

Transportation Technical Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 12, 2017

8:30 AM

Members Present

Cristian Gonzales, City of Mendota
Tony Boren, Fresno Council of Governments
John Mulligan, City of Sanger
Mohammad Alimi, County of Fresno
Olivia Pimentel, City of Kerman
Joey Daggett (Gateway Engineering), City of Selma
Pedram Mafi, Caltrans
Mary Savala, League of Women Voters
Nicholas Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
Jennifer Clark, City of Fresno
Brian Marshall, City of Fresno

The meeting was called to order at 8:34am by Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota).

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. Khorsand (Fresno County), seconded by Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) to add Item II-D to the agenda. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

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

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITMES

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

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Ms. Mathis (Clovis), seconded by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) to approve the balance of consent items. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

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.

Mr. Prandini (BIA) asked if Fresno Budget Towing will still charge fees related to the tow. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that the tow company would operate their business separate from this contract. When a car is picked up from the freeway it is taken to a designated California Highway Patrol (CHP) location. It is then the responsibility of the vehicle owner to arrange to get the vehicle out from the CHP designated location. Mr. Prandini asked if all of Fresno Budget Towing's trucks are assigned to the program. Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) asked if the company is on call. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that all of Fresno Budget Towing's trucks are used for this program. The trucks patrol designated beats and when there is a disabled vehicle the CHP in most cases will assist. CHP knows to call Fresno Budget Towing, this is an exclusive contract, and no other service provider is used.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Prandini (BIA), seconded by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) 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. Prandini (BIA) asked if this corridor was chosen because of Fresno City College. Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that the City of Fresno identified this corridor for the study. Mr. Prandini (BIA) stated that in the presentation there was the depiction on Blackstone Avenue being reduced to four lanes. Mr. Prandini asked how this will affect the level of service. Ms. Hakimipour (Consultant) responded that this corridor is not a high traffic area and that the higher traffic area is further north. Mr. Prandini asked if a cost estimate to transform buildings along Blackstone was included in the study. Ms. Clark (Fresno City) responded that this was a conceptual study. Ms. Mathis (Clovis) asked if FCOG paid for study. Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that FCOG did pay for the study at the request of the City of Fresno. It was part of the Overall Work Program (OWP) utilizing Federal Planning Funds. Mr. Gonzales (Mendota) asked about the City of Fresno's relationship with the railroads and if there are any economic incentives in the area. Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) responded that there is a good working relationship with the railroads. Mr. Mozier stated the City of Fresno has adopted economic incentives through Impact Fees, recognizing existing structures. Mr. Boren (FCOG) asked if the City of Fresno Mayor and Council are aware of the study so that it will not be a surprise when it is presented to the Policy Board. The City of Fresno (COF) responded that the City is aware of the study, this corridor touches three Council Districts and that there is a good partnership with FCOG and COF.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Ms. Clark (Fresno City), seconded by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) 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 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. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) asked when the ARB will tell the MPOs what targets they are proposing as opposed to what is being proposed by the individual MPOs. Ms. Cai (FCOG) responded that the ARB will submit proposed targets to the 18 MPOs at the end of May and then the target recommendation will be submitted to the ARB in the fall of 2017. Ms. Savala (League of Women Voters) stated that at the RTP Roundtable meeting in April there was discussion about setting higher targets and asked if approval of this item would preclude efforts or projects that could allow reaching a higher target. Ms. Cai (FCOG) responded that there was discussion at the Roundtable meeting and some members wanted FCOG to match the 18% reduction that the Big 4 MPOs are proposing. The Big Four MPOs have tools that are not available in Fresno (i.e. BART, TOD, more transit options and higher density). Fresno is more rural and the same tools are not always an option for our communities. The Roundtable approved the 13% reduction. Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) asked if FCOG knows what targets are being proposed by other local COGs. Ms. Cai (FCOG) responded that FCOG and Kern COG are proposing targets. Kern COG is proposing 9% and 13%. 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. Khorsand (Fresno County), seconded by Mr. Prandini (BIA) 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. Member Savala (League of Women Voters) voted no.

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 presented 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 the May 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 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 there seems to be 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 is scheduled for May 31, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) asked if the TTC is being asked to weigh in on the two options. Ms. Cai (FCOG) responded that this item was information only, but is open for discussion and any recommendations will be brought to the TOD TAC. Ms. Cai also stated that it is the hope that at the next TOD TAC meeting an option will be selected and then they will work on the details to develop the guidelines for that option. Mr. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) stated that the annual amount for TOD is \$850,000, which is a small amount, and because this is a small amount any division should be large enough to still have an impact. Ms. Cai (FCOG) will take this comment to the TOD TAC. Mr. Boren (FCOG) encouraged small cities to get involved. When items like these get presented to the Policy Board, the board wants to trust that representatives from the small cities participated and provided input in the decision making of the committee. Mr. Daggett (Selma) asked what the split percentage would be if option 2 is chosen. Ms. Cai (FCOG) responded that if the split is by population by city limits it would be 60/40, if it was population by spheres it would be 70/30 and if it was by transit ridership it would be 97/3.

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

D. Circuit Planner Contract Amendment Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Contract Renewal Fiscal Year 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 (CTC) 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.

Mr. Prandini (BIA) asked for clarification on the amount the contract is being increased. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that Fresno COG is asking the current contract be increased by

\$20,603 for fiscal year 2016-17 and also by \$50,000 for next year's renewal for fiscal year 2017-18. Mr. Alimi (Fresno County) asked how many cities were assisted by the circuit planner under the current contract and for clarification on how the circuit planner is helping the small cities. Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that an inventory of services can be provided. The circuit planner is helping the cities, who lack resources, compete for ATP funds. It is the goal that the cities have a CTC-compliant ATP. Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) stated that he feels the additional work should be part of the current contract. Ms. Mathis (Clovis) asked if Fehr and Peers is working directly with the smaller cities. Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that Fehr and Peers is currently working with the cities, but the current budget will not get the cities to a CTC-compliant ATP. Mr. Mafi (Caltrans) provided clarification that when Fresno COG received the ATP funding for non-infrastructure it was cycle one. At that time the CTC required every agency to have an ATP to receive funding. For cycle two and cycle three, it is not required for agencies to have an ATP to receive funds. As long as an agency is part of a programming plan, they are eligible for funding. Cycle four guidelines have not yet been written. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that the CTC has guidelines that require specific data and agencies should be prepared to have a plan that is CTC-compliant. Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) asked if this item is time sensitive and if it is possible to postpone this item for one month to research if this is needed. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that the ATP is funded with a state grant. There is a limited time frame to get the Regional ATP done, Fehr and Peers needs to start work now.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Prandini (BIA), seconded by Ms. Savala (League of Women Voters) 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. Seven (7) yes votes, members Daggett (Selma), Khorsand (Fresno County), Mathis (Clovis), Mozier (Fresno City) and Alimi (Fresno County) voted no.

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

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

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

- (3) There is a need to take immediate actions; and
- (4) 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. Khorsand (Fresno County), seconded by Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) to add Item II-E to the agenda. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

E. 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), totaling \$15,833,473, is submitted for adoption. The proposed budget decreased \$3,464,988 from last year. 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. A memo summarizing the OWP was handed out. The full document will be available prior to the meeting at <http://www.fresnocog.org>.

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) state 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.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that Fresno COG staff sent out a request from Caltrans to the member agencies to submit SHOPP candidate projects.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from Members.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

Adjourned at 10:14am.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Tony Molina, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Sheila Hakimipour, Urban Diversity Design
Amy Dobrinin, County of Fresno Department of Public Health
Bee Vang, County of Fresno Department of Public Health

Staff

Les Beshears
Kristine Cai
Meg Prince
Jennifer Soliz
Peggy Arnest
Seth Scott
Janean Cervantes