

**Fresno COG Policy Board
Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2017
5:30 PM**

Members Present:

Mayor Bob Whalen, City of Clovis
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Councilmember Steve Brandau, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey León, City of Huron
Mayor Rhonda Armstrong, City of Kerman
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Anita Betancourt, City of Reedley
Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Michael Derr, City of Selma
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

Quorum: There were 12 members representing 89.94% of the population, there was a quorum to conduct business.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin), Chair at 5:30pm.

FCRTA Meeting Package - This meeting will take place AFTER the COG Policy Board Meeting

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. January Executive Minutes [APPROVE]
- B. Association for the Beautification of Highway 99 Master Plan Update (Lauren Dawson) [ACCEPT]
- C. Triennial Performance Audits (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
 - 1. Fresno Council of Governments Triennial Performance Audit
 - 2. Fresno Area Express Triennial Performance Audit
 - 3. Clovis Transit Triennial Performance Audit
 - 4. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Triennial Performance Audits
 - 5. Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Triennial Performance Audits
- D. Annual Project Listing (Suzanne Martinez) [INFORMATION]
- E. Fresno COG Fiscal Year 2015/16 Audit (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- F. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Fiscal Year 2015/16 Audit (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- G. Circuit Planning and Engineering Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]
- H. Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study Phase Two Update (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]

- I. Fiscal Year 2017/18 Preliminary Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance Fund (STA) Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- J. Update of the Unmet Transit Needs Process (Jeff Long) [INFORMATION]
- K. Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan - Request for Proposals (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- L. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Comprehensive Federal and State Transportation Planning and Programming (Melissa Garza) [ADOPT]
- M. Fiscal Year 2016 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report (Jeff Long) [ACCEPT]

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove), seconded by Mayor Gonzalez (Sanger) to approve the consent calendar as presented. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Draft FY 2017-18 – Overall Work Program and Budget (Tony Boren) [REVIEW]

Fresno COG Executive Director Tony Boren presented the Draft FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program and Budget. A summary memo was handed out.

Supervisor Quintero (Fresno County) inquired if there are any funds available to the rural communities for street repairs that have been identified due to the recent storms. Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that there is shortage of funding for street repairs at the State Level and that staff, at a future meeting, will bring three transportation budget proposals that are currently in Sacramento for discussion at the Policy Board meeting. Ms. Garza (FCOG) added that Caltrans has the availability of emergency relief funds, and that the Caltrans District office has reported that four projects have been submitted for consideration for emergency relief funding. She stated that the County submitted 2 projects and Mendota submitted 1 project as well as Kern County and the City of Arvin for District 6. She clarified that Caltrans administers the Emergency Relief Program in partnership with FHWA in California so there are certain requirements that need to be met in order to be eligible for this program. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) added that TDA funds are also available but they should be used for transit first to adhere to the unmet needs transit requirements. Once unmet needs are met, dollars can be used for streets and roads. Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) informed the board that a report card from the Engineer Association has given a poor rating on all infrastructure. The issue we face is there are many projects, but no available funding sources.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Castro (Mendota), seconded by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to authorize Fresno COG staff to release the Draft Fresno Council of Governments FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program and Budget for a 45 day review and comment period. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

B. Overall Work Program Agreements (Les Beshears) [ADOPT]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that Fresno Council of Governments has Overall Work Program funding agreements with the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno, the City of Clovis, and Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission to perform various planning functions in accordance with federal funding requirements. The agreements were adopted with open-ended terms back in the 1990's and various references are now out of date as they have been replaced with subsequent federal regulations. Per recommendation by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, we are

updating our Overall Work Program agreements. The new agreements include provisions required by federal regulations and the term will run concurrently with our Master Transfer Agreement with Caltrans.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Gonzales (Sanger), seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to Adopt the Overall Work Program agreements with the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno, the City of Clovis, and the Fresno County Economic Opportunities. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

C. 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update

1. 2018 RTP/SCS Supplemental EIR Consultant Selection (Rob Terry) [ACTION/DISCUSSION]

5:57pm: The City of Clovis enters meeting.

Quorum: There were 13 members representing 95.92% of the population, there was a quorum to conduct business.

Mr. Terry (FCOG) reported that in accordance with Federal law and State regulations, Fresno COG has recently begun the process of updating its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which covers the geographical area of Fresno County. It has been determined that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report be prepared to analyze the 2018 RTP/SCS. As such, 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.

Submittal deadline for such proposals was December 16, 2016; 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.

At the January RTP Roundtable meeting, there were members that expressed concern regarding election to conduct a Supplemental EIR as opposed to a full Program EIR. Staff 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. While the RTP Roundtable provided unanimous support for moving forward with the recommendation, it should be noted that the group acknowledged the potential for additional CEQA analysis should the process determine that such analysis is required. Approval for any additional analysis activity would come back to the Policy Board for their consideration at the appropriate time.

Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) expressed his support of this recommendation.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to approve the selected consultant to prepare the RTP/SCS Supplemental EIR, permitting Fresno COG to enter into a contract with VRPA Technologies, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$150,000, with project completion anticipated June of 2018. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

2. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines Update (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Garza (FCOG) stated that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines are intended to set forth a uniform, statewide long-range regional transportation planning framework; promote an integrated, multi-modal, and cooperative planning process; and facilitate the efficient delivery of transportation projects that meet local, regional, and state goals.

In 2016, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans spearheaded the process to update the guidelines for Regional Transportation Plans for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies

Highlights of the revisions made to the RTP Guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Separating the RTP Guidelines into two versions, one for MPOs and one for RTPAs, to better address the specific requirements for metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas;
- Updating federal requirements throughout to reflect changes resulting from implementation of the FAST Act;
- Providing a summary of policies, practices, projects, tools, and resources that have been employed by MPOs to promote health and health equity as required by Government Code Section 14522.3 pursuant to AB 441 (Monning, 2012);
- Enhancing guidance and information related to climate change mitigation and adaptation resulting from Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 and state legislation including Senate Bill (SB) 32 (Pavley, 2016), SB 246 (Wieckowski, 2015), SB 379 (Jackson, 2015), and AB 1482 (Gordon, 2015);
- Highlighting the California Freight Mobility Plan and the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan that was prepared per Governor's Executive Order B-32-15;
- Creating a new chapter on Transportation Performance Management to highlight new federal requirements for performance-based planning; and

Mayor Dhaliwal inquired if the guidelines include everything from the federal and state regulations. Ms. Garza responded that the guidelines are based on federal requirements with additional state requirements.

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

3. 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update Mini Grant Application Release (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is seeking assistance from community organizations, schools, agencies and businesses, to solicit ongoing public input into key activities

associated with the preparation of their 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Sustainable Communities Strategy Scenarios associated with it. In order to ensure diverse and extensive input to the 2018 RTP and related key components from people throughout the region, Fresno COG is requesting help to expand community outreach activities.

Fresno COG will provide up to seven (7) mini grants of \$5,000 each to implement outreach activities resulting in public involvement and input from stakeholders.

Completed Mini-Grant Application Packets and Proposals were due to Fresno COG by 12:00 p.m. February 27, 2017

Mayor Leon (Huron) stated that his nonprofit organization San Joaquin Valley LEAP was a recipient of a mini grant last year, and questioned if there would be a conflict of interest if this nonprofit submits an application this year. Mr. Wille (County Counsel) stated that it is possible; however, he will discuss with Mayor Leon after he looks into it to better assess if there are any possible issues.

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

C. Critical Urban Freight Corridors and Critical Rural Freight Corridors (Rob Terry) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Terry (FCOG) reported that the Federal FAST Act requires the Federal Highway Administration to establish a National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) to strategically direct federal resources and policies toward improving the performance of this network. A meeting was held on January 30th and the TWG reviewed the proposed designation and certification process, the regional project ready nominations potential alternative approaches and the timeline and relationship with the California Transportation Commission's California Freight Investment Program process. The TWG is recommending a set of criteria that includes, amongst other measurements, that the designated mileage be allocated to projects that are on the Primary Highway Freight System and are shovel ready (within 5 years). Against the current criteria, the Fresno Region has two projects that qualify, including Excelsior Expressway and Veteran's Boulevard, respectively. The TWG will meet again in late February, and anticipates their designation recommendation activities be completed by June, in time for the next related FAST Act call for projects.

Draft guidelines were released on February 23, 2017 from the technical working group. Fresno COG has an active member on the State Technical working group. Ms. Garza added that this process is extremely important because the designation of these critical lane miles will go in tangent with the development of the California Freight Investment Program (CFIP) which includes over \$500 million for eligible freight projects. Projects not identified on the NHFN or designated as Critical Urban or Rural will not be eligible to apply. This item is informational only, no further action was required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Monthly Legislative Update (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION]

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), seconded by Mayor Castro (Mendota) to approve the administrative consent calendar as presented. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2017 Legislative Platform (Melissa Garza) [APPROVE]

Ms. Garza (FCOG) stated 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. The 2016 Legislative Platform was circulated for input to help inform the 2017 Legislative Platform. One comment was received during the update process from Councilmember Lynne Ashbeck. The 2017 updated Legislative platform was enclosed and reflects the most current priorities for advocacy during the 2016/2017 state and federal legislative session.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Leon (Huron), seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to approve the 2017 Legislative Platform. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

B. 2017 One Voice Draft Project Recommendations (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) stated that the Annual Fresno COG One Voice trip to Washington D.C. for elected officials, business leaders, and community partners is scheduled for April 29 - May 4, 2017 to seek federal support, policy change or funding for projects and priorities of broad community-wide benefit and regional significance within Fresno County. The One Voice Request for Regional Priorities was issued on January 16th and closed on February 2nd. The One Voice Steering Committee convened on February 7th to review and select the regional priorities recommendations out of all of the priorities submitted for consideration. They recommended forwarding nine priorities, possibly ten, to the Policy Board during the March meeting cycle for consideration and approval. Those priorities include:

- US DOT - Consistent Policies for Targeted Hiring Programs Policy Change
- US DOT - Uniform Policies for Workforce Training Funds Policy Change
- Sustainable Aviation Project Funding
- Veterans Boulevard Interchange Project Funding
- High Speed Rail Training Facility Support
- Regional Transportation Plan Update Cycle Change from 4 to 8 or 10 years
- Establishment of a Central Valley Forestry Corps to address the tree mortality crisis in California Community Services Block Grant continued funding and Reauthorization of the Community Economic Opportunity Act - to be introduced
- CEQA-NEPA - AB 28 Pilot Program (dependent on State support)

Fresno COG staff gave a verbal update of the priorities during the February 10th Transportation Technical Committee and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings as an informational item. Some of the PAC members expressed concern with taking as many as 9 or 10 priorities to D.C., and stated that they would like to see the list cut down to about 5 priorities or projects. They also expressed concern about taking priorities that are not directly related to transportation. Staff informed the PAC that the Steering Committee members were very supportive of the above list of priorities/projects, but ultimately the Fresno COG Policy Board would make the final decision.

Staff provided copies of all submitted whitepapers for review and recommendation, the final review and approval of the priorities will return to the Fresno COG Policy Board in March.

Mayor Armstrong (Kerman) stated that from past experience, 9 priorities were too many. When presenting, interest will be lost and the information of the other priorities will not be received. Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) suggested the reduction of the amount of priorities to be more successful, but no less than 5 priorities.

Councilmember Brandau (Fresno City) asked if the Policy Advisory Committee makes the final decision for the list of priorities. Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) clarified that the PAC provides a recommendation but the Policy Board is the deciding body for the final list of priorities. Councilmember Brandau (Fresno City) stated that Veterans Blvd. is the City of Fresno's priority and is considered shovel ready.

Mayor Armstrong (Kerman) inquired if there are any other shovel ready projects that could be considered as a priority.

Mayor Leon (Huron) suggested that 269 Bridge be added to the priority list to seek additional funding to support the project and asked if the Cross Valley Rail project could be considered as well. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that the Cross Valley Rail project is in the early planning stages.

Mayor Armstrong (Kerman) concurs with adding additional projects that could be funded with federal dollars. Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) commented that Veterans Blvd. has been on the One Voice agenda since 2007 and suggested additional projects be brought forward. Mayor Leon (Huron) recommends tiering priorities that would have the most regional impact.

Mayor Whalen (Clovis) inquired on the status of the State Route 269 Bridge, Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that capital money is set aside and construction should begin in 2018 and that the project is fully funded.

Mayor Whalen (Clovis) agrees the list of priorities should be paired down. The Policy Board should recognize the PAC recommendations, do a thorough vetting of the list of projects at next meeting and pair it down and prefers not to take action until staff returns with a revised list for approval. Mayor Armstrong (Kerman) concurred.

A motion was made by Mayor Leon (Huron) to add 269 Bridge as a priority, seconded by Mayor Betancourt (Parlier). Motion passed with Clovis, Fowler, Kerman and Selma voting no.

Staff asked the Board to provide criteria of how to prioritize the policies and projects. Staff mentions there will be a conference call on Monday with the steering committee, they will discuss the Board's recommendation for prioritization.

The board provided direction that shovel ready projects and transportation related policies should be the priority for One Voice.

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

C. 2017 Valley Voice Sacramento Trip Update (Melissa Garza) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Garza (FCOG) stated that the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council (Policy Council) is a partnership that exemplifies the regional transportation planning agencies' commitment to working collaboratively to address regional issues, challenges and opportunities. This sixteen member Policy Council was established to discuss and build regional consensus on issues of valley wide significance. The Policy Council consists of two elected officials and one alternate, appointed from each of the regional

planning agencies' policy boards. It is positioned to have a unique and potentially pivotal position in further Valley collaborative efforts and improving the quality of life for all Valley residents. The Policy Council provides guidance on common interregional policy issues and also represents the San Joaquin Valley at public forums such as the California Transportation Commission, the Governor and his administration, as well as State and Federal legislative bodies that require a common voice from the San Joaquin Valley.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council travels to Washington, D.C., and Sacramento, each year, to deliver a united message to state and federal elected officials and agencies on issues and projects of regional significance. All eight counties advocate together as the Valley Voice which strengthens the region's presence and influence in the policy making process. The Policy Council is holding their annual advocacy trip to Sacramento on March 1, 2017. Funding to address the ailing transportation system is topic number one, along with detailed discussions pertaining to goods movement, San Joaquin Valley Intercity Passenger Rail, Cap and Trade Funding, Cal Enviro Screen, Definition of Disadvantaged Communities, and Funding for Air Quality Improvements. Ms. Garza mentioned that Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal and Yep will be participating on behalf of Fresno COG.

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

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Mr. Boren (FCOG) announced Fresno COG's new employee Meg Prince and departure of staff member Rob Terry.

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) announced the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference on March 8 -10, 2017.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) reported that as a member of the new Joint Powers Authority on water, a tour was given to the new Chief of Staff to Senator Feinstein.

Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) expressed appreciation for the support for Kingsburg in the Small Business Revolution as a top five finalist.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Raj Rakkar with the League of California Cities came in to say hello to the Policy Board and express that transportation issues are also part of the League's priorities.

Mr. Tom Zizzo, Tribal Administrator, Big Sandy Rancheria inquired about information on the proposal for the Central Valley Forestry Corps under the 2017 One Voice Draft Project Recommendations. Staff directed him to the notice of the meeting where all of the documents presented are available electronically. Mr. Sizo informed the Board that the tribes receive transportation funds and would like to attend more meetings and coordinate efforts. Mr. Boren (FCOG) would like to set up a meeting with Mr. Sizo.

Ms. Miller (Caltrans) provided an update regarding the 99 realignment – McKinley Motel Drive is complete, access via Weldon to Fresno Rescue Mission is complete, connection between Pleasant,

Weldon and Wilson is complete and 99 drainage is complete. Full closure of Clinton Ave is anticipated for the beginning of March, the Ashlan Ave. overpass is under construction. Easement agreement for utilities and new structures. Crossing the railroad right of way is complete. Caltrans is continuing effort to obtain two parcels that are required for the later stages of construction. PG&E is nearing the completion of the gas relocation along the underground electrical boarding operations. Kings Canyon Segment 3 went out to bid February 16, 2017.

Mayor Castro (Mendota) expressed appreciation to Caltrans for coordination on floods in Mendota, as well as Caltrans staff providing information. Mayor Whalen (Clovis) expressed concern about the meter on 168 West.

A motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Leon (Huron). Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Boren

Public

Raj Rakkar, League of California Cities

Tom Zizzo, Big Sandy Rancheria

Staff

Melissa Garza

Rob Terry

Brenda Veenendaal

Kristine Cai

Kai Han

Les Beshears

Peggy Arnest

Trai Her-Cole

Lauren Dawson

Suzanne Martinez

Meg Prince

Moses Stites

Jeff Long