

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Minutes

Date: Friday, September 12, 2014
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending:

Renee Ramirez, City of Coalinga, Chair
Jack Castro, City of Huron
Ken McDonald, City of Firebaugh
David Elias, City of Fowler
Sue Bauch, City of Kingsburg
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley

Luis Patlan, City of Kerman
Ken Grey, City of Selma
Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota
Rob Woolley, City of Clovis
Brian Haddix, City of Sanger

Others attending – please see attachment

PRESENTATIONS

JOINT Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee

The TTC and the PAC will meet as a joint Committee to consider scheduled public presentations brought before the Committees. This portion of the meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

1. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

Michael Navarro, Caltrans gave an update at the meeting. A copy of the Caltrans Quarterly Report was included as an exhibit to this item. Mr. Navarro reminded the Committees about the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants and provided a handout.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committees.

2. California Highway Patrol – Litter Enforcement [Officer Johnny Fisher, CHP] [INFORMATION]

Lauren Dawson introduced Officer Fisher. Officer Fisher is the Central Division Public Information Officer for the California Highway Patrol. As part of Fresno COG's Highway Litter Cleanup work, Officer Fisher provided a short presentation on the Department's perspective on securing loads, litter, and how these violations impact traffic safety.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committees.

3. Zero Emissions Vehicle Readiness [Joseph Oldham, LGC] [INFORMATION]

Joseph Oldham, Local Government Commission, provided a short presentation on the San Joaquin Valley Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. This Plan, and associated documents, provide tools for cities and counties to use when updating parking and zoning policies, streamline permitting processes, and updating building codes in preparation for electric vehicle charging equipment. This information will be presented at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting on September 25, 2014.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committees.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Policy Advisory Committee will consider all items on the agenda. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. (following Presentations)

The Policy Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 11 am by Mr. Ramirez (Coalinga), Chair. (Reedley and Kerman left the meeting)

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items:

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- A. **Executive Minutes of July 18, 2014 [APPROVE]**
- B. **FY 2014-15 Transportation Funding Claims [Fawcett] [APPROVE]**
- C. **TDA Fiscal Year End LTF and STA Surplus and Allocations with Summary Enclosure [Fawcett] [APPROVE]**
- D. **Golden State Corridor Cooperative Agreement [Beshears] [AUTHORIZE]**
- E. **Department of Transportation Master Fund Transfer Agreement [Beshears] [AUTHORIZE]**
- F. **Prop 84 Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]**
- G. **Greenprint Update [Thompson] [INFORMATION]**
- H. **Senate Bill 1183 – Surcharge for Local Bicycle Infrastructure [Thompson] [INFORMATION]**
- I. **Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness [Dawson] [INFORMATION]**
- J. **2014 San Joaquin Valley Fall Policy Conference and Blueprint Award Presentation – October 2-3 – Visalia [Terry] [INFORMATION]**
- K. **Fiscal Year 2015-16 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant [Garza/Terry] [INFORMATION]**
- L. **Monthly Grant/Call for Project/Request for Proposals Reminder [Garza] [INFORMATION]**

Staff asked to pull Item I B for additional information.

A motion was made by Mr. Woolley (Clovis) and seconded by Mr. McDonald (Firebaugh) to approve the remainder of the Transportation Consent Items as submitted. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Item I B. FY 2014-15 Transportation Funding Claims. Laural Fawcett (FCOG) handed out materials for additional funding claims from the City of Fowler and the City of Kerman.

A motion was made by Mr. Jimenez (County) and seconded by Mr. Haddix (Sanger) to approve Item B with additions. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Project Recommendations [Monge-Chargin/Garza] [APPROVE]

Lindsey Chargin (FCOG) presented this item. The Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle I Call for Projects closed on August 27, 2014. A total of 30 projects were submitted to Fresno COG totaling \$15.9 million in requested ATP funds. The Fresno COG region has \$3.9 million available to award. Ten representatives of the Multi-Disciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) Committee will meet on Monday, September 8, 2014 to score the projects and draft a list of projects to be recommended for funding.

The list of project recommendations was emailed to the Committees and was handed out and is also available online. Ms. Chargin noted that pending TTC/PAC action, the recommendations will go to the Policy Board on September 25, 2014 to be approved and then submitted to the California Transportation Commission by September 30th for adoption at their November 12th meeting in Sacramento. Following adoption of the Fresno COG Regional Competitive ATP, projects will be programmed in the 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) by February 2015 so that they can commence immediately.

A motion was made by Mr. Woolley (Clovis) and seconded by Mr. Elias (Fowler) to recommend approval of the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Projects as recommended by the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Multi-Disciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) Scoring Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. National Parks Update - Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement for Contractor Services [Fawcett/Downs/Beshears] [CONCUR]

Les Beshears (FCOG) presented this item. Mr. Beshears noted that after the meeting package was sent out, County Counsel suggested that the Fresno COG Joint Powers Agency Agreement would have to be amended to meet the requirements in the MOU, therefore the MOU was pulled from this agenda and will be presented at a later date.

1. Memorandum of Understanding

Summary: An MOU between Fresno COG and Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has been prepared to identify the parties involved in the planning activities related to the establishment

~~of transit service in Highway 41 between the City of Fresno and Yosemite National Park. The details of the MOU are contained in the enclosure.~~

~~**Action:** Staff requests concurrence with Fresno County Counsel approval of the enclosed MOU for the Fresno COG Board to adopt at the September 25, 2014 meeting.~~

2. Agreement for Contractor Services

An Agreement for Contractor Services between Fresno COG and Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has been prepared to carry out planning activities related to the establishment of transit service in Highway 41 between the City of Fresno and Yosemite National Park. The details of the Agreement were contained in the enclosure.

Mr. Beshears went on to discuss the Agreement that was included in the meeting package. Mr. Haddix (Sanger) commented on the agreement stating that he felt that all parks should be included in the agreement. Mr. Beshears explained the reason for the MOU and agreement with YARTS. The Sequoia/Kings Canyon project is separate from the Yosemite project.

There was a question regarding the time frame for this project. Mr. Beshears explained that the plan was to implement in the spring and that approving the Agreement would enable the process to begin.

The Committee agreed by consensus to recommend approval.

C. Keep America Beautiful-Update [Dawson] [Request for volunteers to staff the Committee]

Lauren Dawson (FCOG) reported that the Fresno County Grand Jury recommended Fresno COG become an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization. The application was submitted in December of 2013. The next steps are to form the Fresno County KAB Community Team to develop two base-line tools 1) the Community Appearance Index-Litter Index and 2) the Focus Area Survey. The KAB Staff Director of Affiliate Development will conduct a 75-90 minute training webinar for the Fresno County KAB Community Team which will detail the responsibilities. Prior to the webinar the KAB Director will send the materials required including the training manuals, the Community Appearance Index manual and additional resources. Following the preparation of the two surveys the Fresno County KAB Community Team will then prepare the *First Year Affiliate Goals and Strategies Plan*. Ms. Dawson referred to the staff report which was included as an exhibit for this item.

There was a brief discussion. A sign up sheet was circulated. Mr. Woolley (Clovis) asked that an email be sent to the City Managers and that they would assign someone from their city to participate. Mr. Grey (Selma) asked if this could be included in the Beautification of Highway 99 committee.

D. EfficientGov.com Grant Service [Garza/Monge-Chargin] INFORMATION]

Ms. Chargin reported that in effort to assist Fresno COG member agencies and partnering agencies in finding grant opportunities, Fresno COG recently subscribed to EfficientGov.com's GrantFinder database to offer their services, free of charge to our member agencies for a trial period of one year.

GrantFinder is a real-time, comprehensive database of all federal, state, foundation and corporate grants available to municipalities, counties and non-profit partners. The database is updated daily with new grants as well as updates to existing grants within the system. Additionally, the service provides for unlimited access to EfficientGov news, articles and the GrantIntel newsletter, which focuses specifically on grant funding.

An email was sent out to TTC and PAC on July 9, 2014 soliciting sign-ups for the service. As of September 2, 2014 every member agency is represented with one or more user accounts as well as several partnering agencies.

Ms. Chargin noted that staff is working with EfficientGov.com to set up a tutorial and possibly a workshop for new users so they can get the most out of the service. More information on that will be sent to users. Ms. Chargin asked that anyone seeking additional information to contact her at 559-233-4148 ext. 205.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committee.

E. Peer Exchange Event [Veenendaal] [INFORMATION]

Brenda Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that in May 2014, during a discussion regarding the approval of the 2014 RTP/SCS, the Fresno COG Policy Board directed the Policy Advisory Committee's sub-committee to address three proposals brought forward by a coalition of community organizations. The Board further directed staff to address the policies as part of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy implementation efforts, following the June 26, 2014 adoption of the plans. The three community-based proposals are as follows:

- (1) Development of a Transportation Needs Assessment to help inform transportation investment decisions.
- (2) Development of a Sustainable Planning and Infrastructure Grant Program to help jurisdictions implement the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy goals.
- (3) Development of Natural and Working Lands Conservation Policies applicable to transportation projects.

In an effort to build momentum, help frame the discussion, identify best practices, hear about practical lessons learned either good or bad, highlight benefits, identify gaps, and start outlining next steps in the process for addressing the three community-based proposals, Fresno COG hosted a Peer Exchange event. This information-gathering, from peers throughout the state who have implemented programs or policies similar to three proposals, included brainstorming among COG staff, interested Fresno organization staff members and transportation planning peers from around the state.

The event was held Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Fresno COG Sequoia Room. Mayor Lynne Ashbeck served as the event facilitator, and speakers and panelists from agencies throughout the State of California graciously donated their time to present a great deal of valuable information to approximately 60 event participants. Ms. Veenendaal noted that with all the presentations and participation the event could easily have been a full day event. Mr. Woolley (Clovis) commented on the event.

All of the panelist's PowerPoint presentations and audio of the entire event is now available on the Fresno COG website at <http://www.fresnocog.org/rtp-scs-implementation>.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committee.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items

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- A. Monthly Legislative Update [Garza] [INFORMATION] (handout)**
- B. 2015 Fresno COG Washington DC One Voice Kick off [Garza/Veenendaal][INFORMATION]**
- C. FY 2015 Legislative Platform – [Garza] [INFORMATION]**
- D. SJV Regional Policy Council Update (June 2014 meeting) [Boren] [INFORMATION]**
- E. Regional Clearinghouse [Arnest] [APPROVE]**

A motion was made by Mr. Woolley (Clovis) and seconded by Mr. Jimenez (County) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

NONE

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Mike Bitner, Deputy Director announced that Jeffrey Webster is retiring at the end of the month. Everyone wished him well.

B. Items from Members

Mr. Haddix (Sanger) thanked Mr. Webster and Mr. Stites (FCRTA for the implementation of the rural transit route from Sanger to Reedley College. There has been great interest.

Mr. McDonald (Firebaugh) announced the Centennial Celebration in Firebaugh.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bitner". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Bitner, Deputy Director

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Others Attending:

Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Johnny Fischer, CHP
Joseph Oldham, Local Government Commission
Jeffrey Webster, FCRTA

Moses Stites, FCRTA
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling
Stephenie Frederick, LWV
John Downs, Fresno COG/FAX

Fresno COG Staff:

Mike Bitner
Les Beshears
Lindsey Monge-Chargin
Lauren Dawson
Brenda Veenendaal
Clark Thompson

Kai Han
Kathy Chung
Laural Fawcett
Peggy Arnest
Kristine Cai
Marla Day