

Fresno COG Policy Board**Executive Minutes**

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending:

Mayor Lynne Ashbeck, City of Clovis
Councilmember Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
Councilmember Marcia Sablan, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Mayor Ashley Swearengin, City of Fresno
Mayor Sylvia Chavez, City of Huron
Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Mayor Chet Reilly, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Gabriel Jimenez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
Mayor Robert Beck, City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Councilmember George Rodriguez City of Selma
Supervisor Judith Case McNairy, County of Fresno

Gail Miller, Caltrans
Arthur Wille, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Absent:

Mayor Joshua Mitchell, City of Sanger

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 15 members present representing 97.41% of the population and there was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fresno, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Selma and Fresno County)

Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin), Chair, called the meeting to order at 6 pm following the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency meeting.

RECOGNITION

Judith Case McNairy – Retirement – 1999- 2014

Armando Lopez, City of Parlier – 2003- 2014

Gabriel Jimenez, City of Orange Cove – 2010-2014

Tony Boren, Executive Director recognized members of the Board that will be leaving. Everyone thanked Supervisor Case McNairy, Mayor Lopez and Mayor Jimenez for their service on the Fresno COG Policy Board. Plaques were given. Each briefly commented on their appreciation for the work that Fresno COG Board does. Supervisor Case McNairy also urged the Board members to continue to support the One Voice effort.

Mayor Yep (Kerman) also commented that he has termed out as Mayor but may be returning next year as representative for the City of Kerman. Mayor Yep thanked the Board and staff.

Other Board members that will not be returning next year will be recognized at the January meeting.

Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee

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. FY 2014-15 Transportation Funding Claims [Fawcett] [APPROVE]
- B. Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan [Long] [Initiate 45 Day Review]
- C. Caltrans FY 2015-2016 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- D. Prop 84 Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- E. Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program Wrap Up [Chargin/Garza] [INFORMATION]
- F. Monthly Grant/Call for Project/Request for Proposals Reminder [Garza/Chargin] [INFORMATION]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Case McNairy (County) and seconded by Councilmember Lander (Coalinga) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

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]

Laural Fawcett (FCOG) reported that 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. Ms. Fawcett noted that 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 25th Board meeting, Fresno COG JPA Amendment #9 was submitted to each member agency 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 25th 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.

There was a brief discussion regarding proposed stops around Fresno. Mayor Yep (Kerman) asked about wait times and safety issues during the wait times in different areas.

Supervisor Case McNairy asked about the Sequoia/ Kings Canyon service. Mr. Boren pointed out that the Sequoia/Kings Canyon routes are being worked on with the City of Sanger.

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

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

Mr. Boren presented this item noting that 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.

Requests for members to serve on these committees will be brought back to the Board early next year.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Yep (Kerman) and seconded by Supervisor Case McNairy (County) to authorize execution of the MOU between Fresno COG and YARTS. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

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

Mr. Boren went on to explain that 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

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Swearengin (Fresno) and seconded by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to approve the contract amendment to provide \$3,059,567 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. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

D. Caltrans Report [Caltrans] [INFORMATION]

Gail Miller, Caltrans gave an update at the Policy Board meeting. The Quarterly Update was included. There was a discussion regarding the roundabout in Kerman and Mayor Yep asked that Caltrans look in to possibly widening the access points. Ms. Miller will get back with the City of Kerman.

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

Fresno COG Sitting as the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board

III. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Mayor Yep (Kerman) and seconded by Mayor Beck (Reedley) to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items:

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- A. Executive Minutes of October 23, 2014 [APPROVE]
- B. FY 2014-15 First Quarter Progress Report [Beshears] [ACCEPT]
- C. FY 2015 Fresno COG Meeting Calendar [Boren] [APPROVE]
- D. FY 2015 Legislative Platform [Garza] [APPROVE]
- E. Monthly Legislative Update [Garza] [INFORMATION]
- F. Regional Clearinghouse [Arnest] [APPROVE]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) and seconded by Mayor Beck (Reedley) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FY 2014-15 Overall Work Program Amendment # 2 [Beshears] [AUTHORIZE]

Les Beshears, Finance Director reported that FY 2014/15 OWP Amendment #2 increases the budget \$279,620 to \$13,172,760 to recognize revenue for a state ATP grant and to adjust various planning grants carried over from last year.

WE 125 FCMA Transit Service Evaluation – The consultant made better progress on the study than anticipated so there will be \$55,260 less grant funding required to complete the project. In addition the City of Fresno identified \$51,827 in additional Transportation Network Implementation they wish the consultant to compete. This is work in excess of grant and will be paid for by the City.

WE 150 Other Modal Elements – Staff submitted and was awarded \$150,000 from the state ATP program to develop a regional plan as required by the program. The plan will benefit small cities that don't have resources to develop their own document.

WE 314 Ventura Kings Canyon – A late start on this study resulted in the project requiring \$96,883 more in authorized grant funding to carry over into the current year.

WE 940 Freeway Service Patrol – COG is increasing the budget \$36,170 consistent with the bid awarded by the Board to Fresno Budget Towing. 80% of the increase comes from our state Freeway Service Patrol apportionment.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez (Selma) to authorize FY 2014/15 OWP Amendment #2. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. San Joaquin Valley Greenprint Phase II Consultant [Thompson] [APPROVE]

Clark Thompson (FCOG) presented this item noting that the Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified consultants for Phase II of the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint project was issued on September 15, 2014. Phase II of the Greenprint project will build on and extend the work completed in Phase I, by focusing on applications of the data and maps through the development of a "pilot projects program" and the subsequent selection and implementation of pilot projects. The objectives of Phase II are as follows:

- To convene panels of qualified experts to explore the implications of and offer informed opinions on the status of the Valley's resources and the resource management challenges implied by the maps and data compiled in Phase I.
- To describe existing major policies, program and implementation tools relating to the resource land of the Valley, including conflicts which may exist.
- To enhance relevance of the Greenprint project by identifying opportunities to align it with ongoing, new, and potential state and federal initiatives.
- To outreach, to increase awareness of the Greenprint resources and the state of the Valley's resources and possible future implications of current trends, and to solicit ideas for resolution of key resource conservation and management challenges.
- To select and fund pilot projects that incorporate Greenprint map resources into local land use planning.

- To publish a guide for resource management to provide a range of specific strategies and implementation tools to address economic and resource objectives.

In response to the RFP for Phase II of the Greenprint project, Fresno COG received the following four qualifying proposals:

1. Placeworks (formerly The Planning Center/DC&E) with the Local Government Commission and Randall Arendt (dba "Greener Prospects")
2. Mintier Harnish with Applied Development Economics, Flint Strategies, and Planning Partners
3. First Carbon Solutions (formerly Michael Brandman Associates) with VRPA and Circlepoint
4. University of California, Davis with Ag Innovations Network and Spiral PR & Communications

Mr. Thompson reported that on October 30, 2014 a proposal evaluation team comprised of five evaluators interviewed and scored the four proposals received. The five evaluators were John Wright, former Planning Director for the City of Clovis and current chair of the Greenprint Steering Committee; Bernard Jimenez, Deputy Director of Planning for the County of Fresno; Carole Combs, Secretary and Executive Director for the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners; Clark Thompson, Fresno COG; and, Denny Grossman, Senior Advisor to the California Strategic Growth Council. The proposals were distributed to the evaluation team members in advance of the October 30th meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposals prior to convening as a group. At the conclusion of the interviews, the Evaluation Team determined unanimously to recommend the Mintier Harnish team as the consultants for Greenprint Phase II. The Mintier Harnish team presented itself as a very well-coordinated team that best understood the work program and objectives of Phase II and that can leverage its existing contacts and experiences in the San Joaquin Valley to advance the use of the information developed in Phase I of the project.

QUORUM: Mayor Swearengen (Fresno) left the meeting. There were 14 members present representing 43.98% of the population.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Yep (Kerman) to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and enter into a contract in an amount not to exceed \$189,983 with Mintier Harnish to conduct the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint Phase II project. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

1. No December meetings scheduled.
2. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant Guidelines.

Mr. Boren briefly explained this item. There may be a press conference in the future regarding this item. Staff will keep the Board updated as this proceeds.

3. AB 1234 Ethics Training Certification due. Please have City Clerks submit copies to Marla Day.

Mr. Boren commented briefly on the passage of the Water Bond and congratulated everyone for their hard work. Mayor Silva (Mendota) commented on taking advantage of funds available for the cities.

Mr. Boren also noted the recent ribbon cutting on Highway 180 and the opening of the Clovis Trailhead.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Lopez (Parlier) commented on the LAFCo position that will be open.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

There were no public presentations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

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Others Attending:

Don Hubbard, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Daniel Hartman, AECOM

Art Penson, City of Fresno

Phyllis Baltierra, Firebaugh

Sadie Navarro, Firebaugh

Moses Stites, FCRTA

Fred McNairy, Citizen

Fresno COG Staff:

Mike Bitner

Les Beshears

Brenda Veenendaal

Clark Thompson

Lindsey Chargin

Laural Fawcett

Lauren Dawson

Angela Yang

Marla Day

Jeff Long