

## **Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

### **RTP Members Present**

Adam Livingston, Southern Sierra Partnership (via phone)  
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
David Fey, LAFCo  
Eric VonBerg, Professional Planner, Rincon Consultants  
Jessica Schlosser, San Joaquin Valley Air District  
Joe Denham, Denham Resources  
Joe Prado, Fresno County Dept of Public Health  
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association of Fresno Madera Counties  
Mike Ratajski, Quad Knopf, Inc  
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno  
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club  
Paul Peschel, Kings River Conservations District  
Pedro Ramirez, Caltrans  
Rob Terry, City of Reedley  
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Dave Fey**

Called to at 2:00 p.m. by Mr. Fey (Fresno LAFCo)

### **II. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

No public presentation

### **III. FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

None

### **IV. NEW INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. Approve February 22nd Meeting Summary**

Ms. Garza (FCOG) revision to the meeting summary. Mr. Khorsand listed as the vice chair, corrected to reflect he volunteered to lead the meeting.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County), seconded by Mr. Terry (Reedley). A vote was called for and the motion passed.

## **B. SCS Performance Indicators (Kai Han) [DISCUSSION]**

Mr. Han (FCOG) provided a presentation covering the top 10 performance indicators utilized in the 2014 RTP/SCS, and the public process that led to the choice of the top 10 out of a total of 38 indicators. Mr. Han recommended two new indicators to the top 10 list: Premature death as the indicator for public health and accessibility as the indicator for Environmental Justice. Compact development and Land consumption were proposed to be replaced by these new indicators. The committee discussed the top 10 performance indicators and recommended to add premature death to the top 10 list and let the EJ committee decide on an appropriate EJ indicator. The Roundtable also had a lengthy discussion regarding the distinction between Important Ag Land and Land Consumption, which will be brought back in April for further discussion.

## **C. RTP Mini Grant Recommendations to the Fresno COG Policy Board (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) presented that FCOG will provide mini grants of \$5,000 each to organizations, schools, businesses, etc. to solicit ongoing public input into key activities associated with the preparation of their 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The primary goal of this effort is to reach out to residents of the Fresno County region, to include them in the RTP and SCS transportation planning process, and to obtain defined input on the three SCS Scenarios that will be released for public review. This program helps ensure that interested members of the public have ample opportunity to understand and provide meaningful input on these plans during the planning process. These activities will coordinate with public involvement activities conducted separately by the Fresno COG. All feedback collected will be combined and forwarded to the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Applications were due to Fresno COG by **Monday, February 27, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**. A total of 13 applications were received. After reviewing, scoring and discussing each application, the scoring committee asked that five of the applicants clarify some of the information provided. Following a review of the responses received from those additional inquiries, the scoring committee recommended the following seven agencies for funding of \$5,000 each:

- Public Health Institute—Cultiva La Salud
- Fresno State OCED (East County)
- Fresno State OCED (North Fresno & Clovis)
- Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)
- Central California Asthma Collaborative
- Tides Center/Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability
- Fresno Building Healthy Communities

The Mini-Grant applicants were selected based upon their proposed outreach strategies, demographic coverage, number of people they proposed to reach and their agency/staff qualifications. Together, the

recommended mini grant recipients commit to reaching a diverse geographic and demographic cross section of the Fresno County communities. Staff will present more information on their demographic coverage at the TTC and PAC meetings.

Fresno COG's goal is to empower each of the grant recipients to begin implementing their RTP/SCS Scenario Outreach Strategies right away. An orientation meeting will be held with all mini-grant recipients during the first week of April. All outreach should begin immediately, as the first Fresno COG public meeting will be held in late April, with mini-grant workshops tentatively beginning in mid-June of 2017 throughout the county.

A motion was made by Mr. VonBerg, seconded by Mr. Stites (FCRTA) to approve the seven selected RTP Mini Grant Applicants, permitting Fresno COG to enter into a contract with each of them for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. A vote was called for and motion passed. Mr. Prado disclosed that Public Health Department has contracts with some of the recipient agencies, but he does not administer any of the contracts or sit on any their boards. Ms. Monaco recused herself; Fresno Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability is a recipient agency.

#### **D. Updates to the 2017 RTP Public Outreach Strategy (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Veenendaal presented that Fresno COG staff has begun implementing the envisioned public outreach strategy, new opportunities have come forward, and some tasks and expenditures have been deemed unnecessary. Will no longer do Stakeholder focus group, RTP Roundtable have representatives of all of the stakeholder groups. RTP scientific public survey will not be done, but have contracted with MetroQuest to educate the public and collect input online. Public workshop will be held Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 5:30pm. Contract to do a media campaign has been entered into.

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

#### **E. ARB GHG Emission Reduction Target Setting Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Cai reported Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) requires that greenhouse (GHG) emission reduction targets be updated every 8 years. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted the first sets of targets in 2010 for the 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the State, and is in the process of updating the targets. Targets are set for each region at a percent reduction of passenger vehicle GHG emissions per person from 2005 level. The 8 MPOs in the San Joaquin Valley were given the targets of 5% reduction for 2020, and 10% reduction for 2035 in 2010.

ARB's modeling shows that the State is on track to meet the statewide goal of reducing the GHG emission to the 1990 level by 2020. Senate Bill 32 (SB 32) codified the GHG reduction goal for 2030 to reduce the GHG emission 40% below 1990 level. The State's ultimate goal is to reduce the GHG 80% below 1990 level by 2050. SB375 is focused on GHG reduction from passenger vehicles from integrated transportation and land use planning. It is one of the several programs that the State is implementing to

achieve the overall state-wide goal. MPOs are tasked with the implementation of SB375 through the development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in their Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). An SCS is a land use development pattern combined with transportation strategies, which if implemented, will meet or exceed the GHG reduction targets set by the ARB.

ARB has held 3 public workshops statewide (Los Angeles, Sacramento and Fresno) in March to inform the target update process and seek public input. ARB is scheduled to finalize the 2nd round of targets for the regions in the fall of 2017. The 2nd round of targets will be focused on 2035. 2020 targets from the first round will be kept

MPOs across the State have provided preliminary target concepts to ARB as a starting point. Due to the declining transportation revenues and the increased vehicle efficiencies, which reduces the cost of driving and thus increases the overall vehicle miles driven (VMT), MPOs are having challenges achieving the existing targets. However, in order to meet the State's aggressive GHG reduction goals, the ARB is looking for more enhanced targets from each region. MPOs across the State sent consistent messages that the State needs to explore more tools such as pricing and other revenue strategies to achieve the state's goal.

The ARB preliminarily set the target range for the Valley MPOs at -11% to -20+%, which are based on the achievement of the first SCS's in the Valley. The target for each MPO will be narrowed down as MPOs provide more specific recommendations to ARB in the next few months. Fresno COG achieved 11% reduction in 2035 for the 2014 RTP/SCS, and is expecting to recommend higher targets than the first SCS. Staff is still testing the traffic model that will be used for the target-setting and the 2018 RTP/SCS, and expects to bring the draft target recommendation to the Roundtable in April/May.

The committee discussed the pricing strategies such as the State's Road Charge Pilot Program. The committee also discussed the APS and the consequences if the Region can't meet the targets and has to develop an APS, which could potentially mean the loss of funding opportunities through the competitive funding programs such as the AHSC grant which requires an SCS

This is informational only. No future action is required.

#### **F. Policy Element Outline (Jennifer Soliz/Meg Prince) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]**

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the Policy Element seeks to identify the transportation goals, objectives, and policies that meet the transportation needs of our region. Staff provided a draft 2018 Policy Element with recommended changes from the 2014 Policy Element to the committee for review and discussion. Staff will continue to take comments on the Element until the Draft RTP is developed.

Mr. Vonberg pointed out a correction to the complete streets policy.

Ms. Monaco recommended categorizing the goals into focused areas and include a section on environmental justice.

Mr. Ratajski suggested adding language under Rail Goals to support the Cross Valley Rail Corridor initiative. Staff responded that the goal is intended to be broad and general, and that the Cross Valley Rail Corridor initiative would more appropriately fit in the Action Element.

Mr. Khorsand commented that level of service (LOS) should be kept since the County still uses LOS as the standard to measure movement and mobility. Staff responded that they have received comments from the federal levels recommending moving towards measure VMT due to the final rule that is due to come out and the forthcoming implementation of SB 743.

Ms. Monaco requested that the under the “Values” section, public health and environmental sustainability should be separated out.

Mr. Brown asked if there were any additional assessments in the Southwest Area to address the health issues. Mr. Prado responded that the County Health Department has extensively studied the health indicators in Fresno and specifically in southwest Fresno.

Ms. Monaco recommended that the “Vision” statements to be revisited. Staff responded that these will be revisited once the goals, objectives, and policies have been drafted.

This is informational only. No future action is required.

#### **G. Selection of Vice Chair**

Chair stated that elections for the Vice Chair will be held at next meeting.

#### **V. Other Items**

##### **A. Items from Staff – none**

##### **B. Items from Members**

Mr. Fey asked if the committee would be interested in featuring a different member at each meeting. The committee agreed to allow 30 minutes after each RTP meeting for one member to be featured and have a discussion.

#### **Members of the Public**

Darrell Unruh, Fresno Metro Ministries

Eric Payne, Toure Associates

Jennifer LeKumberry, City of Mendota

Kroll, Clovis

Mary Savala, League of Women Voters

Robert Brown, WD  
Tony Molina, BPAC

**Fresno COG Staff**

Melissa Garza  
Kristine Cai  
Jennifer Soliz  
Meg Prince  
Peggy Arnest  
Jeff Long  
Suzanne Martinez  
Trai Her  
Jeaneen Cervantes