

**Fresno COG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and  
Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Roundtable**

**Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no public presentations.

**III. FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

**A. Regulatory Overview**

Mr. Yu provided background information regarding Federal Regulations related to the RTP. The most significant change comes from Map-21, *The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141)* to the FAST Act, *The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94)* which requires MPO's to use performance based planning. MPOs are encouraged to consult with State agencies and to plan for tourism and natural disaster risk reduction. New planning factors include system resiliency and reliability and reduce/mitigate storm-water impacts on surface transportation. Plans shall identify public transportation facilities and intercity bus facilities. The plan should include strategies to reduce vulnerability due to natural disasters. Interested parties also include public ports, intercity bus operators, and commuter vanpool providers, recommend the use of scenario planning during the development of RTP. Finally, it also adds a new optional Congestion Management Plan includes projects and strategies that shall develop regional goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled during peak commuting hours and improve transportation connections between areas with high job concentration and areas with high concentrations of low-income households. Dr. Yu provided a summary of the rulemaking process and the performance measure requirements.

Mr. Prado encouraged local coordination and input from office of emergency services.

**B. Calendar of critical dates**

Staff provided a chart of key milestones dates. Staff indicated that the timeline was subject to change and that staff will provide updates as needed.

**IV. NEW INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Approve Meeting Summary from 11/30/2016**

Mr. Paladino asked that revisions to the November minutes reflect that, the 2014 scoring criteria was created by a subcommittee and was then presented to the roundtable for approval. The committee requested that roundtable members participate in the scoring criteria subcommittee process to develop the 2018 scoring criteria, and that the 2018 scoring criteria be brought back to the roundtable for review and discussion. Staff concurred with the request.

Ms. Savala asked that staff provide a list of the members of the scoring committee and that it should be posted online. Staff agreed.

A motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Mr. Khorsand, and seconded by Mr. Von Berg. A motion was called for and the motion passed.

**B. Mission/Vision, Values, Goals**

Mr. Terry presented the draft overall mission, vision and values for discussion noting that the 2014 RTP/SCS will serve as the starting point for the development of the 2018 RTP. Staff requested feedback and concurrence from the roundtable on the existing mission, vision and values.

Mr. Khorsand stated that the plan should address housing affordability as part of housing choice. Staff concurred.

Mr. Von Berg asked if the vision should be more specific to the types of active transportation. Staff responded that the objective would address the specific modes of active transportation.

### **C. EIR Consultant Selection Recommendation**

Mr. Terry stated that the current EIR proposal is for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report to analyze the 2018 RTP/SCS. This type of document will utilize the full Program EIR which was completed for the 2014 RTP/SCS. Fresno COG released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on October 31, 2016, soliciting consultation services relating to the program-level EIR process, with a maximum budget amount of \$150,000. Four proposals were received (De Novo Planning Group, First Carbon Solutions, Rincon Consulting, VRPA Technologies, Inc.). A selection review committee was invited to assist in the review of all proposals which included a representative from Caltrans District 6, an East and West side city representative, several project managers from Fresno COG and an at-large participant. Based on the strength of their proposal, the selection review committee unanimously recommended the firm of VRPA Technologies, Inc.

Members of the committee discussed the need for a full EIR. Mr. Terry explained that the direction had been taken following significant consideration and consultation with regional planning agencies throughout the San Joaquin Valley and State in regards to their anticipated and/or on-going processes; and acknowledgment of the recent completion of general plan updates in both Fresno and Clovis, as the county's two largest agencies. Because these updates were accounted for in the 2014 RTP/SCS EIR, and the minimal land use adjustments anticipated to be included in the 2018 RTP/SCS process, it was determined that the 2014 EIR is still relevant and current, and meets the intent of required environmental analysis with a supplemental document prepared.

Mr. Unruh, a member of the public commented that a supplemental EIR may not be sufficient given that Fresno has adopted a new general plan since 2014 when the 2014 RTP was adopted. Staff further stated that since the adoption of the 2014 EIR, conditions have not changed enough to warrant a full Program EIR and that land use updates to the Clovis and Fresno General Plans were both incorporated into the 2014 RTP/SCS and EIR process.

Mr. Fey clarified that any parties wishing to express concerns regarding the scope of the EIR will have an opportunity at the NOP scoping meeting. Staff stated that should it be determined that a supplemental EIR is insufficient due to additional changes throughout the region, the scope of the EIR can and would be adjusted to properly address the level of analysis required.

Mr. Peschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prandini, to recommend to the TTC, PAC and Policy Board the selection of VRPA as the consultant to prepare the 2018 RTP/SCS Supplemental EIR, permitting Fresno COG to enter into a contract with VRPA Technologies, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$150,000. A vote was called for, the motion passed.

Mr. VonBerg recused himself from the vote.

#### **D. Draft Population Growth Forecast – *Seth Scott***

Mr. Scott stated that this presentation has been postponed to the February meeting. The report will be made available before the next meeting.

#### **E. Scenario Development Options – *Seth Scott***

Mr. Scott presented a handout describing four potential draft scenario options for consideration that reflect different investments and strategies related to land use and transportation priorities. The overarching theme for all the scenarios is based on the 2014 RTP/SCS.

Mr. Livingston asked if ranking criteria has been developed to show which scenarios would result in the least conversion of habitat and farmland. Staff responded that this could be included as an indicator for modeling, but preliminary findings are not available yet.

Ms. Monaco stated that the 2014 RTP should not be used as a base for the 2018 RTP development. The community groups submitted Scenario D which was not approved during the 2014 RTP and should possibly be considered as the starting point for the 2018 RTP.

Mr. Paladino stated that by focusing on health and safety in one scenario, it implies that the other scenarios do not thoroughly consider health and safety. Main streets should include transit and bike and pedestrian. The economic resilience focus on increasing the system's capacity is contradictory to the County's policy for maintaining the existing system.

Mr. Khorsand expressed concern that the label of the scenario may be misleading the purpose of the proposed scenario. .

Mr. Von Berg commented that it may better to consider two separate scenarios for health and one for safety, and reviewing scenarios to address CEQA.

Ms. Schlosser commented that it would helpful to identify the difference between the scenarios such as air quality and VMT.

Mr. Prado commented that he would like to see scoring criteria's next to each scenario and would like to see investment priorities in the most health burdened communities.

Ms. Cai stated that these scenarios are meant to focus on implementation of the 2014 RTP. Land use changes will stay within the framework of 2014 RTP/SCS. Staff will return with a list of indicators at a later date for discussion as proposed in the draft milestone handout.

Mr. Prandini concurred that the 2014 RTP should be the baseline for the update.

Staff will return at the next meeting to further define each scenario and before the public engagement workshops begin.

Mr. Prado requested that staff create a crosswalk of comments that are either not considered or included if they are not consistent with the 2014 RTP.

#### **F. Discussion ~ Q & A ~ Public Comment**

Ms. Savala announced that OPR will be hosting a workshop on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm regarding the update to the General Plan Guidelines.

Ms. Cai stated that ARB will be hosting a target setting workshop in March.

**G. Other Items**

None.

**Next meeting date: February 22, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.**

**RTP Members**

Adam Livingston, Southern Sierra Partnership  
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
Dwight Kroll, City of Clovis  
Eric VonBerg, Professional Planner, Rincon Consultants  
Gary Horn, City of Orange Cove  
Jessica Schlosser, SJVAPCD  
Jill Gormley, City of Fresno  
Joe Prado, Fresno County Dept. of Public Health  
Kent Karsevar, Public At Large  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Michael Prandini, Building Industry Assn. of Fresno Madera Counties  
Michael Ratajski, Quad Knopf, Inc.  
Michelle Garcia, Public At Large  
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno  
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency  
Nicholas Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club  
Paul Peschel, Kings River Conservation District

**Members of the Public**

Mary Savala  
Reene Mathis

**Fresno COG Staff**

Melissa Garza  
Rob Terry  
Kristine Cai  
Brenda Veenendaal  
Seth Scott  
Kai Han  
Trai Her-Cole