

Policy Advisory Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 12, 2017

10:00 AM

Members Present

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler
Bruce Rudd, City of Fresno
James Doughty II, City of Huron
John Kunkel, City of Kerman
Vince DiMaggio, City of Mendota
Samuel Escobar, City of Orange Cove (via phone)
Ron Manfredi, City of Parlier
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger
Elizabeth Nunez, City of San Joaquin
David Elias, City of Selma
Bernard Jimenez, County of Fresno

David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:20am by Mr. DiMaggio (Mendota), Chair.

REQUEST TO ADD URGENCY ITEM TO THE AGENDA (II-D)

ITEM II-D. Recommend approval of Circuit Planner Contract Amendment FY 2016-17 and Contract Renewal FY 2017-18.

To add this item a 2/3 vote is required finding that:

- (1) There is a need to take immediate actions; and
- (2) That need for action came to the attention of Fresno COG subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Rudd (Fresno City), seconded by Mr. Elias (Selma) to add Item II-D to the agenda. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

JOINT Transportation Technical Committee/Policy Advisory Committee

1. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

Mr. Padilla (Caltrans) reported that there is an emergency contract for State Route 99 between California Avenue to State Route 180 for slab repair and pavement rehab. Caltrans request for local agencies to submit SHOPP candidate projects.

Mr. DiMaggio stated that staff is requesting to pull Item I-D. It will be brought back at a later date.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of April 14, 2017 [APPROVE]
- B. Third Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Transportation Development Act Claims for the County of Fresno (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. State Transit Assistance Apportionment 2017/18 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- G. Transportation Development Act 2017/18 Final Apportionment (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- H. Environmental Justice Subcommittee Applicant Approval (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- I. National Environmental Policy Act Assignment Program (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- J. Circuit Planning and Engineering Update (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- K. Fresno/Madera Origin-Destination Study and Fiscal Analysis Project Update (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- L. Active Transportation Program Update (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Doughty II (Huron) pulled Item I-E for discussion.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Elias (Selma), seconded by Mr. Rudd (Fresno) to approve the balance of consent items. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

- E. Approval of the 2017 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program of Projects (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Mr. Doughty II (Huron) asked if this is to approve the purchase of more buses. Ms. Arnest (FCOG) responded that this is Federal Government funding for vehicles for social services. Mr. Doughty II asked if this funding could be better allocated by providing public bicycles or supporting ride share such as Uber or Lyft. Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) responded that these funds provide general public care transit intended to serve a specific population within the communities. The vehicles used are gasoline powered because the challenge that is found in using electric vehicles is range and operability. The electric vehicles cannot operate a full service day without having to recharge. It would take two electric vehicles to serve the same purpose as one gasoline vehicle.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Ms. Zieba (Reedley), seconded by Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) to approve Item I-E. A vote was called for and the motion passed, Huron voted no.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **Freeway Service Patrol Contract Approval (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) has been in continuous operation on segments of the metropolitan area freeway system since September 1993, nearly 24 years. The purpose of the FSP is to promote smooth traffic flow during peak commute periods by providing for the rapid removal of disabled vehicles and vehicles involved in minor accidents. The current three-year towing contract ends on June 30, 2017. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for towing service for the next five-year period beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022 was issued on March 24, 2017. It was mailed to all 59 towing companies on the

California Highway Patrol Fresno County Tow Rotation List and posted on the Fresno COG website.

One significant change was made for this next contract period. The contract will now be for a five-year period instead of a three-year period. This change was made for efficiency reasons on the part of the Towing Service Provider and Fresno COG Staff. The change was also made in order to better align with the contract terms of FSP Programs throughout the State and in hopes of saving money on the hourly rate, given that the Towing Service Provider would be able to extend any vehicle leases for a five-year term instead of a three-year term. Other aspects of the program remain unchanged. There will still be four beats running Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) that will provide service in the morning from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and in the afternoon from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Only one proposal was received in response to the RFP. Historically, through all the contracting cycles of the FSP very few towing companies have submitted proposals in response to the RFPs issued. This may be because very few tow companies can meet the strict requirements of the program. In particular, these requirements include the financial resources to purchase and equip the necessary trucks and the hiring and retention of drivers who can pass background checks and meet other qualifications.

The proposal received was from Fresno Budget Towing Inc., the current FSP towing provider. The proposal amount is \$84.00/hour for 5,000 hours of service per year (5 hours/day/beat x 4 beats x 250 days/year = 5,000 hours/year). The proposal amount of \$84.00/hour is consistent with the current contract's hourly rate.

The selection committee, comprised of a representative of each of the FSP Partners, the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans and the Fresno COG, conferred on May 2, 2017, to review the proposal. The selection committee unanimously recommends that Fresno Budget Towing Inc. continue to provide FSP towing service for the next five-year period. This recommendation is based on several factors:

- Fresno Budget Towing has provided consistent excellent service during the nearly six years they have been the FSP towing provider. There have been no penalties assessed against them and survey responses are highly complementary of the service provided and the drivers who provide the service.
- They are financially strong, purchasing five new trucks for the service including the required back-up truck. Five of the trucks (including the back-up) will have a crew cab, thereby enabling the truck to more easily accommodate several passengers in the event the passenger vehicle must be towed to the CHP-approved drop location. One of the five trucks will be a 4x4 which will provide for additional capability.
- They have a team of experienced drivers that has been with the program and will continue with the program.
- The proposal amount is consistent with current hourly rate, which is beneficial in that the rate will be locked in for the next 5 years.

Prandini storage and extra fees point to point tow to CHP designated area

Mr. Manfredi (Parlier) asked for clarification of the contract amount and if it stays the same even with rising gas prices. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that the amount of contract stays the same.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Manfredi (Parlier), seconded by Mr. Kunkel (Kerman) to authorize the Fresno COG Executive Director to enter into a contractual agreement with Fresno Budget Towing Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$420,000.00/year for five years beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

B. Regional Transportation Plan Update (Kristine Cai)

1. Blackstone Corridor Transportation & Housing Study Final Report (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) clarified that this item is not an RTP item. Ms. Cai reported that at the request of City of Fresno, Fresno COG provided \$150,000 to conduct the Blackstone Corridor Transportation & Housing study. The study area included Van Ness/Maroa Avenues to Harvard Avenue to Clark Avenue to Home Avenue (please see the attached map). The purpose of the study was to identify tools and opportunities for this area to be transformed from an auto-oriented corridor into a safe, accessible, multi-modal and mixed used environment that enhance the neighborhood quality and contribute to a vibrant community. The study also looked at opportunities for transit supportive infill development, improved connectivity to Blackstone Avenue and catalytic sites for revitalization in the study area.

The study report is a visioning document that can provide guidance for private development and public infrastructure investment in the area. The study identified emerging opportunities in the corridors and recommended 4 incremental development strategies for the study area:

1. Leverage catalytic sites identified by the study
2. Focus on public realm improvement
3. Promote land assembly for infill development
4. Achieve full potential of corridor

Ms. Hakimipour, Consultant, Urban Diversity Design presented the Blackstone Corridor Transportation & Housing Study Final Report.

Mr. Manfredi (Parlier) asked if there are any active negotiations or partnerships with SCCCD with regard to building a parking structure. Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) responded that there are discussions taking place with SCCCD. Efforts are being made to provide options, to the SCCCD Trustees, that would mitigate the traffic impact as well as compliment it with incorporating housing for students as a viable alternative to a standalone parking structure.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Elias (Selma), seconded by Mr. Manfredi (Parlier) to approve the Blackstone Corridor Transportation & Housing Study final report. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

2. Senate Bill 375 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target Recommendation (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) requires that greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets be updated every eight years for the 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in the State. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted the first set of MPO targets in 2010. They are set for each region at a percent per capita reduction of passenger vehicle GHG emissions from 2005 level. The eight MPOs in the San

Joaquin Valley were given the targets of 5% reduction for 2020, and 10% reduction for 2035 in 2010 (they are now in the process of updating the targets).

SB 375 is focused on GHG reduction from passenger vehicles through integrated transportation and land use planning. MPOs are tasked with the implementation of SB375 through the development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). An SCS is a forecast land use development pattern combined with transportation strategies, which if implemented, will meet or exceed the GHG reduction targets set by the ARB.

Due to declining transportation revenues and increased vehicle efficiencies which reduce the cost of driving and 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 in SB 32 under the Governor's Executive Order B-30-15, 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.

Based on the scenario modeling that has been conducted, Fresno COG is proposing to aim for 6% per capita reduction for 2020 and 13% reduction by 2035 for the 2017 target update. Both the 2020 and 2035 target scenarios are largely based on the 2014 SCS with enhanced alternative transportation investment strategies. The land use strategies include compact development and mixed uses, infill development, growth concentration along the high capacity transit corridors, etc. Transportation strategies in the target scenarios include more enhanced investment in transit, bike/ped. projects, carpool/vanpool programs and other alternative transportation strategies such as EV charging stations. These proposed targets are ambitious to the Fresno Region, but can be achieved with the implementation of the latest general plans from the cities/county, and more aggressive investment in vanpool/carpool, active transportation, electric vehicle (EV) programs and other alternative transportation strategies. The latest growth forecast is applied in the target scenarios, and the Model Improvement Plan (MIP) 2 model and EMFAC2014 are used in the quantification of the GHG reduction.

Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that the 4 Big MPOs are proposing 18% to ARB. The Big 4 MPOs consider the 18% target as ambitious. It will be likely that the ARB will ask for a higher target.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County), seconded by Mr. Serpa (Clovis) to approve 6% per capita GHG reduction for 2020 and 13% for 2035 as the targets for the Fresno region. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

3. Feedback from the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Community Workshop (Seth Scott) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that on April 25, 2017, Fresno COG hosted a community workshop at Hoover High School to promote the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and garner public input on the SCS scenario development process. Staff will present the public's response to the four draft scenario concepts, as well as their expressed priorities and values. It is staff's hope that this

information will help the RTP Roundtable in their selection of the four scenarios that will officially be analyzed as part of the RTP/SCS in May.

Furthermore, a subcommittee of RTP Roundtable members has been formed to modify the existing scenarios and propose new scenarios for the Roundtable's consideration in May. Ultimately, it is staff's recommendation that four scenarios be selected by the Roundtable at that meeting for inclusion in the SCS.

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the seven mini-grant recipients will help with the RTP/SCS outreach. A handout was provided with the next round of workshops that will take place in June. The purpose of these workshops will be to get input from the communities about what projects they would like to see. Information collected will be passed on to the local jurisdictions to decide which projects to include in the RTP. We encourage City and County staff to attend.

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

C. Measure C Transit Oriented Development Program Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the TOD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has started the process of reviewing and updating the TOD program guidelines. As directed by Fresno COG Policy Board and the Fresno County Transportation Authority Board to open up the (Measure C Transit Oriented Infrastructure for In-Fill Development (TOD)) program to the entire region. Two meetings have been held in March and April. The TAC has moved to define the membership of the committee as follows:

- Fresno COG
- Fresno County Transportation Authority
- Fresno Area Express
- Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
- Clovis Transit
- City of Fresno
- City of Clovis
- Eastside Cities
- Westside Cities
- County of Fresno
- 3 public members (representing development communities, environment/health, and other sectors)

The TAC membership has been filled except one public member from "other sectors".

The TAC discussed several potential approaches to update the program, and decided to move forward with the two viable options:

1. Remove the "project location" requirement in the existing guidelines, which designated three locations inside the City of Fresno as the only qualified locations for the TOD funding, and make minor revisions to the existing scoring criteria.
2. Create an urban/rural split and develop two sets of scoring criteria for the urban and rural programs. The project location requirement will be removed from both programs.

Since there was no representation from the small cities at the April meeting, the TAC decided not to take action on which option to move forward until input is received from them at the next meeting, scheduled for May 31, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Manfredi (Parlier) stated that the smaller cities do not participate because there is not a lot of staff. He suggested that Fresno COG reach out to the smaller communities to host a meeting in hopes of gaining attendance.

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

D. Circuit Planner Contract Amendment FY 2016-17 and Contract Renewal FY 2017-18 (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG has a contract with Fehr and Peers to develop a Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which will include individual ATPs for several member agencies who currently don't have a plan. However, the quality of the individual plans will depend on the level of effort participating members contribute to the process. VRPA Technologies Inc. is currently under contract as Circuit Planner to specifically help member agencies in situations such as this. Fresno COG requested VRPA to provide additional support under the Circuit Planner contract to supplement the Regional ATP for an amount not to exceed \$20,603. This will ensure that each jurisdiction has an ATP that is compliant with the 2017 California Transportation Commission ATP Guidelines in order to be eligible for future funding. The amount is within the existing budget and requires no additional appropriation.

Additionally, in June staff was planning to extend the Circuit Planner contract into fiscal year 2017-18 at the budgeted amount of \$50,000 and recommends we do this now to facilitate the process.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Manfredi (Parlier), seconded by Mr. Elias (Selma) to authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract with VRPA to increase the contract \$70,603 and extend the term to June 30, 2018. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

III.ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- B. University of Colorado Denver Contract Indemnity (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Monthly Legislative Update (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Kunkel (Kerman), seconded by Mr. Rudd (Fresno) to approve the consent agenda as presented. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

IV.ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Overall Work Program and Budget-Resolution 2017-02 (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Overall Work Program (OWP) draft was submitted in February, a memo was provided and was reported in detail at the February meeting. The final proposed budget increased \$4,500 from the draft submitted in February to correct an error on the Advertising & Legal Notice budget in the Indirect Overhead category.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Rudd (Fresno), seconded by Ms. Zieba (Reedley) to approve Resolution 2017-02 approving the FY 2017-18 Overall Work Program and Budget. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

B. Resolution in Support of 2017 One Voice Sustainable Aviation Project Resolution 2017-16 (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported on a joint venture called the Sustainable Aviation Project (SAP) is an advanced transportation technology project that will recruit, train and place veterans, youth and career seekers from disadvantaged communities into pilot training programs for electric aircraft.

SAP is requesting \$1,500,000 to train approximately 225 career seekers for private pilot certification through ground training at Reedley College Flight Science Program and 35 hours of flight training at Mazzei Flying Service. Training cost will also include license exam fees, medical certificate, FBI fingerprinting and background checks. For additional supportive services we will leverage and braid Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds to ensure the success of our participants.

The One Voice delegation presented this project to our congressional representatives and federal agencies during the 2017 One Voice trip.

Ms. Zieba (Reedley) reported that the City of Reedley is hosting the annual Airport Barbeque Fly In on Saturday, May 13, 2017. The speaker for the event will be speaking on the Sustainable Aviation Program. Members are encouraged to attend. Mr. Boren (FCOG) commended Joseph Oldham for being a terrific spokesman for this project.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Elias (Selma), seconded by Mr. Serpa (Clovis) to approve Resolution 2017-16 in support of the Sustainable Aviation project. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

C. San Joaquin Valley Water Authority - Orange Cove Dues (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that in 2015 five counties (Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare) in the Central Valley formed the San Joaquin Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVWIA) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to address critical Valley Water Issues. Along with board representation from County Boards of Supervisors and Irrigation Districts, the JPA designated a board position for an East Side and West Side city-at-large. The JPA Board also approved a \$50,000 per designated agency dues structure to pay for the administrative cost of the SJVWIA JPA. The Fresno Council of Governments nominated, and the JPA accepted, Mayor Victor Lopez from the City of Orange Cove as the East Side city representative, however, the City of Orange Cove could not pay the \$50,000 dues. The Fresno COG nominated the City of Clovis as an alternate, but there is no dues requirement for the alternate. Mayor Lopez requested Fresno COG act as a forum to request that the cities and Fresno County assist the City of Orange Cove in paying the dues. The item was discussed at the December 17, 2015 Fresno COG Policy Board meeting and a consensus obtained to divide the \$50,000 up by county population and have Board members take the item to their individual Councils or Board to see if they were interested in providing a pro rata share of that cost. It was emphasized that this was not a Fresno COG jurisdictional item. At the January 28, 2016 Fresno COG Policy Board meeting general consensus appeared to be all the agencies would participate. During the discussion Mayor Swearingen,

City of Fresno, indicated it would be a one-time contribution and if any additional levy occurred it would go back to the Cities and County and not Fresno COG.

At the April 27, 2017, Fresno COG Policy Board meeting during a presentation by SJVWIA Executive Director Mario Santoyo on the dealings of the Authority, Mayor Victor Lopez requested Fresno COG Executive Director Tony Boren send correspondence to the member agencies requesting they help the City of Orange Cove defray the current year \$50,000 dues assessment. Chairman Dhaliwal emphasized this was not a Fresno COG jurisdictional issue and the Councils and Board of the respective member agencies would make the decision. Executive Director Mario Santoyo indicated he would meet with Mayor Lopez to compile a letter to be sent out to the agencies explaining the need for the request. Fresno COG staff updated the population spreadsheet, pro rating the \$50,000, then sent it out to member agencies on Mayor Lopez's behalf to facilitate the discussion.

Ms. Zieba (Reedley) asked if the other counties have made their commitments for funding this for the next year and if this will be an ongoing request from the City of Orange Cove to the other member cities. Mr. Escobar (Orange Cove) responded that the other members of the SJVWIA have committed to another year of dues to finalize the Temperance Flat project application and this will not be a recurring request, as the application is in its final stages and is due at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Ms. Zieba (Reedley) asked what the timeline is for the City of Orange Cove to receive this money and if it needed to be this fiscal year. Mr. Escobar (Orange Cove) responded that the dues to the SJVWIA are due as soon as possible, but it does not have to be for this fiscal year. Mr. Doughty II (Huron) asked if the City of Orange Cove is looking for a donation or are they willing to consider a loan. Mr. Escobar (Orange Cove) responded that a loan has not been discussed since the dues are for the purpose of serving on the regional JPA. Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) stated that the City of Fresno is supportive of this and will be contributing their proportionate share. Mr. Serpa (Clovis) stated that the City of Clovis is supportive as well. Mr. Serpa asked if the County of Fresno should be contributing a proportionate share in addition to their dues for being a member of the JPA. Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) responded that this is what was done last year and that the County of Fresno would be paying their dues for being a member as well and the proportionate share.

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

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that Fresno COG staff and delegates were in Washington, D.C. for the 2017 One Voice trip last week. The primary project focus was Veterans Blvd, State Route 269 Bridge and the Sustainable Aviation Project.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that there will be a groundbreaking for an electric vehicle charging station in the City of Fowler on May 24, 2017.

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) asked for an update on MJM Senior Taxi Scrip Program.
- Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) reported that there are a series of joint meetings between the City and County of Fresno. A topic of discussion is developing an ordinance that is consistent between both agencies. The ordinance would ban recreational marijuana use. It would also include language with regard to medical marijuana and the cultivation of marijuana.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) asked about shared mobility (Uber and Lyft) being able to operate out of the airport. Mr. Rudd (Fresno City) responded that Uber and Lyft operate under the

jurisdiction of the CPUC. For an airport of a certain size (such as Fresno Yosemite International Airport) they have to comply with specific CPUC requirements. One of the requirements is to provide, via a third party, the names of the operators who are accessing the airport. This is for security reasons. Uber meets this requirement at other airports within California, but has chosen not do so for Fresno. Lyft is currently operational out of the airport.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

Adjourned at 11:42am.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Boren

Public

Jim Anderson, Malaga C.W.D

Sheila Hakimipour, Urban Diversity Design

Staff

Les Beshears

Kristine Cai

Meg Prince

Jennifer Soliz

Peggy Arnest

Seth Scott

Jeaneen Cervantes