

**Fresno COG Policy Board  
Executive Minutes**

**Thursday, September 29, 2016  
5:30 PM**

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

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Nathan Magsig, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ron Ramsey, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Pro Tem Brady Jenkins, City of Firebaugh  
Councilmember Steve Brandau, City of Fresno  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
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 Pro Tem Raul Cantu, City of Sanger  
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 Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin

**QUORUM:** 13 members were present representing 97.53% of the population and there was a quorum to conduct business. Mayor David Cardenas (Fowler) Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.

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

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Fourth Quarter Progress Report: April - June 2016 (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
- B. 2016/17 Overall Work Plan Amendment #2 (Les Beshears) [AUTHORIZE/APPROVE]
- C. Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. NRG Make Ready-Stubbs (Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure) Program (Lauren Dawson) [INFORMATION]
- E. YARTS Update (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- F. Free Fleet Analysis Available (Lauren Dawson) [INFORMATION]
- G. San Joaquin Valley Clean Transportation Summit (Lauren Dawson) [INFORMATION]
- H. Class IV Separated Bikeways Feasibility Study (Clark Thompson) [INFORMATION]
- I. Proposition 84 Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]
- J. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Report (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]
- K. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Grant (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]
- L. Active Transportation Program Cycle 3 Update (Chelsea Gonzales) [INFORMATION]

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County), seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cantu (Sanger) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

## II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Measure "C" New Technology Multidisciplinary Advisory Group Funding Recommendations (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that the Measure "C" New Tech Steering Committee met for the first time in January of 2015 to begin discussion of this new Measure C Program. From this first committee meeting, a subcommittee was formed that met approximately ten times over the course of a year to develop program goals, program scope, criteria for solicitation, timeline for the distribution of funds, and the project selection process.

During this process, FCOG staff in conjunction with the subcommittee developed a grant application for the New Technology Program which was then presented to the entire Steering Committee for review, revision and recommendation. The final draft grant application and scoring criteria was approved by the Policy Board in December 2015 and the FCTA Board in March 2016. The COG Policy Board also gave direction to staff to develop a Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) to include 12 positions whose purpose was to review, evaluate, and recommend applications for funding.

FCOG received six New Technology Funding applications asking for a total of \$19,334,581 with \$10,000,000 in funding available. On July 21st, 2016 the MAG met to interview the applicants and discuss their grant applications. The reviewing committee was reminded that they could award the entire \$10 million, a portion of it, or none of it.

On September 8, 2016, the Measure C Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the MAG funding recommendations.

Mayor Magsig (Clovis) inquired about how much will be raised for the New Tech Program over the life of the Measure. Ms. Arnest (FCOG) responded that program is projected to receive \$20 million over the life of the Measure.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) provided comments in support of the collaborative electronic aviation project put forth by both cities.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County), seconded by Mayor Robertson (Selma) to approve the New Technology MAG's recommendation for funding. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

### B. Final Draft 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and Corresponding Conformity Analysis (Gonzales/Martinez/Dawson) [APPROVE]

Ms. Gonzales (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is federally mandated to prepare and maintain the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This four-year program of projects includes a listing of all transportation-related projects requiring federal funding or other approval by the federal transportation agencies. The FTIP also lists non-federal, regionally significant projects for information and air quality modeling purposes.

Fresno COG is required to update the 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 this year and is proposing approval of the Final Draft 2017 FTIP and the corresponding Final Draft Conformity Analysis.

Fresno COG held a 30-day public review and comment period for the Draft 2017 FTIP commencing on Friday, July 29, 2016 and concluding on Monday, August 29, 2016; comments were due by 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2016. A public hearing was also held to receive comments on the Draft 2017 FTIP documents on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 5:30 PM at the Fresno COG office. Verbal comments received at the public hearing and other comments received during the 30-day public review period are summarized and responded to in Appendix J (Formal Comments and Responses) of the Final Draft 2017 FTIP. Any changes made to the Draft 2017 FTIP based on comments received are noted within the responses to such comments.

Ms. Dawson (FCOG) provided background information on the transportation conformity requirements for the FTIP. There were no comments received on the Draft Conformity Analysis.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Cantu (Sanger) and seconded by Councilmember Beck (Reedley) to recommend approval of the Final Draft 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and the corresponding Final Draft Conformity Analysis via Resolution No. 2016-23. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. Transportation Needs Assessment Study (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that in May 2014, the Fresno COG Policy Board directed Fresno COG staff to develop three Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation programs in response to a request submitted by a coalition of community groups during the 2014 RTP/SCS development process. The Transportation Needs Assessment Study was one of three SCS implementation programs. A Needs Assessment Committee was formed in November 2014, which consisted of elected officials, staff members from the local governments, stakeholders, interested public members and representatives from the Coalition (community groups).

After months of discussion, the Committee defined the scope for the Needs Assessment study to include:

- 1) Develop databases for existing and future bike and pedestrian facilities in the region;
- 2) Contract with Fresno State students to build an inventory of existing bike lanes and sidewalks
- 3) Provide mapping with health data and bike, pedestrian and transit facilities in combination with disadvantaged communities defined by the study
- 4) Contract with a consulting firm to conduct:
  - a regional gap analysis for bike and trail facilities
  - a transportation connectivity/accessibility analysis for 10 major regional and sub-regional facilities that provide basic services for the residents in the Fresno Region.

Through an RFP process, Fehr & Peers was hired to conduct the analysis specified in Task 4 of the scope. The Regional Gap analysis was focused on the inter-city/community connectivity of the bike/trail facilities. Sidewalks were not included in the analysis because they are deemed local. Demand scores for such facilities were developed based on factors such as population/employment density, proximity to schools, transit stop, land use mixes, etc. The missing connections were then identified and projects were then prioritized based on the demand scores, proximity to Needs Assessment hot-spots and schools, disadvantaged community status. etc. A list of 10 priority projects included cost estimate

The Connectivity and Accessibility Analysis was conducted for 10 hot-spots that were identified by the Needs Assessment Committee as regional/sub-regional facilities that provide basic services to the residents. They include Fashion Fair Mall, Fresno City College, the Superior Court, Coalinga Regional Medical Center, Sanger Walmart, etc. The Connectivity and Accessibility analysis was based on user needs, and was focused on the access to such facilities in the disadvantaged communities. The analysis covers all modes, including bike, pedestrian, transit and auto. Recommendations for improvements were made for each of the 10 hot-spots. The recommendation from this analysis presents opportunities for more detailed system improvement as funding becomes available. However, the scope of this analysis did not include a review of full system benefits, costs, and impacts of implementation.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) and seconded by Mayor Silva (Huron) to accept the Transportation Needs Assessment report. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

D. Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study Phase II Consultant Selection (Tony Boren) [AWARD/APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that at the request of the Counties of Fresno, Madera and the City of Fresno, staff has completed Phase I of the Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination study to analyze the traffic movements along SR 99 and FWY 41. The second phase will analyze the fiscal impacts of these trips.

On July 1, 2016, an RFP for Phase II activities was released, with three responses being submitted (Applied Development Economics, Cambridge Systematics, and Tischler Bise). The scoring committee - which included representatives from the Cities of Fresno and Madera, the Counties of Fresno and Madera, and both Fresno COG and Madera CTC - recommended the consulting firm of Applied Development Economics be awarded the contract, not to exceed the amount of \$107,550, as indicated in their proposal.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) recommending the Fresno COG Policy Board award the Fresno/Madera Highway 41 and State Route 99 Origin-Destination Study Part Two contract to Applied Development Economics, not to exceed the amount of \$107,550, as indicated in the consultant's proposal and attachments. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

E. Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable Approval of Positions and Appointment of Representatives (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) stated that as Fresno COG embarks upon the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update, it is once again time to form the 2018 RTP Roundtable. The purpose of the RTP Roundtable is to support the Fresno COG staff and COG standing committees in their development and preparation of the 2018 RTP and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). It is vital to the success of the process that the RTP Roundtable helps to generate consensus about the plan that is based upon the input of an informed and active local constituency. While the RTP Roundtable will provide comments and input on issues related to development of the 2018 RTP/SCS, the final decisions on the RTP will be the responsibility of the Fresno Council of Governments' Policy Board.

COG staff released an application for appointment to the RTP Roundtable on August 12, 2016. Applications were due to staff by September 1, 2016. At that time there were 36 positions on the Roundtable to be filled – 16 seats that allow for one staff person from each member agency; 17 seats open to a variety of agencies and interest groups and 3 “at large” seats. The positions were approved during the 2014 RTP process, and updated prior to releasing the 2018 Roundtable application. They were recently updated as follows:

- Public Transportation was split into two positions, one for urban and one for rural representation
- Bicycle/Pedestrian position is now Active Transportation
- Environmental Justice Community position was shortened Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Valley Blueprint Planners was updated to require representation from the Valley Planners Network

Fresno COG staff is also recommending three additional positions to be added to the RTP Roundtable, Education, Water (Agency), and Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee.

All of the completed applications received to date were presented.

Staff also recommended that the previous RTP Roundtable chair, LAFCO Director David Fey, continue in that role. The TTC did not make a recommendation on the Chair position, deferring their support to whomever the PAC recommended. The PAC then voted in support of David Fey as RTP Roundtable Chair.

Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) encouraged all the member cities to engage and participate in the RTP Process.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) spoke in support of Mr. Fey as the Chairman.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Robertson (Selma) and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) to approve the recommended three additional Roundtable positions, Mr. David Fey as the Chair of the 2018 RTP Roundtable, and approve Staff's recommended Roundtable position appointments. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

F. Caltrans Update (Gail Miller)

Ms. Miller (Caltrans) distributed the 2016 Third Quarter Issue of "Mile Marker" and provided an update on the recent Caltrans activities.

1. Caltrans Update on Litter Control on Fresno County Highways (Lauren Dawson/John Liu) **[INFORMATION]**

Ms. Dawson (FCOG) and Mr. Liu (Caltrans) provided a report on the efforts to address litter control along the highways.

**QUORUM:** Kingsburg and Firebaugh enters meeting, 15 members were present representing 99.59% of the population and there remained a quorum to conduct business.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding maintenance of median islands and the option for a maintenance agreement for local agencies, and the transition to low maintenance landscape instead of trees. The board discussed the issues with the Kerman roundabout related to speed, the volume and the type of traffic. Caltrans commented that there were many lessons learned from the Kerman roundabout project that has led to improvements in the design future projects.

Mr. Lui announced that Caltrans has received an additional \$1million from the Corrections Department to fund three additional maintenance crews. The crews will begin operating in October.

Mayor Silva (Huron) expressed concern that the 269 Bridge project is being continuously delayed and is in need of repair.

Councilmember Brandau (Fresno City) reported that the City of Fresno launched a litter ticketing campaign and wrote 89 tickets in a week, the program has been extending to a month.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated the staff will be meeting with Caltrans to discuss options for a litter removal program and potential amendment to the Measure.

Mayor Pro Temp Yep (Kerman) stated that the Board discussed previously discussed a self-help sales tax measure to fund programs such as litter removal; however, there was little support from the City Fresno and Clovis.

Mayor Magsig (Clovis) stated that the City of Clovis would be open to all options and should be regionally equitable.

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

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

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

A motion to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the transportation policy committee was made by Councilmember Beck (Reedley), and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of June 10, 2016 [APPROVE]
- B. Regional Clearinghouse (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]
- C. Legislative Update (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Magsig (Clovis) stated that he is involved in a solar project with EOC Headstart and will be abstaining from this vote.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove), seconded by Councilmember Beck (Reedley) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented.

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Frazier-Beall Transportation Funding Package (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) presented the Frazier-Beall Transportation Funding Package which is projected to provide \$69,812,490 to the Fresno County Region.

There was discussion regarding pending legislation and programs to capture revenue from electric cars.

Mayor Magsig (Clovis) commented that the Republican Caucus completed a needs study which indicates a \$100 Billion needed to address the infrastructure issues. The Board discussed continuing conversations with the legislatures to ensure the regions projects stay at the forefront.

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

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Items from Staff

Mr. Boren (FCOG) announced that the October Board meeting will be moved from 10/20 to 10/27. Dinner was provided by Rene's catering.

He also announced the passing of long time public servant and sitting Fowler Councilmember Jim Simonian.

- B. Items from Members

Mayor Magsig (Clovis) announced that Harry Armstrong will be retiring from the Clovis City Council on October 15<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held in his honor on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) announced a collaborative project with Fresno State to host an event on October 22<sup>nd</sup> for families and students to visit and experience a college university. FCRTA will provide transportation from the rural areas to the event. Mr. Bernard Reynold(Fresno State) provided additional details and distributed flyers.

**VII. 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. Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.

No presentations

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Tony Boren, Executive Director

Staff

Brenda Veenendaal

Chelsea Gonzales

Kristine Cai

Lauren Dawson

Les Beshears

Peggy Arnest

Suzanne Martinez

Trai Her-Cole

Members of the Public

Fred Choa, Fehr & Peers

Aley Tawfik, Fresno State

Ram Nunna, Fresno State

Jesus Larralde, Fresno State

Kathleen Shiropresad, Fresno EOC

Bernard Renold, Fresno State