

**FRESNO COG POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
Thursday, March 29, 2018
5:30 PM**

Members Attending:

Mayor Pro Tem Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
Mayor Nathan Vosburg, City of Coalinga
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Councilmember Clint Olivier, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey León, City of Huron
Mayor Rhonda Armstrong, City of Kerman
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg
Councilmember Robert Silva, 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 Pro Tem Scott Robertson, City of Selma

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

Absent:

Mayor Felipe Perez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 11 members representing 78.763% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Fresno, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Reedley, Sanger and Selma).

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Vice Chair.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of February 22, 2018 [APPROVE]
- B. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Report (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- C. Economic Impacts of Senate Bill 1 on California (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
- D. Regional Transportation Plan Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Councilmember Silva (Mendota) abstained from the minutes of February 22, 2018. Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) provided a correction to the minutes. She attended the meeting not Councilmember Belayney.

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure C Agricultural Worker Outreach Proposals (Donna Blocker/Esperanza Velazco) [APPROVE]

Ms. Blocker (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG received four responses to its request for outreach proposals to promote Measure C's Ag Worker Vanpool Program by the February 5 deadline. Staff recommends funding three of the four at \$25,000 each.

Staff released its request for proposals (RFP) from community-based organizations and others to implement diverse and extensive grassroots outreach to people who may qualify for subsidies under Measure C's Ag Worker Vanpool (AVP) program. The goal is to double annual participation and ridership from an average of 50 vanpools to more than 100.

Approximately 0.6 percent of Measure C funds are applied to AVP (formerly known as the Farmworker Vanpool Program), as subsidies to help farm laborers pay for their transportation to job sites when they ride in an approved vanpool. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis until exhausted. All participating groups are required to use an authorized vanpool provider or form an employer-sponsored vanpool. Owner-operator vanpools are not eligible.

Measure "C" funds subsidize ag worker vanpools that originate within Fresno County. These funds are designed to spark new vanpools. A weekly lease subsidy pays \$30 for each day of operation (not to exceed \$150 in one week) for up to one year. This subsidy may be renewed on an annual basis.

The scoring committee unanimously agreed to award the following agencies \$25,000 each. Participation goals were set by applicants:

- **Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities (CBDIO)** - Proposed reaching 1,400 individuals to form 10 new qualified vanpools. CBDIO will conduct a combination of community events and workshops in addition to a door to door community outreach to promote the Measure C AgWorker Vanpool program. Radio spots will also be aired with Univision and Radio Bilingue's La Hora Mixteca program. CBDIO's outreach is unique, focusing on indigenous Oaxacan agriculture communities.
- **Office of Community and Economic Development- Fresno State (OCED)** - Proposed reaching 20,000 individuals to form 25 new, qualified vanpools. OCED will conduct a combination of community events and workshops in addition to door-to-door community outreach. OCED will also use radio, television and social media. Ag labor communities, contractors and worksites will be contacted to promote the program.
- **California Vanpool Authority (CalVans)** - Proposed reaching 2,000 individuals to form 75-100 new qualified vanpools. Calvans will conduct a combination of community events and workshops. Calvans operates 66 ag worker vanpools in Fresno County, regularly holds events and conducts activities to encourage workers already using the program and to engage others who may be interested.

Outreach will begin April 2018 and run through the end of the year.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Robertson (Selma) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to authorize the Executive Director to sign \$25,000 contracts for the three community-based organizations above for public outreach services promoting Measure C's Agricultural Vanpool program. The motion passed.

B. Golden State - Union Pacific Railroad Letter of Commitment (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that plans are being prepared to rehabilitate portions of the Golden State Boulevard Corridor. The project limits span from the intersection of Mission and Simpson Street in the City of Kingsburg to 500 feet south of the intersection of American Avenue and Golden State Boulevard in the City of Fowler.

Proposed improvements will be constructed within the City of Kingsburg, City of Selma, City of Fowler and County of Fresno. The proposed scope of work includes pavement rehabilitation, striping improvements, intersection

signalization at certain intersections, signal modifications for existing signalized intersections and roadway realignment of Stroud Avenue in the City of Kingsburg.

Mark Thomas Engineering has completed the 30 percent design specifications for Golden State and is proceeding with the 60 percent design. Because the Golden State Corridor runs parallel to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), all intersections associated with the project cross the railroad. Accordingly, UPRR must approve the specifications at all intersections in the design, right of way and construction to coordinate signalization and ensure railroad safety features.

Mark Thomas Engineering is working to schedule a field review with the railroad, however, UPRR is unwilling to participate until it has assurances it will be reimbursed for any cost incurred for collaborating in the project's preliminary engineering and other activities. The initial request was for \$650,000; however, Mark Thomas has negotiated the initial commitment down to \$350,000. After the scoping meeting and UPRR have reviewed the 30 percent design specification, it will provide a more refined estimate for preliminary engineering costs. The railroad will require Fresno COG or Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) to enter into separate license, right-of-entry, construction and maintenance agreements associated with the project as it is approved and proceeds toward construction. Fresno COG and FCTA will amend the cooperative agreement when appropriate to cover these costs and make appropriate changes to the Expenditure Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Robertson (Selma) asked if the \$350,000 will come from the money that is reserved for this project and when construction would begin. Ms. Arnest responded that funds will come out of the design portion of the reserve and construction is scheduled to begin in 2020. Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) stated that outreach is being done to let the businesses know about how they will be affected by the realignment.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Letter of Commitment to UPRR up to \$350,000 for preliminary engineering design and review and to request a detail invoice of the work that was done. The motion passed.

Parlier and Huron entered. There were 13 members representing 81.03% of the population.

C. Amendment No. 5 to the Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that over the last several years, Fresno COG and the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) in consultation with Caltrans and member agencies have been examining different short- and long-term strategies to clean up litter found along the region's freeways, highways and major arterials. To that end, a draft Measure C-funded Litter Abatement Program (see attached memo) has been developed for consideration by both boards. At a February 14, 2018 meeting, FCTA Executive Director Mike Leonardo presented to the Board the conceptual framework (see attached memo) for consideration and direction. The FCTA Board supported the litter cleanup strategies identified and authorized Mr. Leonardo to begin working with Fresno COG to develop a Measure C Litter Abatement Program that could ultimately be adopted and implemented by Fresno COG and FCTA.

Given that the Measure C Expenditure Plan approved by voters in 2006 did not include funding for a regional Litter Abatement Program (LAP), the first step in that process is to formally amend the 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan to set aside funding from the Regional Program. In addition, the LAP would also include a modification to the eligibility criteria for the Measure's Local Transportation Flexible Program that flows directly to local jurisdictions to include litter abatement as an allowable use. This would make Local Flexible funding eligible to meet the "local match" requirement of the newly created LAP.

To recap, Measure C Amendment No. 5 has two components:

1. A modification to eligibility criteria for the Measure C Local Transportation Flexible Program to include litter abatement as an allowable use.
2. Allows for formation of a two-year demonstration Measure C Litter Abatement Program that requires a partnership among Fresno County Transportation Authority, Caltrans District 06 and interested local member agencies.

The two-year demonstration Measure C LAP is founded on the principle that litter is a “community problem,” and therefore a variety of funding sources (state/regional/local) should be applied to address the situation. To maximize the Caltrans match, the LAP program would be limited to state highways only. With that in mind, the two-year LAP program would look as follows:

Two Year Litter Abatement Program Demonstration Program			
Source of Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Regional Transportation LAP (Measure C)	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$250,000
Local Agency Match	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$250,000
Caltrans	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Total Litter Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

LAP funding would be available to any eligible agency within Fresno County. If requests for LAP funding exceed the \$125,000 annually, a competitive program could be established, or the available LAP funds could be distributed on a formula basis using similar population and road mileage percentages as used for distribution of the Measure “C” Local Transportation Program funds. Any unused LAP funds would roll forward to the next cycle of funding availability. The source of the LAP funding would come from the Measure C Regional Transportation Program, with the nexus for utilizing these funds based on the premise that the accumulation of litter is an additional maintenance by-product for our region’s freeway/expressway/highway system expansion that was funded primarily by Measure C revenues.

As discussed in greater detail in the attached memo, the LAP is a short-term solution to the ongoing litter problem on our freeways and highways. With this in mind, Fresno COG and the FCTA are continuing to look for longer-term solutions. These include forming a state-authorized countywide *Service Authority Freeways and Expressways (SAFE)* that would be funded from an additional \$1 vehicle registration fee on all registered vehicles in Fresno County or pending state legislation (AB 1395) that requires Caltrans to develop a statewide litter clean-up program. Fresno COG and FCTA staff will keep both Boards informed of any developments that may occur with these two potential strategies as we move forward.

Mr. Leonardo (FCTA) presented to the Policy Board.

Councilmember Olivier (Fresno City) stated that the City of Fresno supports this program and asked the Policy Board for its support. Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) asked what is the plan for clean-up. Mr. Leonardo responded that FCTA cannot implement a program they can only provide the funding. It would be up to the local agencies to implement a plan to utilize the fund from the program. Mayor Vosburg asked the Board members if their cities would utilize the program. Members Fresno, Orange Cove, Selma, Sanger, Clovis, Parlier and Mendota voiced support.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Councilmember Olivier (Fresno City) seconded to approve Amendment No. 5 to the 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan, creating the Litter Abatement Program (LAP) by adopting Resolution No. 2018-06. The motion passed.

D. Caltrans report

Ms. Miller (Caltrans) reported:

- State Route (SR) 99 realignment to accommodate High Speed Rail between Clinton and Ashlan Avenue. Clinton Avenue is now open. Northbound SR 99 off-ramp and southbound on ramp is open to and from Clinton is also open. The temporary Shields Avenue on was closed permanently when the southbound on ramp at Clinton was opened. The temporary Shield Avenue southbound off ramp will remain open until the southbound Clinton off ramp opened, which is scheduled to open in May. 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. Contract was approved on February 2. Construction is anticipated to begin in 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 April 10.
- San Joaquin River Bridge seismic retrofit. Substructure work is being finished and will move on to the deck rehabilitation.
- State Route 269. Progress has been made with Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and their issues have been resolved. Project redesigned and environmental impacts reduced, in turn minimizing the costs of those impacts. Now there is an issue with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) they own a significant amount of the land on which there is a 30 year old pipe. It is outside of Caltrans right of way and the pipe will not be disturbed. Ms. Miller asked that Mayor Leon to talk to Congressman Valadeo. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that Fresno COG will take the lead on setting up a meeting with the Congressman.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. 2017 One Voice Priorities Quarterly Update (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- B. Monthly Legislative Report (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

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

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. One Voice Washington, D.C. Trip Priorities Update (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's Policy Board tabled a vote on the 2018 One Voice priorities at its February 22, 2018 meeting after immigration came up as a potential eighth issue area.

Following PAC approval in February, staff recommended approval of six priority issues for discussion as part of Fresno COG's annual One Voice trip to Washington D.C. in April. Interested delegates will also have the option of raising a seventh issue, cannabis, as part of separate meetings not affiliated with the broader One Voice initiative.

Mendota Mayor Rolando Castro questioned whether it was too late to add immigration as an eighth priority issue, which launched a discussion among Board members about the merits of including it in the list. Ultimately, the Board agreed to table the matter until after several mayors were scheduled to meet with officers from the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

Owing to time constraints for the April 21-26 One Voice trip, staff recommends a two-step process to resolve the issue: 1) Approve the slate of seven priorities as presented in February; 2) Open the floor to a full discussion on whether to include immigration -- and define the specific parameters to bring forth in One Voice materials -- as an eighth priority.

- 1.) After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Armstrong (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve the slate of seven priorities as presented in February. The motion passed.
- 2.) Open the floor to a full discussion on whether to include immigration -- and define the specific parameters to bring forth in One Voice materials -- as an eighth priority. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

Councilmember Silva (Mendota) stated that Mayor Rolando Castro (Mendota) has taken a step back and is not going to pursuing the discussion of immigration to be part of the One Voice priorities. The City of Mendota will try a different approach. Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) expressed support of immigration.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported on the Sustainable Aviation Project. All of the electric aircrafts have arrived, been assembled, charged and have received airworthiness certification from the FAA. The first flight was done on March 23.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that Form 700s are due April 1.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) stated that Jose Ramirez is the new world champion in his division.
- Mayor Leon (Huron) stated that immigration is an important issue, as mayors need to connect with federal representative to make change. Members had further discussion on immigration.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- Dr. Carol Goldsmith, president of Fresno City College (FCC) addressed the Policy Board regarding the Measure C New Technology funds. FCC is awaiting next cycle and criteria. FCC has the largest automotive program and looking to expand and sever more students. FCC partnering with Fresno State and the Clean Air Board is working on a pilot a project Bolt to College. The program would provide students rideshare access to Chevy Bolts for transportation to and from Kerman.

Adjourned to FCRTA at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Jose Marron, Renova
Sal Cuevas, Renova
Mike Leonardo, FCTA
Jeffrey Roberts, Assemi Group
Carol Goldsmith, Fresno City College

Staff

Les Beshears
Robert Phipps
Brenda Veenendaal
Kristine Cai
Peggy Arnest
Donna Blocker
Esperanza Velazco
Trai Her-Cole
Moses Stites
Jeaneen Cervantes