

**Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, September 27, 2017
2:00 PM**

RTP Members Present

David Fey, LAFCo
Frankie Olivares, City of Selma
Jennifer Lekumberry, City of Mendota
Adam Livingston, Southern Sierra Partnership
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transportation Agency
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Joe Prado, Fresno County Dept of Public Health
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga
Michael Ratajski, QK
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Rob Terry, City of Reedley
Eric VonBerg, Valley Planners Network
Dwight Kroll, City of Clovis
Roger Brown, Public at Large
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Kent Karsevar, Public at Large
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno (via phone)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Dave Fey

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 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 August 30, 2017 Meeting Summary [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. VonBerg (Valley Planners Network) seconded to approve the August 30, 2017 meeting summary. The motion passed.

B. Draft Action Element (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that the draft Action Element for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) describes the programs and actions necessary to implement the RTP and assigns implementation responsibilities. The draft describes transportation projects and programs anticipated to be completed during the RTP's horizon 2042, and contain short-term and long-term activities that address regional transportation issues and needs. The draft Action Element provides direction about the roles and responsibilities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and other agencies as RTP projects and policies are established. Each transportation mode is addressed, along with other transportation and air quality strategies, as listed below

Introduction: Moving People and Goods 5.1

Multimodal: Section 5.2

Highways, Streets, and Roads: Section 5.3

Urban Mass Transportation: Section 5.4

Rural Area Public Transportation & Social Service Transportation: Section 5.5

Aviation: Section 5.6

Active Transportation: Section 5.7

Rail: Section 5.8

Specific Transportation Strategies and Management Systems: Section 5.9

Air Quality: Section 5.10

Comments on the draft Action Element can be sent to Jennifer Soliz at JSoliz@fresnocog.org by October 9, 2017. At the October RTP Roundtable meeting, staff will seek approval of the draft Action Element to move forward for public review with the RTP/SCS and Environmental Impact Report in early 2018.

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

C. Financial Element - Project Scenarios/Revenue Projections Update (Suzanne Martinez) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that staff has completed the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) call for projects and received 3,143 projects from member agencies and Caltrans. Staff has entered these projects into the project scenario tool that was presented to this Roundtable at the July 2017 meeting. Modeling staff is working on modeling the projects that made it onto the constrained list for each of the four scenarios. The following chart is a summary of the number of projects that are being modeled:

	TOTAL PROJECTS SUBMITTED	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D
Bike & Ped >>	522	522	522	522	508
Cap Inc >>	358	347	347	347	354
Maintenance >>	1,925	1,915	1,915	1,922	1,833
Operations >>	264	262	262	264	262
Transit >>	74	74	74	74	74
TOTAL >>	3,143	3,120	3,120	3,129	3,031

The revenue projections for the 2018 RTP were developed using the following assumptions:

- The majority of revenue projections were developed using annual funding allocation estimates and extrapolating out the funds that could potentially be available from each of the funding sources for the next 25 years. Example funding sources include: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) [formerly Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)], Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Active Transportation (ATP).
- A 2 percent inflation rate was used for estimating future revenues.
- For competitive funding sources, such as Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), staff used a historical projection based on funding that has been awarded in previous years.
- Reauthorization of Measure C is assumed.
- Senate Bill 1 (SB1) funding is assumed for regional projects, such as ATP, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and State Highway Operation and Protection Plan (SHOPP) projects. [NOTE: the majority of SB1 funding that is allocated to Fresno County will be allocated directly to local agencies for local streets/roads projects].

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

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

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is preparing to release the four Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scenarios in October 2017 for public review and selection of a preferred SCS scenario. Each scenario hosts a regional transportation project list that mirrors the priorities of the scenario.

Fresno COG staff is putting together an outreach strategy that includes scenario presentations and an opportunity for all participants to select a scenario preference. This effort launches on October 7 at two events where Fresno COG will be hosting informational booths. COG staff and the mini grant recipients have 16 events and 12 presentations scheduled through October 29.

Staff is looking for additional rural events, opportunities for full presentations and means to advertise the online, interactive survey that will be available in English and Spanish. This outreach cycle will run from October 7 through November 9, 2017.

Staff provided a calendar of outreach opportunities. All outreach materials are under development at this time, but staff will provide a preview of the draft copies at the meeting.

Ms. Thompson (CRLA) inquired if there is a minimum group size needed for Fresno COG staff to come out to make a presentation and if hard copy of survey materials would be made available to those that do not have access to the internet. Ms. Veenendaal responded that there is not a minimum group size required and materials will be available for people to fill out.

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

E. Comment Letters from Stakeholder Groups (Kristine Cai/Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG has received two additional comment letters in September from several community groups raising issues and concerns regarding environmental justice, affordable housing, public participation, etc. Fresno COG staff has met with members of these community groups that sent these letters and have agreed upon an approach moving forward.

The two comment letters were provided in the agenda packet. The response letters are being reviewed by legal counsel and are not complete.

Several Roundtable members expressed their dissatisfaction and took offense to the tone and content of the letters. The comment letters' authors affirmed that they were intended to point out Fresno COG's legal requirements and obligations. Ms. Cai reaffirmed that Fresno COG is committed to complying with and instituting Title VI, Environmental Justice regulations and California Government Code §11135.

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

F. Draft Policy Element: Updated Text Regarding Protected Populations (Meg Prince/Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the RTP Roundtable, TTC and PAC have each approved the draft Policy Element. It will be brought to the Policy Board on September 28.

Since the August RTP Roundtable meeting, two community-based organizations have submitted comment letters requesting that the Element be updated to identify the specific groups of people that are protected by federal and state statutes.

Based on this request, staff has updated Goal B and Objective B.1 under Section 6.3.1 General Transportation Goals. The updated text is in bold as follows:

B. Goal: Improved mobility and accessibility for all, including the protected populations in accordance with federal and state statutes.

Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

California Government Code §11135 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, or sexual orientation by any agency that is funded directly by the state or receives any financial assistance from the state.

B.1 Objective: To incorporate principles for environmental justice into transportation planning and implementation decisions.

Presidential Executive Order 12898 - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations - focuses federal attention on the environmental and human health effects of federal actions on minority and low-income populations with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities.

Staff is requesting approval from the RTP Roundtable to update the text under Goal B as shown above. Staff will then request approval from TTC, PAC, and the Policy Board in October.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Terry (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Prandini (BIA) seconded to approve the updated Draft Policy Element. The motion passed.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Cai (FCOG) stated that due to the timeline to take the Environmental Justice report to TTC, PAC and Board, the first Roundtable meeting of the new year will be January 24, 2018 instead of February. An additional meeting in November may be requested.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members

Meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates:

October 25, 2017 from 2–4 p.m.

January 24, 2018 from 2-4 p.m.

AFTER MEETING: RTP Roundtable Member Spotlight - Adam Livingston, Environment

Members of the Public

Tony Molina, Fresno Bicycle Coalition

Mariah Thompson, CRLA, Inc.

Yer Lee, Toure Associates

Amy Hance, City of Clovis

Mary Savala, League of Women Voters

Fresno COG Staff

Kristine Cai

Trai Her-Cole

Brenda Veenendaal

Jennifer Soliz

Meg Prince

Seth Scott

Robert Phipps

Suzanne Martinez

Donna Blocker

Esperanza Velasco

Jeff Long

Jeanee Cervantes