

**FRESNO COG POLICY BOARD****Executive Minutes**

Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 5:30 PM  
COG Sequoia Conference Room  
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending: Mayor Pro Tem Bob Whalen, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ron Ramsey, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Freddy Valdez, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Councilmember Clint Olivier, City of Fresno  
Mayor Sylvia Chavez, City of Huron  
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Mayor Bruce Blayney, 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 Scott Robertson, City of Selma  
Supervisor Henry Perea, County of Fresno

Gail Miller, Caltrans  
Arthur Wille, County Counsel  
Tony Boren, FCOG Executive Director

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Raul Cantu, City of Sanger  
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin

**QUORUM:** At the start of the meeting there were 14 members present representing 97.01% of the population and there was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Selma and Fresno County)

**I. CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING [ALL CITIES]****A. Agenda**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of the December 17, 2015, Minutes

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015 was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

3. Transportation Authority (EASTSIDE) Appointment  
Mayor Cardenas of (Fowler) expressed interest in continuing to serve as the eastside cities representative on the FCTA.  
  
Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) nominated the Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to be reappointed as the Eastside Member to the Transportation Authority effective June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2018, seconded by Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg). A vote was called for and the motion carried.
4. Public Presentations  
No public presentation
5. Adjournment

### ***Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee***

## **II. 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 March 26, 2015 and April 28, 2016 [APPROVE]
- B. FY 2015-16 Third Quarter Progress Report [Beshears] [ACCEPT]
- C. Proposition 84 Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- D. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Report (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- E. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]
- F. Population Estimates (Seth Scott) [INFORMATION]
- G. FY 2015-16 Transportation Funding Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- H. Urban & Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, FY 2016-17 (Gary Joseph, Fresno EOC) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- I. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) FY 2016-17 Operations Program & Budget (Shonna Halterman, City of Clovis) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- J. FCRTA Draft 2016-17 Annual Budget for 45 Day Review (Moses Stites) [ACCEPT]
- K. Transportation Development Act 2016/17 Final Apportionment (Les Beshears) [ADOPT]
- L. State Transit Assistance Apportionment 2016/17 (Les Beshears) [ADOPT]
- M. Release of Draft 2016 Public Participation Plan Update for 45-day Review and Comment Period (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Robertson (Selma). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

## **III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Prop 84 Task 1 – Greenprint (Clark Thompson) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Thompson (FCOG) reported that in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Greenprint Demonstration Projects, five proposals were submitted by the April 29 deadline.

The Scoring Committee met to review and scored the proposals on May 6<sup>th</sup> and recommended funding three of the five proposals. Two of the three proposals were recommended for funding in the amounts requested, which are Sequoia Riverlands Trust (\$59,870) and American Farmland Trust (\$50,000). The third proposal, Sustainable Conservation, was recommended for a reduced amount of funding, \$84,587, in order to match the total amount available for Demonstration Projects. Proposals were recommended for funding based on their better understanding of the objectives of the RFP and consistency with the overall Greenprint program.

The TTC and PAC concurred with staff's recommendation.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Silva (Mendota) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to approve Greenprint Demonstration Projects Scoring Committee recommendations and authorize the Fresno COG Executive Director to enter into contracts with the proposers of the Demonstration Projects in the amounts recommended by the Scoring Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**B. 2015-16 CMAQ Project Recommendations from the CMAQ Scoring Committee (Lauren Dawson) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Dawson (FCOG) reported the CMAQ or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program is a federal funding source for State and local governments for transportation projects and programs to help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Funding is available to reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for certain air pollutants which are designated as nonattainment areas.

The Fresno COG RSTP/CMAQ Programming Sub-committee was convened on 10/5/2015 and again on 11/2/2015. This committee set the timeline including all the deadlines, and approved the process, the methodology to use, the soft targets for each category, and the calculator tools to estimate the emission reductions and the cost-effectiveness.

The CMAQ Call for Projects was released on December 17, 2015. The deadline for applications was January 22, 2016. A CMAQ workshop was held on 12/7/2015. The CMAQ Scoring Committee met on April 14, 2016, scored the projects and recommended projects for funding. The Committee included representatives from, City of Clovis, Eastside Cities, Westside Cities, County of Fresno, Caltrans, SJVAPCD, FAX, and a representative from the bike, pedestrian and trails community.

Ms. Dawson (FCOG) detailed the scoring process, stating that in 2007 all eight of the Valley COGs in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin agreed to commit a portion of their CMAQ funding to Cost-effective projects. This is a federally enforceable commitment linked to the 2007 8-hour Ozone -State Implementation Plan. Cost-effective projects are projects that can provide the greatest emission reductions per dollar spent. All projects meeting the cost-effective threshold were scored first. Those scoring high enough were recommended for funding. Any project in the cost-effective category not recommended for funding in the cost-effectiveness category was then placed into their individual project type category for an additional round of scoring.

The total CMAQ funds available was \$18,464,775 in the Competitive Regional Bid Pot, and 40 applications totaling over \$50 million dollars were received. Twenty-seven projects were recommended for funding, representing 11 member agencies and 8 School Districts.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) expressed concern regarding the distribution of funds which was further discussed in item C. 2015-16 RSTP Project Recommendations from the RSTP Scoring Committee

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) seconded by Councilmember Beck (Reedley) to approve the Scoring Committee's recommendations for the 2015-16 CMAQ call-for-projects and to be programmed for funding in the 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**C. 2015-16 RSTP Project Recommendations from the RSTP Scoring Committee (Rob Terry) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Terry (FCOG) reported that the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Regional Bid Call for Project process followed a very similar timeline and procedure as the CMAQ Process. The RSTP/CMAQ Programming Subcommittee was convened on 10/5/2015 and again on 11/2/2015. At those two meetings, the committee set the timeline, approved the process, and recommended slight changes to the scoring criteria in terms of how many points would be awarded for each scoring criteria category. These categories included Preservation, Safety/Security, Congestion Relief, Air Quality, System Expansion, Cost Benefit Ratio, and Subjective Evaluation. An RSTP workshop was held on 12/7/2015 at the same time as the CMAQ workshop, where the requirements for the entire application were explained in detail.

The Fresno COG Board formally approved the RSTP Application and released the RSTP Call for projects on 12/17/2015. The application deadline was February 5, 2016. 50 applications were received requesting about \$43 million dollars in funding. The available funding for this round was \$8.9 million. (\$8,960,778)

The RSTP Scoring Committee (as appointed by the Programming Sub-Committee) convened on April 19, 2016, reviewed all 50 applications. The low and high score in each category was thrown out, and the average of the remaining scores was used to generate each project's score. The Committee scored each application based on the scoring criteria provided, and made their recommendations for funding based on those application scores.

Of the eight projects that were initially on the ranked list of fundable projects, Clovis voluntarily gave up one of their projects, and Sanger volunteered to scale back one of their projects in order to stretch the funding further down the ranked list so that the Orange Cove, Reedley, and Kerman projects could receive funding. The 11 projects highlighted in yellow on the agenda item enclosure are the projects that the RSTP Scoring committee recommended for funding. The amounts highlighted in orange are partial funding recommendations (see annotated agenda for enclosure).

Mr. Terry (FCOG) thanked the members of the RSTP Scoring Committee who were representatives from City of Fresno/Clovis, Eastside Cities, Westside Cities, County of Fresno, COG Staff, Caltrans, and Transit.

Mayor Chavez (Huron) commented on the limited resources available to small cities which are needed to be able to complete and submit a competitive application.

Mayor Robertson (Selma) stated that prior discussions changed the scoring criteria so it would better support the smaller cities; however, he did agree changing the scoring criteria is necessary to have a more equitable process.

Mayor Pro Tem Whalen (Clovis) expressed frustration at the process and length of time to complete projects such as the 269 bridge and offered to help create a Sister City program with cities within the County to provide resources and support where needed.

Mayor Lopez (Orange cove) expressed concern about the points system, stating that scoring should also consider the economics of the disadvantaged communities, and that safety and beautification projects should be scored under different criterion.

Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) asked if there are any options to dedicate additional resources to help cities complete grant applications.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that the Circuit Planner/Engineer program was developed to bridge this gap and become an additional resource for cities. Additional resources or funding can be dedicated to member agencies at the direction of the policy board. There was further discussion regarding the outreach and current projects under contract for the Circuit Planner/Engineer. The current program has 100K allocated for the region. Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) and Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) requested additional funds be allocated to the Circuit Planner/Engineer program to support the member agencies.

Discussion regarding equitable distribution of RSTP funds continued, Mr. Boren (FCOG) commented that the RSTP funds are the most flexible and that the TTC/PAC's recommendation included a review of the guidelines within 90 days.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) commented that meetings related to changing the program guidelines and scoring criteria should include staff and all the city managers.

Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) stated that the current scoring process does not consider past awards and proposed that future scoring evaluate the prior cycles of awards. There was further discussion regarding the funding allocations to member agencies from other sources such as Lifeline which is formula based. Mr. Terry (FCOG) stated that during the development of the guidelines, the committee intentionally increased the points in the subjective category so that the smaller cities would be more competitive and could apply for more than the formula allocation.

Mayor Robertson (Selma) also commented that the scoring should be more flexible and subjective.

Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) thanked the City of Clovis for volunteering to remove a project and asked that other cities with multiple awards consider doing the same so the funding could be spread to more projects.

Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) concurred and that a cumulative average of prior awards should be included as a scoring criterion to help ensure that all cities receive funding in the future.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that it is at the Policy Board's discretion to provide direction on the guidelines, comments from tonight's meeting will be vetted when the guidelines are reevaluated.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) asked if this item needed to be approved tonight or if the item can be revised. Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that if the projects are not approved tonight, it could potentially cause a delay of 3 to 4 months to the middle of April 2017.

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) stated that the process to create the guidelines was lengthier than anticipated. Several revisions were made by the committees which delayed the release of the bid causing a delay in the timeline.

Councilmember Beck (Reedley) stated that the revised criteria should also take into the consideration the timeframe projects have been needed.

Councilmember Olivier (Fresno City) made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation. He stated that Fresno would participate in future discussions regarding scoring and guidelines, but did not want to jeopardize current funding and recommended the board move forward with approving the item as presented.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) expressed concerned about the formula allocation of dollars and would like staff to evaluate all the needs of the cities for equity.

Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) seconded the motion to move the discussion forward and not jeopardize funding.

Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) asked to amend the motion to direct staff to: a) return with a work plan for additional staffing and funding to assist cities in the application process, b) direct staff to re-evaluate a different formula for a more equitable distribution of funds.

Councilmember Olivier (Fresno City) and Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) agreed to amend the motion as proposed.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Olivier (Fresno City)) seconded by Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) to approve the RSTP Scoring Committee's recommendations for the 2015-16 RSTP Call-For-Projects, with the requirement that the RSTP Scoring Criteria be reassessed by the Programming Subcommittee within the next 90 days; direct staff to return with a draft work plan to provide additional resources to support member agencies, and to direct staff to return with a method to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds in future application processes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

#### **D. 2017 Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 3 Guidelines, Resolution 2016-09 (Chelsea Gonzales) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Gonzales (FCOG) reported 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 California Transportation Commission (CTC), provided they are approved by the CTC.

The Cycle 3 Fresno COG Regional Competitive ATP will cover two additional years of funding, FY 19-20 through FY 20-21. The CTC will be taking their Proposed ATP Fund Estimate to their Board for approval on May 18-19, 2016 and is proposing that Fresno COG receive \$1,338,000 for each fiscal year, which is the same annual amount that was awarded to Fresno COG during ATP Cycle 2. Per the ATP legislation, at least 25% of the program funds must benefit projects in disadvantaged communities. Also, it was determined that the Call for Projects for the region will be initiated on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will close on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) will convene on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to score and deliberate on the recommended program of projects.

The MAG met on April 27<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the updates to the regional guidelines, criteria, and application. The MAG agreed that the regional guidelines and criteria should match the adopted statewide guidelines as closely as possible to simplify the application process and limit any confusion for applicants. As such, one of the updates for Cycle 3 included aligning the disadvantaged communities' definition and scoring system verbatim with the statewide guidelines. This negated the need for the disadvantaged communities question on the supplemental application. With only three questions remaining on the supplemental application, the MAG agreed the remaining questions would not significantly benefit an

application or assist the scoring committee reviewing projects so there will not be a supplemental application for Cycle 3. In addition, this will alleviate some confusion for project applicants between the regional and statewide application requirements. The MAG also agreed that the scoring committee will follow the scoring rubric set forth by the CTC, which breaks down in greater detail how applications are scored for each category. The CTC has not yet released their final scoring rubric, but this is expected to be available well before the November 2<sup>nd</sup> scoring committee meeting.

Only a few minor differences remain between the statewide guidelines and Fresno COG's regional guidelines. As in Cycle 2, the MAG agreed to continue with no minimum funding amount to allow for our member agencies to submit smaller or scaled back projects compared to those submitted at the statewide level and to continue "encouraging" projects less than \$1,000,000. Both of these items differ from the statewide guidelines. The MAG also added some clarifying language to a couple sections of the guidelines. Otherwise, the regional guidelines are consistent with the adopted statewide guidelines.

The MAG and staff recommend several non-substantive changes that have been identified in the guidelines; however, there are some substantive changes, see enclosure for all recommended changes.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Beck (Reedley) and seconded by Mayor Robertson (Selma) to approve Resolution 2016-09 for the Cycle 3 Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program Guidelines and acceptance of the updated Multidisciplinary Advisory Group member list. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

#### **E. Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study - Phase One (Rob Terry) [ACCEPT/DISCUSSION]**

Mr. Terry (FCOG) reported that following the completion of traffic count and survey response analysis, the consultant has now completed the draft final report for the Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study. The working group met to review and finalize the document. Please note that due to the size of the appendices, these items are not contained within the document, but can be provided electronically, upon request.

Key findings notated within the draft final report included:

- Northbound and Southbound flows are roughly equal throughout the day
- Avenue 12 is utilized as a bypass route by City of Madera and Chowchilla residents
- Fresno residents utilize services along SR 41 in Madera County but not as a bypass
- Roughly 85% of observed vehicles were registered in Fresno or Madera County
- Origination of trips:
  - On SR 99, more trips originated in Fresno County
  - On SR 41, more trips originated in Madera County
  - Overall, roughly the same number of trips originated in each county
  - Roughly 10% of inter-county trips use Avenue 12
  - Fresno to Madera trips mainly use SR 99, Madera to Fresno work trips mainly use SR 41

Following acceptance of the Draft Final Report, formulation of the request for proposals (RFP) to conduct Phase Two activities (fiscal impact analysis) is anticipated to begin, utilizing the deliverables contained within the Phase One Draft Report. In June, staff will deliver both the Phase One Final Report and draft RFP to the TTC/PAC and Policy Board for final acceptance/approval.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to recommend the Policy Board accept the Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study Phase One Draft Final Report, and direct staff to prepare the RFP for Phase Two activities. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

#### **F. Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]**

Mr. Terry (FCOG) reported that over the past two-years, Fresno County and 12 of the 15 cities in Fresno County (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, and Selma) have conducted a Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element (MJHE) for the fifth round of housing element updates. Fresno COG has helped to coordinate the effort by contracting with the consulting firm Mintier Harnish to provide technical services as the agencies

have moved towards individual adoption and State certification. After years of work and progress, the Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element was officially submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on April 26, 2016. Prior to submission to HCD, each individual agency conducted their own local adoption process, including approval by their respective governing board. It is anticipated that HCD will provide final approval (certification) of the MJHE in the coming months. HCD has been involved throughout the process, and has been highly supportive of the collaborative effort.

The primary objective of the project was to prepare a regional plan for addressing housing needs through a single certified housing element for all 13 jurisdictions. The Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element represents an innovative approach to meeting State Housing Element law and coordinating resources to address the region's housing needs, resulting in a comprehensive document that is cost-effective and timely. The regional housing element approach, while tested in a few counties at much narrower scales, was a major undertaking for the 13 jurisdictions and Fresno COG, and has been seen as a major success, thus far. Significant efforts, including robust public outreach efforts and environmental documentation/review, have taken place throughout the life of the project.

Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) thanked FCOG for leading a very collaborative effort; the document was much needed by member agencies and was a tremendous cost savings. Mayor Robertson (Selma) concurred with the comments and asked if there are future plans to continue the cooperative work. Mr. Terry (FCOG) stated that future updates will follow this same process, and regular quarterly meetings will be held to assist with the implementation efforts. Councilmember Beck (Reedley) echoed the same support.

The document is available online, and Mr. Terry will send out an executive summary to the board.

This item was informational only, no future actions is required.

#### **G. 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and Corresponding Conformity (Chelsea Gonzales)** **[INFORMATION/DIRECTION]**

Ms. Gonzales (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is required to update the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) every 2 years. The most recent update was the 2015 FTIP, which was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on June 26, 2014. As such, Fresno COG is due to update the FTIP again and is in the process of developing the 2017 FTIP. Fresno COG tentatively plans to have public review of the 2017 FTIP from June 27-July 27, 2016. Subsequently, staff would take the Final Draft 2017 FTIP to the Fresno COG Policy Board for proposed approval on September 22, 2016 in order to submit the FTIP to Caltrans by the October 1, 2016 deadline.

However, Fresno COG is currently one of four MPOs (including Stanislaus Council of Governments, Tulare County Association of Governments, and San Joaquin Council of Governments) anticipated to enter a conformity lockdown later this summer, tentatively planned for late July through September at this time. If Fresno COG stays in a conformity lockdown beyond October 1, 2016 though, we will not be able to adopt a full FTIP until the lockdown has ended and we will be forced to adopt an Interim FTIP in its place.

An Interim FTIP differs from a typical FTIP in the types of projects that are allowed for inclusion. An Interim FTIP cannot include non-exempt regionally significant projects (i.e. all capacity increasing projects, projects requiring conformity determination/emissions analysis). It can include: transportation control measures (TCMs) in approved State Implementation Plans (SIPs); non-regionally significant non-federal projects; regionally significant non-federal projects in a previously conforming FTIP or Plan (only the project phase for which local approval has been granted may proceed); federal aid projects in a previously conforming FTIP or Plan (only the project phase for which federal approval or a funding commitment has been granted may proceed); and exempt projects as referenced in 40 CFR 93.126, 93.127, 93.128. Currently, all projects consistent with the 2014 RTP and 2015 FTIP, as amended, would be able to acquire E76s until December 14, 2016. Starting December 15, 2016, or the date of federal approval of the 2017 FSTIP, whichever is sooner, (if a lockdown occurs), project sponsors would be unable to secure E76s for non-exempt projects until a regionally significant 2017 FTIP amendment is federally approved (i.e. the lockdown ends).

Fresno COG will not know whether we must adopt an Interim FTIP or can proceed with a full 2017 FTIP Update until third quarter of 2016 so staff are developing the (2) FTIP documents concurrently to allow enough time for the necessary public review process. Both the Interim FTIP and full FTIP will be released for public comment, but only one will be adopted by the Policy Board in September 2016. Staff will keep each of our member agencies updated over the next few months so that Fresno COG staff can implement the appropriate option at the time of FTIP adoption.

This item was informational only and no further action is required.

#### **H. FHWA Earmark Repurposing (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a key set of documents on March 8, 2016 that instructs state departments of transportation on how to redirect about \$2 billion in old, unused congressional earmark funds and sets up a process for them to possibly tap into more. Caltrans is looking to the MPO on how to distribute the funding. Fresno County has 5 earmarks listed on the attachment Projects. SR 180 has currently 1.8million in earmarks. Caltrans and FCOG concur that those dollars should stay on the SR180 and supplement the segment at Trimmer Springs which is short funding. The City of Fresno has two earmarks and they are proposing to repurpose the funds for a signal at Marks and Nielson, which would be consistent with the original federal appropriations. Fresno County has an earmark for American Avenue of \$225,000. Staff will continue to meet with Caltrans to and affected cities; funds must be obligated by December 2019.

Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) asked for clarification if the funds could be distributed to member agencies. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that the FHWA set specific guidelines for repurposing the funds including; the project must be RSTP eligible, within 50 miles or original earmark and ready to obligate.

This item was informational only and no further action is required.

#### **I. State Transportation Improvement Projects Update (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) stated that the On January 22, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted a revised Fund Estimate for the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that included significantly less revenue than previously projected in August 2015 when the development of the 2016 STIP began. The revised Fund Estimate indicates a \$754 million shortfall in projected revenue for the STIP over the five year STIP period. The Fresno COG adopted its 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) programming priorities in December 2015 for CTC's consideration of inclusion in the 2016 STIP based on the August 2015 Fund Estimate. However, in February 2016, the Fresno COG policy board considered and approved staff's recommendation to reduce the state's share of STIP funding programmed on the SR-180 East 3rd Segment: West of Smith Ave. to East of Frankwood Ave. project by \$14.735 million and replace those funds with Measure C funds. CTC staff will release their official STIP recommendation on April 22nd for adoption at the May 18/19 CTC meeting; however, on April 13th we received unofficial notification that the CTC has reviewed and considered our revised RTIP submittal and will likely recommend that the Construction phase of the SR 180 East project not be deleted from the 2016 STIP but rather be programmed in FY 18/19. The Construction phase of SR 180 East will have to wait until FY 18/19 to start. The right-of-way phase for the SR 180 West Landscape project will likely be delayed to FY 19/20 and construction to FY 20/21. Caltrans has confirmed that no additional funding from SHOPP will be received for the 269 project. Although projects are programmed to be funded in future STIP allocations, there is no guarantee the funding will be there. SR 180 was included in the original Measure and the Measure Extension, the project been designed, the right of way has been purchased and ready to build. However, the project still needs \$35million in STIP funding; over \$46million has already been invested. \$6.5million has been invested in the 269 project, currently programmed for 17/18, and needs an additional \$18 to \$20million to complete the project. A design contract was just entered into for the Golden State project, it is anticipated to be ready to build in 18/19, and will need \$44million to complete project.

Since the STIP funding is not a guarantee for the future, and SR 180 is the priority project, a recommendation was made to the transportation authority that alternative approaches should be presented and vetted through the COG members to find the best method to deliver these 3 projects. Staff will be convening subcommittee meetings to discuss these options further.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) commented that STIP will be a revolving issue with no solution at the state level. Staff will return with alternatives to resolving the funding needs to deliver key projects including self-help programs.

Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) asked if self-help programs included bonding or additional tax measures. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) clarified that the FCTA (not FCOG) would have the authority to sell bonds, the COG board would approve the plan. This discussion will have to be in conjunction with the FCTA.

This item was informational only, no further action was required.



## **J. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS] - Update on SR-180W Passing Lanes Project (Neil Bretz)**

Ms. Gail Miller (Caltrans) reported the following:

- SR 99 realignment: the retaining wall is near completion, McKinley onramp is closed during construction, ongoing work will include retaining wall, back fill, electrical, drainage, and stripping.
  - S99 exit Motel drive and Golden State is still closed. Drainage work, concrete and asphalt still ongoing
  - Curb gutter and sidewalk work continues on Weldon.
  - Princeton Ave exit is closed
- Prather curb correction, contractor is on hold, there is still water in the creek. If water does not dry, a diversion plan will need to be put in place.
- Maynard Munger Vista Point: construction continues and will be closed to motorists. The project is approximately 95% complete.
- Bids open for the Auberry roundabout will be going out, construction to start September/ October to be completed by in 2017.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) Thanked Ms. Miller for meeting regarding the Mendota roundabout.

## ***Fresno COG Sitting as the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board***

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

A motion to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the transportation policy was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

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**A. Regional Clearinghouse (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]**

**B. AB 1815 (Alejo) Support Letter (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]**

**C. Legislative Update (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]**

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion to approve the consent item as presented was made by Mayor Silva (Mendota) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

### **VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. FY 2016-17 Overall Work Program and Budget-Resolution 2016-02 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the FY 2016-17 Overall Work Program Draft totaling \$18,555,775 was released in February. The proposed Final budget decreased \$370,000 from the Draft Budget submitted in February, reflecting the elimination of WE 123 Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS). Fresno COG has applied for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5304 planning grant to fund this project and Caltrans, through formal comment, has advised us not to include this funding in the budget until it is formally awarded; however, if the grant application is successful we will amend the project back into the budget early in the fiscal year.

This year's budget total reflects a decrease of 14% from the approved FY 2015-16 budgets. This decrease is spread over a large variety of programs; however, a significant factor causing this reduction is simply that federal grants for multi-year projects are fully funded in our operating budget and funds that are spent are not reflected in the subsequent year's budget. There is a commensurate decrease in one-time expenses associated with this phenomenon and generally operating expenses are not affected. Decreases in revenues resulting of this sort are the FTA Section 5307-Urbanized Area Formula

Program funding demonstration projects providing public transit service to Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, the FTA Section 5316 Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC)\ FTA Section 5317 New Freedom Grant program, and the Prop 84 Sustainable Communities Grant from the Department of Conservation.

Federal revenues decreased 23% (\$2,191,276) reflecting the previously mentioned FTA 5307 and FTA Section 5316 & 5317 drawdowns. State revenues decreased 31% (\$688,784) largely due to the drawdown of the Prop 84 Sustainable Communities grant as well as progress on the state funded San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Freight Study. Local revenues decreased 1%, (\$109,096), a significant part of which is Cash Match revenue from FTA Section 5316 & 5317 projects that were spent down as the program continues to be phased out and Local Measure C revenues programmed for High Speed Rail. However, utilization of the Measure C Taxi Scrip, Carpool, Commuter and Farm Worker Vanpool programs continue to grow.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Beck (Reedley) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to approve of Resolution 2016-02 approving the FY 2016-17 Overall Work Program and Budget. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

#### **B. Audit Contract for Dedekian, George, Small, and Markarian (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that in 2013, in coordination with an RFP issued through the County Auditor Controllers Office the board selected the local CPA firm Dedekian, George, Small, and Markarian and entered into a three year contract to perform audits for the fiscal year 2012/13 – 2014/15. The contract includes all Financial and Compliance reports for Fresno COG, FCRTA, and the TDA Trust Member agency program audits. In addition, the Transportation Authority and COG agreed to combine and coordinate the TDA Trust and Measure “C” program audits under one firm so member agencies don’t have to deal with separate auditing firms reviewing their street accounting records at the same time, therefore, a component of this audit regarding Measure “C” audits will also require authorization from the Authority board in May. The CPA firm is currently completing the third year of the contract, has provided satisfactory service and is willing to extend service for additional two years at a cost of \$90,120 per year. The Authority’s share of this will be \$29,280 and FCOG’s \$60,840. The Auditor has requested an additional 2 hours for each of the 16 TDA Claimant audits. This represents an increase of \$4,020 per year from the previous cost, which Staff feels is reasonable. The Auditor Controllers Office has been consulted and recommends extending the contract.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Chavez (Huron) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to authorize a two year contract extension with the auditing firm Dedekian, George, Small, and Markarian at \$60,840 per year for the audits of Fresno COG, Fresno County Rural Transportation Agency, the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency and the Transportation Development Act program audits for member agencies. And, authorize a two year joint contract extension with the Transportation Authority and the auditing firm Dedekian, George, Small, and Markarian at \$29,280 per year for the audits of Local Transportation Pass Through funds to member agencies. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

#### **C. 2016 One Voice Washington DC Staff Update (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that the Annual Fresno COG One Voice trip to Washington D.C. for elected officials, was held April 16-21, 2016. 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. Staff is working with Simon & Co. and the One Voice delegates to identify follow-up items, draft letters of support and remaining tasks. A post-trip participant survey was emailed to each participant. Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) thanked the 2016 One Voice DC sponsors for their generous support.

This item was informational only, no further action was required.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) asked if there has been any correspondence regarding Temperance Flat, as he is concerned that he has not received any concrete information from the legislatures.

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) responded that several letters will be going out to different agencies addressing the issues, including a letter of support to the president supporting Senator Feinstein’s letter.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Silva (Mendota) asked Niel Bretz to provide an update on the 180 Passing Lanes project. Mr. Bretz (Caltrans) reported that the project should be started in late summer and completed Christmas of 2017. Also commented that the SR 180 project has been sitting for over 1 year, and would incur additional cost the longer it sits unconstructed.

#### **A. Items from Staff**

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported the following.

1. A handout was distributed on S.2533 - California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act
2. Darius Assemi was not reappointed to CA Transportation Commission. Historically the Valley has always had a representative on the CTC. Mr. Boren (FCOG) is requesting names of any potential candidate for the appointment. The Valley COG directors will be meeting to discuss the appointment and potential candidates.
3. Announced and congratulated the birth of the Melissa Garza's new baby boy.

#### **B. Items from Members**

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) provided an update from the JPA, membership dollars have been collected. Mayor Silva (Mendota) is the member at large and Mayor Chavez (Huron) is the alternate.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) announced that the JPA went to Sacramento and met with CA water commission and provided them information on the water shortage issue.

### **VIII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no public presentations

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

#### COG Staff

Les Beshears  
Lauren Dawson  
Chelsea Gonzales  
Trai Her  
Suzanne Martinez  
Rob Terry  
Clark Thompson  
Moses Stites  
Brenda Veenendaal

#### Members of the Public

Neil Bretz, Caltrans