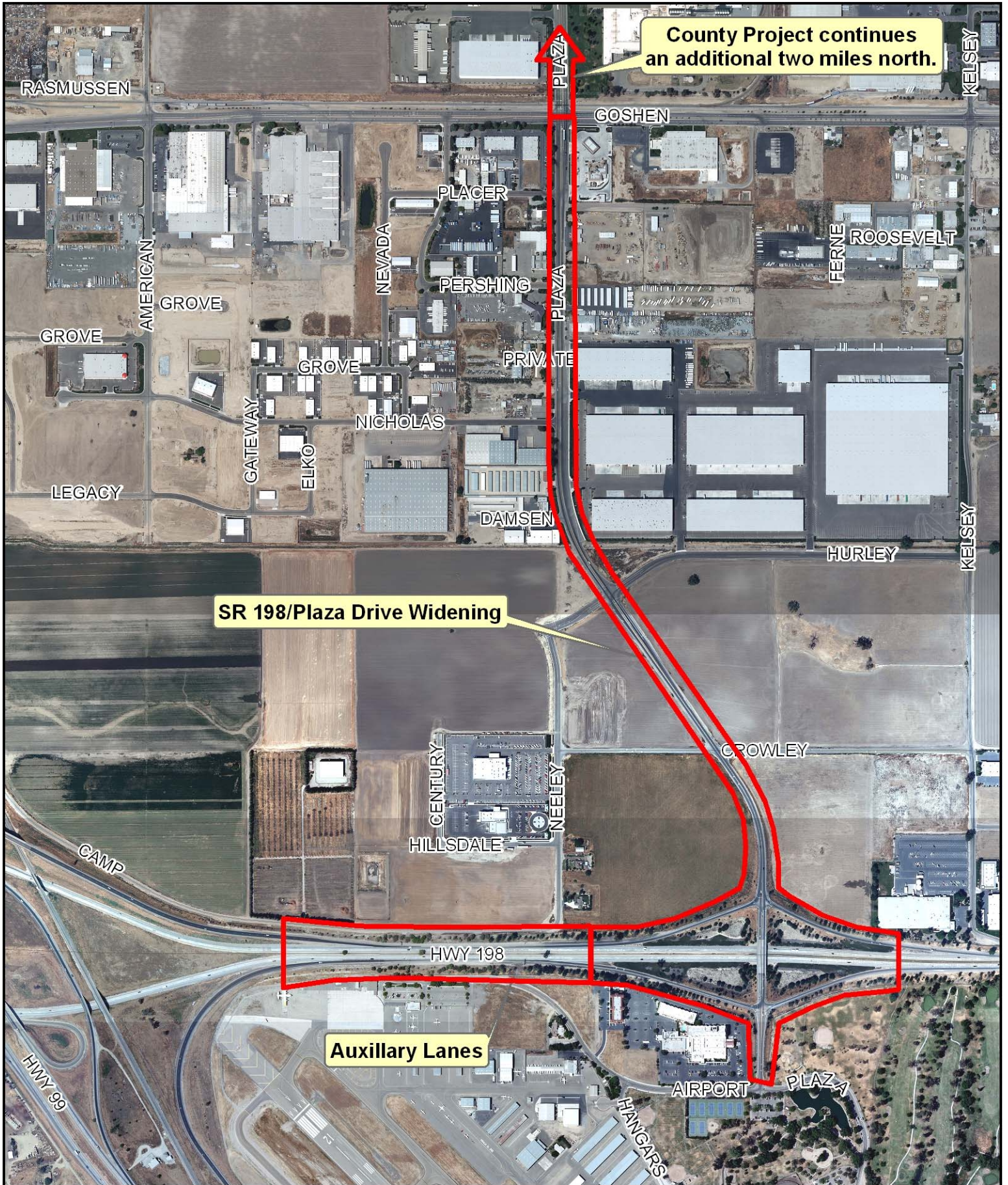
Upcoming Council Meetings

- Monday, December 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m. Work Session; Regular Session 7:00 p.m., Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia
- Monday, January 11, 2010, 4:00 p.m. Work Session; Special Meeting 7:00 p.m., Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia
- Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 4:00 p.m. Work Session; Regular Session 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 707 W.. Acequia

Note: Meeting dates/times are subject to change, check posted agenda for correct details.

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meetings call (559) 713-4512 48-hours in advance of the meeting. For Hearing-Impaired - Call (559) 713-4900 (TDD) 48-hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time to request signing services.

Any written materials relating to an item on this agenda submitted to the Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, 425 E. Oak Street, Visalia, CA 93291, during normal business hours.



County Project continues an additional two miles north.

SR 198/Plaza Drive Widening

Auxillary Lanes

SR 198/Plaza Drive Widening Project

N
1" = 800'

City of Visalia Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: December 14, 2009

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 1

Agenda Item Wording:

Authorization for the City Manager to sign a joint letter with Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) and any other documents as needed to request and acquire funding from State Route 198 Widening Tulare/Kings project savings

Deadline for Action: December 14, 2009

Submitting Department: Community Development - Engineering

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Chris Tavarez, Management Analyst – 713-4540
Adam Ennis, Engineering Services Manager – 713-4323

Department Recommendation:

Authorization for the City Manager to sign a joint letter with TCAG and any other documents as needed to request and acquire an allocation of as much funding as possible from State Route 198 Widening Tulare/Kings project savings.

Summary:

Cal Trans has recently awarded the bid to widen State Route 198 from two lanes to four lanes from Visalia to Hanford. The bid for the work came about \$26 million under budget. There is a regional effort underway to retain these savings for State Route 198 projects in Tulare and Kings County. This item requests authorization for the City Manager to send a letter requesting approximately \$8.5 million of these savings to be applied to SR 198/Plaza Drive Interchange Improvements.

Background:

The Engineering Division is requesting authorization for the City Manager to sign a joint letter with TCAG to request funding from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for projects in the Visalia area near State Route 198 and Plaza Drive.

TCAG and City staff have received information from Cal Trans about the *possibility* of Tulare County receiving funding from projected savings of approximately \$26 million from the State Route 198 project in between Tulare and Kings Counties. It is projected that Kings County could receive about \$18.3 million and Tulare County about \$8.5 million based on the portion of

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): 1

Review:

Dept. Head MO 12/10/09
(Initials & date required)

Finance N/A
City Atty N/A
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

the State Route 198 widening projects proportion in each County. The savings is due to the extraordinary economic climate in which transportation projects have seen bids well below engineer estimates.

This funding is from the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) and is limited for use along State Routes and able to go to construction by December 31, 2011. The City of Visalia has one project at SR 198 and Plaza Drive that fits these requirements for this funding. Priority of the funding will be focused on the project as follows 1) SR 198 Auxiliary Lane construction 2) Construction of SR 198/Plaza Drive Intersection Widening. City staff fully expects this project to be ready for construction by spring 2011; the Auxiliary Lane portion could be ready even earlier. This funding has a high chance of going outside of the region to higher density urban areas such as Los Angeles or the Bay Area, thus Staff believes it is important to work closely and immediately with TCAG for this funding to free up City funding and Tulare County Regional funding to become available for other projects within the City and County.

Estimates for this project are as follows:

Auxiliary Lanes - \$1 million

SR 198/Plaza Drive Overcrossing - \$24 million

It is believed that the greatest chance for funding will be for the costs of the Auxiliary Lanes to be fully covered by this potential funding (with no local funding requirement). If funding can be received in addition to the Auxiliary Lanes, the City of Visalia's local funding contribution will be directly reduced. Currently the gap in funding to be covered by local funding is approximately \$7.6m (\$2.8m Measure R Regional and \$4.8m in other City Local Funding). Any funding received from CMIA will reduce the amount of local funding (and regional funding) needed for this project which will greatly help the City in delivery of this project by freeing up local funding for other road projects in the City. Currently staff has projected the need to bond or borrow funds will be required for completion of SR 198/Plaza on schedule unless additional non local funding is acquired.

The final outcome of this request is uncertain and not expected to be know until February 2010 but staff of both agencies believes this funding would provide a much needed boost to free up local and regional funding from this project and promote the delivery of other projects throughout the City and County. Staff from both agencies are requesting for the TCAG Board and Visalia City Council to offer their support of this request and delegate authority for submission of a joint letter signed by the director/manager of each agency.

Time is of the essence, response to Cal Trans to request this funding is needed the week of December 14th.

Prior Council/Board Actions: None

Committee/Commission Review and Actions: None

Alternatives: None

Attachments: Aerial Map of Project Area

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected): I move that the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign a joint letter with TCAG and any other documents as needed for requesting as much CMIA funding as possible for SR 198/Plaza Drive Interchange Improvements.

Financial Impact

Funding Source:

Account Number:

Budget Recap:

Total Estimated cost:	\$ 0	New Revenue:	\$ 0
Amount Budgeted:	\$ 0	Lost Revenue:	\$
New funding required:	\$ 0	New Personnel:	\$
Council Policy Change:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u>		

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review:

Required? No
Review and Action: Prior:
Require:

NEPA Review:

Required? No
Review and Action: Prior:
Require:

Tracking Information:

n/a

Copies of this report have been provided to:

City of Visalia Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: December 14, 2009

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 2

Agenda Item Wording: Authorization for the City Manager to approve a one-year Professional Services Agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates in the amount of \$89,000 for federal legislative advocacy services, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Deadline for Action: December 14, 2009

Submitting Department: Administration

Contact Name and Phone Number: Mayor Bob Link and Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian

Department Recommendation: Mayor Bob Link and Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian recommend that the Visalia City Council authorize the City Manager to approve a one-year Professional Services Agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA) in the amount of \$89,000 for federal legislative advocacy services, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Summary: Based on the outcome of interviews with six federal lobbyist firms and videoconferences with the top two candidates, it is the recommendation of Mayor Bob Link, Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian that the City Council authorize the City Manager to approve a one-year Professional Services Agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates in the amount of \$89,000 for federal legislative advocacy services, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Background: Van Scoyoc Associates is a bi-partisan, full-service Federal Government affairs firm and the largest independent lobbying company in Washington, D.C. The firm, founded by Stu Van Scoyoc in 1990, provides Legislative and Executive Branch issue development, liaison, and advocacy for over 250 different clients. The firm's team for the City will be Associate Vice President Greg Burns as the lead and Government Relations Manager Laura Morgan. Assistant City Manager Mike Olmos and Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva have been assigned to work directly with the VSA staff on legislative matters.

Burns has 10 years experience, including seven as a lobbyist, specializing in representation of local governments and currently represents more than a dozen local governments, including the Cities of Manteca, Pismo Beach, Santa Maria, Del Norte County and Nipomo Community Services District. He lobbies Congress and the Executive Branch on issues such as appropriations, water resources, transportation, economic development, and law enforcement.

For action by:

City Council
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For placement on which agenda:

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Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): _____

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr SS
(Initials Required)

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Morgan has more than six years experience, specializing in appropriations, and is a former legislative staff member to Sen. Dianne Feinstein. She supports two other Vice Presidents with clients, including the Cities of Cathedral City, Dana Point, Long Beach, Stockton, Galt, Elk Grove, the Merced County Association of Governments and the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency.

The City's VSA team is well positioned to help City officials align its own priorities with Federal goals and objectives and develop strategies to achieve those objectives. The firm offers strategic intelligence, and will provide timely information on all legislative and budgetary issues of concern. Working with the California Congressional Delegation and their staff, Appropriations Committee staff, key authorizing committees, and officials at the Federal departments and agencies, they will emphasize the City's budget and policy priorities and, in that context, help shape its legislative strategy.

VSA will establish day-to-day contact with staff for Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as Representative Devin Nunes. Liaison services will be provided as needed to the Appropriations Committee and other committees to implement the City's legislative strategy. They will also reach out to other congressional offices in the State on issues of regional significance such as transportation, water resources, and economic development.

VSA's principals have extensive experience working with Executive Branch departments and agencies, and are adept at navigating through policy, budgetary, and legislative processes to secure grants and address changes in regulations. They can provide assistance in drafting legislation as needed and analyzing relevant Federal proposals, writing articles for publication, and preparing briefings and updates for dissemination to City officials.

VSA will work with the City to build and communicate local grass roots support for each project to demonstrate local needs and benefits. VSA will also work to mobilize the support of national coalitions, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, to advocate the City's interests and ensuring its inclusion in the broader efforts of these larger organizations.

With Council's approval, the VSA team will immediately undertake a comprehensive assessment of the City's agenda to build on its past Federal relations efforts. The City's agenda will include the use of VSA to advocate for funding and policy issues in the following areas: Transportation; Transit; Energy Conservation and Efficiency; Economic Development; Public Safety; Air Service; and issues related to the FEMA Flood Plain Maps.

With time of the essence and given that appropriation requests are anticipated to be due in early February, VSA will develop a well-thought-out legislative strategy which is key to capturing Federal funding. VSA will provide up-front counseling and work with staff to match City priorities with Federal funding opportunities, including identifying members of Congress to champion City projects, develop and cultivate relationships with Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representative Nunes, as well as key Congressional committees. VSA will work with the delegation to provide detailed information needed to support the City's appropriations requests.

Prior Council/Board Actions: Contract renewal on April 20, 2009, for continued federal legislative advocacy services by Akerman Senterfitt through no later than September 31, 2009

Committee/Commission Review and Actions: NA

Alternatives:

Attachments: Scope of Work Memorandum from Van Scoyoc Associates.

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected):

I move to authorize the City Manager to approve a one-year Professional Services Agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates in the amount of \$89,000 for federal legislative advocacy services, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review:

NEPA Review:

Tracking Information: *(Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date)*

Copies of this report have been provided to: