

**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Executive Minutes**

Friday, July 15, 2016

10:00 AM

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

Members Present

Robert Woolley, City of Clovis  
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh  
John Kunkel, City of Kerman  
Vince DiMaggio, City of Mendota  
Samuel Escobar, City of Orange Cove  
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley  
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger  
Ken Grey, City of Selma  
Mohamad Khorsand, Fresno County

Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Tony Boren, FCOG

Meeting was called to order by Mr. DiMaggio (Mendota), Chair. Roll was called.

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Joint Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee*

A. Caltrans Update (Caltrans)

Mr. Navarro provided an update that the southbound Clinton off-ramp on SR99 will be closed on July 25<sup>th</sup> for 4 weeks. The Prather roundabout will be delayed for 2 months with a start date of late September, however staff is considering waiting until after winter suspension to begin construction. The deadline for local assistance for STIP funds is August 12<sup>th</sup>. Two maintenance workers stuck by a vehicle on 198, both survived but one was severely injured.

**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of June 10, 2016 [APPROVE]
- B. 2016-17 Measure "C" Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE/ADOPT]
- C. Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE/ADOPT]
- D. End of Federal Fiscal Year E-76 and FTA Transfer Deadlines and Obligational Authority Updates (Chelsea Gonzales) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- E. Active Transportation Program Cycle 3 Update (Chelsea Gonzales) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- F. Proposition 84 Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]

- G. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Report (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- H. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]
- I. Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study Phase Two (Rob Terry) [ACCEPT/DISCUSSION]
- J. Caltrans FY 2016-17 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Awards (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Wooley (Clovis) and seconded by Mr. Escobar (Orange Cove) 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. Federal Aid Earmark Repurpose Projects (Les Beshears) [APPROVE/ADOPT]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that in May staff advised the board that FHWA had issued guidance to repurpose a list of old Demo projects that have been on the books for years. For various reasons the initial projects associated with these federal earmarks were completed leaving funding on the table. If the dollars are left unspent, future Congress may choose to appropriate the funds. Staff has met with the project sponsors and Caltrans to determine a suitable list of projects to direct the earmark funds to, that fits FHWA's repurposing criteria and is consistent with the intent of the initial federal earmarks. The list recommends putting \$1,891,149 on SR 180 East between Smith and Frankwood, \$224,764 on American Ave. between SR 99 and Clovis Avenue, and \$181,234 on a Traffic Signal at Marks and Nielsen, North of the SR 180/Marks Interchange.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Kunkel (Kerman) and seconded by Mr. Grey (Selma) to approve the adoption of Resolution 2016-21 designating the list of projects eligible for repurposing. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

### **B. 2016/17 Overall Work Program Amendment #1 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE/ADOPT]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) stated the FCOG was awarded 2 grants for WE – 123 Sustainable Communities Public Transit, WE- 124 Business Commute Optimization. The amendment also includes a correction to a typographical error in the approved WE 311.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Wooley (Clovis) and seconded by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) to approve the 2016/17 Overall Work Program Amendment #1 increasing the budget by \$733,725. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

### **C. 2016 Fresno COG Public Participation Plan Approval (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG has updated the Public Participation Plan (PPP) in compliance with Federal and State legislation. The updated Draft 2016 Fresno COG Public Participation Plan was released for 45-day public review and comment on Friday, May 13, 2016. It has been available online on the Fresno COG website, in hard copy at the Fresno COG Office or via email by request. The Public Review and Comment Period was opened for 49 days, concluding on June 30, 2016 following a Public Hearing on the document held at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting. The Final Draft 2016 Fresno COG Public Participation Plan is available for review on the Fresno COG website. The Final Draft 2016 Fresno COG Public Participation Plan (PPP) includes changes in response to a total of three comment letters received during the comment period, and are included as Appendix E.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made to approve the 2016 Fresno COG Public Participation Plan was made by Mr. Grey (Selma), seconded by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County). A vote was called for and the motion passed.

**D. Local Street/ Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Funding Crisis (Tony Boren) [DISCUSSION/DIRECTION]**

Mr. Boren (FCOG) gave a presentation on the local streets and road maintenance/rehabilitation funding crisis facing California's cities and counties. He identified the transportation funding crisis and the critical importance of a well maintained and properly functioning local street and road network, and the short and long term "consequences and costs" associated with not addressing the problem. He discussed the proposed funding solution to create a local street/road maintenance and rehabilitation sales tax measure similar to Measure "C" and the next steps required. The length and amount of the measure has yet to be determined. Polling to gauge the public's support will help to further define the details.

Mr. Wooley (Clovis) expressed concerns regarding higher taxes that could cause the county to become less economically competitive; trucks may bypass Fresno due to the increased cost resulting in less sales and gas tax too as a result. He stated that the League of CA Cities will be discussing the issue of finding a permanent solution at the September meeting. He is also concerned that this additional tax would compete with local jurisdictions to pass their own sales tax measure. Clovis is not opposed to concept but is hoping there will be a state wide solution to the funding crisis.

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) commented that leveraging funds such as Measure C has been the most successful model to receive state dollars. Local leverage creates more opportunities to compete for SHOPP dollars.

Mr. Kunkel (Kerman) is concerned that with the ongoing school district tax and the sales tax, voters may begin to feel overburdened and overtaxed.

Mr. Grey (Selma) concurred with Mr. Wooley's comments. However if the timeline is far enough he would favor of further exploring the concept. If the state returns with a solution, it will most likely require a match, and the region will not have the funding available. This solution would provide the funding for a local match should the State require it.

Mr. Chapa (Sanger) commented that these seem to be the same platform used to pass the Measure C extension, and an intermittent measure may cause voter fatigue. The City of Sanger will be seeking a public safety tax and a school district renewal tax.

Mr. Wooley (Clovis) stated concern that special interest groups may try to "high jack" the funding for other transportation issues. He supports the concept but wants the concerns stated above to be reflected as well.

Mr. DiMaggio (Mendota) supports moving forward in exploring the concept.

Mr. Escobar (Orange Cove) requested that staff explore other methods of self-funding as well and will be reflected in the staff report.

Mr. Boren clarified that the outreach will take place over the next 3-6 months to different stakeholders to gauge support, and return to the Board and FCTA to move forward. A contract of polling services will come back to the committee for approval.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Wooley (Clovis) and seconded by Mr. Grey (Selma) to authorize Fresno COG Executive Director to begin community outreach efforts to determine if there is community support for a ½ cent sales tax add-on to our existing Measure “C” to fund “local” street and road maintenance needs throughout Fresno County. A vote was called for, motion carried.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Clearinghouse (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]
- B. Legislative Update (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Grey (Selma) and seconded by Mr. Escobar (Orange Cove) to recommend approval of the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

### V. OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Items from Staff

- National Drought Reliance Partnership (Tony Boren)  
Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that U.S. EPA Region 9 released a “Drought Resiliency and Sustainability Plan” and they would like to bring a broad group of federal agencies to discuss building long term resilience to drought.  
No further interest was expressed, Mr. Wooley (Clovis) commented that this may another layer bureaucracy on the current water movements.  
Mr. Boren will email out the plan for the members to review in interested.

#### B. Items from Members

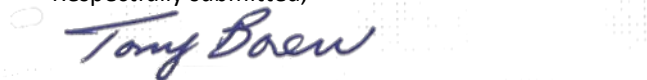
No items presented.

### VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

No public presentations were made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Tony Boren".

Tony Boren, Executive Director

Staff

Brenda Veenendaal

Chelsea Gonzales

Kristine Cai

Les Beshears

Peggy Arnest

Trai Her-Cole