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TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Executive Minutes

Date: Friday, September 11, 2015

Time: 8:30 AM

**Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA**

Members Present:

- Mike Prandini, BIA, Vice Chair
- Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota
- Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
- Mohammad Khorsand, Fresno County
- Stephenie Frederick, League of Women Voters
- Mohammad Alimi, Fresno County
- David Padilla, Caltrans
- Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
- Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
- Will Washburn, City of Kingsburg/Fowler
- Moses Stites, FCRTA

Others Attending (see attached)

Mr. Prandini (BIA), Vice Chair called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items:

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- A. Executive Minutes of July 17, 2015 [APPROVE]
- B. FY 2015-16 Transportation Funding Claims [Fawcett] [APPROVE]
- C. FY 2014/15 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Surplus [Fawcett] [INFORMATION]
- D. Transportation Development Act Triennial Audit Consultant [Fawcett] [INFORMATION]
- E. 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update [Garza] [INFORMATION]
- F. Financial Management Information System (FMIS) (project funding authorization tool) [Garza] [INFORMATION]
- G. CMAQ/RSTP Call for Projects [Chargin] [INFORMATION]
- H. 2015 FTIP Amendment No. 8, 2014 RTP Amendment 1, Corresponding Conformity [Chargin] [INFORMATION]
- I. Celebrating National Drive Electric Week [Dawson] [INFORMATION]
- J. Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- K. I-5/SR-99 Goods Movement Study [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- L. Cap and Trade [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- M. Prop 84/Greenprint Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- N. Circuit Engineer Request for Proposals [Arnest] [INFORMATION]
- O. Update on "Keep California Moving – Fix the Roads" Roundtable [Boren] [INFORMATION]
- P. Monthly Grant/Call for Projects/Request for Proposals [Chargin] [INFORMATION]

For a complete summary of these items, please see the September 11, 2015 Annotated Agenda.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Stites (FCRTA) and seconded by Mr. Washburn (Fowler/Kingsburg) to recommend approval of the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure "C" Amendment #3 - Allocate an Amount Not to Exceed \$750,000 from the Measure 'C' High Speed Rail Program to Open Real Estate Escrows with Security Deposit on Land that has been Identified as Suitable for the Future California High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility [PUBLIC HEARING - September 24, 2015] [Boren] [DIRECTION BY POLICY BOARD]

Les Beshears, Finance Director, reported on this item. Amendment #3 would make available (if needed) an amount not to exceed \$750,000 to reimburse a local developer (Tim Jones) who is willing to use his "own funding" to open real estate escrows with security deposits on the land that has been identified as the most suitable in Fresno County for the location of the future High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF). The funding would come from the \$25 million previously set aside by Measure "C" Amendment # 1. Approved by the Policy Board in 2010, Amendment #1 established a new Measure "C" High Speed Rail Facilities Program. Funding available from this program is to be used to provide capital for a variety of uses associated with development of the High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility. Conditions in Amendment #1 state that funding can only be accessed "after" the California High

Speed Rail Authority awards Fresno the HMF site. Amendment #3 would make \$750,000 available for use “before” the California High Speed Rail Authority select the HMF site.

The land acquisition process would work as follows: The developer will work at “his cost”, making offers to willing sellers to purchase the subject parcels by opening escrows with security deposits to ultimately buy the parcels. The initial term of the escrows will be one year. At the end of the initial term of the escrow, if the developer has been unable to package the HMF parcels, the developer may choose to close the escrow accounts and withdraw his security deposits. In the event a decision is made to extend the escrow beyond the initial year, a forfeiture of the initial security deposits occurs, and new escrows would have to be established to continue to hold the properties. It is the “extension of the escrows” where the developer would be getting reimbursed for his initial security deposits. There are three potential scenarios were explained:

Scenario #1-Fresno is awarded the facility.

The \$750,000 is not in play. The developer will negotiate an agreement with the California High Speed Rail Authority to acquire the parcels and pass title.

Scenario #2-Fresno is not awarded the facility.

The \$750,000 is not in play. The escrows will be structured to allow the escrow to be closed and the security deposit money withdrawn. The developer will close out the escrows and withdraw the security deposits at his cost.

Scenario #3-No decision is made by the CHSRA on the HMF site during the initial one year term of the escrows.

A decision would have to be made by the COG and FCTA Boards to extend the escrows beyond the initial one year term, the developer would then be reimbursed for his initial security deposits, not to exceed \$750,000.

The Measure “C” Oversight Committee discussed Amendment #3 at their meeting on September 10, 2015 and Mr. Beshears reported that after several questions the Committee concurred with the new proposal. A public meeting is being held on September 16th at Fresno COG at 5:30 pm to give members of the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment. A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015 during the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting.

Lee Ann Eager, EDC commented on the meetings that have been held and gave an explanation of the process and timing.

There were questions regarding the escrow period of one year and if the item will be reheard before the escrows are closed or extended. Mr. Beshears said that would be another process.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Khorsand (County) and seconded by Ms. Mathis (Clovis) to agree with the new proposal. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**B. Establish Project Development Team for Cycletracks Feasibility Study [Thompson]
[DIRECTION]**

Clark Thompson (FCOG) explained that Work Element 110, Regional Streets and Highways Planning, of the Fresno COG 2015/16 Overall Work Program (OWP), includes a task to “Conduct Cycle Tracks Feasibility Study in the metropolitan area.” One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is available for this study, the impetus for which, and its subsequent inclusion in the OWP, came from Bruce Rudd, Fresno City Manager, by letter dated November 20, 2014 (enclosed).

Assembly Bill 1193, amending the Streets and Highways Code relating to bikeways, was approved by Governor Brown on September 20, 2014. While bikeways for decades have been grouped into three categories of facilities, this bill established a fourth category, or Class IV Bikeways, also referred to as Cycle Tracks or Protected Bike Lanes or Separated Bike Lanes. Basically, these are bike lanes that provide a right-of-way designated exclusively for bicycle travel within a roadway protected from traffic with some kind of vertical barrier, not just paint. Many potential cyclists may avoid on-street cycling if no physical separation from vehicular traffic is provided. Because Cycle Tracks may increase the number of bicycling trips, they can help reduce traffic congestion and meet local and state greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals, and improve health and quality of life by helping more people be active.

An initial step in the development of this study is to determine the composition of and nomination of individuals to serve on the Project Development Team that will assist with the study, initially with regard to the development of a Request for Proposals. Given the complexity and expected interest in this study, staff recommends representation from the cities of Fresno and Clovis and the County of Fresno (from both Public Works and Planning Departments), Caltrans, Fresno Cycling Club, Fresno’s Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Building Industry Association. Your Committee may wish to propose additional organizations/individuals. For information/questions regarding the Cycle Tracks Feasibility Study, contact Fresno COG staffmember Clark Thompson at clarkt@fresnocog.org or (559) 233-4148 x203.

Mr. Paladino questioned the value of the study.

The feasibility study was discussed at some length. Ken Grey, Selma City Manager, addressed the TTC and wanted to make sure that the smaller cities outside the metropolitan area not be left out of this study. Tom Gaffery, Fresno State also addressed the Committee expressing his support of the study.

Following the discussion, a motion was made Mr. Khorsand (County) and seconded by Mr. Mozier (Fresno) to include Fresno County cities outside the metropolitan area. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Staff committed to their inclusion, not just in terms of their participation on the Project Development Team but also in that the study information and findings would benefit these other cities as well.

C. Needs Assessment Consultant Selection [Cai] [APPROVE]

Kristine Cai (FCOG) reported that the Needs Assessment program is one of the three SCS implementation programs approved by the Policy Board in May 2014. \$100,000 was budgeted to conduct a county-wide transportation needs assessment as directed by the Board. A Needs Assessment Steering Committee was formed to provide guidance for the development of the program. The Steering Committee identified the scope of work for the Needs Assessment program, which will be carried out separately by COG staff, the Fresno State Community and Regional Planning Center and a team of consultants. Fresno COG staff will be working on collecting bike/pedestrian plans from the cities and the County, and will be responsible for various mappings identified in the scope; two Fresno State students have been hired to conduct sidewalk inventories; and consulting service is being sought to identify regional gap projects for bike/trail facilities and conduct a connectivity and accessibility analysis for the 10 regional/sub-regional facilities identified by the Steering Committee that provide basic service to the residents.

An RFP for consultant service was issued in July for the amount of \$100,000. Three proposals were received. A Scoring Committee was formed that consisted of a representative from each of the following entities: Fresno COG, County of Fresno, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, East-side cities, West-side cities and the general public. The Scoring Committee reviewed the proposals and conducted interviews with the three consultant teams on September 4th. Fehr & Peers was recommended by the Scoring Committee.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Khorsand (County) and seconded by Ms. Mathis (Clovis) to approve Fehr & Peers as recommended by the Scoring Committee for the Needs Assessment study, and recommended authorization for the Executive Director to enter into contract with the selected consultant team for the amount specified in the proposal. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

D. Circuit Planner Planning Consultant Selection [Terry] [APPROVE]

Rob Terry (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG requested proposals for a planning consultant to serve as a Circuit Planner, continuing the services offered through Fresno COG over the past few years. As previously conducted, the selected firm/individual will act as a liaison between Fresno COG and the 13 smaller cities (those with populations less than 50,000) within Fresno County to (1) assist with integrating Sustainable Communities Strategies and the Blueprint

Smart Growth Principles into local planning processes, and (2) assist with coordinating transportation planning and project development between local agencies and Fresno COG, in collaboration with the Fresno COG Circuit Engineer (consultant yet to be determined) and local agency staff. This position is not meant to supplant contract planners that local agencies are currently working with but rather complement those local planning arrangements.

An RFP for consultant services was released on July 7, 2015, with proposals due on August 7, 2015. The contract period is anticipated to run through December 31, 2016. Due to the receipt of a single proposal (VRPA Technologies), interviews were deemed unnecessary. Review of the proposal indicated that the project scope was clearly understood; and that the firm's previous experience with transportation planning, engineering, and local agency assistance, made for an excellent fit for the position.

Following a brief discussion and opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Stites (FCRTA) and seconded by Mr. Khorsand (County) to recommend approval to the Fresno COG Policy Board to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and to enter into a contract with VRPA, not to exceed \$49,999.98, as indicated in the consultant's proposal, to serve as Fresno COG's Circuit Planner. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

E. Ag Ad-Hoc Committee Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]

Mr. Terry went on to report that On July 22, 2015, the Committee took formal action on seven individual items, containing a recommended policy, implementation activities, and additional general recommendations to direct COG assistance efforts and future activities. To ensure that the activities of the Committee are clearly articulated, a whitepaper (attached) has been prepared which frames the creation, purpose, and activities of the Committee. It is anticipated that staff will deliver a full presentation to the TTC and PAC, including a request for action/recommendation regarding consideration of preservation ratios and/or activities from the PAC (as indicated in the whitepaper), at the November 2015 meeting. Leading up to this meeting, staff requests that you review the whitepaper, and continually work with staff as the presentation containing the identification of potential preservation ratios and activities is prepared.

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

A copy of the flyer for the September 16th Measure C Public Meeting was handed out.

B. Items from Members

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) commented on an upcoming meeting in Clovis. Details will follow.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

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

There were no public presentations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Bitner
Deputy Director

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PRESENTATIONS

JOINT Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee

The TTC and the PAC will meet as a joint Committee to consider scheduled public presentations brought before the Committees. This portion of the meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

1. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

Exhibits:

-  Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro, Caltrans provided an update at the meeting on current Caltrans activities. A copy of the Caltrans Quarterly Report is included as an exhibit to this item.

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

Others Attending:

Ken Grey, City of Selma

Anthony Molina, Fresno BPAC

Lee Ann Eager, EDC

Doug Wilson, Willdan

Michael Olson, Provost & Pritchard

Jack Castro, City of Huron

Fresno COG Staff:

Mike Bitner

Les Beshears

Rob Terry

Kristine Cai

Lindsey Chargin

Lauren Dawson

Laural Fawcett

Peggy Arnest

Brenda Veenendaal

Kai Han

Marla Day