

**Transportation Technical Committee
MINUTES
Friday, September 8, 2017
8:30 AM**

Members Present

Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
David Padilla, Caltrans
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
John Robertson, City of Reedley
Joey Daggett (Gateway Engineering), City of Selma
Mohammad Alimi, Fresno County
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Olivia Pimentel, City of Kerman
Nicholas Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Mary Savala, League of Women Voters
Robert Phipps, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 8:34am by Ms. Mathis (Clovis), Chair.

REQUEST TO ADD URGENCY ITEM TO THE AGENDA (I-P)

ITEM I-P - City of Sanger Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim

To add an 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 opportunity for public comment, Mr. Stites (FCRTA) motioned and Mr. Prandini (Fresno County) seconded to add Item I-P to the agenda. The motion passed.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items - All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- A. Executive Minutes of July 14, 2017 [APPROVE]
- B. Fourth Quarter Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. City of Huron Fiscal Year 2016-17 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. City of Huron Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. City of Kerman Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. City of Parlier Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- G. City of Reedley Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- H. City of San Joaquin Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- I. City of Selma Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- J. Fresno-Madera State Route 99 & 41 Fiscal Analysis Final Report Completed (Meg Prince) [ACCEPT]
- K. Strategic Growth Council's new Transformative Climate Communities Program (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- L. Senate Bill 1 Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- M. Federal Fiscal Year 2016-17 Obligation Authority Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION/DIRECTION]
- N. California Air Resources Board (CARB) 2017 Draft Funding Guidelines (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

- O. Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant - NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- P. City of Sanger Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Prandini (BIA) motioned and Mr. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Plan Progress (Kristine Cai)

1. Regional Transportation Plan Draft Policy Element (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that since March, Fresno COG has been soliciting input on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Draft Policy Element. Fresno COG convened a Policy Element Subcommittee in August to conduct a detailed review and provide any remaining updates.

The Policy Element Subcommittee comprises 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 the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, a community-based organization.

The Subcommittee reviewed in detail a comment letter received on June 26, 2017, 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). Members also helped complete the rest of the Element's updates.

The Subcommittee met twice in August to review the comment letter and conduct a thorough review of the Draft Policy Element. After two meetings and additional email communications, the Element has been updated based on the Subcommittee's input.

The final Policy Element will be formally adopted with the rest of the RTP/SCS is adopted next year. This Draft Policy Element will go out for public review with the RTP/SCS and Environmental Impact Report in early 2018.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Prandini (BIA) motioned and Mr. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) seconded to approve the Draft Policy Element. The motion passed, with member Savala voting no.

2. Regional Transportation Plan Safety Performance Target (Lang Yu) [APPROVE]

Mr. Yu (FCOG) reported that setting safety performance targets is a new requirement under 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 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to conduct performance-based planning. Future-year targets need to be established for each of the five following safety performance measures: number of fatalities; rate of fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT); number of serious injuries; rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT and; number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Fresno COG will have the option of following the State of California's 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. Representatives with the County of Fresno, Caltrans and the cities of Fresno, Clovis, Reedley, San Joaquin and Firebaugh attended. The subcommittee recommended adopting 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 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)

The final targets for rate of fatalities and rate of serious injuries may change slightly after final VMT from the 2018 RTP/SCS is approved in November 2017; however, the methodology will stay the same. Staff will present all three target options at the TTC/PAC meeting.

Ms. Savala (LWV) asked why evidence-based goal was chosen. Ms. Mathis (Clovis) responded that she participated in the subcommittee. The subcommittee's decision to choose the evidence-based goal was based on what projects could be implemented in a timely manner to make a difference versus what is programmed. The subcommittee recommended for 2019 to meet early in the year to identify projects that would address areas where fatalities and serious injuries are occurring in order to implement a more aggressive goal.

Mr. Stites (FCRTA) asked what the consequences are for not meeting the targets. Ms. Cai (FCOG) responded that federal targets are not due until February 2018 but because of Fresno COG's 2018 RTP timeline, Fresno COG will be one of the first MPOs to set a federal target. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is encouraging MPOs to set more realistic targets as opposed to setting an ambitious target. There are no penalties for not meeting the set targets, but the targets will be reviewed by FHWA during the four-year certification review process.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Stites (FCRTA) motioned and Mr. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) seconded 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. The motion passed.

B. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Call for Projects (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that the Fresno COG Programming Subcommittee met on March 1, 2017 and July 19, 2017 to finalize the procedures and selection criteria in the upcoming 2017-18 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) call for projects. The Fresno COG Policy Board will be asked to issue the call for projects at its September 28, 2017 meeting. The Programming Subcommittee received comments and approved changes to the CMAQ and STBG scoring criteria. Both application packets were revised and resubmitted to Subcommittee members on July 19. The suggested changes are in red, track-change format for easy review. The full draft application packets can be found at www.fresnocog.org.

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) clarified that applications have different due dates. The STBG due date is November 16 and the CMAQ due date is November 30. Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) asked how much time could be expected between the scoring committee announcing the results and the due date for lifeline. Ms. Soliz responded that the scoring committee will convene on January 9 and the lifeline submittals are due February 5.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Dagget (Selma) motioned and Mr. Stites (FCRTA) seconded to approve the revised draft CMAQ and STBG application packets as amended and the call for projects be initiated by the Policy Board on September 28, 2017. The motion passed.

C. 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocation Plan (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that during the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) the state was \$750 million in deficit. Senate Bill 1 (SB1) appears to relieve that situation, and beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 the Fresno region should be seeing \$13.9 million a year in new money; however, the state has to pay off its deficit first. That leaves \$16 million of the \$28.4 million county share balance that Fresno COG can program in FY 2019-20. With the new money accumulating, the region may have \$57 million to program by FY 2022-23. The STIP guidelines have also created a new category -- Advance Project Development Element (APDE) -- to encourage shelf-ready projects. The \$6.7 million in APDE available to this region will reduce county shares but it won't count against the \$16 million target the region has available in FY 2019-20.

Fresno COG staff is updating the Measure C Regional Transportation Expenditure Plan. Previously, the Policy Board has dedicated STIP county shares to major projects on the Measure C Tier I list to get maximum leverage from the local sales tax. During the 2014 STIP, the Policy Board went through a series of public hearings to select between State Route (SR) 180 East Segment 3 and Veterans Boulevard. SR 180 East won that competition but now that it has been funded, Veterans Boulevard appears to be next in line for STIP funding, considering the region has invested \$35 million in design and right of way. The project will be ready to list in FY 2018-19.

Meanwhile, the City of Fresno is applying for a \$44.5 million federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant that, if successful, requires construction begin prior to STIP funding being available in FY 2019-20. If the INFRA grant is not approved, then Fresno COG should have a stand-by plan for delivering Veterans Boulevard with STIP funding. The INFRA grant and STIP cycle run concurrently, staff won't know if the INFRA grant is approved until after the 2018 STIP is submitted. Fresno COG staff is discussing Veterans Boulevard as a 2018 STIP candidate with the City of Fresno as part of updating the Expenditure Plan.

The North/Cedar Interchange on SR 99 ranks as the next major project on the Tier I urban list after Veterans Boulevard. This project is near a developing industrial center, and the City of Fresno has suggested this should be the next candidate after Veterans Boulevard and also requested Fresno COG begin programming APDE, plan, specific and estimate (PS&E) and right-of-way (ROW). It makes sense to begin programming the PS&E with STIP APDE. This is an issue we will explore further during the Expenditure Plan update.

At the same time, Caltrans has proposed putting \$9.5 million in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) for PS&E & ROW for SR 41 – Elkhorn to Kings County line. The original Measure built SR 41 out to Elkhorn, and Kings County officials have improved SR 41 on their side, leaving a 6 mile (24 lane miles) unimproved gap on the remaining segment in Fresno County.

Caltrans initially had some money to get the environmental work done on this project in the ITIP; however, it was removed because of funding constraints. Now Caltrans wants to add money back to get the project shelf ready for a potential \$52.5 million construction job and have requested Fresno COG partner by contributing \$2 million in STIP funding for ROW.

Construction funding has not been identified yet but Caltrans anticipates that should SB1 or some new federal funding source become available, it makes sense to have shelf ready projects lined up. Fresno COG staff will be meeting with Caltrans to see if potential construction funding can be identified. If so, the proposal makes sense from a regional perspective; however, note that the project is not on either the Measure C Tier I or Tier II list, so there is no avenue for funding from the current Measure without amending it into the list. The region has traditionally dedicated STIP funding to leveraging projects in the Expenditure Plan.

Mr. Leonardo (FCTA) addressed the committee, speaking more as a transportation advocate as opposed to the Director of the FCTA in support of Fresno COG's recommendations.

Mr. Almini (Fresno County) asked with the update of the expenditure plan, what is the possibility of funding Tier II projects. Mr. Beshears responded that no projects are being added. This will environmentally clear North to Cedar and American Avenue. Caltrans has stated that when looking at American Avenue it will also look at Central Avenue, which is a Tier II project. Mr. Robertson (Reedley) asked if Tier II projects are being negatively affected. Mr. Beshears responded no. In the expenditure plan the projects have to be delivered on a schedule. There is capacity in the STIP and this will not negatively affect the delivery of either of the projects.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Robertson (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Prandini (BIA) seconded to:

1. Confirm Veterans Boulevard as the highest priority 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project.
2. Designate the North\Cedar interchange as second priority for 2018 STIP for plans, specifications and estimate (PSE) programming.
3. Reserve \$2 million in STIP Advance Project Development Element (APDE) for State Route (SR) 41 – Excelsior to Kings County Line.

The motion passed.

D. 2017 Active Transportation Plan Augmentation (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill (SB) 1 appropriated \$100 million a year from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18. The 2017 ATP Augmentation Guidelines address ATP RMRA funds for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 and were adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on June 29, 2017. The Statewide Call for Projects was open from June 30, 2017 through August 1, 2017. Fresno COG will receive \$1,047,000, 2017-18 and 2018-19, to award local projects. The regional augmentation announcement opened on September 1, 2017 and will close on October 2, 2017.

Funding for the 2017 ATP Augmentation will only be available to:

- Projects programmed in the adopted 2017 ATP that can be delivered earlier than currently programmed, or
- Projects that applied for funding in the 2017 ATP but were not selected for funding

Project eligibility requirements are detailed in the Guidelines referenced above and can be found on the CTC website at <http://catc.ca.gov/activities/atp/> and on the Fresno COG website at: www.fresnocog.org.

Mr. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) asked when the statewide project winners will be announced. Ms. Soliz responded that the winners were announced on August 31. The City of Fresno's Downtown Inner Connectivity project was awarded by the state. Mr. Paladino asked if those projects not awarded by the state will now be considered at the regional level. Ms. Soliz responded that these were applications for Cycle 3. If projects applied to the state, they did not have to reapply for regional. The projects will automatically be considered because they were already on the contingency list.

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

1. Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is contacting multiple vendors to take a look at our current system and provide two different options for upgrade. The goal is to have something to present to the Policy Board for approval.

B. Items from Members

1. Ms. Mathis (Clovis) introduced Fresno COG Deputy Director Robert Phipps.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

Adjourned at 9:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

H. Mejia, VSCE

Mariah Thompson, CRLA

Michael Oslam, Provost & Pritchard/City of Mendota

Mike Leonardo, FCTA

Staff

Les Beshears

Kristine Cai

Brenda Veenendaal

Lang Yu

Trai Her-Cole

Meg Prince

Jennifer Soliz

Peggy Arnest

Suzanne Martinez

Jeaneen Cervantes