

Policy Advisory Committee

Minutes

Friday, January 13, 2017
10:00 AM

Members Present

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis	Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Dave Weisser, City of Fowler	Tim Chapa, City of Sanger
Bruce Rudd, City of Fresno	Greg Garner, City of Selma
James Doughty II, City of Huron	Steven Son, Fresno County
John Kunkel, City of Kerman	
Alexander Henderson, Kingsburg	Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Vince DiMaggio, City of Mendota	Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Mr. DiMaggio (Mendota), Chair.

Joint Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee

A. PRESENTATION

1. Caltrans Report (CALTRANS)

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) announced that most projects are in winter suspension; however, work on the HSR alignment continues on the Ashlan, Shields, and Princeton off ramps, work on the SR180 braided ramps will be completed in August and the retrofit of the old San Joaquin Bridge has started. He also announced that agencies seeking emergency service relief funds must meet eligible criterion such as federal routes and cost of damage per event.

Mr. DiMaggio (Mendota) announced an update to the action on item II E., staff is asking for PAC to provide direction and/or recommendation on the item.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes November 4, 2016 [APPROVE]
- B. Measure C Senior Taxi Scrip Program – Scrip Vendor Agreements (Esperanza Velazco) [APPROVE]
- C. Circuit Planning and Engineering Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]
- D. FY 16/17 Caltrans Planning Grant Contracts – Business Commute (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]
- E. 2017 FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Application Released for the Fresno/Clovis Urbanized Area (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- F. 2017 FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Application Released for the Small Urban and Rural Areas (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- G. Critical Urban Freight Corridors and Critical Rural Freight Corridors (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]
- H. Federal Highway Administration Unveils National ‘Alternative Fuel and Electric Charging’ Network (Lauren Dawson) [INFORMATION]
- I. California Transportation Commissions 2016 Annual Report (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION]

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Ms. Zieba (Reedley) seconded by Mr. Chapa (Sanger) to approve the consent calendar as presented. A vote was called for, and the motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Garza announced that the next roundtable meeting will be on January 25th at 2 pm.

1. **Environmental Justice Subcommittee Application Release (Brenda Veenendaal) {INFORMATION}**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) announced that the application for the Environmental Justice Subcommittee Application is now available (an updated application was provided). Applications are due to staff by March 1, 2017.

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

B. **Cycle 3 Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program-Recommendation for Program of Projects (Suzanne Martinez) [ADOPT]**

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that the Cycle 3 Regional Competitive ATP, Fresno COG's Regional Call for Projects took place from July 1, 2016, through September 15, 2016. Six applications were submitted directly to the Regional Call for Projects for a total funding request of \$1.51 million. However, per program guidelines, the Fresno County applications not selected through the Statewide Call for Projects were also considered and evaluated as part of the Regional Call for Projects. For Cycle 3, Fresno COG will receive \$1,338,000 for each fiscal year (2019/20 and 2020/21) to award to local projects. Per the ATP legislation, at least 25% of the program funds must benefit projects in disadvantaged communities.

The scoring committee, consisting of ATP Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) members, convened on November 2, 2016, to score and deliberate on the project applications submitted. The scoring committee recommended that a total of \$2,676,000 in ATP funds be programmed for five projects in Fresno County. All five of the recommended projects are located within and directly benefitting disadvantaged communities, well exceeding the 25% minimum. Three bike and pedestrian projects were proposed, totaling \$2,154,000, and the two remaining projects are Safe Routes to School projects, totaling \$522,000.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) and seconded by Mr. Garner (Selma) to recommend that the Policy Board adopt the Cycle 3 Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program of Projects as recommended by the ATP Scoring Committee. A vote was called for, and the motion passed.

C. **Circuit Planning Contract and Budget Amendment (Rob Terry) [APPROVE/DISCUSSION]**

Mr. Terry (FCOG) reported that in conjunction with Fresno COG's Circuit Planning and Engineering efforts, the City of Selma, Fresno COG and Caltrans have engaged in discussions regarding a potential interchange at SR 99 and Dinuba Avenue. To determine the viability of the project, a traffic feasibility analysis is required. Caltrans has agreed to prepare a preliminary design concept following the completion of the feasibility analysis. VRPA Technologies Inc., as the current Circuit Planning contract firm, has prepared a Methodology and Scope Memo addressing the bounds of the analysis. The level of analysis and funding required to complete the process goes beyond the scope of the current circuit planning contract and will require an amendment to VRPA's current contract. The City of Selma and Fresno COG are seeking to enter into an MOU to split the financial responsibility of the analysis activities, which totals \$38,560. In the MOU, each agency would agree to pay 50% of the total cost (or \$19,280 each).

Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) asked if the preliminary engineering cost was going to be about 30% of the project. Mr. Terry (FCOG) responded that the traffic study will determine the type of facility needed as well as the potential cost.

After and expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Rudd (Fresno City), and seconded by Mr. Son (Fresno County) to recommended that the Policy Board approve entering into an MOU with the City of Selma, wherein each agency commits to 50% of the financial responsibility of the \$38,560 total project cost; and to amend the current Circuit Planning contract with VRPA Technologies Inc. to include the Feasibility Analysis tasks and budget outlined within the Methodology and Scope Memo; and amend the 2016/17 Budget by \$38,560 to allow for invoicing of the Feasibility Analysis activities by the Circuit Planning team. A vote was called for, and the motion passed.

D. Fresno COG Activity Based Model Update Consultant Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported Fresno COG's Activity-Based Model (ABM) was initially developed as a pilot project as part of the first phase of the valley-wide Model Improvement Plan (MIP1) in 2012. The Activity-based model is able to keep track of the characteristics of individuals at household level and is a much more disaggregated model than the 4-step model currently operated by Fresno COG and other valley MPOs. It is better positioned to estimate benefits from transportation strategies such as transit and active transportation. It is also more sensitive to smart growth land use policies such as compact development and mixed uses.

The ABM update will bring the base year from 2008 to 2014, using the latest survey data such as the 2010-2012 California Household Travel Survey. It will add a component for bike and walk trip assignment, which is the first effort in the entire San Joaquin Valley to try to estimate the results and benefits of the planned investment in active transportation.

The Request for Proposal for the ABM update was issued in October 2016. The total amount for the project is \$200,000. Three proposals were received. A Scoring Committee was formed that consisted of COG staff and representatives from member agencies and other MPOs in the Valley. After interviewing the three consultant teams, the Scoring Committee unanimously recommended that RSG be selected to conduct the update because of their extensive experience in ABM development, the new tools they are bringing to the project and the expertise and caliber of the project staff, some of whom enjoy nation-wide reputation in the area of ABM research and development.

Staff clarified that countywide transit ridership will be included in the forecast.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Kunkel (Kerman) and seconded by Mr. Chapa (Sanger) that the PAC approve the Scoring Committee's recommendation that RSG be selected to conduct the ABM update for Fresno COG. A vote was called for, and the motion passed.

E. Request by the City of Fresno to Amend the Measure "C" Expenditure Plan to Facilitate the Siting of the California High Speed Rail Authority's Heavy Maintenance Facility (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION/ACTION]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that the City of Fresno has negotiated non-refundable security deposits with a number of property owners of the HSR HMF proposed site. The City is requesting to access the \$25 million in Measure C set aside funds for the non-refundable security deposits.

The committee discussed the previous proposals to purchase the properties out right. Mr. Rudd commented that the prior proposals contained multiple unknown expenses which was why the FCTA was reluctant to approve them. The current proposal is for deposits on options to purchase the land if Fresno receives the designation of the Heavy Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) also stated that it is anticipated that High Speed Rail Authority will make a decision

on the site location within the next 12 months. The Authority has also emphasized the importance of site control in order for Fresno's bid to be more competitive.

Mr. Son (Fresno County) stated that the County of Fresno fully supports the High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Son (Fresno County), and seconded by Mr. Serpa (Clovis) to recommend that the Policy Board approve the proposed Measure "C" Amendment #3 -Resolution 2017-01. A vote was called for, and the motion passed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Monthly Legislative Update (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION]**
- B. **Clearinghouse (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]**

After and expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded by Mr. Garner (Selma) to approve the consent calendar as presented. A vote was called for, and the motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **2017 Fresno Council of Governments Legislative Platform (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]**

Ms. Garza (FCOG) reported that the Legislative Platform is a document that includes the advocacy priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. It represents a unified voice when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal lawmakers as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to the Fresno COG staff and the lobbying partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board. Staff is requesting review and comment of the current platform to assist in the update process of the 2017 legislative platform. The legislative platform presented reflects the priorities for advocacy during the 2015/2016 state and federal legislative session. However, the priorities must now be updated to reflect the 2017/2018 legislative priorities. Staff welcomed input for the development of the Fresno COG 2017 legislative platform.

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

- B. **One Voice Update (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]**

Ms. Garza (FCOG) reported that the One Voice Committee had a kick-off meeting on January 12th. The committee discussed the call for priority projects. In the year past, water had been a significant priority; however, the committee directed that this year's trip should be refocused to transportation related priorities. The committee expressed that though transportation should be the number one focus, all proposals will be accepted and considered.

Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) and Mr. DiMaggio (Mendota) both concurred with the committee's recommendation to focus on transportation priorities and to identify only a handful of strong regional projects to carry forward.

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

- C. **San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference (March 8-10, 2017) (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) announced that the Regional Policy Conference registration will open at the end of January. Registration and sponsorship packets were available.

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

D. Support Letter for AB 28 (Melissa Garza)[INFORMATION]

Ms. Garza (FCOG) announced that in the Fall of 2016, Caltrans began informing stakeholders that legislation providing the limited waiver of sovereign immunity for the NEPA Assignment program would be expiring on January 1, 2017. Caltrans also notified stakeholders of the potential impacts to the State if the limited waiver of sovereign immunity was allowed to expire. The State did not act in time to address the lapse of the sovereign immunity therefore entering into a 90-suspension which could have impacts on local projects requiring environmental review. Fresno COG, in accordance with the 2016 Legislative Platform, has taken a support position for AB 28 which would extend the waiver indefinitely and urge the Legislature to take this bill up as soon as possible, to ensure environmental protection while also moving crucial projects forward before the 90-day suspension expires to avoid delays in project delivery.

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

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Ms. Garza (FCOG) announced that the FCOG staff is a member of the Active Transportation Program Technical Advisory Committee which will review the upcoming guidelines and allocations, staff welcomes any feedback regarding the last process to help improve the overall statewide processes.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) announced that the Policy Board will include 10 new members.

Ms. Kai (FCOG) announced that staff is conducting growth forecasts for the RTP/SCS process. Staff and the consultant have reached out to all the cities regarding pipeline housing and commercial development projects and encouraged city staff to provide any information that may impact the forecast.

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) announced that the City of Kingsburg are Semi-Finalist for Small Business Revolution grant. The next selection process is voting via social media and asked for everyone's support and vote.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

No public presentations

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Staff

Melissa Garza

Rob Terry

Brenda Veenendaal

Kristine Cai

Kai Han

Les Beshears

Peggy Arnest

Trai Her-Cole

Donna Baker

Lauren Dawson

Esperanza Velazco

Suzanne Martinez