

Fresno COG Policy Board

Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending:

Councilmember Jose Flores, City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Ramsey, City of Coalinga
Mayor Freddy Valdez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Mayor Sylvia Chavez, City of Huron
Mayor Stephen Hill, City of Kerman
Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Pro Tem Raul Villanueva, City of Parlier
Councilmember Robert Beck, City of Reedley
Mayor Pro Tem Raul Cantu, City of Sanger
Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Henry Perea, County of Fresno

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

Absent: Mayor Ashley Swearengin, City of Fresno

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 14 members present representing 45.02% of the population and there was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma and Fresno County)

Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. SITTING AS THE FRESNO COUNTY MAYORS SELECTION COMMITTEE (INCLUDES COUNTY OF FRESNO)

A. Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Appointment (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) presented that there are currently 12 members on this committee, 2 seats have now become vacant. One application was received during the soliciting period for Gilbert Coelho who represents the Firebaugh Residents. Mr. Coelho spoke in regards to his qualifications and affiliations.

Mayor Silva (Mendota), Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) and Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) provided comments in support of Mr. Coelho's appointment.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Coelho as the Community Organization Committee member to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee was made by Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh), and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of February 25, 2016 [APPROVE]
- B. 2015/16 Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears)[ADOPTION]
- C. Proposition 8/Green Print Update (Rob Terry/Clark Thompson) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- D. Cap and Trade Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- E. Active Transportation Program (Chelsea Gonzales) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- F. Unmet Transit Needs Update (Jeff Long) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- G. Fresno/Madera Study Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- H. Monthly Grant/Call for Projects/Request for Proposals (Chelsea Gonzales) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- I. I-5/SR-99 Goods Movement Study Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- J. SJV Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- K. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Report (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- L. Draft Final State Route Corridor Preservation and Improvement Strategic Plan (Tony Boren) [ACCEPT]
- M. California Transportation Plan 2040 (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion to approve consent items A through M was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

QUORUM: 5:40pm Mayor Hill (Kerman) enters. Quorum is 15 members representing 46.49% of the population.

- A. Measure C New Technology Reserve Fund Update [Peggy Arnest] [INFORMATION]

Ms. Arnest reported that the application for the MAG was released March 2, 2016; the due date for the applications is March 25, 2016. However, no applicants were received from a west side city. Mr. Coelho and Mr. Ornelas of the City of San Joaquin were encouraged by the Board to submit an application for the committee and they agreed to submit an application for consideration.

B. Blackstone Corridor Transportation and Housing Study Consultant Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai presented the Blackstone Corridor Transportation and Housing Study. The study was initiated by the City of Fresno with partnership with Fresno COG, Fresno City College, the Housing Authority, the Better Blackstone Association and other stakeholders. The study areas include the following boundaries: Van Ness/Maroa Avenues to Harvard Avenue to Clark Avenue to Home Avenue. A basic housing needs analysis will be conducted for Fresno City College to determine the potential market for housing and the kinds of housing and amenities that would be attractive to students who otherwise must commute to the college to attend classes. The study will also identify a safe, accessible, connected and walkable pedestrian environment that enhances neighborhood quality and promotes walking and transit use as a practical and attractive means of transportation in a cost-effective manner. Potential parking location and travel demand strategies for the Fresno City College have also been identified in the scope.

Five proposals were received and interviews were held with the top three consultant teams. The scoring committee members included representatives from Fresno County, City of Fresno, Fresno City College, Better Blackstone Association and Fresno Housing Authority. The committee recommended Wallace Roberts and Todd LLC(WRT) to conduct the study. WRT team includes Nelson\Nygaard, Strategic Economics and Urban Diversity Design. Urban Diversity Design is a local sub consultant. WRT team has experience working in Fresno County specifically on the Fresno County Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS), Fulton Specific Plan and the 41+North Study.

The consultant proposed a budget of \$149,859 with a timeline of 6 months for completion.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) asked if the consultants were located in the Fresno County, Ms. Cai stated that WRT's main office is located in the Bay area; however, their sub consultant Urban Diversity Design is from Fresno.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Chavez (Huron) and seconded by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) to recommend the Policy Board award the contract for the Blackstone Corridor Transportation and Housing Study to Wallace Roberts and Todd in the amount of \$149,859. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. The 2016 Measure "C" Regional Transportation Program Update (Les Beshears) [Adopt]

Mr. Beshears presented an overview of the Measure C revenues. He stated that the programming subcommittee, TTC and PAC have met and agree with staff's recommendation.. Overall, plan revenues decreased \$9.4 million with corresponding project cost reductions of \$7 million resulting in a net reduction in the plan of \$2.4 million. The Urban Plan deficit is now \$9.6 million and the Rural deficit is \$207.5 million.

During the 2016 Measure "C" Regional Transportation Program Update, there was discussion related to the information that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is \$750 million or more in deficit and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) requested statewide cuts to projects programmed with STIP County Share Balances. If agencies around the state do not comply, the assumption is the CTC will begin making cuts per Allocation Plan methodology. Should that occur, it is anticipated that our candidate project, SR 180 East – Smith to Frankwood, a capacity enhancing project, will not fare well as the Allocation Plan methodology includes priorities based on Sustainable Communities strategies. Fortunately for our program, we have local resources to make the proposed cut of \$14.735 million and the CTC informally indicated that by voluntarily making the reduction, the project could possibly be exempt from the first round of cuts. There is, however, no guarantee when or if STIP funding will be available to deliver SR 180 East, or any future STIP funded project; therefore, the future

schedule for major projects is tentative at best. In this update, \$32.4 million in STIP revenues were removed from the plan. If the state does not act to fix the funding problem, that could only be the beginning of funding cuts.

The Measure “C” Revenues are coming in better than expected allowing sales tax revenues to increase by \$7.9 million; however, RTMF revenues are down by about 20% from what they had been running the last few years. RTMF revenues decreased \$3 million, the future impact could be far greater if the revenue stream does not improve/increase, the funds are dedicated to paying back \$110 million in major projects that have already been delivered using sales tax proceeds. This adds another uncertainty to the future funding picture and anything scheduled in the Long Term Planning Period is highly speculative at this point. Interest earnings show an increase of \$15 million, this is dependent on predicted revenues coming in and building up to fund large future projects.

The Urban Program

The City of Fresno and Clovis requested \$12.7 to increase four projects; Willow- Shepherd to Copper, Willow- Herndon to Alluvial, Herndon – Polk to Milburn, and Shaw – Dewolf to McCall. Caltrans needed \$120,000 to complete preliminary work on the North\Cedar Interchange. The consensus between Caltrans and the City of Fresno is the SR 41 Aux Lane – Tulare to “O” Street that was in the plan for \$26 million which can now be addressed by a much lower costing stripping alternative. The City has requested Caltrans modify the scope to include \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2016/17 for a sound wall along the state right of way on the west side of SR 41 south of Huntington Blvd. The net reduction in project scope results in a \$21 million saving to the plan. The plan, however, does not gain much traction from the reduction because most of it is STIP funding could potentially no longer be available. The enhancements to the above mentioned projects are fundable; however, there is a tradeoff between spending available cash on projects now or saving up for Veterans Blvd., which will require \$23 million in Measure C, \$21 million in STIP, \$32 million in RTMF fees, and another \$34 million in city development fees. Part of this cost may be mitigated by the High Speed Rail Authority; however, given the uncertainty with the STIP, slow collection of RTMF and development fees, this project moves back three years to Fiscal Year 2022/23.

Rural Program

A \$1.7 million cost saving adjustment was made in the final stages of SR 180 E Segment II – Academy to Smith. Caltrans Program Year cost for SR 180 E Segment III – Trimmer to Frankwood increased \$5 million; however, as mentioned above, STIP funding was reduced a net of \$10.4 million on this project and replaced with Measure funding. The project is designed and ready to build so it remains scheduled in FY 2016/17. There is no guarantee the required \$35 million in STIP funding that remains on the project will be available, the fall back strategy is to fund the shortfall with Measure C. This will delay the project and carries ramifications for the SR 269 Bridge which has \$13.8 million in local funds and the Golden State Corridor project, which we are currently designing and will require about \$42 million in FY 2018/19 – 2019/20. Both the Fresno COG and Transportation Authority Boards have clearly demonstrated SR 180 has priority, so if the STIP money is no longer available, local resources must be consumed and subsequent projects start moving back. For this reason, the plan moves the SR 269 Bridge out to FY 2017/18 to allow time to assess what the CTC is going to do with SR 180 East. We are in discussions with Caltrans to get the State to find more State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funding for SR 269; however, the funding crisis also affects that program as neither SR 269 nor Golden State is fully designed and ready to go at this point. It is recommend to take a “wait and see” approach to allow the STIP funding situation on SR 180 East or additional SHOPP funding for SR 269 to resolve before revisiting the priority order of SR 269 and Golden State Corridor.

Mayor Robertson asked if the design phase for the Golden State project is fully funded and if there is a possibility of redesigning the project to reduce the project cost. Mr. Beshears stated that the funding for design has already been committed and is expected to have a \$2 million project savings.

Mayor Hill (Kerman) expressed concern that the timeline for west side projects continues to be extended. Mr. Beshears responded that SR 180 E was part of the original ballot; however, initial revenues received were not as high as anticipated. Projects in the original measure were carried forward to the measure extension. The Passing Lane project was approved for funding and believes that the project delay is related to environmental clearance. Ms. Miller (Caltrans) commented that she would return with an update on the Passing Lane project and would ask Mr. Niel Bretz to provide an updated to the board.

Ms. Garza stated that the CTC will meet in May but staff recommendations would be released by April 22nd. Staff is awaiting the final recommendations to see if the voluntary cuts that Fresno COG has made are enough to keep the priority projects funded.

QUORUM: 6:01pm Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) exits the meeting, 14 members representing 28.96% of population, no quorum in place.

Chair recessed until quorum is resumed.

QUORUM: 6:12pm Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) re-enters, 15 members representing 46.49% of the population, with a quorum in place to conduct business.

The board continued with a discussion regarding the press conference that was recently held for the 180 E project and the STIP funding crisis.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) and seconded by Mayor Silva (Mendota) to adopt the 2016 Update to the Measure "C" Regional Transportation Program and forward to the Fresno County Transportation Authority for consideration. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Fresno COG Sitting as the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board

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

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Jose Flores (Clovis) and seconded by Mayor Ramsey (Coalinga) to reaffirm all actions taken while sittings as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Monthly Legislative Update (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

B. Regional Clearinghouse (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

C Support for AB 1586 (Mathis) – CEQA Exemption; Temperance Flat Reservoir (Tony Boren) [APPROVAL]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Hill (Kerman) and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Cantu (Sanger) to approve the administrative consent items A thru C. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2016 One Voice Advocacy Trip to Washington D.C. and Request For Letter of Support (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]

Ms. Veenendaal reported that the EOC has requested that the Fresno COG Policy Board affirm support for the Low-Income Solar Act (H.R. 3041) by submitting a letter of support to our San Joaquin Valley Congressional Members.

H.R. 3041 requests funding for loans and grants for the purpose of construction, installation, and access to, community solar systems on the homes of low-income residents, and those living in underserved areas. The bill was introduced in the House Energy and Commerce Committee by Rep. Tony Cardenas of the California 29th District (Hollywood). Additionally, the Senate companion bill, *The Low-Income Solar Act*, S. 1713, was recently introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). The bill dovetails neatly with a similar statewide program led by Fresno EOC, funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction account.

Fresno EOC staff states that weatherizing and solarizing the homes of qualified low-income people helps them reduce their energy cost burden and utilize savings for other critical needs such as food, housing, child care, education, health. Fresno EOC has been operating a highly successful weatherization and solar program for more than 40 years. Their effectiveness stems not only from solar expertise, but also because they have a broad menu of services in the targeted areas and have gained the trust and confidence of low-income residents throughout the county. Fresno EOC staff and/or board members will be attend the Committee meeting to address any concerns regarding the request to support of H.R. 3041.

Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) asked for clarification of how this bill is different than the Hero Program. Ms. Garza responded that the Hero program offers loans, whereas this new program is providing grants to agencies like EOC to help low income residents.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) and seconded by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) to recommend support of the Low-Income Solar Act (H.R. 3041) and submit a letter of support to the Fresno County region's congressional delegation. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Valley Voice Update (Tony Boren)[INFORMATION]

Mr. Boren reported that the 2016 Sacramento Valley Voice trip was held on March 2nd. The coalition of elected officials and COG staff throughout the San Joaquin Valley met with Malcolm Dougherty of Caltrans, and Brian Kelly, Secretary of California State Transportation Agency. Primary issues discussed were water, the new federal bill related to goods movement, and met with Senator Canella regarding goods movement. Staff will be returning to the policy board to discuss ideas for future funding for maintenance. Mayor Robertson (Selma) asked if self-help revenues involve additional taxes or action at the state level? Mr. Boren stated that staff would explore multiple options for the board to consider.

This was an informational item and no future action was required.

VI. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) made a motion, seconded by Mayor Chavez (Huron) to nominate Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) for Chair, Mayor David Cardenas (Fowler) for Vice Chair. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Boren commented that Form 700's are due.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) announced that Mayor Silva (Mendota) was appointed to the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Joint Powers Authority.

Mayor Chavez commented amount the YARTS advisory committee meeting (remote option). The technology and communication is not adequate. Mayor Hill (Kerman) stated that this is an ongoing issue with YARTS, poor communication and getting last minute notifications. Mr. Boren responded that he will discuss with YARTS and ensure that the cities are properly notified and can actively participate.

Mayor Hill (Kerman) asked if the voting membership policy can be revised to allow FCOG a voting seat. Mr. Boren stated that he will discuss this with legal counsel. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) commented that this would require a formal amendment to the JPA and they are reluctant to do so since YARTS is a demonstration project.

VIII. PRESENTATION

A. Caltrans Report (Caltrans)

Ms. Gail Miller (Caltrans) reported the following:

- Work on Olive Ave signal is wrapping up, the walk through was completed on February 22nd, and the City has accepted this project.
- SR 99 realignment: contractor continues early work along McKinley and south of Clinton. Anticipated work will begin at Clinton Ave interchange this summer.
- The braided ramps landscaping has almost completed the irrigation infrastructure. Full connector closure will be in effect from 10pm to 5am as needed.
- The Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement on SR 43: contractors are working on the west side of road. Anticipated to be completed in June.
- Prather curb correction - contractor waiting for creek to dry in order to continue work, anticipated to start in June.
- Maynard Munger Vista Point: construction continues and will be closed to motorists. The project is approximately 75% complete.
- Panoche Overlay Construction: work started in April 2015 and was extended into April 2016. Paving has been completed, currently working though punch list items and should be completed by April.
- Auberry Road roundabout on SR 168 will be going out to bid in mid-April.

B. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Adjourn to Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency Board at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

COG Staff present:

Tony Boren
Melissa Garza
Les Beshears
Rob Terry
Kristine Cai
Brenda Veenendaal
Chelsea Gonzales
Peggy Arnest
Jeff Long
Trai Her-Cole

Members of the Public present:

Gilbert Coelho
Joe Ornelas
Mayor Alma Beltran