

Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
2:00 PM

RTP Members Present

David Fey, LAFCo
Eric Vonberg, Valley Planners Network
Jennifer Lekumberry, City of Mendota
Joe Prado, Fresno County Dept of Public Health
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association of Fresno Madera Counties
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Tony Molina, Fresno Bicycle Coalition
Joe Denham, Measure C Citizen Oversight
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga
Tom Skinner, City of Huron
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Roger Brown, Public At Large
Adam Livingston, Southern Sierra Partnership
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transportation Agency

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Dave Fey

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

II. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

III. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

There were no follow up items.

IV. NEW INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Approve April 26, 2017 Meeting Summary

Mr. Paladino made a clarification on the wording on the comment by Mr. Prado. Staff noted and will make the correction.

A motion was made by Mr. Khorsand, seconded by Mr. Paladino to approve the April 26, 2017 meeting summary. A vote was called and the motion passed

B. Environmental Justice Indicator (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest reported that the Environmental Justice (EJ) subcommittee met for the first time on Friday, May 19th. The committee discussed the EJ Performance Indicators. The committee could not reach an agreement on which EJ indicator to use for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable

Communities Strategy (SCS). The committee asked staff to check into other EJ Indicators. Staff will report back to the committee at the next meeting on June 13th.

There was a brief discussion about the indicators that were given to the subcommittee to decide upon, which were accessibility and mobility.

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

C. June 2017 Mini Grant Workshop Schedule (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince reported that Fresno COG awarded mini grants to 7 organizations to help with RTP/SCS outreach. The 7 mini grant recipients have currently coordinated 13 workshops for the month of June throughout the County as well as 2 workshops coordinated by Fresno COG. The purpose of this round of workshops is to collect feedback from residents on what projects they would like to see in their communities and facilitate what projects each jurisdiction decides to submit to the RTP Roundtable.

Fresno COG hopes that City and County staff can attend the workshops for their communities and work with residents to discuss the projects and address some of the questions. The format staff is envisioning for these workshops is as follows:

- City or County staff provides a brief presentation on their General Plan's vision for their community and their Circulation Element.
- Fresno COG staff will bring maps of the city's proposed projects from the 2014 RTP for the residents to look at and provide feedback on.
- Fresno COG is currently developing an online survey using MetroQuest that has a mapping tool for residents to add and comment on projects they would like to see.

Fresno COG staff will compile the feedback collected during these workshops and provide it to each jurisdiction for their consideration.

It was asked if there has been commitment from each of the cities to attend the workshop. At this time Fresno COG staff is reaching out to the jurisdictions for them to be present and if city staff cannot attend then the circuit engineers will be asked to attend.

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

D. Safety Performance Target (Lang Yu) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Yu reported that the MAP-21 and FAST Act require MPOs to conduct performance based planning. Performance measures are reflected in different areas, such as safety, bridge and pavement conditions, congestion/system performance and transit state of good repairs. Among them, safety performance is one of the first performance measure areas that need to be included in the Fresno COG 2018 RTP. Future year targets need to be set for each of the five following performance measures:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per 100 Million VMT
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT

- Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

Fresno COG will have the option of following the State of California overall target, which will be announced in the coming months, or setting our own targets. To support this target setting process, staff has gathered historical collision data in Fresno County and conducted a trend analysis for each of the performance measures.

Fresno COG is now organizing a safety target sub-committee. We welcome any interested committee members to join the sub-committee to provide feedback and contribute to the target setting process. The recommended targets from the sub-committee will be brought to the RTP Roundtable for approval. The first sub-committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 1:30-3:00 PM** in the Sequoia Conference Room.

It was asked if the enforcement of laws is a factor in the statistics and target setting. Staff responded that this is still something to be considered. CHP, education and emergency service were invited to participate in the subcommittee. It was suggested that including the location of injuries in the data would lead to healthy discussion. It was asked what the purpose of setting these safety targets, is it to reduce the number of injuries? Staff responded that it is the goal to improve safety and reduce injuries. The State is setting a zero death goal.

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

E. Financial Element Update (Suzanne Martinez) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Martinez reported that the second meeting of the RTP Financial Element Technical Group was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Topics of discussion included funding sources for revenue projections and the development of a focus group to review and update the Project Evaluation Criteria for use in the new 2018 RTP. The first Project Evaluation Criteria (PEC) Focus Group was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. Various updates to the criteria were recommended and incorporated into the Draft 2018 RTP PEC. The subsequent PEC Focus Group is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 where the group will continue to recommend updates to the Project Evaluation Criteria. The Final Draft of the RTP PEC will be brought to the full Financial Element Technical Group on June 6, 2017 and then to RTP Roundtable at their June 2017 meeting.

Another topic of importance discussed at the May, 3 2017 Technical Group Meeting included information regarding the process for the RTP Call for Projects. Member agencies were informed that Fresno COG will need **all** transportation projects the jurisdictions have planned, not just capacity increasing projects as has been done in the past. Call for projects will open on June 30th and close on July 28th.

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

F. Senate Bill 375 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target for 2020 (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. The ARB is now in the process of updating the targets, and will propose new draft targets for MPOs in late May. The targets will be finalized by the ARB Board in the fall of 2017.

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.

Fresno COG recommended 13% of GHG reduction as the 2035 target for the region, and was approved by the Roundtable in April. Because the State is on track to meet the 2020 goal, it hasn't been ARB's focus for the 2020 target. Fresno COG decided to submit a 2020 target recommendation subsequently to better inform ARB's target setting process. Fresno COG is proposing 6% reduction for the 2020 to reflect the economic recovery effect from the recession. Attached with the agenda is the target recommendation letter to ARB that explains the economic recovery effect and the assumptions that went into the 2020 target recommendation. The 2020 target scenario is largely based on the 2014 SCS, but with a new growth projection that was approved by the Policy Board in April 2017. Enhanced transportation strategies such as vanpool, bike/ped., transit, EV charging stations, etc. were included in the 2020 target scenario.

It was asked if the ARB will accept the 6% target. Staff responded that the State is on track to meeting its statewide goal for 2020. The reason Fresno COG recommended a 2020 target is that we do not want to end up with the 9% target, which was from the 2014 RTP/SCS. With the newly released growth projections the 9% target would not be achievable.

A motion was made by Mr. Khorsand, seconded by Mr. Vonberg to approve 6% per capita greenhouse gas emission reduction as the 2020 target for the Fresno region. A vote was called and the motion passed. Member Monaco voted no.

G. Scenario Selection (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]

Mr. Scott reported that four new scenarios were developed by the scenario development subcommittee, which was formed after April's meeting by Roundtable members. The Roundtable is encouraged to discuss and modify the proposed scenarios, and to designate no more than four scenarios that the members believe well represent the possible and desirable visions for Fresno County's future that are both ambitious and achievable.

At the Roundtable's direction, COG staff will develop and model the designated scenarios. Staff expects to present the modeling results and performance indicators to the Roundtable in October, at which point staff will be asking the Roundtable for its recommendation for a preferred scenario.

Scenario A is the base scenario and was developed by the Roundtable's effort. Scenario B is the active transportation scenario. There is priority investment in active transportation projects with less investment in disadvantaged populations. There is a more aggressive land use strategy, favoring mixed use development and compact development. Scenario C emphasizes investment in disadvantaged populations and transit services with less investment in public safety and reducing congestion. This scenario also favors an aggressive land use strategy, favoring mixed use development with a slight

preference for growth in rural communities. Scenario D was proposed by the representatives of the member agencies. The priority to expand roadway capacity was brought back to the level it was in the 2014 plan. It takes investment from transit services and serving disadvantaged population. The trade-off strategies are the same as scenario A. The goal for scenario D should read “Minimize vehicle delay and congestion, cutting down on emission heavy idle time on the roads.”

There was discussion on scenarios B, C and D. The vision, strategies and goals is the face of how each of these scenarios are presented. For modeling purposes the technical information, which arrows are circled, is all that is needed. Essentially the scenarios are equations and the vision, strategies and goals are a description on the equation. At this point the scenarios are very conceptual; staff will not know exactly what the circles mean until modeling begins. Discussion continued and the scenarios were amended as follows:

- Scenario A –stayed the same.
- Scenario B – Strategies will now read “Invest in bike and pedestrian projects and transit oriented development that encourage people to use their cars less.” The third trade off strategy would move one to the right to favor encourage growth near urban transit services.
- Scenario C – Strategies will now read “Encourage economic growth in existing small cities and rural communities.” Goals will new read “Reduce vehicle travel from rural areas into the Fresno Clovis urban area. The last trade off strategy will move one to the right to favor add more buses.
- Scenario D – Goals should read “Minimize vehicle delay and congestion, cutting down on emission heavy idle time on the roads.”

A motion was made by Mr. Prandini, seconded by Mr. Khorsand to designate the four scenarios as amended for official inclusion in the 2018 RTP/SCS modeling process. A vote was called and the motion passed

V. Other Items

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

Next meeting date: June 28, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

AFTER MEETING: RTP Roundtable Member Spotlight - Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Members of the Public

Eric Payne, Toure Associates

Darrell Unruh, Fresno Metro Ministries

Mary Savala, League of Women Voters

Mariah Thompson, California Rural Legal Assistance

Fresno COG Staff

Tony Boren, Kristine Cai, Trai Her-Cole, Seth Scott, Lang Yu, Meg Prince, Jennifer Soliz, Jeff Long, Kai Han, Suzanne Martinez, Mui Zhou, Lauren Dawson, Brenda Veenendaal, Peggy Arnest, Jeaneen Cervantes