

**Policy Advisory Committee  
MINUTES  
Friday, July 13, 2018  
10:00 AM**

**Members Present**

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis  
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler  
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno  
James Doughty II, City of Huron  
John Kunkel, City of Kerman (via phone)  
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg  
Rob Terry, City of Reedley  
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger  
Elizabeth Nunez, City of San Joaquin  
Isaac Moreno, City of Selma  
Mohammad Khorsand, Fresno County  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Chapa (Sanger), Chair. With eleven members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of June 8, 2018 [APPROVE]
- B. 2018-19 Measure C Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Resolution 2018-22 Transportation Development Act 2018-19 Final Apportionment (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Resolution 2018-23 State Transit Assistance Apportionment 2018-19 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. City of Reedley 2018-19 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. Fresno County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Public Hearing and Comment Period (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]
- G. Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Grant Program NOFA (Trai Her) [INFORMATION]
- H. End of Federal Fiscal Year E-76 and Federal Transit Administration Transfer Deadlines and Obligational Authority Updates (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) motioned and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

**II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS****A. Golden State Project/Mark Thomas Contract Amendment (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that the original Golden State Boulevard Project design called for shifting Golden State over to 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Fowler's main business district, from approximately Adams Avenue to South Avenue – 1.5 miles. During a series of public meetings in Fowler during April and May, several public comments expressed concern about this shift. Many businesses on 8<sup>th</sup> Street were adamantly against this original design. At its June 5 meeting, the Fowler City Council voted to remove the shift and keep Golden State on its current alignment. Because of this change, construction costs will decrease by close to \$4 million. Fresno COG staff recommends holding these funds in the City of Fowler's contingency to be used for the improvements the California Public Utilities Commission and Union-Pacific Railroad are requesting. In addition, the contract with design engineering consultant Mark Thomas will need to increase by approximately \$200,000 to cover the redesign engineering costs. The Mark Thomas extra work request is attached to this item.

Mr. Moreno (Selma) asked how the \$4 million in savings will be utilized. Ms. Arnest responded that there will be number of cost incurred due to the Union Pacific Railroad and California Public Utilities Commission recommendations. The money will be used to make sure that these costs will be covered in Fowler and if there is remaining money it would be spread to the other two cities. Mr. Terry (Reedley) stated for clarification that this amendment doesn't change the length of contract it is just an increase for the design. Ms. Arnest confirmed. Mr. Terry asked how many changes to the contract have taken place over the entirety of the project and how long is the project? Ms. Arnest responded that the contract has been amended twice and it was initially a two-three year project. Mr. Terry wanted to make Fresno COG staff aware that the Reedley City Council has asked questions about the contract changes for this project and it is possible that other jurisdictions may be as well.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Terry (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to approve the \$197,128 increase to the Mark Thomas and Company contract for redesign engineering of the Golden State Blvd alignment from South to Bonita Avenue. The motion passed.

**B. Measure C Taxi Scrip Pilot Program Agreement with GoGo Grandparent (Donna Blocker) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Blocker (FCOG) reported that for the last three years, Fresno COG staff has researched options to move the Measure C Senior Taxi Scrip Program from paper scrip to a digital currency while also incorporating transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft. GoGoGrandparent provides a phone service that connects older adults without smartphones to Uber or Lyft rides. By calling a central hotline number, users can request and pay for rides without using a ride app or needing a smart phone. GoGoGrandparent has been in business for three years with service everywhere there are Lyft and or Uber drivers. (A company brochure is attached.) In a recent comparison of trip prices, staff found that Uber and Lyft's prices are one-half to one-third of the cost of current taxicab fares in Fresno, providing an additional incentive to coordinate services for senior participants.

After monitoring GoGoGrandparent's services and progress, staff approached the company regarding a partnership opportunity with the Measure C Senior Taxi Scrip program. GoGoGrandparent agreed to allow Taxi Scrip participants to use their monthly scrip value to access rides with Uber and Lyft using the GoGoGrandparent service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In an effort to assess the viability of this partnership, COG staff is asking for approval to launch a GoGoGrandparent/Senior Scrip pilot program beginning September 1, 2018 and concluding March 1, 2018. The pilot program would include up to 80 Taxi Scrip seniors, providing them \$50 of scrip per month to utilize the service and report their experiences back to Fresno COG staff. The total cost for this pilot program would not exceed \$26,500.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Terry (Reedley) seconded to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with GoGoGrandparent to conduct a six-month pilot program beginning September 1, 2018 and not to exceed \$26,500. The motion passed.

**C. Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program Cycle 1 Contract Award (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that in June, the Policy Board approved the Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program project and funding recommendations. Cycle 1 was awarded to the City of Fowler for a Community Landscape Plan for \$150,000. Tree Fresno was the named partner/consultant for the awarded project. Tree Fresno will prepare community landscape plans in disadvantaged communities to optimize the tree canopy and research the mitigation of near-road air pollution with trees on State Route 99. The Community Landscape Plan meets the grant-specific objectives that include sustainability to reduce GHG emissions, preservation, mobility and safety.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to authorize Fresno COG's Executive Director to enter into a contract for \$150,000 with Tree Fresno for the City of Fowler's Community Landscape Plan as approved and awarded in the Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program. The motion passed.

**D. 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is required to update its Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years. The 2018 RTP/SCS development process began in fall 2016. An RTP Roundtable Committee comprising representatives from local governments, Caltrans, transit operators, the Air District and other sectors such as water, education, farming, social justice, cycling, building industry, environment/air quality, etc. was formed

to help guide the process. Staff developed a robust and extensive outreach program to engage the public that included 15 community workshops, 20 informational booths at community events and 11 presentations to organizations to determine a preference of SCS scenarios. All outreach information was made available online and in both English and Spanish.

In November 2017, after careful consideration of the public's input and recommendations from the Roundtable and the TTC/PAC, the Fresno COG Policy Board selected Scenario D as the preferred SCS scenario. Scenario D is:

- An ambitious sustainability plan with significant advancements over the status quo (i.e. the projected growth pattern before the 2014 SCS)
- A growth plan that acknowledges current planning assumptions and local land use authority
- On track to meet the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint's goals
- Meets SB 375 requirements
- A realistic and feasible growth scenario that allows the Fresno County region to grow at its own pace and retain its own character

Fresno COG released the draft RTP/SCS, draft EIR, draft FTIP document and the draft corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis for public comment on April 5, 2018. A revised conformity analysis was recirculated for 30 days on May 18. All the final documents are available on Fresno COG's website.

- The 2019 FTIP is a near-term listing of capital improvement and operational expenditures using federal and state monies for transportation projects in Fresno County during the next four years (<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/federal-transportation-improvement-program-ftip/>).
  - The 2018 RTP/SCS is a long-term, coordinated transportation/land use strategy to meet Fresno County transportation needs to 2042 (<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/regional-transportation-plan-rtp/>).
  - The EIR document provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts related to the 2018 RTP/SCS' implementation, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/regionaltransportation-plan-rtp/>).
  - The conformity analysis contains the documentation to support a finding that the 2019 FTIP and 2018 RTP/SCS meet the air quality conformity requirements for ozone and particulate matter (<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/regionaltransportation-plan-rtp/>).
- Staff received eight comment letters during the 55-day public review period. The responses are included in the final documents.

**Staff requests that action be taken separately on each item listed below:**

**1) FTIP:** The FTIP is a four-year program that includes a listing of transportation projects requiring federal funding and approval by federal transportation agencies. Projects included in the FTIP are consistent with Fresno COG's Regional Transportation Plan and are part of the area's overall strategy for providing mobility, congestion relief and reduction of transportation-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emission in support of efforts to attain federal air quality standards and to meet the State's climate change requirement. One comment was received from Caltrans about the 2019 FTIP, and responses are included in the final document.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) seconded to approve the 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program. The motion passed.

**2) The Air Quality Conformity Analysis:** A transportation conformity analysis is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990, in non-attainment areas to ensure that transportation plans, programs and projects will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards. No comments were received about the conformity analysis for the 2018 RTP and the 2019 FTIP during the public comment period.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Terry (Reedley) seconded to approve the conformity analysis for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program. The motion passed.

**3) EIR:** Fresno COG prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2018 RTP/SCS project assessing environmental effects related to the development of the 2018 RTP/SCS.

The 2018 RTP/SCS identifies the region's transportation needs and issues, sets forth an action plan of projects and programs to address the needs consistent with the adopted policies and documents the financial resources needed to implement the plan. Projects are identified at a conceptual level for purposes of the RTP, and the program EIR is programmatic in nature – meaning it does not specifically analyze individual projects. The PEIR finds that the implementation of the 2018 RTP/SCS could result in potentially significant and unavoidable direct and cumulative environmental impacts in the following areas: aesthetics, agricultural & forestry resources, air quality, biotic resources, climate change/greenhouse gases, cultural resources & tribal cultural resources, energy and energy conservation, geology/soils/minerals, hazardous materials, hydrology & water resources, land use and planning, noise, population, housing and employment, public utilities, other utilities and services, and transportation/traffic. Included in the final PEIR are responses to comments received on the draft PEIR document, changes made/addressed within the document in response to those comments, findings of potential impacts and a statement of overriding considerations, and a mitigation monitoring program to address such findings.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) motioned and Ms. Davis (Fowler) seconded to certify the Program Environmental Impact Report for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to the Policy Board by the adoption of resolution 2018-25. The motion passed.

**4) RTP/SCS:** The 2018 RTP/SCS identifies the region's transportation needs and issues, sets forth an action plan of projects and programs to address the needs consistent with the adopted policies, and documents the financial resources needed to implement the plan. Fresno COG has included all the required elements in the plan, has engaged in extensive public outreach, prepared the required Program Environmental Impact Report and completed the associated Federal Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity documents. Responses to the comments about the Draft RTP/SCC are included in the document.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Terry (Reedley) seconded to approve of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to the Policy Board by the adoption of Resolution 2018-26 as attached, which also includes the aforementioned FTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The motion passed.

### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- B. Assembly Bill 2734 (Frazier) California Transportation Commission- Letter of Support (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DICUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. 2017-18 Audit Contract (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Fresno COG's contract with its auditing firm is set to expire. The County Auditor/Controller has recommended that staff bid out the contract for a five-year term. An RFP was sent out to a list the Auditor/Controller provided on June 11, 2018. Proposals were due July 5.

The engagement will include audits for FCOG, FCRTA, member agency Transportation Development Act, Measure C street funds, and the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency. The RFP also included provisions for a separate contract with the Fresno County Transportation Authority to perform the Measure C Local Transportation Fund member agency audits. This is consistent with FCOG's and the Authority's policy of combining the Transportation Development Act member agency audits so jurisdictions don't have the inconvenience of two audit firms at the same time.

The current contracts are for 751 hours at an annual cost of \$90,120.

The committee is reviewing two proposals: Price Page & Company, a Clovis Accounting firm, has conducted audits for planning agencies similar to FCOG, such as Merced County Association of Governments and Madera County Transportation Commission. The firm has also audited cities in Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties. Its bid estimated 790 hours for

\$110,600 during the first two years, \$113,918 for the third and fourth year and \$117,336 for the fifth, for a total of \$566,372.

Hudson, Henderson, & Co. Inc., a Fresno Accounting firm, has audited planning agencies similar to FCOG, such as Kings County Association of Governments. It has also conducted audits for various cities, counties, special districts, and school districts. The firm's bid estimated 1,725 hours for \$149,405 during the first three years and \$156,790 for the next two, for a total of \$761,795.

Staff solicited various member agencies to form a selection committee, including the County Auditor/Controller's Office, Fresno Area Express, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, the City of Coalinga, and the Fresno County Transportation Authority. The selection committee reviewed the proposals and unanimously recommended Price Page & Company.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to award the audit contract for 2017-18 – 2021-22 to Price Page & Company for \$566,372. The motion passed.

## **V. OTHER ITEMS**

### **A. Items from Staff**

- Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Round Four draft guidelines are expected to be released next month. The application and notice of funding availability is expected to be released in October.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported on Senate Bill 1 (SB1). It is the difference between having a future with resources to fix transportation systems or managing the decline of transportation infrastructure for your agency. It will be Proposition 6 on the November ballot and a no vote will be in favor of keeping the money.

### **B. Items from Members**

- Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) stated that City Managers should monitor pending legislation that will affect how they will prepare housing element in the future.

## **VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Public Presentations**

There were no public presentations

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

### Public

Nicholas Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club  
Denise DiBenedetto, FCTA

### Staff

Robert Phipps, Les Beshears, Kristine Cai, Brenda Veenendaal, Peggy Arnest, Suzanne Martinez, Jennifer Soliz, Meg Prince, Trai Her-Cole, Donna Blocker, Esperanza Velazco, Lang Yu, Seth Scott, Todd Sobrado, Jeaneen Cervantes