

**Transportation Technical Committee**

**Minutes**

Friday, January 13, 2017

8:30 AM

Members Present

David Padilla, Caltrans

Rene Mathis, City of Clovis

David Weisser, City of Fowler

Jennifer Clark, City of Fresno

Scott Mozier, City of Fresno

Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota

John Robertson, City of Reedley

Moses Stites, FCRTA

Mohammad Khorsand, Fresno County

Steven Son, Fresno County

Nicolas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling

Stephanie Frederick, League of Women Voters

Tony Boren, FCOG

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 am by Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota), Chair.

**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 Mr. Khorsand (County) seconded by Ms. Mathis (Clovis) 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]**

- 1. Environmental Justice Subcommittee Application Release (Brenda Veenendaal)

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) announced that the application for the Environmental Justice Subcommittee Application is now available (and 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. Gonzalez (Mendota), seconded by Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) to recommend that the PAC recommend to the Policy Board adoption of 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. Mozier (Fresno City) asked if the interchange is consistent with Caltrans' plans and the City of Selma's General Plan. Mr. Terry (FCOG) responded that the City of Selma has been engaged in the process to update their General Plan, which includes consistency with a potential interchange at this location. In addition, Caltrans is supportive of such potential improvements to the system and continues to be engaged in all design discussions.

Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) asked why this contract did not go out for public bid. Mr. Terry (FCOG) stated that the current circuit planning team has already provided considerable preliminary work that is in line with the current scope of work. Given the fairly small proposed cost to complete the additional analysis, the additional cost to conduct a public bid process would have likely matched or exceeded the additional

analysis costs – and would not have been a cost-effective and mindful use of funds or time. In addition, the background and knowledge the current circuit planning team could give to the project allows for a very efficient process.

Currently, no additional funds have been identified for construction. The preliminary reports and engineering studies will help to determine what type of facility will be needed and will allow for Caltrans to create conceptual designs and potential costs.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County), seconded by Mr. Stites (FCRTA) to recommend 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.

Ms. Frederick asked if this update will be included in the current RTP update. Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the update of the ABM will take over a year and will not be available for this RTP update but will be able to be used for the 2022 RTP/SCS.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Stites (FCRTA) and seconded by Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) that the TTC recommend to the PAC and the Policy Board approval of 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.

Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) concurred and also stated that the designation of the facility in Fresno is a regional benefit and the ability to have land control helps to make Fresno County's proposal much more competitive.

The committee discussed when the Authority is anticipated to make a decision on the designation. Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) commented that based upon the HSR business plan, in order to meet the operational deadline, the facility must be selected by 2017.

Mr. Son (Fresno County) commented that the County continues to support the HSR HMF project.

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

### III. 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. Mozier announced that gas tax revenue was down from forecasted and will likely have trickle down impacts to the cities.

Ms. Garza (FCOG) announced that Caltrans District 6 has sent out a request for emergency relief funds for those cities affected by the storms. Applications were available to members.

### IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.

Joint Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee

#### A. PRESENTATION

##### 1. **Caltrans Report (CALTRANS)**

- B. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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