

Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, November 16, 2017
5:30 PM

Members Attending:

Mayor Pro Tem Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
Mayor Nathan Vosburg, City of Coalinga
Mayor Brady Jenkins, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Mayor Rey León, City of Huron
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Councilmember Robert Beck, City of Reedley
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Michael Derr, City of Selma
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

Paul Marquez, Caltrans
Arthur Wille, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Absent:

Mayor Lee Brand, City of Fresno
Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 12 members representing 44.33% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Vice Chair.

Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of October 26, 2017 [APPROVE]
- B. 2018 Annual Fresno COG Meeting Calendar [APPROVE]
- C. First Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. City of Clovis Fiscal Year 2016-17 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. City of Fowler Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. Federal Transit Administration Authorizing Resolution (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]
- G. Transit Asset Management Target Setting (Muyi Zhou) [APPROVE]
- H. Update on the Fresno Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- I. Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and State Rail Assistance – Final Program Guidelines and Call for Projects (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- J. Infill Infrastructure Grant Notice of Funding Availability (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- K. Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Technical Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]
- L. On-call Contract with TJKM (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]
- M. Draft Action Element Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed. Members Leon, Beck, Castro and Yep abstain from the minutes of October 26, 2017.

Quorum: Firebaugh and Parlier entered 14 members present 46.73% of the population represented.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Plan Progress (Kristine Cai)

1. Sustainable Communities Strategy Fall 2017 Outreach and Responses (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released four Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scenarios on October 5, 2017 for public review and preferred scenario selection. Fresno COG staff's outreach strategy ran from September 20 to November 9 using a three-pronged approach. It included 11 scenario presentations given at existing group or organization meetings, 20 booths at community events throughout Fresno County and an online, interactive survey easily accessible via smart phone or computer. Outreach events and presentations were held in 11 communities, but survey responses were received from residents in 29 towns/cities, covering 50 zip codes throughout the county.

The survey outreach was designed to provide the TTC, PAC and Policy Board tools for understanding what Fresno County residents believe is important when planning for future growth. Staff reported that 1,339 completed scenario preference surveys were collected. A summary of all responses received was tallied, handed out and presented by staff at the meeting. All comments regarding the scenarios were also compiled and were available prior to the meeting on the www.YourVision2042.com and www.fresnocog.org.

The outreach calendar and materials were provided. All outreach materials were available in English and Spanish. They included:

- RTP/SCS Fact Sheets in English and Spanish
- Posters of each scenario - English only attached
- Scenario selection cards - our vehicle used to collect demographic data and participant preferences
- Scenario indicator performance details - English attached
- Presentation PowerPoint - English attached

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

2. Preferred Scenario Selection (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff has completed its third round of public outreach for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), with a focus on educating the public about the four scenarios produced, along with the analysis and modeling results for each. Participants were encouraged to share which of the four scenarios best aligns with their priorities and vision for Fresno County, as well as to provide feedback concerning any negative impacts, if any, they foresee for their community resulting from those scenarios.

Below is a summary of the four scenarios. All four meet the Air Resource Board's proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for the Fresno County region (-13 percent per capita GHG reduction by 2035 compared to 2005).

SCENARIO A:

- **Meets** the recommended GHG reduction target (13 percent)
- Highest investment in road maintenance and active transportation; lower investment in expanded roadway capacity; all transit projects funded
- Assumes **balanced** Countywide growth
- **Moderately aggressive** land-use strategies (lowest residential density and multi-family development) - identical to Scenario D
- **Significant improvement** in farmland conservation (58 percent less important farmland consumed than 2014 RTP)

SCENARIO B:

- **Exceeds** the recommended GHG reduction target (14 percent)
- Highest investment in road maintenance and active transportation; lower investment in expanded roadway capacity; all transit projects funded
- Assumes **more growth in Fresno-Clovis Metro Area** (5 percent increase by 2035, 21 percent decrease from rural jurisdictions)
- **Most aggressive** land-use strategies (highest projections for residential density, multi-family, and mixed-use development)
- **Vast improvement** in farmland conservation (88 percent less important farmland consumed than 2014 RTP)

SCENARIO C:

- **Meets** the recommended GHG reduction target (13 percent)
- Highest investment in road maintenance and active transportation; lower investment in expanded roadway capacity; all transit projects funded
- Assumes **more growth in small incorporated cities and unincorporated rural communities** (21 percent increase by 2035, 5 percent decrease from metro jurisdictions)
- **More aggressive** mixed-use and multi-family strategies
- **Improvement** in farmland conservation (24 percent less important farmland consumed than 2014 RTP)

SCENARIO D:

- **Meets** the recommended GHG reduction target (13 percent)
- High investment in road maintenance; moderate investment in expanded roadway capacity and active transportation; all transit projects funded
- Assumes **balanced** Countywide growth
- **Moderately aggressive** land-use strategies (lowest residential density and multi-family development) - identical to Scenario A
- **Significant improvement** in farmland conservation (58 percent less important farmland consumed than 2014 RTP)

Of the 1,339 public surveys tallied as of November 3, 33.9 percent selected **Scenario B** as the preferred option. **Scenario A** was close behind at 28 percent.

The RTP Roundtable, TTC and PAC each recommended **Scenario D** as the 2018 SCS's preferred scenario. Fresno COG staff recommends **Scenario D** as well. The details of the votes tallied at these meetings are detailed below:

RTP Roundtable (October 25): Motioned by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) and seconded by Mr. Prandini (BIA) to approve Scenario D. 9 Yes, 5 No (Monaco, Livingston, Brown, Prado, VonBerg). 2 Abstain (Mozier, Navarro).

Transportation Technical Committee (November 3): Motioned by Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) and seconded by Mr. Terry (Reedley) to approve Scenario D. 10 Yes, 2 No (City of Fresno and Mary Savala).

Policy Advisory Committee (November 3): Motioned by Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) and seconded by Mr. Elias (Selma) to approve Scenario D. 11 Yes, 1 No (City of Fresno).

Mariah Thompson (CRLA) stated she was the author of the letter submitted to Fresno COG. Ms. Thompson highlighted concerns of the public participation process, gave a brief overview of the civil rights obligations of Fresno COG and mentioned that Scenario A and B were preferred by the surveyed public and Scenario D was the least preferred. Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) responded that Scenario C was the least preferred Scenario. Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) stated that he would be curious to know of the people surveyed, how many of the people were in large density population areas compared to from the rural areas. He does not believe that the residents of Coalinga would prefer Scenario A or B.

Amanda Monaco (LCJA) providing translation.

Estella Ortega, resident of the City of Fresno Council District 7. Ms. Ortega stated that it is important to take public comment serious. As the residents of disadvantaged areas have the most knowledge as to what these areas need. There is a need to invest in existing communities, sidewalks, parks and maintenance of both. There is a need to invest in Calawa as well as rural areas. People from rural areas spend a lot of time and emissions driving into the city. Please take this into account when making the Regional Plan.

Amanda Monaco (LCJA) providing translation.

Isabel Solorio, resident of Lanare. Ms. Solorio stated that there are problems in disadvantaged communities. These communities lack sidewalks, street lights, waste water and it is unsafe to walk at night on streets. The community is polluted by trash and poverty. Where are the projects that were suggested at the workshop that was held by Fresno COG in Lanare and where are they on the project list? Air pollution is a huge problem. Air pollution is important the amount of gas being used to come to the cities is expensive and is also polluting the air. The residents of the disadvantaged communities are the ones who are planting, harvesting and creating the agricultural products that go to the cities. Where is a map that shows projects that are helping disadvantaged communities?

Amanda Monaco (LCJA) providing translation.

Joventino Gonzalez, resident of Lanare. Mr. Gonzalez stated that in my community we do not have street lights and waste water. There is no infrastructure and the community has been this way for 50 years. Water is being worked on and there is one waste water project that could materialize in 10 years. That will still be 60 years without the necessary infrastructure. I come to you to ask, if no one is going to listen to what our needs are, who do we talk to? I previously spoke to the Supervisor of the area and was told it was too costly. Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) responded that Fresno COG Policy Board is made up of members that represent different communities. The sole purpose of this body is transportation. The County Supervisor for the area is who needs to be contacted about concerns in Lanare.

Sandra Vasquez, resident of the City of Fresno Council District 7. Ms. Vasquez stated that there should be focus on existing communities, specifically low-income and disadvantaged communities. These communities do not have good schools, streets and poor public transit. Everyone has the right to clean air and clean water. There should be a program in place to help purchase electric cars at a lower cost for those of lower income.

Amanda Monaco (LCJA) stated that she works with disadvantaged communities such as Lanare and Cantua Creek. What has been expressed today, the public has expressed a preference. There are very few projects that will benefit the disadvantaged communities. There is a concern about not prioritizing environmental justice and disadvantaged communities on the project lists. She would like to see a map of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities and where the projects are on the map. Ms. Monaco, speaking for Adam Livingston of Sequoia Riverland Trust who could not attend, said Mr. Livingston encouraged the Board to push for more GHG reduction. If we can do more we should.

Mayor Leon (Huron) asked staff for a visualization of projects. Mr. Scott responded that that will be something that will be put together in the next round. There are 3,000 projects that have been submitted from all of the jurisdictions. Ms. Cai responded that the list of projects was provided to Leadership Council and the list can be sorted by City.

Angela (last name not recorded), Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC), partner of Sara Sharp, CCAC helped with the outreach effort. As an organization, CCAC support Scenario A and B.

Moses Stites (FCRTA) stated that as the only rural transit provider, having well maintained roads for public transit in the rural areas and into the urban area is important. FCRTA supports Scenario D.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) stated that the RTP Roundtable and Committees supported Scenario D and expressed his support for Scenario D. Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) expressed support for Scenario D.

After opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) seconded to approve Scenario D as the preferred scenario for the 2018 RTP/SCS. The motion passed.

B. Measure C Expenditure Plan Program Update Fiscal Year 2017-18 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the cost estimates for the Measure C Regional Transportation Program increased \$1.6 million from the prior plan. Revenues increased \$4.5 million, reducing the total overall deficit in the 20-year plan to \$267.7 million.

The urban program has estimated revenues of \$730.2 million and projected expenses of \$763.7 million, for a net deficit of \$33.5 million. Net project costs decreased \$5.4 million.

Approximately \$4.1 million in increased funding is provided for three projects in fiscal year (FY) 2017-18: Willow – Shepherd to Copper; Herndon – Temperance to DeWolf and; Shaw – DeWolf to McCall. Staff anticipates the Willow project will be the

initial candidate for the new Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Local Partnership Program. In addition, a \$2 million contingency has been restored to the State Route (SR) 41, SR 180 and SR 168 braided ramps projects until the final cost is available. The SR 180 West Landscaping project, scheduled in FY 2021-22, increased \$923,000.

Veterans Boulevard is anticipated to increase \$6.9 million from the previous plan. The project is expected to be ready to list in FY 2018-19. The urban plan provides two options for delivering Veterans Boulevard. The City of Fresno is applying for a \$44.5 million federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant. If the INFRA grant application is successful, the City intends to start construction in FY 2018-19, as required by the INFRA grant; however, if the grant is not successful, Measure C's Expenditure Plan provides an alternative to deliver the project in FY 2019-20 using State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Measure C and Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) funds. Delivering Veterans Boulevard in FY 2019-20 includes a tentative plan for the City to borrow \$13.4 million of its Measure C local allocation.

SR 99 – North to Cedar is anticipated to cost \$86 million, including 15 percent for environmental and design cost. About \$3 million in STIP APDE funding is programmed in FY 2018-19 to start the environmental process. Caltrans anticipates environmental work will be complete by October 1, 2021. Another \$43.4 million is programmed to start design and right-of-way in FY 2021-22. Finally, \$50.7 million for construction is scheduled in FY 2023-24.

The rural program has \$491.5 million in estimated revenues and \$725.7 million in planned expenses for a net deficit of \$234.2 million. Net project costs have increased \$6.98 million.

Following requests from local jurisdictions and the County, Mark Thomas Engineering has updated its 30 percent design specifications for Golden State Avenue and revised various scopes. The revised specifications call for enhanced pavement requirements per geotechnical testing; a realignment for Stroud, including a traffic signal and rail road requirements; moving a traffic signal from DeWolf to McCall; replacing a deteriorated bridge and culvert on the Fowler Switch Canal; various lighting and; extending the project limits from Lincoln Avenue back to American Avenue. The scope changes add \$5.5 million to the project, which is on schedule to begin construction in FY 2018-19. The plan carries 10 percent for construction engineering and a 20 percent contingency, which may be spread around to project components or reduced as design nears completion.

The next major project for the rural plan is SR 99 American Avenue interchange, one of five half-interchanges that allow traffic to get on the freeway going one direction and off from the other direction. The others are located at North, Cedar, Central and Chestnut. Together, they provide complete access to a growing industrial area and the proposed High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance facility. Because Caltrans no longer uses the half-interchange structure, the network of access points will have to be adjusted, reducing the number to three complete interchanges. For this reason, economies of scale will be realized by environmentally clearing all three interchanges at the same time.

Approximately \$350,000 is programmed in FY 2017-18 for a Project Study Report (PSR) for American Avenue, which due to the proximity to North/Cedar will likely include an analysis of the entire SR 99 corridor between the two interchanges and \$3.3 million in FY 2018-19 for environmental work. This coincides with the \$3 million APDE funding programmed for North/Cedar. Once environmental work is complete, Caltrans will better determine how construction should be phased; however, the plan joins the schedule for American with North\Cedar, programming \$7.2 million in design and right-of-way for American in FY 2021-22 and \$49.3 million in FY 2023-24 for construction. These estimates are based on very preliminary numbers that were devised in 2004 for the ballot. Actual costs will be better known once the PSR is complete.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Beck (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) seconded to approve the fiscal year 2017-18 update to the Measure C Regional Transportation Program. The motion passed.

C. Golden State Boulevard Project/Mark Thomas Contract Amendment (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that in April 2016, FCOG's Board entered into a \$3.7 million contract with Mark Thomas and Co. for design engineering the Golden State Boulevard project. The project is increasing in scope by approximately 10 percent. Consequently, Mark Thomas and Co. is asking for an increase of \$428,864 in its engineering design budget. The additional tasks mainly address the scope increase but also include a hydraulic analysis of the Fowler Switch Canal, geotechnical engineering for a pedestrian bridge over the canal and a traffic index for the Pavement Analysis.

Mayor Leon (Huron) asked if the renovation include a bike path. Mr. Arnest responded that it includes a class I and II bike path.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Castro (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve an increase of \$428,864 to the Mark Thomas and Company contract for design engineering of tasks that were not included in the original scope of the Golden State Boulevard contract. The motion passed.

D. Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Submittal Resolution 2017-38 (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FOCG) reported that at the September meeting, the Policy Board approved Fresno COG's Regional Improvement Program component to the 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allocation plan priorities:

1. Veterans Boulevard as the highest priority 2018 STIP project.
2. Designate State Route (SR) 99 North/Cedar Interchange as the second priority for 2018 STIP, project approval & environmental documentation (PA&ED) and plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) programming.
3. Right-of-way (ROW) for SR 41 Elkhorn to Kings County line.

During the 2016 STIP, Fresno COG programmed SR 180 West freeway landscaping. This project was delayed during the 2016 STIP due to funding constraints but is required mitigation for the SR 180 West from SR 99 to Hughes West. Caltrans will need to update the PS&E when the project closer to construction, increasing support costs \$245,000. Construction expenses will also increase by \$678,000, for a total increase of \$923,000. Staff recommends keeping existing programming of \$4.7 million in 2020/21 for SR 180 West freeway landscaping project.

For fiscal year (FY) 2019-20, the Veterans Boulevard project is recommended for \$14.6 million in construction from STIP County shares. The region has invested \$34.4 million in local funds to get this project ready to list and the City of Fresno has applied for a \$44.1 million Federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant. If the INFRA grant is not successful, the region proposes the \$116.7 million construction phase be paid with a combination of STIP, Measure C, development impact fees and local contributions from the City of Fresno.

Meanwhile, \$2 million is recommended for right-of-way (ROW) on the SR 41 Elkhorn to Kings County line project. Caltrans has proposed reprogramming \$8 million in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) towards this project for PS&E and ROW to complete the six-mile gap remaining on SR 41 between Kings and Fresno counties. Caltrans has agreed to propose that the project's \$52.4 million construction phase receive future ITIP funds and has requested the region contribute another \$4 million in STIP county shares when the construction funding is requested in FY 2024-25.

This brings the total programming against the FY 2019-20 target to \$16.6 million, in accordance with the California Transportation Commission's recommended minimum target.

The regional target for Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM), \$1.197 million, will be programmed in \$399,000 increments in FY 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

A new funding category -- Advanced Project Development Element (APDE) -- has been created to encourage shelf-ready projects. The APDE target applies against the county share balance, but not against the region's FY 2019-20 target. Fresno COG recommends programming \$3 million for environmental clearance and PA&ED on the SR 99 North/Cedar Interchange project. This project is on the Measure C Tier I list. Once the environmental document is complete, design, ROW and construction will be programmed with a combination of STIP and Measure C funds. Caltrans expects this project to be ready for construction in FY 2023-24.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Derr (Selma) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to adopting Resolution 2017-38 to submit Fresno COG's 2018 RTIP to the California Transportation Commission. The motion passed.

E. Caltrans Report (CALTRANS) [INFORMATION]

Paul Marquez (Caltrans) in the interest of time offered to forego the report.

Fresno COG Sitting as the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board

III. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the transportation policy committee. The motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

There are no Administrative Consent Items

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported:

Work Element 117 – The Measure C 2017 update includes an increased work scope for the Golden State Project, adding \$428,864 to the design contract with Mark Thomas Engineering.

Work Element 123 - Last year the Policy Board authorized a \$370,000 Federal Transit Administration 5304 grant-funded, Long-Range Transportation Plan that began late in the year, with only \$26,173 expended. Caltrans requires Fresno COG to adjust the budget to reflect the remaining balance.

Work Element 124 - Last year the Policy Board authorized a \$363,725 Federal Transit Administration 5304-funded Business Commute Options study performed by Fresno State and UC Denver that began in the year, with only \$914 expended. Caltrans requires Fresno COG to adjust the budget to reflect the remaining balance.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Beck (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve fiscal year 2017-18 Overall Work Program Budget Amendment No. 2 for \$401,777.

B. 2018 Fresno Council of Governments Legislative Platform (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that the legislative platform includes Fresno COG's policy priorities in state and federal legislative matters. It represents a unified voice when communicating legislative priorities to state and federal lawmakers, as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to Fresno COG staff and agency partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board. The 2017 Legislative Platform approved in February was provided. Staff requested comments to assist in updating the 2018 legislative platform. Staff encouraged and welcomed Board input to develop the Fresno COG 2018 legislative platform.

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

C. 2017 One Voice D.C. Priorities Update (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) provided an update on the progress of each of the priorities we took back to Washington DC on our 2017 One Voice Trip.

Veterans Boulevard – as discussed earlier the City of Fresno has submitted an application to Federal INFRA grant for \$46 Million to fund this project. Fresno COG has secured support from all of our state and federal representatives for the application. This is credited to the successful meetings in DC, preparing our legislature/staff and making them aware before of the project in advance. Awards should be announced the second quarter of 2018.

State Route 269 Bridge – A meeting with the EPA and the ACOE facilitated the advancement of the local review and helped to overcome the remaining roadblocks. ACOE 404 permit, was holding up the process, but it is now in final review. There are no indications that the permit will not be approved. A ground breaking will be in October 2018.

There were several Workforce Development Priorities to request Department of Transportation (DOT) for uniform and consistent policies for on the job training and targeted hiring. These are policy changes that have a larger overall impact and will take some time as it moves through the process. The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has been in the lead and will continue to pursue it. These projects include:

- Establishing a Central Valley Forestry Corps. The Trump Administration approved a disaster declaration for California that makes FEMA funds available. The WIB is pursuing these funds and have requested \$10 million for the program.
- High speed rail training hub. The Department of Commerce contacted the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to help the EDC pursue and obtain federal grants for this training hub.
- Sustainable aviation project. This was a request for a regulatory change in FAA rules for electrified aircrafts. CALSTART is working with the FAA to get the air-worthy certification and letter of deviation authority.

- Establishing a regional partnership in the San Joaquin Valley and its mountain communities comprising Workforce Development Boards, Local Conservation Corps and California Community Colleges to implement a five-year project--the Central Valley Forestry Corps --with costs estimated in the \$13 million range. Together we will recruit, train and deploy 1,000 young adults to remove dead trees and plant new ones.

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

D. 2018 One Voice Trip (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG will host its 2018 One Voice D.C. trip April 22-26, 2018. Staff is issuing its annual call for regional priorities, focusing on a strong transportation nexus or component, as well as its call for sponsorships.

Please submit any proposed regional priorities using the attached white paper template, including all information needed to educate federal elected officials, administration staff and other decision makers regarding your priority's requests and significance to the region, as well any maps, photos or other visuals available. All proposed recommendations must be submitted electronically to Trai Her-Cole at traih@fresnocog.org by 5 p.m. Thursday, January 5, 2018.

For those resubmitting a previous year's priority, please provide an updated white paper for review and consideration. Staff encourages new regional priorities as well. The One Voice Steering Committee will review and select the 2018 priorities and recommend a regional priority listing for March 2018 approval by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Any agency submitting more than one regional issue for consideration should identify them in priority order. Please follow the format in the attached template for all new and existing regional priority requests. The template includes a sample priority for reference. The Microsoft Word template will be provided electronically upon request.

In addition, a copy of Fresno COG's 2018 One Voice sponsorship letter was provided. The packet also contains a sponsorship solicitation letter and participant form. Member jurisdictions and other interested parties are asked to broadcast both the call for projects and sponsors to other agencies, organizations and businesses that have expressed an interest in regional transportation-related affairs. Sponsorship requests or questions may be directed by email to Robert Phipps at rphipps@fresnocog.org.

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that there will be no meeting in December.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that Amtrak is going to have an early morning express route that will get passengers to Sacramento by 7:45 a.m. Due to needed improvements on the tracks; it will be delayed six months.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that the High Speed Rail Authority has chosen a German consultant.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) reported that he testified before the Water Commission. The Water Infrastructure Authority Board will be honor Jose Ramirez for his support and fight for water.
- Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) reported that the first Fresno County Elected Womens dinner on October 30. It was a great networking opportunity. The next meeting they will discuss youth, immigration and marijuana ordinances. The next meeting will be January 29, in Kingsburg and Valley Children's Hospital will be the sponsor.
- Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) reported that at the request of Mayor Jenkins, City of Firebaugh, the Board will start to do the flag salute start in January 2018.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations –

There were no public presentations.

Adjourn to FCRTA at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Isabel Solorio, Lanare Resident
Amanda Monaco, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
Joventino Gonzalez, Lanare Resident
Alberto Sanchez
Lala Carbajal
Roger Brown, Fresno Citizen
Angela Islas, CRLA
Mariah Thompson, CRLA
Sandra Vasquez, Fresno City Resident
Denise DiBenedetto, FCTA
Mike Leonardo, FCTA
J. Constantino, Consulate of Mexico
Estella Ortega, Fresno City Resident

Staff

Robert Phipps
Les Beshears
Kristine Cai
Brenda Veenendaal
Seth Scott
Trai Her-Cole
Jennifer Soliz
Meg Prince
Lang Yu
Muyi Zhou
Peggy Arnest
Jeaneen Cervantes
Moses Stites