

Fresno County SB 375 Task Force 2012 Target-Setting

Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Attending:
See Attachment “A”

I. 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.**

There were no Public Presentations.

II. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS RECOMMENDATION

A. Welcome and Introductions

Dave Fey (City of Clovis), Chair, welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

B. Project Scope Overview

Information/Discussion

Kristine Cai (COG Staff) presented the framework for this committee as scenario and target setting focused, with an eventual recommendation coming from this committee and going through the COG approval process. Target setting is the goal now with the SCS and RTP taking place mid next year. Ms. Cai also emphasized that public outreach for SCS will start next year. The target-setting process will use the Task Force as stakeholder and advisory committee, and go through COG’s decision making process. This round of target setting will be different from the last one in that cities are updating their General Plans; the 2007 RTP projects, which were planned before the recession will be replaced with a more realistic list of projects under existing economic conditions. The COG financial team is working on a realistic financial forecast to support this round of target setting. The Planning Center is working on the demographic/employment forecast due to be completed January 5, 2012, which will be used in target setting; there was a \$2.5 million grant from Strategic Growth Council to update the model expected to be ready in February 2012; and Envision Tomorrow, a sketch planning tool, has been endorsed to help build scenarios that are market based.

Mary Savala (League of Women Voters) asked if the Department of Finance (DOF) numbers were going to be used for target setting and whether or not this will tie into the blueprint. Kathy Chung (COG Staff) replied that the DOF has removed their projections from their website and this is why The Planning Center forecast is so important to this process. There was also discussion on the valley wide structure for the target setting – whether or not there will be one valley-wide target, individual county targets, or sub-regional targets, etc. It has not been determined which way to go and the Valley COG’s will need to make that determination. COGs from Madera, Merced, Tulare & San Joaquin were listening in today to see how Fresno COG was operating with regard to target setting.

C. Overview of Envision Tomorrow

Discussion

C.J. Gabbe and Alex Joyce from Fregonese Associates were on the phone and presented an overview of Envision Tomorrow, a sketch planning tool for scenario development. Within their suite of planning tools there is a Prototype Builder (Return on Investment Model) and a Scenario Builder (an extension for ArcGIS). The Scenario Building can compare multiple scenarios across a variety of indicators, while the Prototype Builder assists in determining physical and financial feasibility. The Scenario Building Process starts with Building Types (model a library of building types that are financially feasible at the local level), then Development Types (define the buildings, streets and amenities that make up the places where we live, work and play), then Scenario Development (paint future land use scenarios to test the implications of different decisions or policies), ending with Evaluation (compare the scenarios and monitor the impact of land use decisions in real-time).

John Wright (regional planner) asked about the grid scale. 5.5 acres is what Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) are using in their SCS development. SCAG represents 6 counties in Southern California. Envision Tomorrow is flexible with grid scale selection. Jeff Roberts (Granville) asked how far these extend out to and if fleet changes are factored in. Fleet changes are factored in EMFAC, an air quality model developed by ARB, and used in calculating greenhouse gas emission. Kristine Cai (COG Staff) commented we would be looking at 2020 and 2035 for the target years, and in the SCS, 2040 as that is the horizon year for next RTP. Michelle Garcia (Fresno Madera Medical Society) asked how business as usual can be done in today's economy. C.J. Gabbe (Fregonese Associates) responded that they look at the trends and forecasts, and adjust & update the trend line based on existing market condition.

D. Introduction of Building Prototypes

Discussion

C.J. Gabbe (Fregonese Associates) continued his presentation and said the next step is to create a prototype library for Fresno COG. This library will include about 30 different building types and may include commonly seen types in the Fresno area as well as "aspirational" types. They are looking to this committee for help as they build this library. He went through different building types and asked for input from the committee as to types that were missing and/or types that do not pertain to this area. There was extended discussion for each type with many suggestions/comments. Mr. Gabbe commented that the input is to form of building type, not type of resident. Dave Fey (City of Clovis), Chair, asked that any others suggestions be emailed to Kristine Cai (COG Staff).

E. Other Items

a. Items from Members

Michelle Garcia (Fresno Madera Medical Society) asked that the items be sent beforehand for review. Elizabeth Jonasson (CCA) stressed the need to incorporate the blueprint principles in this process. Rob Terry (COG Staff) assured Mr. Jonasson that he is working with the SB 375 committee to make sure this happens.

b. Items from Staff

Ms. Cai reminded everyone of the next meeting, Wednesday, December 21, 2011.

Attachment "A"

Attending:

David Fey, City of Clovis, Chair
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Chip Ashley, Sierra Club
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Michelle Garcia, Fresno Madera Medical Society
Elizabeth Jonnason, CCA
Jeff Roberts, Granville Homes
Nyla Zender, League of Women Voters
Ralph Kachadourian, City of Sanger
Mary Savala, League of Women Voters
Julie Hernandez, City of Clovis
Jill Gormley, City of Fresno
Marcus Evans, Caltrans
Franklin Spees, City of Fresno
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Kai Han, Fresno COG
Rob Terry, Fresno COG
Lindsey Monge, Fresno COG
Toni Graham, Fresno COG

Calling in:

Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
John Wright, Regional Planner
Professor Hongwei Dong, California State University, Fresno
Karl Schoettler, City Planning Consultant - Firebaugh
Carey Knecht, Climate Plan
Natalia Austin, MCAG
Tom Jordan, Air District
Kim Anderson, SJCOG
Richard Poythress, Madera CTC
Lezlie Kimura, ARB
Roberto Brady, TCAG
C.J. Gabbe, Fregonese Associates
Alex Joyce, Fregonese Associates