

Memorandum

DATE: May 5, 2015

TO: Transportation Technical Committee
Policy Advisory Committee
COG Policy Board

FROM: Tony Boren, Executive Director
Mike Bitner, Deputy Director
Les Beshears, Finance Director

SUBJECT: FY 2015-16 Overall Work Program

Recommendation:

Staff recommends adoption of the FY 2015-16 Overall Work Program, totaling \$15,749,187.

Summary: The FY 2015-16 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$15,749,187, is submitted for adoption. The proposed budget increased \$2,576,427 from our 2014-15 budget. Operational revenues remain intact, reserves are adequate and the agency continues to operate within the bounds of prudent management.

The draft budget increased \$27,000 since it was released for review in February, to add a \$25,000 Bike & Pedestrian counting program funded by a state planning grant and to provide a net increase of \$2,000 for the travel budget.

This year's budget total reflects an increase of 20% from the approved FY 2014-15 budget. This increase is largely a factor of the increase in FTA Section 5307 to fund demonstration projects providing public transit service to Yosemite and Sequoia National parks. Factoring out the grants associated with those projects would have resulted in the budget decreasing 7% as the discontinued FTA Section 5316 & 5317 programs continue to decrease as those existing grants are drawn down.

Federal revenues increased 35% (\$2,059,846) reflecting the previously mentioned national parks projects and FTA Section 5316 & 5317 draw downs. State revenues increased 11% (\$215,728) largely due to the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement study. Greenprint planning activities that were funded with a Department of Conservation Grant are still under way however the revenues associated with this grant decrease reflects completed work. We also completed state grant funded projects last year, the Fresno/Clovis Transit Service Transit Evaluation and the Ventura/Kings Canyon Revitalization Planning Study decreasing State Planning and Research (SPR) funds in this year's budget. Local revenues increased 6%, (\$300,851) a significant part of which is from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for the National Parks service. Cash Match revenues from FTA Section 5316 & 5317 projects decreased significantly as the program is being phased out. Local Measure C revenues decreased slightly in total however utilization of our Taxi Scrip, Commuter and Farm Worker Vanpool programs continue to grow.

The FY 2015-16 OWP increase results from the following:

WE 116 National Parks - \$3,636,856 is budgeted for the YARTS and Sequoia public transit programs to Yosemite and Sequoia national parks.

WE 811 San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement - \$550,000 is budgeted to perform a San Joaquin Valley goods movement study on SR 99 and I-5.

Staffing & Benefits:

No new COG planning positions are included in this year's budget. The FCRTA budget includes an Administrative Assistant and Planner position. Contingencies are carried for merit based salary increases, and anticipated health insurance increases as the Federal Affordable Health Care Act continues to phase in.

Expense Account Format:

Expense items are broken into two categories. General Indirect Overhead expenses are items which are attributable to the overall administration of the agency and not identifiable specifically to grant programs, such as telephone, insurance, copier lease, and rent. These Indirect expenses are combined into a Caltrans approved Indirect Cost Allocation Proposal and passed on equally to all funding sources. Expenses charged directly to specific grants and programs are identified as Other Direct Cost. In some instances there may appear to be duplication such as in the Indirect account for Printing and the Other Direct Cost account for Supplies/Printing. However, the difference in treatment is in the general nature of overhead expenses as opposed to the project specific nature of Other Direct Costs. Detail is provided for Other Direct Cost (*Other Project Detail*) showing the Work Element, Activity, and funding sources.

Overhead Accounts:

Overhead accounts have been increased \$28,238. 20,788 of this is in anticipation of our five year office lease renewal. Travel and education expense increased \$7,000 to provided training and education for new employees replacing recently retirements.

Direct Cost Expenses:

Consulting

The overall consulting budget increased \$3.4 million, mainly from the National Park Transit service and I-5/SR99 Goods Movement Study. New consulting projects include WE 110 Blackstone Avenue Corridor Transit Oriented Development Infrastructure Needs (\$150,000), Downtown to Tower Alternative Mode Study (\$50,000), Cycle Feasibility Study (\$100,000), WE 111 Urban Footprint Land Use Model (\$50,000), WE 150 ATP Plan (\$300,000) and WE 172 Congestion Management Plan update \$150,000.

Supplies & Printing

The budget for program specific printing cost increased \$10,000 to reflect increased public participation.

Software Support and Maintenance

The Software account increased \$500 to reflect renewal of Fresno Track software to manage programming of our federal aid projects.

Workshops

Workshops increase \$20,000 for a Transportation and Public Health program as part of our RTP.

Promotion / Public Outreach

The Public Outreach budget is unchanged from last year.

Carpool Subsidy

The budget increased \$24,000 as participation in the program is anticipated to increase.

Prizes & Awards

The budget decreased \$28,113 due to a reduction in awards associated with the One Voice Advocacy program.

Commuter Vanpool Subsidy

The budget increased \$6,160.

Taxi Scrip

The program is growing in popularity and this year's program increases by \$40,000.

Farm Worker Vanpool Subsidy

This program is also experiencing a boost in participation as the budget increased by \$20,000.

Employee Education, Training, and Travel

The travel budget shows a slight decrease of \$95.

FTA 5316 JARC

A schedule of JARC projects is included in the Work Element. Completed projects are removed.

FTA 5317 New Freedom

A schedule of New Freedom projects is included in the Work Element. Completed projects are removed.

Translation Services

A new account was set up to budget \$2,500 for translation services associated with our public outreach.

County Counsel

The budget increased \$15,000 reflecting increased activity associated with the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency (RTMF) program.

Program Audits

The budget is unchanged from last year.

County Auditor Controller

The budget is unchanged from last year.

Membership Dues

Dues for NARC and CALCOG are unchanged.

Board Remuneration

The budget remains unchanged at \$19,200. The account reflects the Stipend paid for Board Members to attend the monthly meeting and various board travel expenses associated with the agency.

Temporary Help

The budget remains unchanged at \$4,000.

Other Misc. Expense

The budget increased \$500.

Freeway Service Patrol

The program budget remains unchanged.

Equipment

This account remains unchanged from last year. Included for this year is \$70,000 for Traffic Count/Computer Equipment, \$25,000 for bike and pedestrian counters, \$15,000 for computers, \$10,000 for office equipment, and \$3,000 for commercial radio rental associated with the Freeway Service Patrol.

Agency Pass Through

This account increased \$209,000 providing pass through funding for Valley COGs pursuant to the Department of Conservation Sustainable Communities grant.

Grant Administration

This account is to carry a provision for grants that have multi-year line items for administration. Currently we have grants with \$78,005 in multi-year administrative provisions.

New, Combined and Eliminated Work Elements:

Discontinued work elements:

WE 125 FCMA Transit Service Evaluation

WE 314 Ventura/Kings Canyon were discontinued as the projects were completed.

WE 950 Abandoned Vehicle Abatement

New Work Elements

WE 411 Ag Farmland Mitigation

WE 811 SJV Goods Movement

The six primary components of the OWP are as follows:

- I. Regional Transportation Planning
- II. Transportation Program Development
- III. Services and General Coordination Activities
- IV. Regional Coordination of Transportation, Land Use & Housing
- V. Valleywide Coordinated Activities
- VI. Administrative Activities

Highlights for each of the six OWP components are listed below:

I. Regional Transportation Planning

The work elements contained within this section primarily carry out the long-range regional transportation planning program, for which the COG is statutorily responsible.

Work Element 110 Regional Streets and Highways Planning – This \$369,000 program includes \$50,000 for a Soundwall Study, \$10,000 for Highway Beautification effort, \$150,000 for the Blackstone Avenue TOD Infrastructure needs study, \$50,000 Downtown to Tower Alternative Mode Study and (\$100,000) for a Cycle Tracks Feasibility Study.

Work Element 111 Regional Transportation Modeling – This \$1,016,000 program continues the regional modeling effort. Phase I and Phase II of the SCS Modeling and the ITHIM Model are

carried over from last year (\$320,000). Phase II of the Fresno/Madera Origins/Destinations & Fiscal Feasibility study is budgeted (\$125,000). The budget also includes \$50,000 for an Urban Footprint Land Use Model.

Work Element 112 Regional Traffic Monitoring - This \$457,000 budget includes \$237,200 for Fresno County, Fresno, and Clovis to provide traffic counts for the regional program and \$70,000 for traffic counting equipment to accommodate increase traffic counts required for the update of the Congestion Management Plan.

Work Element 114 Intelligent Transportation Systems – Last year a major update was made to the ITS plan. \$48,000 is budgeted to continue coordination.

Work Element 115 Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee – This \$205,000 program implements the collection of the RTMF for the Transportation Authority. \$50,000 is budgeted for technical support and \$100,000 to provide updates for the RTMF Nexus.

Work Element 116 National Park Transit Service – This \$3.5 million budget provides Public Transit Service to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

Work Element 117 Golden State Corridor - In previous years the project was 35% designed. \$147,000 is budgeted to coordinate the 100% design phase including \$100,000 for the local agencies' role.

Work Element 120 Public Transportation – Primarily funded with the City of Fresno's Section 5307 grant, this \$324,000 program coordinates activities between Federal Transit Administration and our four transit operators including CTSA operations.

Work Element 121 Section 5310 – \$2.2 million in Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 and Section 5317 grant programs provide funds to eligible projects. The JARC/New Freedom program was discontinued under Map-21; however, this work element tracks grant balances as the program is phased out. Staff will also cover administration of the revised FTA Section 5310 program through this work element.

Work Element 150 Other Modal Elements – This program coordinates activities related to aviation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian. An Active Transportation Plan (\$300,000) is budgeted.

Work Element 152 High Speed Rail - \$250,000 is programmed for planning activities related to the downtown station and maintenance facility including planning by the County and Fresno.

Work Element 153 Airport Land Use Commission - \$53,000 is programmed to support the Commission.

Work Element 170 Regional Transportation Plan – \$389,000 is budgeted to continue the ongoing RTP process. This includes \$100,000 for a Sustainable Communities Strategy needs assessment.

Work Element 172 Congestion Management Program – FHWA has requested a major update to the CMP so this element is increased to \$376,000 with \$150,000 for a consultant and \$25,000 for bike & pedestrian counters.

Work Element 180 Air Quality - \$247,000 is programmed for air quality activities associated with conformity and Inter Agency Coordination including \$55,000 for our share of an Air Quality Inter Agency Coordination hosted by San Joaquin COG.

II. Transportation Program Development

Work Element 210 Measure “C” Extension - \$215,000 is programmed to implement Measure “C” and update the Capital Projects Strategic Plan.

Work Element 211 Measure “C” Citizen Oversight Committee - \$12,000 is programmed to support the committee.

Work Element 212 Measure “C” Carpool/Vanpool – The \$405,000 budget provides for Carpool Incentives and Commuter Vanpool Subsidies.

Work Element 214 Measure “C” ADA/Seniors – This \$567,000 budget provides for the Senior Taxi Scrip program.

Work Element 215 Farmworker Vanpool – Through CalVans, this program provides subsidies to agricultural workers for vanpool transportation. The budget is \$446,900.

Work Element 220 Transportation Program Development - \$322,000 is budgeted to coordinate the various aspects of administering project applications with modeling, air quality conformity, congestion management and financial constraint for millions of dollars in member agency projects programmed with Federal Aid and State funded grants through Web based Fresno Trak.

III. Services and General Coordination

Work Element 310 Intergovernmental Coordination - \$178,000 is budgeted to coordinate with member agencies and other governmental units.

Work Element 311 Public Participation – \$117,000 is programmed to facilitate public involvement in the COG planning process.

Work Element 313 Environmental Justice - \$30,000 is programmed to provide Environmental Justice analysis for disadvantaged communities and stakeholder groups.

Work Element 320 Technical Assistance - \$140,000 is budgeted to assist member agencies in planning and project implementation including a continuation of the circuit planner.

Work Element 340 TDM– \$23,000 is programmed for TDM activities related to the Valleyrides ridesharing program.

Work Element 350 Fresno Regional Data Center - \$49,000 is programmed to maintain census and population related statistics vital to the planning process.

Work Element 360 One Voice Advocacy - \$138,000 is programmed for the “One Voice” trip to Washington DC and Fresno COG Legislative Fridays as well as the “Valley Voice” trip to Sacramento and Washington DC. Advocacy programs at both the local and regional levels are ineligible for state and federal participation and must be funded by local assessments.

IV. Regional Coordination of Transportation, Land Use & Housing

Work Element 411 Ag Farmland Mitigation - \$42,000 is programmed to continue the discussion of farmland mitigation.

Work Element 420 Regional Housing Needs – This budget of \$204,000 assist member agencies in update to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan and development of the first Fresno County Consolidated Housing element.

V. Valleywide Coordinated Activities

Work Element 811 – SJV Goods Movement - \$550,000 is programmed to perform a San Joaquin Valley I-5/SR-99 Goods Movement Study.

Work Element 814 SCS - Work under a previous \$1,000,000 Department of Conservation grant was completed and \$825,571 is programmed to continue Phase II of the Sustainable Communities Strategy which includes Valley model refinement, Greenprint integration, and SCS implementation efforts.

Work Element 820 Valley RTPA Coordination - General activities associated with coordinating Valleywide planning include a \$110,000 consultant contract to coordinate the Valleywide planning effort.

VI. Administrative Activities

Work Element 910 COG Administration - \$125,000 is programmed to cover non federal/state aspects and general administration.

Work Element 911 Overall Work Program - \$26,000 is programmed to develop and monitor the OWP.

Work Element 912 Transportation Funds Admin. - \$142,000 is programmed to administrate the Transportation Development Act trust funds distributing \$32 million in transportation funding to member agencies.

Work Element 920 – 930 Local Agency Administration - \$400,000 is budgeted to provide administrative support to the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency and Fresno County Transportation Authority.

Work Element 940 Freeway Service Patrol - The Freeway Service Patrol is continued for a 23rd year of operation. \$433,000 is budgeted to provide assistance to motorists on the state highway system in Fresno.