

Fresno COG Policy Board

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2015
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

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AB23 Requirement: In accordance with the Brown Act and AB23 the amount of stipend paid to members for attending this meeting of the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board is \$100.

PLEASE TURN ON MICROPHONE BEFORE SPEAKING

THINK GREEN - KEEP FRESNO COUNTY CLEAN!

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION FEE AGENCY - MEETING WILL FOLLOW FRESNO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING - FCRTA MEETING WILL FOLLOW RTMF MEETING

Exhibits:

April 30 2015 RTMF Meeting Package

AGENDA AND ANNOTATED AGENDA IN PDF FORMAT FOR PRINTING

Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee

A. PRESENTATION - HERO PROGRAM [Perea] [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

Presentation

At the request of Supervisor Perea, John Law with Renovate America, Inc. will be making a short presentation regarding the HERO program.

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] [INFORMATION]**

Summary: All Member Agency TDA claims for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 have been approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board. Once the final LTF and STA apportionment estimates and FCRTA budget have been approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board, TDA claims for FY 2015-2016 will be submitted.

Action: Information.

B. **Appointments to the Fresno COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) [Long] [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM I B

Summary: The SSTAC was formed in May 1988 by the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) Policy Board to; respond to State legislation and to coordinate social service transportation; assist the Fresno COG Board in identifying transit needs throughout Fresno County; review and recommend action for the Fresno COG to address at its unmet transit needs hearing; and advise the Fresno COG on any other major transit issues. The Fresno COG Board appoints SSTAC members for a term of three years.

SSTAC member appointments to the Council are;

Mr. Moses Stites, General Manager Fresno County Rural Transit Agency,

Replacing Jeff Webster

Carlos Duarte, City of Fresno, FAX Handy Ride

Re-appointment

Dottie Wright, City of Fresno Citizen

Re-appointment

Dr. Connie Cha, Empowerment Institute

Expired

Ms. Linda Descoteaux, Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging

Expired

Article III, Section 99238 of The Transportation Development Act requires a minimum number of SSTAC members in specific categories. There is no maximum number of members specified in the TDA and in the interest of diversity, staff is seeking additional nominations. Specifically, staff is seeking members who represent minority groups and potential transit users. A complete list of SSTAC members is included in your agenda package.

Action: Approve the appointment of one member, re-appointment two members and the removal of two members from the SSTAC.

C. **Unmet Transit Needs Update [Long] [INFORMATION]**

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year 2015-16 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. The Fresno COG's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Each year the SSTAC begins the process of soliciting comments from the public by sending approximately 400 letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County.

The request for comments letters, English and Spanish, were sent on February 7, 2015.

In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC held three information-gathering meetings.

The first outreach meeting was held in the City of Huron, on February 17, 2015, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 36311 Lassen Ave., Huron, CA 93234. The meeting location was set to facilitate comments from the residents of Western Fresno county including: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Huron, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin, and the surrounding unincorporated communities. The meeting time was set for 5:30 p.m. No comments were received.

The second meeting was held in the City of Clovis on February 18, 2015 in the Clovis Senior Activity Center at 850 4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612. The location was selected to facilitate comments from the residents of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) and surrounding unincorporated communities. The meeting time was 5:30 p.m. No comments were received.

The final outreach meeting was held in the City of Selma, on February 19, 2015, in the City Council Chambers at 1710 Tucker Street, Selma, CA 93662. The meeting location was set to facilitate comments from the residents of Eastern Fresno county including: Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and the surrounding unincorporated communities. The meeting time was set for 5:30 p.m. One comment was received regarding staffing on the intercity bus passing through Selma in route to the City of Fresno. Gary Joseph, FEOC Manager and operator of this service responded to the inquiry. This issue was not related to Unmet Needs.

SSTAC has received three comment letters regarding potential unmet needs. The first letter was from the County of Fresno Public Works Department, concerning service in the southeast part of Fresno. The second letter was from David F. Rodriguez, Senior Deputy County Counsel, regarding service to the Juvenile Justice Campus. The final letter was received from Fresno State University, concerning service in the area of the University and El Dorado Park. These letters will be discussed and evaluated by the committee.

Action: This is an information/discussion item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Policy Board.

D. **State Route 198 Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan – 1st Public Outreach Meeting: May 14th in Huron [Garza] [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM I D

Summary: In November of 2012, the SR 198 Stakeholder Group was assembled by Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) in response to information and requests brought forward by local citizens and the business community. The focus of the group was the improvement of SR 198 for safety, improved travel capacity, and the economic generating benefits of the Corridor for Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties.

As part of the plan for improving the route, the Stakeholder Group agreed that KCAG would take the leadership role of the Stakeholder Group and develop mechanisms to improve the corridor. KCAG, in partnership with Fresno COG and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) applied and received a Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant as part of the Partnership Planning Grant Program to prepare the SR 198 Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan. The total project budget is \$275,000 (\$239,000 for consultant costs). The amount of grant funding received from Caltrans is \$220,000. The remaining cost will be provided by a combination of KCAG, Fresno COG, and TCAG planning funds, staff time, and some investment from private enterprise stakeholder members. KCAG is the lead agency for this project and their Commission approved the selection of the consultant, Hatch Mott MacDonald and a notice to proceed on Wednesday, February 27, 2014.

The intent of this plan is to establish up to date transportation data for the corridor through Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties; to establish performance measure criteria by which to evaluate future projects on the corridor; and to apply the measures to candidate projects recommended to provide operational and safety improvements to the corridor as interim steps leading to the ultimate design as recommended by the SR 198 Corridor Systems Management Plan (CSMP), the San Joaquin Valley Good Movement Plan (SJVGM), the National Highway Performance Program and the National Freight Policy Goals as outlined in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) legislation. The Plan will also evaluate the economic development benefits that would result from recommended

improvements.

Plan Development Activities: A project kick-off meeting was held with the consultants and grant partners followed by a kick-off meeting with the SR 198 Corridor Study Stakeholder Advisory Group in April 2014. A 2nd SR 198 Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting was held on July 31, 2014, and now, as part of the Outreach Plan and Community Workshops requirements, several Public Meetings will take place throughout Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties. The schedule for the public meetings is below:

Thu, May 14 – Huron City Hall, 36311 Lassen Ave, Huron, CA **(5:00-6:00 PM)**

Wed, May 20 – Education Conference Center, 876 East Bush Street, Lemoore, CA **(5:00– 7:30 PM)**

Wed, Jun 17 – Tulare County Library, 200 West Oak Avenue, Visalia, CA **(4:00 – 5:00 PM)**

Thu, Jun 25 – Fresno COG, 2035 Tulare St, Suite 201, Fresno, CA **(starts at 5:30 PM)**

Requests for translation services are available. The meeting duration may be extended to allow additional time for translation services. The agenda for the first public meeting on May 14th will be provided by April 13th.

The purpose of these public meetings is to provide an overview of the project scope/schedule, context of the Plan, economic overview (socioeconomic growth trends and agricultural/food processing trends); and Goods Movement overview (current and future truck traffic forecasts, goods movement and the regional economy, goods movement customers/suppliers, and objectives of corridor improvements related to goods movement). A brief corridor analysis will also be provided, including Base Year information for non-drought and non-recession conditions, future traffic forecasts, roadway capacity analysis, accident analysis and roadway improvement recommendations. Lastly, the meeting will include information on the ultimate goal and configuration of the Plan including performance measures and metrics. Time will be allowed for questions and answer.

The Plan is expected to be completed by mid-December 2015.

For any questions regarding the State Route 198 Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan and the upcoming Public Meetings, please contact Melissa Garza at mgarza@fresnocog.org.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

E. **Highway Safety Improvement Program Policy Updates and Cycle 7 Call for Projects [Chargin] [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM I E 1  ITEM I E 2

Summary:

Policy Update

Currently, the Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) carries an obligational authority (OA) balance of over \$200 million. The annual Local HSIP share of OA is about \$60 million, well under the target creating a delivery problem across the state. In addition, as of February 28, 2015, 117 HSIP projects were considered "delayed" per the Caltrans "Project Delivery Requirements for Local Safety Programs". Some projects have been in the "delayed" status for over 5 years. Currently, for delayed HSIP projects, Caltrans' policy is to exclude the project sponsor from competing for HSIP funding for new HSIP projects.

Caltrans new measure for HSIP delivery includes two components:

1. Penalty for prolonged delivery delays – Project Removal from HSIP Program - set strict HSIP project delivery deadlines and remove projects from HSIP Program when deadlines are not met.
2. Incentive for early project delivery – 100% federal funding for a limited time using Toll Credit on Cycle 6 HSIP projects

The memo transmitted from Caltrans is enclosed that describes this new measure in detail. If you have

any questions please contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148 ext. 205.

HSIP Cycle 7 Call for Projects

As of February 2015, Caltrans expects the next HSIP Call-for-Projects (Cycle 7) to be announced towards the end of April 2015. In the meantime, local agencies are encouraged to start early by analyzing the safety of their roadway network and be ready to respond to this upcoming Call-for-Projects. To help agencies prepare, Caltrans has developed this website with information for the upcoming call (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/HSIP/prepare_now.htm). Please review the website information and the enclosed flyer to be prepared for when the Call for Projects is released.

If you have any questions contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148 ext. 205.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

F. Fresno COG 2015 CMP Update Kick-off Meeting: [Han/Cai] [INFORMATION]

Summary: On March 18, 2015, Fresno COG CMP Steering Committee held the kick-off meeting for COG's 2015 CMP update. Federal regulations require that metropolitan areas with population over 200,000, also called Transportation Management Areas (TMAs), develop a Congestion Management Process (CMP) to address congestion issues. An effective CMP is a systematic process for managing congestion that provides information on transportation system performance and on alternative strategies for alleviating congestions and enhancing the mobility of persons and goods.

The 2015 CMP update will define congestion in Fresno County and develop performance measures to monitor congestion. The 2015 update will be focused on monitoring and data collection. Cell phone data will be explored to analyze speed and delay on the CMP network; bike and pedestrian counts will be considered through a FHWA grant program; safety data such as fatal and injury collisions will be included. Other performance monitoring data such as VMT, auto ownership, commute time are being proposed to help track the progress of the region's RTP/SCS.

Committee members representing local agencies, transit providers, community groups, and the general public participated the kick-off meeting.

- Steering Committee elected Harpreet Kooner of Fresno County as the chair of the committee.
- Representative from FHWA gave a brief description of the CMP-related federal regulations and expectations for this round of update.
- Ms. Cai of Fresno COG went over the scope of work for the next six month emphasizing the renewed focus on urban congestion, monitoring and data collection. The proposed scope of work covers areas including:
 - Re-defining CMP network
 - Defining congestion in Fresno County
 - Quantifying congestion with performance measures
 - RFP out to solicit consultant's help to process Big Data and produce congestion monitoring data
 - Other data collection efforts
 - Committee members had some robust discussions on issues including how to define congestion, the scope of CMP network, and innovative data sources.
 - Due to the lack of representation of the two major cities of the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area, the committee deferred any decision making to the next meeting scheduled for April 22nd.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

G. FHWA's Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Program [Cai] [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG has been selected by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the only MPO in the West Coast areas to participate in their Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Program. The FHWA will provide \$20,000 to purchase a limited number of portable automatic counters for collecting bike & pedestrian counts in the Fresno region. The Program will also provide access to a series of webinars and other technical assistance opportunities sponsored by the FHWA. Further

instructions and guidelines will be available in April regarding hardware choice and site selections.

The Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Program will be integrated with the Congestion Management Process (CMP) update efforts that COG is undertaking this year. Member jurisdictions are encouraged to participate in the CMP, which will be focused on data collection and monitoring.

Action: Information only. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Policy Board.

H. **Prop 84/Greenprint Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]**

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

- (Task 1) The most recent meeting of the Greenprint Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 9, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Project Manager asked members of the Advisory Committee to indicate their willingness to continue serving on the Committee by signing an Advisory Committee Operating Agreement and either returning it prior to the meeting or bringing it with them to the meeting. Phase II of the Greenprint project is scheduled to conclude in June of 2016 and the Advisory Committee is expected to meet approximately quarterly during this period (unlike with the earlier Phase I Steering Committee which met monthly).

The Project Manager also requested suggestions for other individuals or organizations to be included on the Advisory Committee, with the intent to extend an invitation to participate in the April 9 meeting. Finally, the Project Manager has also requested the COG representatives on the Advisory Committee discuss with their respective County Planning Director/Resource Manager the Greenprint project and solicit their involvement with the project, as a member of the Advisory Committee or otherwise. It will be vitally important for the County Planning Directors/Resource Managers to be aware of and participate in Phase II of the Greenprint project given their management responsibilities for the non-urban, resource lands of the Valley. Also, their participation is likely necessary for successful pilot projects.

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

- (Task 2) Model Land-Use Revalidation activities (Model Improvement Program Phase 2) began in January 2014, and are on-going. Fehr and Peers, as the selected consultant, are conducting 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.

- (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.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

I. **Cap and Trade Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM 111  ITEM 112

Summary: AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, directed the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to address climate change using multi-year programs to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG)

emissions throughout the State. ARB adopted a Scoping Plan that describes the approach the State will take to reduce GHG emissions and achieve the goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

The Cap-and-Trade Program, which ARB labels as a key element in the Scoping Plan, began in 2012. A portion of the GHG emissions permits (allowances) established by the Cap-and-Trade Program are sold at quarterly auctions and reserve sales. The Legislature and Governor appropriate auction proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to State agencies and programs through the Budget process, consistent with the implementing legislation. Funding allocations are organized into three categories: Transportation and Sustainable Communities Funding, Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding, and Natural Resources and Waste Diversion Funding. Attachment 1 provides a chart briefly describing the funding categories and their related programs (information for the all programs may be found on the ARB's website at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auction_proceeds/ggrf_programpage.htm). Below is more detail on each of the five Transportation and Sustainable Communities Funding programs.

- Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program: This program is administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and implemented by both the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and Natural Resources Agency's, with a funding allocation of \$130 million. The program aims to fund land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development that reduce GHG emissions, while significantly benefiting disadvantaged communities and providing affordable housing. Program activities are intended to yield in projects that include transit-oriented development, intermodal affordable housing, transit capital projects, active transportation and complete streets. Final guidelines were released January 20, 2015, and can be found at: http://sgc.ca.gov/docs/FINAL_AHSC_Guidelines_adopied_1_20_2015.pdf. The program provides for two types of projects: TOD (Corridor, District or Neighborhood) Project Areas, and Integrated Connectivity Projects (ICP), with total funds awarded accounting for no less than 40% to TOD and no less than 30% to ICP projects.

Conceptual applications for this program were due February 19, 2015. As discussed during the January TTC/PAC and Policy Board meeting, Fresno COG's role in the process (as the region's MPO) is to assist with the review of submitted conceptual applications by providing feedback to the SGC relating to whether a project supports the implementation of the region's SCS. Fresno COG will not be involved in any activities such as the ranking or direct scoring of project applications.

On March 18th, the SGC formally announced that two applications from the Fresno Region had been invited to submit full applications (Chelsea Investment Corporation – Fancher Creek Town Center; and APEC International – Hotel Fresno). The SGC Memo detailing those applicants invited for the full process can be found at: http://sgc.ca.gov/docs/SGC_AHSC_Concept_Invite_Memo_March_18.pdf Fresno COG will be available to provide technical assistance to both applicants, where needed. Full applications are due by April 20th.

- Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation (SALC) Program: This program is administered by the California Department of Conservation, as directed by the SGC, with a funding allocation of \$1 million (as part of the \$130 million allocated to the SGC as part of the AHSC Program). Activities associated with this program include the formulation/placement of Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy Plans. Draft guidelines for this program were released on September 22, 2014, and can be found at: http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Sustainable_Ag_Lands_Conservation_Program_Guidelines_092214_DRAFT.pdf. Adoption of the guidelines is took place at the SGC meeting on January 20, 2015. Grant types in this program may fall under two categories: Agricultural Land Conservation Easements (Applications were due February 20, 2015); and Sustainable Agriculture Land Strategy (applications due March 20, 2015).
- High Speed Rail Program: This program is administered by the High Speed Rail Authority, with a funding allocation of \$250 million. Activities within the program consist of the planning, design, and right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the initial operating segment. The Authority currently has a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) out for the building of the Phase Three of High-Speed Rail in the Central Valley, with submissions that were due January 30, 2015. Additional information can be found at: <http://hsr.ca.gov/>
- Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP): This program is administered by the California

State Transportation Agency, with a funding allocation of \$25 million. Activities within this program consist of capital improvements and operational investments that will modernize California's transit systems and intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems to reduce GHG emissions, expand and improve rail service and increase ridership, integrate the rail service of the state's various rail operations, including integration with the high-speed rail system, and improve safety. Draft discussion guidelines were released for review and comment on December 3, 2014. The draft guidelines were presented to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on January 22, 2015, for final approval. Guideline workshops were held in Northern and Southern California on January 20th and 21st, respectively. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/tircp.html>.

- **Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)**: This program is administered through the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), with a funding allocation of \$25 million. Activities within this program are designed to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce GHG emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities. Approved projects in LCTOP will support new or expanded bus or rail services, expand intermodal transit facilities, and may include equipment acquisition, fueling, maintenance and other costs to operate those services or facilities, with each project reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For agencies whose service area includes disadvantaged communities, at least 50 percent of the total moneys received shall be expended on projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities. Draft guidelines for the program were released November 7, 2014, and can be found at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/DiscussionGuidelinesLCTOP_11_07_14.pdf. Additional information on the program can be found at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/lctop.html>.
- **Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) and Low Carbon Transportation Program**: This program is administered by the California Air Resources Board (ARB), with a funding allocation of \$230 million. Within this program, Cap and Trade auction proceeds provide an additional funding source for ARB's advanced technology, clean transportation incentive programs, thus expanding the types of projects ARB has funded through the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). Activities within the program include zero and near-zero emission passenger vehicle rebates, heavy duty hybrid/ZEV trucks and buses, freight demonstration projects, and pilot programs (car sharing, financing, etc.) in disadvantaged communities. Additional details for the various program activities can be found at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/aqip.htm>. The last day to submit a project proposal for the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Targeted Car Sharing and Mobility Options in Disadvantaged Communities Pilot Project was at 5:00 PM on April 8th. Funding of up to \$2.5 Million is provided by Low Carbon Transportation Investments, which is funded from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), with proceeds from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program. The overarching goal of this project is to also achieve co-benefit criteria pollutant emission reductions through the introduction of advanced clean car sharing fleets or other mobility options including, but not limited to, advanced technology vanpooling and shuttles into the State's most disadvantaged communities. Eligible applicants included federal, State, or local government entities and non-profit organizations. For more information on the various Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) and Low Carbon Transportation Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, visit <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/solicitations.htm>

Fresno COG provided letters of support for the following 2 projects competing for these program funds:

- **San Joaquin Valley LEAP Green Raiteros (Riders) Rural RideShare Pilot Project**: Purpose of the project is to establish a ride-share pilot project using plug-in hybrid vehicles based in Huron, CA. The pilot concept involves deploying two 2016 Chevy Volts in Huron which would be made available to a cohort of drivers selected from those already providing volunteer ride-share services for community members to medical and legal appointments in Fresno, Madera, and Hanford. This informal rideshare network already provides a large share of transportation for Huron residents who are not able to drive themselves.
- **Los Angeles County Targeted Car Sharing Pilot Proposal** - An electric vehicle vanpooling and car sharing pilot project application sponsored by Los Angeles County & Green Commuter. Vans would be provided to Los Angeles County and to the Fresno County region for lease. Staff offered in kind outreach support to the project.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

J. **Keep Fresno County Beautiful Updates [Dawson] [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Cecile Carson, Senior Director of Affiliate Development for the Keep America Beautiful organization conducted the Keep Fresno County Beautiful Community Team training at Fresno COG on April 27, 2015.

Single-use plastic bag update: During Fresno COG's March meetings I reported that the City of Sacramento was investigating a ban on single use plastic bags. On Tuesday March 31, 2015 in a unanimous vote, the Sacramento City Council approved a ban on single-use plastic bags that will effectively eliminate plastic bags from the checkout counters of all grocery stores, pharmacies and convenience stores within city limits.

In lieu of plastic, customers will be given the option of recycled paper bags or reusable bags that stores will be required to sell for at least 10 cents apiece. More than one-third of Californians live in places where single-use plastic bags are outlawed. Currently, 138 jurisdictions have banned the bags.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

K. **Alternative Fuels Updates [Dawson] [INFORMATION]**

Summary: There has been substantial activity in the alternative fuels arena. Summaries are below:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District received a \$300,000 grant from CEC to implement the District's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Awareness and Training Programs. The grant will fund the promotion of public awareness of electric vehicles, and the enhancement and streamlining of permitting, inspection and installation processes. http://www.valleyair.org/Board_meetings/GB/agenda_minutes/Agenda/2015/March/GB_Agenda_March-19_2015.pdf

PG&E has filed a proposal with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to provide rebates to utility customers who charge their electric vehicles at home or fuel natural gas vehicles at PG&E owned compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations. http://www.ngtnews.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.10581#utm_medium=email&utm_source=LNH+03-24-2015&utm_campaign=NGT+Latest+News+Headlines

President Obama has issued an executive order to federal agencies to cut fleet emissions by incorporating more zero-emission (ZEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/19/executive-order-planning-federal-sustainability-next-decade>

The California Air Resources Board has announced the Public Fleet Pilot Project with offers up to \$15,000 in rebates for the purchase of new eligible zero-emission and plug-in hybrid light-duty vehicles. This project provides increased incentives for public agencies operating in California's most vulnerable and pollution-burdened areas. <https://energycenter.org/public-fleet-project>

The California Energy Commission is offering \$1.5 million dollars for CNG infrastructure to public school districts and other public entities to establish or expand infrastructure necessary to store, distribute and dispense compressed natural gas for use in natural gas vehicles. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-14-608/>

Recent local additions of electric vehicle charging stations:

- Fresno Fashion Fair Mall (behind BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse)
- California State University, Fresno
- City of Clovis 4/6/15 approved the lease to install an electric vehicle charging station in the Water Tower parking lot (for two DC fast chargers and one level 2 charger)
- An application has been filed for an installation at the northeast corner of Herndon and Willow

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

L. **Monthly Grant/Call for Project reminders [Chargin] [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM I L

Summary: See attached memo. For the latest information on grants, Fresno COG member agencies and partnering agencies can register for EfficientGov's GrantFinder database service. Fresno COG has subscribed to this service and is offering free membership to local agencies and partnering agencies. If you or someone from your agency is 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.

EfficientGov offers grantwriting assistance and provides real-time, comprehensive, grant information for all federal, state, foundation and corporate grants that are available to municipalities, counties and non-profit agencies. The database is updated daily with new grants as well as important updates to existing grants within the database. Additionally, the service provides for unlimited access to EfficientGov news, articles and the GrantIntel newsletter, which focuses specifically on grant funding.

If your agency has already subscribed, but a tutorial on how to search for grants is needed, EfficientGov offers a free monthly demo for all of its users. You can sign up for the next available tutorial here: <http://efficientgov.com/refresh>.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

II. **TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Measure C Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Program Fourth Funding Cycle Project Applications [Cai] [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM II A 1  ITEM II A 2  ITEM II A 3

Summary: The Measure C Transit Oriented Infrastructure for In-fill Development (TOD) program was created to encourage and support higher density and mixed use development with proximity to major transit stations. The Measure C TOD program will generate \$17.4 million during the 20 year life-span based on the estimation in December 2012. There is about \$888,800 available for the 4th funding cycle.

The City of Fresno has submitted 2 applications for the 4th funding cycle (attached as Exhibits on website):

1. Fulton Mall Reconstruction Project Match:

The Fulton Mall Reconstruction Project Match was approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board and the FCTA Board in 2014 for a total amount of \$1.8 million, which will be spread among several funding cycles. The Project received \$425,000 during the 3rd funding cycle in 2014. The City is applying for \$780,343 for the 4th funding cycle.

2. Met Block Development Offsite Improvements

The City of Fresno is applying for \$108,457 for this project on behalf of the Granville Homes. The application is to fund the remaining portion of the project that could not be funded during the 3rd funding cycle. The project received \$121,342 during the 3rd funding cycle.

The TOD Scoring Committee met on March 10, and recommended approval of the above two applications for their requested funding.

Attached with this agenda item is a summary of the projects funded by the TOD program and expenses paid as of March 10, 2015.

Action: TTC/PAC and staff recommend approval of the Fulton Mall Reconstruction Project Match for \$780,343; the Met Block Development Offsite Improvements for \$108,457.

B. **Transportation Project Ag Mitigation Ad-Hoc Committee [Terry] [REAFFIRM]**

Exhibits:

☑ ITEM II B

Summary: At the March 25, 2015 Policy Board Meeting, each Policy Board member was given a copy of the “Fresno COG Ag Mitigation Ad-hoc Committee White Paper” (attached), which details the history and formation of the Committee; intended to update new Board members, and to serve as a platform to receive clarification on the overall scope of the Committee from the Board. Staff asked the Board to review the whitepaper with their respective staff members prior to the April Board meeting, and be prepared to provide firm clarification regarding the bounds of the Committee and ultimate deliverables desired by the Board as part of their April agenda. During the April TTC/PAC meetings, COG staff further requested that members of the TTC and PAC ensure they engage in such conversations with their Policy Board representatives prior to the April Board meeting. Prior to the adoption of the RTP/SCS last year, the TTC, PAC, and PAC Sub-committee established to consider the three SCS Implementation Strategies (including the formation of the Ad-hoc Committee), provided unanimous consensus that the activities of the Ad-hoc Committee address only the impacts on agricultural lands associated with transportation projects. During their March and April meetings this year, the TTC and PAC again voiced support for such direction.

Action: TTC/PAC recommends the Policy Board provide re-affirmation of their original direction, in-line with the Pac Sub-Committee and full PAC recommendation, for the Ad-hoc Committee to “...identify potential policies and actions to minimize the loss of farmland associated with the construction of transportation facilities,” for consideration by individual local agencies.

C. Obligational Authority [Chargin] [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

☑ ITEM II C ☑ ITEM II C 2

Summary: On April 3, 2015 Fresno COG submitted the 2014/15 Obligation Plan to Caltrans Local Assistance. This plan documents Fresno COG’s estimated schedule for project and fund delivery for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014/15 (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015). The overall total Obligational Authority (OA) for CMAQ and RSTP in FFY 2014/15 would have been \$23,199,366; however, last year's OA was under delivered by \$22,920, and that amount was added to this year’s OA, leaving \$22,796,493 as the projected FFY 2014/15 Obligational Authority Target after oversight adjustment.

As of March 31, 2015, \$5,980,684 had been obligated which reduced our 2014/15 Obligational Authority Target balance to **\$16,815,810**. Our region should deliver a total of \$22,796,493 of OA to comply with the “Use It or Lose It” provisions of AB 1012 enacted in October 1999 (delivery report enclosed). The revised obligation plan submitted by the local agencies (enclosed) outlines the delivery of **\$15,888,882** as of April 1, 2015 in combined CMAQ and RSTP, which combined with what we have already delivered we expect to under deliver \$926,927 of our Target OA.

It is imperative that projects programmed within FFY 2014/15 get obligated within the programmed year to avoid reprogramming of those funds. Also, agencies with projects scheduled in later years can take advantage of the expedited project selection procedures (EPSP) to deliver their projects early. Obligating funds programmed in later years can help our region get closer to our target. If our region is able to deliver more than our OA Target we might be eligible to capture any available funds during the statewide open obligation period. Keep in mind that the use of toll credits may be applicable for project phases that have not been obligated at 100% federal reimbursement if residual federal funds are available. Furthermore, if funds need to be reprogrammed and financial capacity is not available, it is possible that projects can become substantially delayed if moved to the outer years of the FTIP.

Please contact Lindsey Chargin with questions or EPSP requests at lindseyc@fresnocog.org or 559-233-4148 ext. 205.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

D. 2015 Active Transportation Program (ATP) (Cycle 2) [Garza] [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

☑ ITEM II D 1 ☑ ITEM II D 2

Summary: Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds are separated into three main components: the statewide competitive program, the small urban and rural area competitive program (to be managed by the state), and the large urbanized area competitive program (managed by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) - also known as the Regional Competitive ATP). Large MPO's, such as Fresno COG, have the option of developing their own policies, procedures, and project selection criteria that differ from those adopted by the CTC, provided they are approved by the CTC.

Fresno COG developed regional guidelines, criteria and a supplemental application for Cycle 1. However, with the changes in the statewide guidelines, the Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) will continue to meet and discuss possible changes to the Fresno COG regional guidelines and consistency with the state's guidelines. The group met on March 12th and April 8th to review and discuss the updates to the regional guidelines, criteria, and application. They also revisited several items that were previously approved as part of Cycle 1. A third meeting is scheduled for April 29th at 10 am. Enclosures for this item include;

1. California Transportation Commission Approved Fund Estimate
2. Table that outlines specific changes between Cycle 1 and Cycle 2
3. Draft Regional ATP Guidelines with proposed changes agreed upon by the MAG
4. Updated MAG member list
5. Draft full application
6. Draft supplemental application for Fresno COG Regional ATP only

The Fresno COG Regional Competitive ATP will cover three additional years of funding, FY 16-17 through FY 18-19. Based on the CTC's Fund Estimates, it is anticipated that \$1.3 million/year will be available for our Fresno COG Regional Call (\$3.9 million total), keeping in mind that we must meet the disadvantage community threshold of at least 25% of the program funds to benefit projects in disadvantaged communities. Also, it was determined that **the Call for Projects for the Region will be initiated on June 26th and will close on August 7th**. This would allow the MAG to start reviewing the applications in August and reviewing the 2nd batch of applications that were not successful at the state level in September. The group will convene on **Sept. 23rd** to score and deliberate on the recommended program of projects.

Action: Information with discussion/direction from the Policy Board on MAG member list and proposed program updates.

E. **National Park Transit Update [Fawcett] [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Upcoming Kick-off Activities, including ribbon-cutting, etc., will be announced in early May, in anticipation of the May 23, 2015 (Memorial Day Weekend) launch of the National Parks Demonstration Transit Service to Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. Elected Officials from throughout the Valley, as well as the media will be in attendance.

As part of the effort to actively seek funding to support operations during and beyond the two year demonstration period, official actions are required for 5311(f) grant applications currently in process. Such items will be brought before TTC/PAC and the Policy Board for recommendation and approval during the May meetings..

Information: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

F. **Caltrans Report [Caltrans] [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 ITEM II F

Summary: Caltrans staff will give an update at the Policy Board meeting. The Quarterly Update is included.

Action: Information item.

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

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE 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 March 26, 2015 [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

ITEM IV A

B. **Monthly Legislative Update [Garza] [INFORMATION]**

To locate current and past year **state bill information** go to the Official California Legislative Information webpage at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

To locate current and past year federal bill information go to THOMAS, The Library of Congress's bill information website (in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson) at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Please contact staff person, Melissa Garza, if you have any questions or comments.

V. **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Support Position for Assembly Bill 156 (Perea) and Assembly Bill 1043 (Salas) [Garza] [SUPPORT] [Garza] [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

ITEM V A 1 ITEM V A 2

Summary:

1. Assembly Bill 156 (Perea):

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act authorizes the state board to include the use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Existing law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and to be available upon appropriation. Existing law requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify disadvantaged communities and requires the Department of Finance, in consultation with the state board and any other relevant state agency, to develop, as specified, a 3-year investment plan for the moneys deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Existing law requires the 3-year investment plan to allocate a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the fund to projects that provide benefits to disadvantaged communities. This bill would require the state board to establish a comprehensive technical assistance program, upon the appropriation of moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, for eligible applicants to assist disadvantaged communities. Letter of support attached.

Staff recommends support for AB 156 (Perea).

1. Assembly Bill 1043 (Salas)

Existing law requires certain transportation funds made available for transportation capital improvement projects to be programmed and expended in specified amounts for interregional improvements and regional improvements. Existing law specifies the state highway routes that are included in the interregional road system and the state highway routes that are eligible interregional and intercounty routes. This bill would include State Highway Route 43 as an eligible interregional and intercounty route. Fresno COG previously supported the same bill when it was introduced in 2013. Letter of support attached.

Staff recommends support for AB 1043 (Salas).

Action: PAC and Staff recommend support for Assembly Bill 156 (Perea) and Assembly Bill 1043 (Salas). Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

B. **Appointment of Alternate for San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council – replacing Councilmember Lynne Ashbeck [Boren] [APPOINT]**

Summary: Nominations for Alternate Member of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council.

Action: Appoint.

C. **Washington D.C. One Voice Report [Boren/Garza/Veenendaal] [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

ITEM V C 1 ITEM V C 2

Summary: The Annual Fresno COG One Voice trip to Washington D.C. for elected officials, was held April 11th -16th, 2015. This trip provided an opportunity for a delegation of local public and private representatives to expand upon the relationships with Congressional representatives and federal staff members, while advocating for legislative relief for priorities of regional significance. There were 25 delegates who participated in the 2015 One Voice trip to Washington, DC.

A number of meetings were held with the San Joaquin Valley Congressional delegation, Federal Agency leadership, and White House personnel. Fresno COG's number one priority was Water Policy; however, an array of other regional priorities were presented and discussed with Federal officials. A meeting with the One Voice delegates took place on April 20th to discuss the follow up items and remaining tasks. Staff will provide more information at the Policy Board meeting including the status of the follow up items. Enclosed is the final meeting agenda, the meeting summaries and the priority brochure.

Action: Information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. **Items from Staff**

B. **Items from Members**

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