

Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, February 22, 2018
5:30 PM

Members Attending:

Mayor Pro Tem Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
Mayor Nathan Vosburg, City of Coalinga
Mayor Felipe Perez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Parra, City of Fowler
Mayor Lee Brand, City of Fresno
Mayor Rhonda Armstrong, City of Kerman
Councilmember Belayney, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Anita Betancourt, City of Reedley
Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

Gail Miller, Caltrans
Arthur Wille, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Absent:

Mayor Rey León, City of Huron

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 13 members representing 87.5% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Coalinga, Fowler, Fresno, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Dhaliwal (San Joaquin), Chair.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of January 12, 2018 [APPROVE]
- B. Second Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. City of Fresno Fiscal Year 2017-18 Transportation Development Act Claim Resolution 2018-05 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Annual Transit Productivity Evaluation Report (Jeff Long) [ACCEPT]
- E. Appointments to the Fresno COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) (Jeff Long) [APPROVE]
- F. Regional Transportation Plan Draft Action Element (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- G. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- H. Initiation of Annual Unmet Needs Process (Jeff Long) [INFORMATION]
- I. 2018 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Survey (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- J. Fresno COG Fiscal Year 2016-17 Audits (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- K. Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Available Positions (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Castro (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Draft Overall Work Program 45 Day Review (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported on the highlights of the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 Overall Work Program (OWP). The FY 2018-19 budget is \$19 million, which is a 15 percent decrease from last year. Upcoming projects and planning: \$160,000 for Sustainable Planning Grant program, funded by Senate Bill 1 (SB1); \$150,000 for the Blackstone and Shaw study; \$30,000 for the State Route Mountain View interchange; \$300,000 for the Reverse Triangle planning project; \$334,000 for a Pavement Management System, funded by SB1; \$164,000 for a long-range sustainable community public transportation plan; \$62,000 for High Speed Rail planning; \$136,000 for the Airport Land Use Plan and; \$873,000 for Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS). Upcoming programs: \$5.86 million to implement the Fresno State Transportation Institute and FCRTA electric buses; \$750,000 for the Senior Taxi Scrip program; \$100,000 for the circuit planner/engineer and ; \$150,000 for Freeway Service Patrol. Staffing: There are no new staff positions; however, there are two vacant positions that Fresno COG is looking to fill. Six percent has been set aside for salary increases and 3 percent for benefit increases. Facilities: Fresno COG is on the second year of a ten-year lease.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Brand (Fresno City) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem (Selma) seconded to authorize Fresno COG staff to release the Draft Fresno Council of Governments fiscal year 2018-19 Overall Work Program and budget for a 45-day review and comment period. The motion passed.

B. Regional Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Guidelines and Application Packet (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that the Regional Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program (SIPGP) is one of three Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation programs that the Fresno COG Policy Board directs during the 2014 RTP/SCS adoption process. In October 2017, the Board approved formula funds from Caltrans' Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) planning grant program for the regional SIPGP.

SB 1 grant funding is intended to support and implement local and regional multimodal transportation and land-use planning that furthers the region's RTP/SCS, contributes to the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and other state goals, addresses the disadvantaged communities' needs and also assists in the guidelines' overarching objectives. Regional guidelines were developed based on statewide guidelines and input from the sub-committee. The SIPGP sub-committee met several times since September 2017 to develop guidelines and the application packet for the first cycle. Once the Board approves the guidelines and application packet, the call for projects will be initiated. Simultaneously, Fresno COG will also solicit applications for the anticipated fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 Cycle 2 round of funding. Cycle 2 projects will not be contractually obligated until Fresno COG's FY 2018-19 Overall Work Program is approved.

The sub-committee comprised members from our local agencies, Caltrans, community-based organizations and non-profit organizations. Staff thanked all stakeholders for their participation, feedback and collaboration in developing this regional program.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Beck (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Castro (Mendota) seconded to approve the SIPGP guidelines and application packet.

Firebaugh entered. There were 14 members representing 88.32% of the population.

C. Surface Transportation Block Grant Regional Bid Recommendations (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that on September 28, 2017 the Fresno COG Policy Board issued a formal call for projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) regional bid and lifeline process. The available funding for this round is \$11,496,344.

Staff received 44 applications requesting more than \$51 million in funding. On January 9, 2018 the STBG scoring committee convened, reviewed the applications and made its recommendations. The recommendations, lifeline and funding amounts per agency and per urban and rural splits were provided.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) motioned and Supervisor Quintero (Fresno County) seconded to approve of the scoring committee's recommendations for the 2017-18 RSTP call for projects. Approved projects will be programmed for funding in the 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Member Zieba (Reedley) opposed. The motion passed.

Clovis entered. There were 15 members representing 99.3% of the population.

D. Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan Negative Declaration Adoption (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Rod Brown, Fehr & Peers presented to the Policy Board.

Fresno COG developed a Regional Active Transportation Plan (R-ATP) to provide a comprehensive document outlining the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. The R-ATP was developed in coordination with Fresno COG's member agencies, the general public and stakeholder groups such as local bicycling groups, walking advocates, educational institutions and disadvantaged communities.

The R-ATP is intended to help Fresno COG's member agencies better compete for funding sources that support ATPs and to satisfy California Transportation Commission (CTC) requirements. The cities of Clovis, Fresno, Selma and Coalinga have recently prepared or will soon complete their own ATPs; conclusions from those plans are incorporated into this R-ATP. Fresno COG's 12 other member agencies can rely on the R-ATP to satisfy CTC requirements.

One of the project's main goals is to create a network of safe and attractive trails, sidewalks and bikeways that connect Fresno County residents to key destinations -- especially local schools, parks and transit. The networks include shared-use paths, bike lanes and routes, sidewalks and crosswalk improvements. Other goals are to create a network of regional bikeways that allow bicyclists to safely ride between cities and other regional destinations, and to increase regional walking and bicycling trips by creating user-friendly facilities. Details of each jurisdiction's networks are presented in R-ATP Chapters 6 to 17. The networks were developed with the following primary considerations:

- Connectivity to key destinations, especially schools, parks and transit
- Collision history
- Previous plans
- Connections to adjacent jurisdictions' networks
- Public comment

Obtaining resident input was an important part of R-ATP development. The public helped identify recommended improvements to bicycling and walking facilities as well as project priorities. Participation was solicited through:

- Interactive workshops held in early June in each city early in the planning process with city staff, local schools, local interest groups and the public;
- An online, crowdsourced, interactive map, with both English and Spanish captions;
- Outreach via email and local community groups;
- Including the R-ATP in workshops held across the county to receive input on the development of a new Fresno COG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
- A Fresno COG-hosted website to communicate the project schedule, share project documents and provide general information about the plan process; and
- Workshops arranged by each city in early August to obtain public input on recommended networks.

Because the complete R-ATP is so large, this link is provided for access to the document:

<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/active-transportation/>.

The first five chapters contain:

1. Introduction
2. Relationship to other plans and policies
3. Existing conditions
4. Planned networks and program
5. Implementation

Chapters 6–17 are devoted to each jurisdiction's status and future plans. Chapter 18 includes content from cities with current ATPs. The Appendix contains:

1. Plan conformance with the CTC's ATP guidelines
2. Public participation
3. Relationship to state and federal plans and policies
4. Project priorities and cost estimates
5. Funding sources
6. Jurisdictional resolutions adopting the plan*

* Jurisdiction resolutions are one of the ATP components the CTC requires. Fresno COG staff will follow up with city and county staff on this matter.

Fresno COG has prepared a Program Initial Study/Negative Declaration, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The R-ATP contains various programs, policies and recommendations that pertain to bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Fresno County. Projects are identified at a conceptual level for the Fresno County R-APT. Specific development is not being proposed under the regional plan and adopting the CEQA document would not authorize any development.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Whalen (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to adopt the Negative Declaration for the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan through Resolution 2018-03. The motion passed

E. Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan Approval (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that a description of the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) activities was included in the summary in the previous item. The Regional ATP includes all the elements the California Transportation Commission requires for ATPs, as well as a separate chapter for the County and each of the 11 cities involved. Both the draft plan and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document were released for a 39-day comment period.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Whalen (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve Resolution 2018-04, adopting the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan. The motion passed

F. Regional Transportation Plan Update (Kristine Cai)

1. Environmental Justice Analysis (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that the Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is intended to measure both the benefits and burdens associated with the transportation investments in the 2018 RTP, and to ensure that the EJ communities living within Fresno County share equitably in the benefits of the Plan's investments without bearing a disproportionate share of the burdens.

EJ addresses equal and fair access to a healthy environment, with the goal of protecting minority and low-income communities from disproportionate negative environmental impacts. The analysis helps policymakers, local jurisdictions and the public understand the equity-related implications of implementing the RTP in the region, especially in the disadvantaged communities.

The draft EJ Analysis was provided for the Committee's review and consideration. Comments should be sent to Trai Her-Cole by February 7. The final draft will be published with draft RTP and draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Comment letters received from the CRLA and Leadership Council on the Draft EJ Analysis was provided, as well as staff's response to the letters.

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

2. Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) requires that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) update greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the 18 regions every eight years. CARB established the first targets in 2010 and must update them by 2018. In 2010, the eight San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) received reduction targets of 5 percent for 2020 and 10 percent for 2035. Due to various reasons, the CARB Board was not able to establish new targets in 2017. CARB will be hosting workshops statewide in January and February 2018 to solicit public input on the new, proposed frameworks and targets. The CARB Board is expected to approve final targets in March or April 2018.

Due to the timing of the new targets and the progress of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) in the Valley, CARB acknowledges that the new targets won't be applied to the 2018 RTP/SCS. CARB staff has proposed 6 percent reduction for 2020 and 13 percent reduction for 2035 for the Fresno region. The targets of 5 percent in 2020 and 10 percent in 2035 will be measured against the 2018 RTP/SCS. Fresno COG's 2018 RTP/SCS is expected to achieve the 5 and 10 percent targets.

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

G. Caltrans Update (CALTRANS) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Miller (Caltrans) reported:

- State Route (SR) 99 realignment to accommodate High Speed Rail between Clinton and Ashlan Avenue. Clinton Avenue is now open and was reopened on schedule. Northbound SR 99 off-ramp for Clinton is also open. Contractors is scheduled to open the new southbound on ramp from Clinton this week. The temporary Shields Avenue on and off ramps to and from southbound SR 99 and northbound Golden State Boulevard on ramp remain open while the contractor works on constructing the new southbound SR 99 on and off ramps and the northbound on ramp to and from Clinton Avenue. Coordination efforts continue with the City of Fresno, local businesses and residents to work through specific issues and concerns that arise from the construction activities. Considering all of the components of the project, it has been successful and is continuing to progress.
- Kings Canyon Expressway 3; the contractor is working on clearing the embankment and finishing the bridges.
- The Mendota passing lane on State Route 180. Final paving and installation of lighting the two intersections is the remaining work and is anticipated to start up in late March or early April.
- State Route 41 auxiliary lanes from M Street to the Tulare overcrossing. The project was awarded January 11. Contract was approved on February 2. Construction is anticipated to begin in late March or early April.
- Metering is being installed at SR 99 ramp at southbound Shaw and Ashlan Avenues.
- Auxiliary lane from Olive to Belmont Avenue; this project was awarded. It will be closed until March 13.

Mayor Whalen (Clovis) expressed thanks Caltrans for the work on the dedication of the Harry Armstrong Enter-change. Mayor Whalen also express the continued back up on SR 168 as it transitions to SR41. Mayor Whalen asked that Caltrans look into is causing the back-up, what can be done to modify the current situation and to provide follow-up.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Monthly Legislative Report (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) motioned and Mayor Castro (Mendota) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. One Voice Washington, DC Trip Priorities (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's One Voice Steering Committee has recommended seven regional priorities for the 2018 One Voice D.C. trip, scheduled for April 21-26, 2018. A summary table and white papers exploring each of the topics was provided. Those priorities are:

- Veterans Boulevard funding (City of Fresno)
- Millerton Road funding (County of Fresno)
- Federal transportation infrastructure funding match requirements (Fresno COG)
- Farm-to-market road maintenance funding (Fresno COG)
- High-speed rail training facility/workforce (Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission & Fresno County Economic Development Department)
- Community Services Block Grant/Community Economic Opportunity Act (Fresno EOC)
- Support states' rights and their ability to regulate the legalization of commercial cannabis without federal government interference (City of Coalinga)

Staff has divided the priorities under three major headings: Transportation Infrastructure/Policies, Regional Workforce/Economic Development Opportunities and Other.

Recognizing potential conflicts of interest, Coalinga Mayor Nathan Vosburg proposed, and the Steering Committee accepted, his offer to separate the commercial cannabis issue from the other priorities and to not include it among the speaking points for the One Voice delegation; however, Committee members approved using Fresno COG lobbyist Simon and Company to broker and coordinate separate meetings for interested delegates regarding commercial cannabis.

Mayor Brand (Fresno City) stated that the list of projects and priorities should be kept narrow. Mayor Whalen (Clovis) asked for a follow-up report on the previous year One Voice trip and how projects and priorities are moving forward. Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) responded she will provide a quarterly update at the March Policy Board meeting.

There was discussion amongst the members to include immigration to the priority list. A meeting is scheduled to take place on February 23 with local elected officials and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) motioned to table this item to March, seconded by Mayor Castro (Mendota). The motion passed.

Jeff Roberts, Granville Homes addressed the Policy Board and provided support for the One Voice Trip.

B. Regional Pavement Management System Implementation (Kristine Cai/Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that a pavement management system is a tool to plan roadway network maintenance and repair to optimize pavement conditions over time. Fresno COG proposes to use Fresno COG's SB1 formula grant to develop a Regional Pavement Management System (RPMS) that includes individual pavement management systems for the nine jurisdictions that don't already have such a tool. Those jurisdictions are: Coalinga, Fowler, Firebaugh, Huron, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, San Joaquin and Selma.

The RPMS provides a pavement condition assessment by roadway functional class, cost estimates by different maintenance treatments, and calculates a Pavement Condition Index (PCI). The system is a great tool for roadway maintenance budget planning and can help ease communication among local government staff, the city council and residents regarding roadway maintenance topics.

The RPMS will use StreetSaver, a pavement management system developed and maintained by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in the Bay Area, which has been widely used on the West Coast. COG has reserved \$326,000 for this project, which will cover the first-year license fee, setting up the system, initial roadway condition assessment, PCI calculations, staff training and a final report for each of the nine jurisdictions. The jurisdictions benefiting from the RPMS are expected to pay the annual license fees (\$1,500) after the first year and update the system every three years. A cost estimate has been provided to each of the nine jurisdictions for reference. The TTC approved this item in October 2017, but it was tabled by the PAC over concerns about future commitment to maintaining the system. Fresno COG reached out to all nine jurisdictions in January 2018 and requested that cities included in the RPMS sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Fresno COG agreeing to pay for the annual license fee

and updates every three years. An RFP is expected to be issued in March that includes interested cities that are committed to maintaining the system.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Robertson (Selma) seconded to approve the Regional Pavement Management System for interested cities that are committed to maintaining the system. The motion passed.

C. Overall Work Program Amendment No. 3 (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported:

Work Element 140 – In October 2017 the Fresno Policy Board approved the Sustainable Infrastructure Planning program for \$160,278.

Work Element 141 – On the agenda is a recommendation to create a \$334,014 Pavement Management System to assist some of the rural cities monitor their road networks.

Work Element 210 – In March 2017 the Fresno COG Policy Board adopted Resolutions 2017-03 and 2017-04 awarding \$2,977,889 in Measure C New Technologies funding to Fresno State's Transportation Institute and \$2,536,321 to Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's Electric Bus/Rail Connector Service.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) seconded to authorize fiscal year 2017-18 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 3 for \$6,008,502. The motion passed.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported on President Trump's infrastructure plan proposal which is a transportation financing option, not transportation funding. The federal government would auction excess assets and the funds raised would go to the one hundred poorest cities in the country for infrastructure projects.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Whalen (Clovis) commended Fresno COG staff on the Active Transportation Plan and Pavement Management System which will provide all the member agencies the opportunity to apply for funds that they would not have qualified for before without these tools in place.
- Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) stated that it may not always be equitable to keep such a narrow focus on the priorities that are taken on the One Voice trip. A narrow focus in turn limits the focus on some of the smaller cities. All member agencies should have the opportunity to bring priorities forward and use our lobbyist to help get the attention of legislators.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Adjourned to FCRTA meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public: No public present

Staff: Robert Phipps, Les Beshears, Kristine Cai, Jennifer Soliz, Trai Her-Cole, Peggy Arnest, Meg Prince, Jeaneen Cervantes