

**TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Executive Minutes**

Friday, July 15, 2016

8:30 AM

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

Members Present

Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis  
Moses Stites, FCRTA  
Andrew Benelli, City of Fresno  
Jim Schaad, City of Fresno  
John Mulligan, City of Sanger  
Mohammad Alimi, Fresno County  
Mohammad Khorsand, Fresno County  
Steven Son, Fresno County  
Nicolas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling  
Stephanie Frederik, League of Women Voters  
Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota

Tony Boren, FCOG

Meeting was called to order by the Mr. Gonzales (Mendota), Chair at 8:34am.

**TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL 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]

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) pulled item D.

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

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) asked for some additional information regarding the current status of the obligational authority target. Ms. Gonzales (FCOG) responded that additional projects have been able to be obligated over the last several weeks. Staff is confident that we will be able to meet our obligational authority target.

Motion to approve Consent Item D was made by Ms. Mathis (Clovis), seconded by Mr. Son (Fresno County). A vote was called for and the motioned passed.

## **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.

Mr. Paladino (Cycling) asked what the shortfall for the SR180 project would be after the 1.9M has been added. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that the project will receive 35M in STIP funding; the 1.9M will be used to offset the 14M dollars committed by Measure C.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) and seconded by Mr. Alimi (Fresno County) 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.

Mr. Son asked for clarification on the project study location for the Business Commute Optimization Project. Mr. Terry (FCOC) via conference phone responded that location will be within the central valley, the role of Denver University will be providing the modeling for the project.

The data collected for the O&D study could be utilized depending on what types of traffic patterns the project will study. Mr. Terry (FCOG) will send out the scope of work for the project to TTC members.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Stites (FCRTA) 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 motioned 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.

Mr. Paladino (Cycling) asked that the Cycling Club be added to the agency listings in the Appendix.

Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) asked about the types of changes that were made based on the comments provided by the Leadership Council. Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) stated that changes included an emphasis on focused coordination with all the schools districts particular those in the rural communities. Staff added narrative related to how the public can contact FCOG staff directly in different languages, verbiage on performance measures for PPP were added as well.

There was discussion as to the request from Leadership Council to create a standalone Environmental Justice committee or a subcommittee of the board. Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) commented that the new process was just approved by the board and is still being implemented. It was recommended that the EJ committee not be a standalone group but follow the committee process so the items discussed are related to COG business and recommendations would flow through the TTC/PAC and Board. Staff would advertise a call for membership and agendas would be noticed similar to TTC/PAC.

Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) expressed concern that an independent EJ committee would not be beneficial if it is outside of the COG process. Mr. Son (Fresno County) concurred with Mr. Khorsand and commented that the committee membership should be a balanced representation of the region and not a core group.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion to approve the 2016 Fresno COG Public Participation Plan was made by Ms. Mathis (Clovis), seconded by Mr. Son (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.

Ms. Federick (League) suggested that a slide be added to discuss the cost of vehicle repairs due to poor roads and the impairment of emergency vehicles. Mr. Alimi (Fresno County) asked if the funding will be distributed under the same categories of Measure C or will it be for maintenance only.

Mr. Khorsand (FCOG) asked if this measure will continue to move forward if the funding becomes available should the state moves towards VMT fee approach. Mr. Son (Fresno County) commended FCOG for thinking outside the box, and requested that definition of "Maintenance" be kept as broad as possible.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that the State's funding would not be enough to fund the repairs need on the roads system. He also clarified that the new sales tax measure would be dedicated to maintenance and rehabilitation projects only. The details and definition of "maintenance" would have to be further defined by the regional committee. There was discussion regarding the timeline and approval process including regional consensus and approval from FCOG board and FCTA, then it would go before the Board of Supervisors for approval and placement on the 2018 ballot.

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) asked if the League of California Cities has any position on the states direction and how this would impact the tax rate and the region's economic competitiveness. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that the League and Cal Cog recognize the funding shortfall but is not sure they have taken a formal position.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Paladino (Cycling) and seconded by Ms. Frederick (League) to authorize Fresno COG Executive Director to begin community outreach efforts, including hiring a polling consultant, in an effort 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, motion passed.

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) stated that additional studies need to be completed and Clovis will not be taking a position as this time.

### **III. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

No items to report.

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

Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) announced that the 5th cycle housing element won the local APA award.

### **IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

No public presentations.

#### **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 Praither 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.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Tony Boren, Executive Director

Staff

Brenda Veenendaal

Chelsea Gonzales

Kristine Cai

Les Beshears

Peggy Arnest

Rob Terry (via Telephone)

Trai Her-Cole