

Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, August 30, 2017
2:00 PM

RTP Members Present

David Fey, LAFCo
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga
Frankie Olivares, City of Selma
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transportation Agency
Joe Prado, Fresno County Dept of Public Health
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Paul Peschel, Kings River Conservation District
Rob Terry, City of Reedley
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Eric VonBerg, Valley Planners Network
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Adam Livingston, Southern Sierra Partnership (via phone)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Dave Fey

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 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 July 26, 2017 Meeting Summary [APPROVE]

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

B. Draft Policy Element (Meg Prince/Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG received a comment letter on June 26, 2017 on the Draft Policy Element from a group of five community based organizations (Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Cultiva La Salud, Safe Routes to School Partnership, ClimatePlan and Sequoia Riverland Trust). During the July RTP Roundtable, Fresno COG asked RTP Roundtable members to provide direction on several of the prominent comments received in the letter. Staff recommended that a Policy Element Subcommittee convene in August to review the other comments in the letter in detail, as well as to help complete the rest of the updates to the Draft Policy Element.

The Policy Element Subcommittee was comprised of representatives from the City of Fresno, City of Clovis, Fresno County, an east city representative, a west city representative, a transit representative, a bicycle and pedestrian representative, the Building Industry Association, and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, a community based organization representative.

The Draft Policy Element has been updated based on the recommendations from the Policy Element Subcommittee. The final Policy Element will not be formally adopted until the rest of the RTP/SCS is adopted next year. This Draft Policy Element is the version that will go out for public review with the RTP/SCS and Environmental Impact Report in early 2018.

Members Monaco and Livingston expressed their opposition to Staff's recommendation. Mr. Fey encouraged the members to continue to reach out to Fresno COG staff with their concerns with regard to the policy element.

Mariah Thompson, (CRLA) stated that CRLA would be submitting a comment letter regarding the draft policy element. An overview of the comments and concerns is that Fresno COG is excluding language that provides specific protection to classes of individuals that are protected by state and federal civil rights laws.

Members had a lengthy discussion about whether the draft policy element, in its current form, is discriminatory. Ms. Cai (FCOG) stated that these issues were vetted by a subcommittee and the recommended project ranking criteria was brought to the RTP Roundtable and approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Khorsand, seconded by Mr. Terry to approve the Draft Policy Element. A vote was called and the motion passed. Members Monaco and Livingston voting no.

C. 2018 Safety Performance Targets (Lang Yu) [APPROVE]

Mr. Yu (FCOG) reported that setting safety performance targets is part of the new requirement from the federal transportation bills Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) that require MPOs to conduct performance based planning. Future year targets need to be set for each of the five following safety 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 to following the State of California overall targets or setting separate regional targets for one or more performance measures.

Fresno COG has organized a safety target subcommittee to discuss the target options and recommendations. City of Fresno, City of Clovis, County of Fresno, City of Reedley, City of San Joaquin, City of Firebaugh and Caltrans attended the sub-committee meetings. Three options were discussed including the State targets, State Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) targets, and evidence based targets. The subcommittee recommended to adopt the evidence based safety performance targets for 2018 for all five performance measures. The evidence based targets project future year fatalities and serious injuries based on the recent trends. The recommended targets for 2018 are as follows:

- Number of fatalities: 130 (2014-2018 average: 116.0)
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million VMT: 1.521 (2014-2018 average: 1.388)
- Number of serious injuries: 320 (2014-2018 average: 315.4)
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT: 3.743 (2014-2018 average: 3.779)
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries: 69 (2014-2018 average: 67.7)

It is to be noted that the final target numbers for rate of fatalities and rate of serious injuries may change slightly due to the use of final VMT from the 2018 RTP/SCS, which is scheduled to be approved by November 2017. However, the methodology will stay the same.

There was a brief discussion as to why a target needs to be set and what Fresno COG's obligation would be to meet the target. Staff responded that based on the federal mandate Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to set a target. There are no funding incentives to meet the target or consequences if the target is not met. The target will be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) during Fresno COG's certification review.

Mr. Khorsand asked why evidence based target was chosen. Ms. Mathis responded that the subcommittee felt that trying to identify projects that could meet a vision based goal, at the end of 2017 for a 2018 target, seemed unrealistic. The subcommittee decided to set the targets based on historical evidence based trends.

A motion was made by Ms. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Terry to approve the evidence based safety performance targets for 2018 with the understanding that the rate of fatalities and rate of serious injuries are subject to change when the final VMT from the 2018 RTP/SCS is available. A vote was called and the motion passed.

D. Fall 2017 Sustainable Communities Strategy Scenario Results Outreach (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is preparing to release the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scenario results in October 2017 for public review and selection of a preferred SCS scenario; plans are underway to form an outreach strategy. Staff met with the RTP Mini Grant recipients on Friday, August 25th to discuss outreach needs and preliminary strategy options. Modeling data is scheduled to be ready for outreach materials the first week of October. Outreach will be from October 7th-24th.

This round of outreach will be a three tiered approach:

1. Community event display: Booth set up at established community events.
2. MetroQuest survey: Online survey will run from October 9th – November 9th.
3. Speaker circuit: Present to service clubs, community or neighborhood groups and chambers.

A handout with the October outreach strategy and timeline was provided.

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

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Peschel suggested there should be additional subcommittee meetings to discuss the Environmental Justice issues in more depth.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Upcoming meeting dates:

September 27, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

October 25, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

February 28, 2018 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

AFTER MEETING: RTP Roundtable Member Spotlight - Roger Brown, Public at Large

Members of the Public

Tony Molina, Fresno Bicycle Coalition

Mariah Thompson, CRLA, Inc.

Eric Payne, Toure Associates

Yer Lee, Toure Associates

Fresno COG Staff

Kristine Cai

Trai Her-Cole

Brenda Veenendaal

Jennifer Soliz

Meg Prince

Lang Yu

Seth Scott

Robert Phipps

Peggy Arnest

Jeaneen Cervantes