

**Fresno COG Policy Board  
Minutes  
Thursday, July 27, 2017  
5:30 PM**

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Bob Whalen, City of Clovis  
Mayor Nathan Vosburg, City of Coalinga  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Mayor Lee Brand, City of Fresno  
Mayor Rey León, City of Huron  
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg  
Councilmember Robert Silva, City of Mendota  
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove  
Councilmember Alma Beltran, City of Parlier  
Councilmember Robert Beck, City of Reedley  
Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin  
Mayor Pro Tem Eli Ontiveros, City of Sanger  
Councilmember Scott Robertson, City of Selma

Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Arthur Wille, Legal Counsel  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

**Absent:**

Mayor Brady Jenkins, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor Rhonda Armstrong, City of Kerman  
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 11 members representing 77.71% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Fresno City, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma).

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin), Chair.

Members of the Board observe a moment of silence to remember Jeffrey Webster, former Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Transit Manager.

**Sitting as the Fresno County Mayors Selection Committee (Includes the County) - Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Appointments (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPOINT]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board, acting as the County Mayors' Select Committee and the Chair of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, are being asked to appoint five new or returning members to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee (COC). The Citizen Oversight Committee informs the public and ensures that the Measure C funding program revenues and expenditures are spent as promised.

The Measure C Expenditure Plan states that the COC shall comprise 13 members, including six at-large public members who respectively reside in each one of the five Fresno County Supervisorial Districts and seven members who must be representatives drawn from a diverse mix of interested community organizations. COC members must meet certain eligibility and residency criteria

as noted in the Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan - Appendix G – Citizen Oversight Committee. Appendix G also states the Committee’s duties and responsibilities. It is attached for your review as part of the application packet.

The following committee vacancies were advertised via email by Fresno COG and FCTA staff, on the Measure C and Fresno COG websites and on the Measure C and Fresno COG Facebook pages. Applications were due to Fresno COG by Thursday, July 20, 2017:

The committee has five vacancies for four-year terms to begin July 1, 2017:

- **Three** positions for **Community Organization Representatives** (*Organization/agency must provide applicant with a letter of recommendation.*)
- **One** for the **unincorporated rural area west of State Route 99** (Supervisorial District 1)
- **One** for the **Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area** (Supervisorial District 3)

Three applications have been processed and are attached for review. Two applications are for Community Organization positions and one is for the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area Public-At-Large position. One of the applicants, Kevin Hamilton, would be a returning member who served four years on the committee but whose term expired June 30, 2017. He represented the Central California Asthma Collaborative. Another applicant is William Jordan, who would be representing the League of Women Voters. The League has always had a representative on the Committee, and supports his application. The third applicant is LeAnn Nowlin, Chief Business Official from Golden Plains Unified School District. Staff has verified that her address is within Supervisorial District 3 as required for the available public-at-large position.

There are no applications for the third Organizational Representative position or the Unincorporated Rural Area West of State Route 99, Supervisorial District 1; however, staff will continue to publicize the vacancies and if any additional applications are received prior to the meeting, staff will bring them forward to the Fresno COG Board, sitting as the Mayors’ Selection Committee.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to appoint new members to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee. The motion passed.

## **Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee**

### **I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of June 29, 2017 [APPROVE]
- B. Measure C Claims Fiscal Year 2017-18 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Justice Subcommittee Sustainable Communities Strategy Indicator (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]
- D. New Appointee for Selma’s Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable Seat (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- E. Release of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program - Formerly FASTLANE (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- F. Meeting of Fresno COG Programing Subcommittee to discuss Fiscal Year 2017-18 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality/Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (RSTP) (Jennifer Soliz/Lauren Dawson) [INFORMATION]
- G. 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Action Element Chapter Development (Lauren Dawson/Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- H. End of Federal Fiscal Year E-76 and Federal Transit Administration transfer deadlines and obligational authority updates (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- I. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer 2017-2018 Programs (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) motioned and Councilmember Silva (Mendota) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

### **II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. Class IV Separated Bikeways/Cycletracks Feasibility Study - Presentation on Final Draft (Peggy Arnest) [ACCEPT]**

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that the Separated Bikeways Feasibility Study evaluated potential Class IV separated bikeway routes on corridors strategic to developing a comfortable and connected active transportation network in the Fresno-Clovis Metro area.

Separated bikeways are facilities that include a vertical physical barrier, such as flexible bollards, a curb, on-street parking or planter boxes between the bikeway and moving traffic. Separated bikeways can improve safety by reducing conflicts between people biking and driving, and they appeal to less confident or experienced bicyclists because of the protection they offer from moving vehicles. Separated bikeways have the potential to improve the transportation network and community health. When well designed and integrated into an active transportation network, separated bikeways can also help the region meet goals and performance measures in adopted local and regional planning documents by promoting bicycles for transportation.

The Separated Bikeways Feasibility Study presents a review of design guidance and implementation needs, evaluates existing corridors in the Fresno-Clovis area and identifies key locations where separated bikeways will likely provide the greatest benefit or return on investment. To do this, the project compared area demographics to activity generators, the existing bicycle network and bicycle-related collision maps to provide the foundation for developing the evaluation criteria that was used to assess separated bikeways' feasibility and priority in the Fresno-Clovis Metro area.

Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) asked what part of Reedley and how long of a stretch is the planned bikeway. Ms. Arnest responded that it would be in southeast portion of the city, connecting to a Class I bikeway about a half a mile long. Councilmember Robertson (Selma) asked if the Golden State corridor project would be eligible for a Class IV bikeway. Ms. Arnest responded that there may not be enough right-of-way in that area for a Class IV. There will be a Class IV in Selma along Front Street. Mayor Whalen (Clovis) stated that most cities have Class IV bikeways planned in their bicycle master plans. Mayor Whalen asked if there was any discussion by the consultant about matching or contributing funds to assist developing Class IV bikeways or was the approach to propose Class IV bikeways because there are not any in these communities. Why was the study done? Mr. Boren (FCOG) responded that Sacramento is making money available for active transportation projects. The hope is that the member agencies are in a position to have projects ready to go to take advantage of available funds. The City of Fresno requested the study.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) seconded to accept the Separated Bikeways Feasibility Study final report. The motion passed.

The City of Parlier enters.

**Quorum:** There were 12 members representing 79.28% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business.

## **B. Regional Active Transportation Plan Status Report (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that The Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) will be a comprehensive guide that creates a vision for a network of shared-use paths, bike lanes, sidewalks and other elements to support safe walking and bicycling in each city in Fresno County. The ATP will develop project recommendations for the 11 cities and the county and incorporate project recommendations from the four cities that have already developed or will soon complete their own ATPs. The plan will meet all California Transportation Commission requirements and fulfill a key requirement for applying for Active Transportation Programs funds. The projects will also be incorporated into the Fresno COG Regional Transportation Plan.

**Activities-to-Date** – Fresno COG hosted a kick-off meeting on May 2, 2017 to which staff and the public from all jurisdictions participating were invited. Discussion included: the schedule for the project, data needs from each jurisdiction, the scope of work and opportunities for providing input.

In May, consultant staff collected data on existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities and project background information. Each jurisdiction received the data in an online map so that the public could provide local feedback.

From June 1-9, Fresno COG and consultant staff visited each of the 12 Fresno County jurisdictions that have not developed their own ATPs. In each jurisdiction, Fresno COG and consultants met with local staff and the public, reviewed maps of existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities, received recommendations for improvements to local facilities and discussed open data needs. The consultants also conducted field visits in each city to understand local conditions first-hand.

Parallel to these meetings, Fresno COG staff established a web page - <http://www.fresnocog.org/atp> - on the Fresno COG website with project information. This website includes a link to an interactive, web-based mapping survey (in both English

and Spanish) <http://gis.fehrandpeers.com/FresnoRegATP/> where the public can provide comments about local biking and walking conditions, and recommend improvements to local walking and bicycling facilities.

The consultant team is reviewing all input received from the ATP meetings, the online maps and the local RTP meetings to develop a draft project list that will improve conditions for bicycling and walking in each jurisdiction. The list will identify short-term priorities, such as projects that will fit within the existing right-of-way, require relatively simple infrastructure changes or serve high-demand areas; and long-term priorities, such as projects that require land acquisition or more complex infrastructure development or serve low-demand areas.

**Next Steps** - The consultant team will coordinate a conference call with each of the 11 small cities to review updated maps and recommended bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects. Additionally, on August 2, 2017 Fresno COG will host an open house from 4-6 p.m. for local jurisdiction staff and the public to review the recommended bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects and updated maps. The open-house format meeting will include maps for each city and the county depicting recommended projects. All attendees will be invited to submit their comments.

Local jurisdiction staff will receive updated project maps so they may gather additional public input from August 3 - 8, 2017. They are encouraged to schedule public meetings and begin publicizing them now. Neither consultant nor FCOG staff will be present at these local agency public meetings. After August 8 each local agency will be asked to send the edited/marked-up maps and any other written agency or public comments to the consultant.

**Plan Development and Approval** – After all feedback on the draft recommendations is received, consultant staff will update the recommendations and incorporate them into a full draft Active Transportation Plan. The draft plan will be released for comment in mid-September, with comments due back by the end of the month. A final plan incorporating these comments will be released in mid-October for city councils and the Board of Supervisors to approve by the end of the year. Fresno COG approvals will be completed in January 2018.

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

**C. Measure C Expenditure Plan Pedestrian/Trails Facilities Program Amendment #2A - Resolution 2017-24 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that in 2015 Fresno COG and Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) adopted resolution 2015-05 amending language in the Measure C Expenditure Plan to include provisions for limited maintenance on new trail projects funded, in whole or in part, with non-Measure C trail funds.

The amended provisions initially went into effect for a one-year trial period. At the end of the trial period, the FCTA was to perform a public review of the policy's effectiveness and determine whether to continue the program. However, the FCTA lost its Executive Director and the program expired after the first year with no action by the FCTA Board. At its June 2017 meeting, the FCTA requested that the Executive Director coordinate with Fresno COG to consider extending this program and making it permanent. An amendment to the Expenditure Plan requires Fresno COG and FCTA approval. The action requested is to readopt Amendment No. 2 provisions, retroactive to February 25, 2015, with the one-year trial period and expiration date removed; otherwise the amended provisions are unchanged.

The amended provisions specify that if a local agency builds a new trail or an extension to an existing trail using non-Measure C trail funds, that project will qualify for Measure C trail funds for ongoing maintenance of up to 20 percent of the cost to construct the project and subject to certain provisions spelled out in the resolution.

This concept was thoroughly and publicly vetted through the Fresno COG process, the Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee and the FCTA Board when Amendment No. 2 was originally approved. To be approved, the amendment must obtain a majority vote of the Fresno COG Policy Board and FCTA Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) asked for clarification on the amendment's time frame. Mr. Beshears responded that this would be permanent. It would last until the Measure's sunset. Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) asked why the initial one-year trial was not completed and why a trial is not being conducted with this amendment. Mr. Beshears responded that not a lot of people have used the program, but new interest has been shown. A trial period will be administered at the Board's direction. Mayor Whalen (Clovis) asked if it is 20 percent of the cost of maintenance or 20 percent of the cost of

the trail. Mr. Beshears responded that it is 20 percent of the cost to build the trail. This would open up the opportunity to use Measure C trail funds for maintenance, which was not a provision in the original ballot.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve Resolution 2017-24, amending the Measure C Expenditure Plan, Pedestrian/Trails Facilities Program, to include additional provisions to reinstate Amendment No. 2, per procedures provided in the Measure C enabling legislation and adopted by the Fresno Council of Governments and Fresno County Transportation Authority. The motion passed.

**D. Measure C Expenditure Plan Bicycle Facilities Program Amendment #4 - Resolution 2017-25 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the Measure C Bicycle Facilities Earmark Program allows funding to be used to retrofit bicycle lanes in place as of January 2007 or up to a Master Plan adoption. A recent Fresno COG bicycle mobility study recommends a list of projects that include Class II-, III- and IV-type facilities. The City of Fresno and local bicycle advocates requested Fresno COG and the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) amend the Expenditure Plan to allow these additional categories.

- Class II facilities are striped safety lanes along the right of way with signage.
- Class III facilities have no designated safety lane and consist of signage notifying vehicle traffic about bicycle riders in the right of way.
- Class IV facilities designate a safety lane in the right-of-way that is separated from vehicular traffic by a physical barrier.

FCTA staff and the Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee have both vetted and concur with the recommendation. An Expenditure Plan amendment requires an affirmative vote of both the Fresno COG Policy Board and FCTA Board.

Mayor Whalen (Clovis) asked for clarification on the eligibility date. Mr. Beshears responded that any bike lane in existence as of January 2007 would be eligible.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Whalen (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Ontiveros (Sanger) seconded to approve Resolution 2017-25, authorizing Measure C Expenditure Plan, Earmarks for Bicycle Facilities Program Amendment No. 4. The motion passed.

The City of Huron enters.

**Quorum:** There were 13 members representing 79.98% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business.

**E. Revised Measure C Transit-Oriented Development Program Policies and Guidelines (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the Measure C Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for In-Fill Development (TOD) program was created to boost transit ridership and encourage transit supportive land use such as mixed uses and compact development within transit stop proximity. The Fresno COG Policy Board and the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Board approved the TOD Program Policies and Guidelines. Since then, more than \$6 million has been granted to projects for five funding cycles. The TOD program accrues approximately \$850,000 annually. The original program guidelines designated three Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors in City of Fresno as the only eligible areas for the TOD program fund.

In late 2016 and early 2017, the Fresno COG and the FCTA boards directed that the TOD Guidelines be updated to open the TOD program to eligible projects throughout the entire region. The original TOD Program Policies and Guidelines stipulate that this should occur after the first five funding cycles.

The TOD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had several meetings to discuss how to update the Guidelines so that urban and rural projects can compete fairly, TOD program goals can be achieved and transit-oriented development principles advanced.

The revised guidelines' major changes, based on the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations include:

- The original guideline's project location requirement is removed so that projects from the entire region may apply
- Projects with proximity (1/2 mile) to existing and planned fixed route transit stops, BRT and the High-Speed Rail station are eligible

- Two tiers of residential density are created for projects in the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) and the rest of the County: Projects in the FCMA are required to have a minimum of 15 units/acre to score and 30 units/acre or more to receive full density points; projects outside of the FCMA are required to have a minimum of 10 units/acre to score and 20 units or more to receive full density points
- Projects are required to receive a minimum of 70 out of 100 points to qualify for funding to ensure the quality of projects funded through this program.
- Clovis Transit and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency are added to the TOD Scoring Committee
- Scorers may not score projects submitted by or through the agency they represent
- Other changes made accordingly.

The committee received the revised TOD Program Policies and Guidelines, which incorporated all comments from the TAC.

Mayor Brand (Fresno City) stated that the City of Fresno is open to opening up the TOD program. Fresno officials would like to see it be on a competitive basis. Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) stated that the City of Fresno supports opening up the program, but asks that it remain competitive. Councilmember Robertson (Selma) asked when the process will start for fiscal year 2017-18. Ms. Cai responded that after the Policy Board approves the revised guidelines, they will be brought to the FCTA Board in August. A call for projects will be sent out in January. Previously, only projects from the City of Fresno were eligible. This will now be open to the entire region. Staff created two tiers of density requirements in order for the urban and rural cities to compete fairly. Councilmember Robertson asked if the results will be reviewed after the first year to see if the criteria is truly opening up the competition to the rural cities. Ms. Cai responded that the process will be to send out the call for projects, receive applications, have the scoring committee (consisting of representative from the Fresno City, Clovis, east side, west side, three transit agencies and three public at large) meet, score applications and select projects. Those projects selected for funding will go through TTC, PAC, Policy Board and FCTA Board. Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) summarized that the Board would like to review the guidelines after the first year to see if the changes produced any results.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Brand (Fresno) motioned and Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) seconded to approve the revised TOD Program Policies and Guidelines. The motion passed.

## **F. Regional Transportation Plan Progress (Kristine Cai)**

### **1. Regional Transportation Plan Project Evaluation Criteria (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that The Financial Element Technical Group developed an RTP Project Evaluation Criteria Focus Group to discuss in-depth revisions and updates to the 2018 RTP Project Evaluation Criteria. The Criteria will be used to score project priority as submitted during the RTP Call for Projects process. The focus group met on five separate occasions in May and June in an effort to assure a comprehensive set of criteria.

The focus group comprised representatives from Fresno, Clovis, Fresno County, a rural west side representative (Mendota), a rural east side representative (Reedley), a transit representative (FCRTA), as well as a few representatives from non-governmental organizations with interests in bike/ped, air quality, health and transportation equity. The Focus Group collaborated on the revisions and agrees on the revised document.

Revision highlights include:

- A new health priority index criterion to the bike/ped and transit sections, in an effort to steer at least some project preference to areas that are the most health burdened, and are also likely the most disadvantaged.
- Level of Service in Capacity Increasing Criteria was updated to “Congestion Relief” instead, but the premise is basically the same - to prioritize capacity-increasing projects by the level of congestion a roadway is experiencing.
- The Streets and Roads Non-capacity Increasing section was broken into two separate evaluation criteria: one for maintenance and the other for operations. The maintenance criterion has been updated to accurately evaluate the maintenance project merits. Previously, criteria in the Capacity Increasing section scored both maintenance and operations projects. The criteria didn’t work well when evaluating priorities for maintenance projects, so the Operations criteria were also re-worked.
- The remaining revisions were mostly grammatical in nature; word choice, sentence structure, clarifications, etc.

This criteria will be used solely to determine a project's ranking in the RTP in terms of projected funding; not actual funding available during a program call-for-projects. The criteria will be used to create the RTP's constrained and unconstrained list of projects.

The Project Evaluation Criteria Focus Group, the Financial Element Technical Group and the RTP Roundtable recommended the 2018 RTP Project Evaluation Criteria's approval.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to approve the 2018 RTP Project Evaluation Criteria's final draft to the Fresno COG Policy Board. The motion passed.

## **2. Regional Transportation Plan Project Scenario Determination and Project Prioritization (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that in this current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, staff proposes that the financial element project scenarios closely align with the SCS scenario concepts that the Fresno COG Policy Board approved at its June 2017 meeting.

The vast majority of funding sources that can be projected to finance scenario projects are designated for particular modes. Those funding sources will be allocated in this process towards the particular modes for which they are designated. The remaining funding sources, which are mainly RSTP (now known as STBGP - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program), and partially CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program), are more flexible, and the only sources that will create the variations among the four project scenarios. After funds from all other sources are allocated to the highest-scoring projects (according to the project evaluation criteria, by mode), staff must employ a methodology to determine which remaining projects (if any) should be considered for STBG and CMAQ funding for each SCS scenario.

The methodology that staff proposes involves elements from the project evaluation criteria that correspond to the investment levels that have been determined for each SCS scenario concept. This way, the methodology can be completely objective and would require neither additional work nor separate scoring criteria.

The attached materials outline the eight SCS scenario funding priorities, as well as their rank for each of the four approved scenario concepts. For each of these priorities, it also shows which modes' project evaluation criteria include applicable measures that would apply to that priority. In the proposed methodology, the applicable scoring criteria for each project will be scaled in proportion to the investment priorities specified by the SCS scenario.

For example, SCS Scenario D demonstrates a higher priority for increasing roadway capacity than the other scenarios. (Quantitatively, Scenario D's investment in capacity-increasing projects is represented by a value of 3, compared to a value of 1 for other scenarios.) As such, the project scenario corresponding with SCS Scenario D should reflect this emphasis by increasing the weighted importance of capacity-increasing projects. Staff has developed a tool to automate this process.

Councilmember Robertson (Selma) asked if the tool would take intangibles out of the scoring: Does it make it more objective? Are there any other electives to employ in the process for flexible funding? Is there still the ability to override some of the criteria and use elective criteria? Mr. Scott responded that the methodology is completely objective. Mayor Pro Tem Ontiveros (Sanger) asked what software is being used for the scoring. Mr. Scott responded it is an Excel spreadsheet and provided a demonstration the tool's performance. Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) asked what is the possibility that some projects will "fall through the cracks". What would happen to the projects that do not qualify in any scenario because they do not meet the minimum qualifications? Mr. Scott responded that this process begins after the majority of the funding has been allocated. A majority of funding sources are earmarked for particular modes. Those projects will be allocated first, based on the project evaluation criteria. Any projects still needing funding would go through this process.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Councilmember Silva (Mendota) seconded to approve the process for determining the RTP project scenarios and the methodology for prioritizing projects within each scenario. The motion passed.

### 3. Regional Transportation Plan June 2017 Community Outreach Workshops Summary (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff, working with the seven Regional Transportation Plan Mini-Grant recipient organizations, hosted 15 community workshops throughout the County between June 5 and July 6, 2017. Each of the 15 workshops included dinner, child care and Spanish presentations when needed, as well as translation and interpretation services. Fresno COG also developed an online survey in English and Spanish to provide an opportunity for transportation project input to those who could not attend the workshops. The survey was available through July 9, 2017. These outreach efforts were focused on providing the public an opportunity to provide transportation project suggestions that could be submitted by local agencies in response to the RTP call for projects issued July 1, 2017.

Mini-Grant organizations and Fresno COG advertised the workshops through television spots produced for each workshop and aired on KSEE 24 and KGPE 47. Central Valley Today and Univision scheduled interviews. Flyers and information were posted to websites, emailed to databases and shared through social media. Many organizations shared workshop information during group meetings, and some even went door-to-door canvassing neighborhoods. Staff is waiting for final reports from each Mini-Grantee on individual efforts.

During the workshops and through the online portal, Fresno COG received suggestions for projects separated into three categories:

1. Streets and Roads - Repairing roads, adding lanes, improving intersections, improving safety, reducing congestion or "other"
2. Transit - Adding bus stops or new service, improving service, improving safety, repairing assets or "other"
3. Active Transportation - Adding bike lanes, adding or repairing sidewalks or trails, improving safety, adding bike racks, or "other"

Fresno COG staff is processed the workshop and online suggestions and provided a summary handout of participation demographics and final counts.

Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) stated that 608 comments received was very low compared to the total population of Fresno County and there are other modes of outreach that should be used to reach more people. Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) stated that as elected officials, it is important to show leadership and encourage the community to get involved. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that staff has considered alternative ways of outreach, however, public workshops compete with on-demand technology and it is hard to get people out of the house to a meeting. It would be nice if people can participate remotely. Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) stated that historically, even with elections, turnout is low. Hopefully technology will play a better role in the future.

Amanda Monaco with the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability (LCJA) stated that Fresno COG has shown an effort to make this a transparent and participatory process. An important part of this process is to determine a scenario. In the next phase, the communities will be asked to choose among four scenarios. Although Fresno COG has improved in involving the public, community residents may still feel that their input was not used to shape the scenarios. Ms. Monaco commented on the Environmental Justice (EJ) indicator on the transportation consent agenda. The EJ indicator that will be evaluating the scenarios is not adequate to satisfy Fresno COG's federal obligations. A comment letter will be submitted to address these points.

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

### G. Caltrans Update (CALTRANS) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Navarro reported.

- The State Route (SR) 99 realignment for high-speed rail at Clinton Avenue still remains closed. The target for reopening Clinton Avenue is Oct. 18. Crews are working at night and weekends to achieve this schedule. Most of the work is focused on the bridge and structure.
- Eastbound traffic will be switched to a new alignment at the Auberry Road roundabout this week. This project should wrap up in early fall.



- The contractor started night work on July 9 on SR 180 Kings Canyon express way segment 3 and activity will continue through August. There were concerns about nesting birds, but the birds have not caused any delays to date.
- The Mendota passing lane project was awarded on July 20 and is at headquarters for final review. A contract should be started in August.
- The SR 41 southbound auxiliary lane from M Street to Tulare overcrossing will go out for bid in late August.
- Bids opened on July 18 for The SR 99 ramp project that includes the Shaw and Ashlan Avenue onramps and auxiliary lanes for Olive and Belmont.
- The Environmental Protection Agency submitted comments regarding Caltrans' permit application with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on SR 269 near Mendota. A field meeting with EPA and ACOC is planned for early August to resolve any issues.

This will be the largest planning grant season. Last year \$9 million was awarded statewide. Projects in Fresno County compete very well receiving a fair share of grant awards. With Senate Bill 1 (SB1) there will approximately \$32 million in addition funds for planning grants. The deadline to submit applications is October 20 and grant awards will be in December.

## **Fresno COG Sitting as the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board**

### **III. REAFFIRM ALL ACTION TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) seconded to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting at the Transportation Policy committee. The motion passed.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- B. Request for Fresno COG Policy Board Letter of Support for Temperance Flat Dam (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]
- C. Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable Proxy Voting (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]
- D. Monthly Legislative Update (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. A vote was called and the motion passed.

### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no Administrative Action/Discussion items.

### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. Items from Staff**

1. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated there will be no August meeting.
2. Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) provided an update on the One Voice priorities. Local elected officials encouraged the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to move State Route 269 to the top of the priority list. The City of Fresno will be submitting its Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant for Veterans Boulevard. The 2018 One Voice trip will be April 21-26, 2018. California League of Cities and California State Association of Counties will host a workshop on Senate Bill 1 (SB1) implementation to help cities receive SB1 dollars.

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

1. Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) reported that the application for the Temperance Flat project is ready to submit in August.
2. Mayor Whalen (Clovis) suggested that it may be time for Fresno COG to invest in a new audio system.

### **VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Public Presentations**

There were no public presentations.

Mayor Brand (Fresno) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to adjourn to Fresno County Rural Transportation Agency Board. The motion passed.

The Fresno COG Policy Board adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Boren, Executive Director

Public

Amanda Monaco, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability

LeAnn Nowlin, Citizen

FCOG Staff

Kristine Cai

Lang Yu

Brenda Veenendaal

Les Beshears

Trai Her-Cole

Peggy Arnest

Jennifer Soliz

Lauren Dawson

Meg Prince

Seth Scott

Jeaneen Cervantes