

Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable
Meeting Summary
October 25, 2017
2:00 PM

RTP Members Present

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

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Joe Prado

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Mr. Prado (Fresno County Dept. Public Health), Vice 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 September 27, 2017 Meeting Summary [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Kroll (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) seconded to approve the September 27, 2017 meeting summary. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that the draft Action Element was presented to the RTP Roundtable at the September meeting. A comment letter was received from Leadership Council and Community Equity Coalition partners on October 19. Fresno COG staff did not have time to respond to the letter prior to the Roundtable meeting on October 25. The draft Action Element will be brought back to the Roundtable for approval in January 2018.

Members requested to see the response letters and any proposed changes to the Action Element as soon as they are available.

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

C. 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 for public review and selection of a preferred scenario on October 5. Fresno COG staff's outreach strategy includes 12 scenario presentations at existing group or organization meetings, 16 booths at community events throughout Fresno County and an online survey easily accessible via smart phone or computer. By October 17, Fresno COG staff had received more than 440

completed scenario preference surveys. All responses received prior to the October RTP Roundtable meeting were tallied and will be reported for recommendation of a preferred scenario.

Staff is also looking for additional opportunities for presentations and to advertise the online, interactive survey – available in English and Spanish -- through November 9 at YourVision2042.com. Fresno COG staff requests a link be added to local agency and partnering websites directing interested residents to the interactive surveys. Any other promotional opportunities are welcomed.

An outreach calendar and copies of available materials were provided. All outreach materials are available in English and Spanish. They include the following:

- 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 information only, no further action was required.

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

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff is undergoing its third round of public outreach concerning the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), with a focus on educating the public about the four scenarios produced, along with the analysis and modeling results for each. Participants are 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 not chosen.

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

SCENARIO A:

- High investment in road maintenance, low investment in expanded roadway capacity
- Assumes balanced Countywide growth
- Most conservative land-use strategies (lowest residential density and multi-family, with moderate transit-oriented development for new growth) - identical to Scenario D
- Performs moderately well with regards to health indicators and farmland conservation

SCENARIO B:

- High investment in active transportation and road maintenance, low investment in expanded roadway capacity
- Assumes higher growth in Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (5% increase by 2035)
- Most aggressive projections for residential density, multi-family and transit-oriented development for new growth
- Exhibits highest performance for health indicators and farmland conservation, including an average 1 percent increase in GHG emissions reduction compared to other scenarios

SCENARIO C:

- High investment in road maintenance and in serving disadvantaged populations, low investment in expanded roadway capacity
- Assumes higher growth in small cities and rural communities (5 percent increase by 2035)
- Land-use projections conservative with regards to residential density and transit-oriented development, moderately aggressive with regards to multi-family development
- Performs moderately well with regards to health indicators and farmland conservation

SCENARIO D:

- High investment in road maintenance, moderate investment in expanded roadway capacity
- Assumes balanced Countywide growth
- Most conservative projections for residential density, multi-family and transit-oriented development for new growth (identical to Scenario A)

- Performs moderately well with regards to health indicators and farmland conservation

Fresno COG staff requests a preferred scenario recommendation from the RTP Roundtable.

Members discussed GHG reduction targets. The Scenario that is chosen will set the floor for what ARB may ask of in the next round. It should be a target that we can achieve now and in the future. Another opinion stated was that the region should strive for the most reduction. The difference between scenarios is a fraction of a percent. Staff responded that the ARB will announce the target for the region on November 16. At that time we will know if we will be able to meet the target. A region will need to have an SCS in order to be eligible for SB1 planning grant funding. Staff also stated that although one percentage or a fraction of a percent may not be seen as much, but MPOs are struggling to achieve. Fresno COG is able to set a more aggressive target.

Members discussed that all the scenarios have nuances between them. Going forward, changing the description and pictures depicting the scenarios could help better differentiate and define each scenario. Staff responded that it is our intention to present to the advisory committees and Policy Board a more data driven presentation.

It was suggested that the public participation should be completed before bringing it to the advisory bodies for recommendation of a preferred scenario. A response to this was made that the public input and a recommendation from the Roundtable are all pieces of the whole decision making process. And in the interest of the process the Roundtable should make a recommendation based on what has been presented to date, with the full understanding that the data will be updated as it comes time to be presented to the TTC, PAC and Policy Board.

It was reiterated that all scenarios are within the constraints of the member agency's general plans. All scenarios meet proposed targets and are ambitious. It will be up to the member agencies how aggressive they will be to achieve these goals. It is important to maintain existing investments.

After opportunity for public comment, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Prandini (BIA) seconded to approve Scenario D as the preferred scenario for the 2018 RTP/SCS. The motion passed. 9 Yes, 5 No (Monaco, Livingston, Brown, Prado, VonBerg). 2 Abstain (Mozier, Navarro).

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the next RTP Roundtable meeting will be in January. The draft Action Element and Environmental Justice will be brought to the Roundtable at the January meeting.
- Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that an Environmental Justice subcommittee meeting will be called in December.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates:

January 31, 2018, from 2-4 p.m.

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

Members of the Public

Amy Hance, City of Clovis

Jim Grant, Diocese of Fresno

Mary Savala, League of Women Voters

Mariah Thompson, CRLA, Inc.

Renee Mathis, City of Clovis

Fresno COG Staff

Kristine Cai, Trai Her-Cole, Brenda Veenendaal, Jennifer Soliz, Seth Scott, Robert Phipps, Suzanne Martinez, Esperanza Velasco, Jeff Long, Lang Yu, Muye Zhou, Kai Han, Jeanee Cervantes