

**TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Date: Friday, November 7, 2014**  
**Time: 8:30 AM**  
**Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room**  
**2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA**

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**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 October 10, 2014 [APPROVE]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM I A

**B. FY 2014-15 Transportation Funding Claims [Fawcett] [APPROVE]**

**Summary:** FY 2014/15 Transportation Development Act Claims. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are (handout at meeting):

Resolution #	Member Agency	LTF Amount	STA Amount	TOTAL TDA Claim Amount
2014-38	Clovis	\$ 3,205,502.00	\$ 538,413.00	\$ 3,485,961.00
2014-39	Firebaugh	\$ 242,297.00	\$ 37,896.00	\$ 280,193.00

2014-40	Reedley	\$ 779,401.00	\$ 121,915.00	\$ 901,316.00
2014-41	Selma	\$ 743,835.00	\$ 116,358.00	\$ 860,193.00
2014-42	Mendota	\$ 348,288.00	\$ 54,474.00	\$ 402,762.00

**Action:** Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend approval by resolution of the TDA Claims FY 2014/15 of the above listed member agencies.

C. **FY 2014-15 First Quarter Progress Report [Beshears] [ACCEPT]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM I C

**Summary:** The FY 2014-15 first quarter progress report is included for review and acceptance.

**Action:** Staff recommends acceptance of the FY 2014-15 First Quarter Progress Report.

D. **Annual COG Meeting Calendar [Boren] [APPROVE]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM I D

**Summary:** The Fresno COG meeting calendar for 2015 is included for approval.

**Action:** Approve.

E. **Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan [Long] [Initiate 45 Day Review]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM I E

**Summary:** Federal Transit Law, as amended by SAFETEA-LU, requires that projects selected for funding under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310), Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), and New Freedom programs be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan and that the plan be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and participation by members of the public.

As part of fulfilling the requirement to receive funding from any of these sources, Fresno County must complete a 'Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan'. The plan accomplishes the following:

- identifies resources currently in use for public transit
- surveys users to determine current needs and future expectation of users, and
- develop strategies to close gaps in perceived service levels.

The Federal funds are among the resources used to close the gaps identified in the plan. The Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan was developed as a product of the Fresno County Public Transportation GAP Analysis and Service Coordination Plan completed by Mobility Planners Inc.

Questions and comments can be directed to Jeff Long at the Fresno Council of Governments at [jeff.long@fresno.gov](mailto:jeff.long@fresno.gov).

**Action:** Staff recommends initiation of the required 45-day public review for the Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

F. **Caltrans FY 2015-2016 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants [Terry] [INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for FY 2015-2016 were due October 31, 2014. Caltrans staff estimates that preliminary grant award announcements will be made in March 2015, with official grant awards in April 2015. Applications were accepted within two categories:

1) **Strategic Partnerships**

Consistent with the intent of partnership planning, the Strategic Partnerships grant funds planning projects that encourage regional agencies to partner with Caltrans to identify and address statewide/interregional transportation deficiencies in the state highway system, strengthen government-to-government relationships, and result in programmed system improvements, all in an effort to achieve the Caltrans Mission and overarching objectives.

Eligible Primary Recipients – Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (MPO/RTPAs); Eligible Sub-recipients: Transit Agencies, Universities, Community Colleges, Native American Tribal Governments, Cities and Counties, Community-Based Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, and Other Public Entities.

Estimated Budget: \$1.5 Million, Federal Highway Administration – SPR, Part I

Local Match: 20% of the total project amount

2) **Sustainable Communities**

The Sustainable Communities grant funds transportation planning projects that identify and address mobility deficiencies in the multimodal transportation system, encourage stakeholder collaboration, involve active public engagement, integrate Smart Mobility 2010 concepts, ultimately result in programmed system improvements, and achieve the Caltrans Mission and overarching objectives.

Eligible Primary Recipients: MPO/RTPAs, Transit Agencies, Cities, Counties, and Native American Tribal Governments; Eligible Sub-recipients: Transit Agencies, Universities, Community Colleges, Native American Tribal Governments, Cities and Counties, Community-Based Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, and Other Public Entities.

Estimated Budget: \$8.3 Million Total (\$2.8 Million, Federal Transit Administration, Section 5304; \$5.5 Million, State Highway Account)

Local Match: 11.47% of the total project amount

Fresno COG submitted two applications as the lead applicant. One under the Strategic Partnerships category to conduct a Long-Range Transit Plan covering all of Fresno County, in partnership with Fresno Area Express (FAX), Stageline Transit and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), Caltrans and others; and another under the Sustainable Communities category to analyze the minimizing of GHG emissions of existing business commuting systems, in partnership with Fresno State and University of Colorado at Denver. In addition to these lead applications, Fresno COG was also a sub-applicant for two additional applications, and provided various letters of support for applications being submitted by agencies throughout the Valley.

For additional information regarding Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants, please visit Caltrans Grants Website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>. Or, contact Priscilla Martinez-Velez, Caltrans HQ Division of Transportation Planning at (916) 651-8196 or via email at [priscilla.martinez.velez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:priscilla.martinez.velez@dot.ca.gov).

For any questions regarding Fresno COG activities relating to Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants, please contact Rob Terry at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 222 or via email at [rterry@fresnocog.org](mailto:rterry@fresnocog.org).

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

G. **Prop 84 Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** (Prop 84 Round 2) Following is a brief report on the status of Round 2 activities:

- (Task 1) Please see the individual Greenprint Update item found within this same agenda for additional information.

For any questions regarding the Greenprint, please contact Clark Thompson at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 203 or via email at [clarkt@fresnocog.org](mailto:clarkt@fresnocog.org).

- (Task 2) Model Land-Use Revalidation activities (Model Improvement Program Phase 2) began in January 2014. Fehr and Peers, as the selected consultant, began the activities associated with the project, including data collection and processing, refinement of model input data; and model estimation, calibration, validation, evaluation and associated training activities. In addition, the consultant is overseeing all project management and information sharing details.

For any questions regarding Model Land-Use Revalidation efforts, please contact Mike Bitner at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 216 or via email at [mbitner@fresnocog.org](mailto:mbitner@fresnocog.org).

- (Task 3) SCS Implementation efforts have begun at each of the valley MPOs. Due to the completion of several anticipated Round 2 activities within Round 1, DOC representatives have approved the re-allocation of line item funds to increase the amount of funding for both SCS printing/duplication for outreach and public involvement, as well as the amount available to assist with RHNA coordination. A total of \$55,000 for RHNA coordination and \$88,674 for SCS printing/duplication reflect the new line items. These amounts are to be allocated to each COG based upon population percentages (utilizing the Planning Center data), similar to other valley activities in the recent past. With 24% of the Valley's overall population, Fresno COG's proportion of these funds is \$20,841.54 for SCS activities, and \$13,200 for RHNA activities.

For any questions regarding SCS Implementation activities, please contact Rob Terry at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 222 or via email at [rterry@fresnocog.org](mailto:rterry@fresnocog.org).

**Action:** Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

#### H. **Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program Wrap Up [Chargin/Garza]** **[INFORMATION]**

##### **Exhibits:**

 ITEM I H

**Summary:** The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was created by Senate Bill 99 (Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) and Assembly Bill 101 (Chapter 354, Statutes of 2013) to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Legislation creating the ATP was signed by the Governor on September 26, 2013.

On March 20, 2014 the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted ATP guidelines that specified two components of the program; the Statewide and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO component was to account for 40% (or \$147.232 million) of the available ATP funding; Fresno COG's allocation was \$3.9 million for FY 13/14 and 14/15 combined as well as FY 15/16.

On May 29, 2014 the Fresno COG Policy Board adopted the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program guidelines for the MPO component implementation. The CTC approved Fresno COG's guidelines on June 26, 2014 and a call for projects was issued on the same day. Upon commencement of the call for projects, on August 27, 2014, thirty projects were submitted, totaling \$15.9 million of requested ATP funds. This total included most of the projects that were submitted to the state and where automatically entered into the regional call for projects as per state law.

Fifteen projects were recommended for funding and CTC staff is recommending to the Commission, approval of the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Selected Program of Projects at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Sacramento. Following CTC approval of the program of projects, project sponsors are required to obtain a funding allocation from the CTC for each phase of the project. Project sponsors must review the CTC allocation calendar to determine the request submittal deadlines which can sometimes be 2 months in advance of a meeting. In order to be placed on the agenda for a funding allocation, please visit the Office of California Transportation Commission Liaison's website and review the 2015 Preparation Schedule at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/ctcliaison.htm>. You must also contact your Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer.

For complete information please see the enclosed memorandum.

**Action:** Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

I. **Monthly Grant/Call for Project/Request for Proposals Reminder [Garza/Chargin]**  
**[INFORMATION]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM I I

For the latest information on grants, contact Ishmael Herrera at [isherrera@csufresno.edu](mailto:isherrera@csufresno.edu)

In effort to assist Fresno COG member agencies and partnering agencies in finding grant opportunities, Fresno COG has 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.

A list of the transportation grants in California that are currently shown in the database is enclosed.

If you or someone from your agency is still interested in signing up for this service or if you have any questions please contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148 ext. 205 or [lindseyc@fresnocog.org](mailto:lindseyc@fresnocog.org).

II. **TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Amendment #9 to Fresno Council of Governments Joint Powers Agreement and implementation of the Fresno to Yosemite Shuttle Service [Fawcett/Beshears] [INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** The Fresno COG Policy Board approved feasibility studies in 2013 to explore providing Transit Service to Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. Based on the studies and at the direction of the Fresno COG Policy Board, CMAQ Funding Grant Applications were prepared on behalf of Fresno COG and the City of Sanger for transit demonstration projects to the national parks. The City of Sanger is the lead agency for the Fresno-Sanger to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Transit Demonstration Project, and Fresno COG is the lead agency for the Fresno to Yosemite Transit Demonstration Project. The Policy Board awarded CMAQ funds (Yosemite: \$2,692,527 and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks: \$462,127) to provide for the first two years of operations of both projects, and the Air District provided matching funds for (Yosemite: \$367,040 and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks: \$59,873) both projects. In order to implement the service County Counsel is requiring an amendment to the Fresno COG JPA.

Per Policy Board direction at the September 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Fresno COG JPA Amendment #9 was submitted to each of our member agencies for individual City Council and Board of Supervisors action. The amendment was ratified per the Fresno COG Bylaws by a majority of the members representing a population share of at least 40% and is now in effect. The JPA amendment allows Fresno COG to act as lead agency to apply for and receive grant funding, enter into agreements to provide funding, administration and oversight for interregional public transportation services.

Current staff activities are underway to do the initial planning and start up marketing in preparation and support of operations of the Fresno to Yosemite Transit Demonstration Project. These planning activities are supported by a \$100,000 planning grant awarded by Caltrans, and an agreement to receive these funds on behalf of YARTS services to be rendered was approved at the September 25<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting. The plan calls for the service to begin in spring of 2015 however there are several important steps to be taken before the CMAQ operating funds can be obligated and committed to YARTS. Time is of the essence if the service is to begin in the spring as planned so various approvals are requested at this time which staff will work on concurrently to avoid approval delays.

1. A Memorandum of Understanding detailing the Organizational Agreement must be executed between Fresno COG and Yosemite Area Regional Transit Service (YARTS) for the two agencies

to work together to establish public transit service on Hwy 41 between the City of Fresno and Yosemite National Park. This item is on the current agenda below as an action item.

2. An FTIP listing which includes the project is scheduled for FHWA approval in December.
3. Following FTIP approval staff may request Caltrans to transfer the CMAQ funds to the Federal Transit Administration.
4. Staff must execute a Grant with FTA obligating the operations funds.
5. A Contract must be executed with the Air District for additional operating funds.
6. An amendment to the agreement between Fresno Cog and YARTS must be executed to provide the operating funds for YARTS to operate and administer the transit service. This amendment to the agreement for contractor services is on the current agenda contingent on successful execution of the operating grants with FTA and the Air District.

**Action:** Information.

**B. Memorandum of Understanding between Fresno COG and Yosemite Area Regional Transit Service (YARTS) [Fawcett/Beshears] [APPROVE]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM II B

**Summary:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared between Fresno COG and YARTS to provide a basis for the organizational relationship between YARTS and Fresno COG. The agreement provides two Fresno COG Board members who will attend the YARTS Board meeting as non-voting members and three technical members will attend the YARTS Advisory Committee. If the demonstration project proves successful and continues into the future, YARTS will amend their JPA and Bylaws and invite Fresno COG to become a full voting member.

**Action:** Staff recommends execution of the MOU between Fresno COG and YARTS.

**C. Amendment to Fresno COG/YARTS Funding Agreement [Fawcett/Beshears] [APPROVE]**

**Summary:** An amendment to the funding agreement between Fresno COG and YARTS will provide up to \$3,059,567 in operating funds for the first two years start up service. Approval of this contract amendment is contingent on Fresno COG executing grant agreements with Federal Transit Administration and the Air District to provide the operating funds

**Action:** Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment to provide \$2,832,860 in operating funds for YARTS as service provider, and Fresno COG as funding administrator, contingent upon Fresno COG executing grant agreements with Federal Transit Administration and the Air District.

**D. Traffic Impacts from New Development on the State Highway System [City of Fresno/Behears] [DISCUSSION]**

**Summary:** Caltrans has recently resumed a past practice of requesting cities to collect a "fee" to mitigate impacts from new development on the State highway system. These pro-rata shares are being determined on a project-by-project basis utilizing a traffic impact study prepared by the developer's engineer and a Caltrans cost estimate for the identified freeway interchange improvements. To date, Caltrans has not conducted an overall nexus study for traffic impacts to the State highway system and unlike the RTMF, no indemnification currently exists for agencies being requested to collect or to require the collection of the pro-rata mitigation shares. In certain situations, the City of Fresno has incorporated the improvements at City/State intersections into the City's development impact fee program, such as the signalization of stop-controlled freeway ramp intersections. However Caltrans has also identified the need for mitigation at locations throughout Fresno County that are not included in any local agency's development impact fee programs, which may involve correcting existing deficiencies. Correcting existing deficiencies may further require the identification of public funding for the portion not attributable to new development. Caltrans has pointed to Kern County and the City of Bakersfield as an example of a regional traffic impact fee program which could be implemented in Fresno County. Considering the recent increase in letters requesting fee collection from new development projects, the City of Fresno has requested a regional discussion rather than having cities deal with the issue in isolation.

**Action:** Discussion. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

E. **Fresno County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency Items [Beshears]**

1. **Resolution 2014-02 – Infill Development [Beshears] [APPROVE]**

**Exhibits:**

 ITEM II E 1 Memo     ITEM II E 1 Resolution

**Summary:** Resolution 2014-02 was tabled at the October 23, 2014 meeting. Section 66005.1 stipulates certain criteria for qualifying development and requires either adoption of a fee credit based on traffic impact or a finding of no traffic impact. Staff has performed traffic analysis and found there is impact therefore Resolution 2014-02 adopts minimal statutory requirements.

To be eligible for a fee reduction as a residential infill project a project must meet all of the following criteria:

- i. The housing development is located within one-half mile of a transit station and there is direct access between the housing development and the transit station along a barrier-free walkable pathway not exceeding one-half mile in length.
- ii. Convenience retail uses, including a store that sells food, are located within one-half mile of the housing development.
- iii. The housing development provides either the minimum number of parking spaces required by the local ordinance, or no more than one onsite parking space for zero to two bedroom units, and two onsite parking spaces for three or more bedroom units, whichever is less.

The proposed policy does not target any specific development or location. In fact, there are no locations in the region that currently meet these criteria, however it is appropriate to adopt the policy in anticipation that future locations may qualify and attempt to develop their own interpretation of Section 66005.1 and force us to accept it in the absence of an adopted policy.

**Action:** Staff recommends moving Resolution 2014-02 from the table and adopt.

2. **Resolution 2014-03 - RTMF NEXUS Five Year Update [Beshears] [APPROVE]**

**Summary:** State statute requires an update to the RTMF Nexus each five years. The Nexus must be updated by January 1, 2015 as required by state law to allow continued collecting of the fee. The update involves reviewing the project cost and incorporating the current SCS Traffic modeling assumptions into the fee calculation. The contract with Parsons Brinkerhoff was expanded to include this task. Subcommittee meetings were held on March 17, 2014 and August 25, 2014. A follow up meeting was held with Caltrans and the City of Fresno on October 6 to address specific request for information. The consultant has incorporated input subsequent to those meeting into the calculation and prepared the Nexus update. The Nexus will also go to the Transportation Authority on December 10, 2014 for action.

Under the revised Nexus calculation the fee goes down approximately 4% for residential development and an average of 36% for commercial development. A significant part of the fee reduction was a result of our success in leveraging significantly more state and federal funds than anticipated in the original Nexus. Also taken into consideration were changes in traffic impact resulting from local agencies adopting less traffic intensive general plans that incorporate Sustainable Communities strategies.

The Consultant has been working with Caltrans regarding the status of Freeway Deficiency projects clear up to the posting of the agenda, therefore the Technical Report setting forth the Nexus is still undergoing revision, however the rate schedule has been finalized and is included in the agenda.

**Action:** Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2014-03 updating the Nexus.

### III. OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Items from Staff

#### B. Items from Members

### IV. 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. **Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

### 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]

##### **Exhibits:**

 Caltrans Report

**Summary:** Caltrans staff will give an update at the meeting. A copy of the Caltrans Quarterly Report is included as an exhibit to this item.

**Action:** This is an information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

#### 2. Fresno County Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan Update [Doug Smith, URS] [INFORMATION]

**Summary:** Fresno COG is currently developing the Fresno County Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan update which is a critical component of a coherent plan to address the transportation needs of the county. As travel demand in the county increases, there is an increasing need to improve the transportation systems through better management of existing capacity, rather than continuing to add capacity to the system. In recognition of this, the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) and the various local communities in the county continue to invest in ITS. The updated ITS Plan will ensure that these investments address the important needs in the county and bring the maximum benefit to travelers while developing a specific implementation plan for the county. The updated ITS Plan will also reflect the changes in user needs and technology since the 1999 Plan was completed. We will provide an overview and status of the project and request your input on our goals, vision, objectives and user needs that will help inform the updated plan.

**Action:** Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committees.

#### 3. Solar Collaborative Procurement in SJV [INFORMATION]

##### **Exhibits:**

 Presentation 3

Karly Zimmerman, Program Manager, Strategic Energy Innovations will make a presentation.

**Summary:** Non-profit organization Strategic Energy Innovations together with Optyon, Inc is launching



a solar collaborative procurement effort regionally across the San Joaquin Valley. The Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Fund program leverages funding from the California Solar Initiative to defray upfront costs associated with project planning, site assessments, and procurement activities. Participants of the SEED Fund receive better pricing on their solar systems (10-12% total project cost savings), lower project risks with higher returns, reduced transaction costs, and reduced administrative effort (50-70% admin cost savings).

The SEED Fund team has extensive experience working on public solar collaborative procurement projects in North Bay, Alameda County, and Silicon Valley. The success of these projects led to a Best-Practices Guide to Collaborative Solar Procurement for public agencies, co-authored by the team and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

**Action:** Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committees.