

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, October 12, 2018
10:00 AM**

Members Present

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler (via phone)
Jim Schaad, City of Fresno
John Kunkel, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger
Isaac Moreno, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Chapa (Sanger), Chair. With nine members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of September 14, 2018 [APPROVE]
- B. City of Sanger Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Fresno County Trails Master Plan Update (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- D. Reverse Triangle Study Update (Kristine Cai/Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- E. Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2018 Access and Mobility Partnership Grant (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- F. Senate Bill 35 Streamlined Ministerial Approval Process Draft Guidelines Released (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- G. Senate Bill 2 Building Homes and Jobs Act - Planning Grants (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- H. Fresno County Regional Transportation Network Vulnerability Assessment Update (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Five Year Update (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the ballot measure that extended Measure C in 2007 mandated Fresno COG, the Fresno County Transportation Authority and all local jurisdictions to develop a Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program as a funding component to the Regional Transportation Program. The Fresno County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency was formed in 2010, administered by Fresno COG pursuant to an agreement with the Transportation Authority, to collect the fees and remit them to the Authority. Section 66001(d) requires the RTMF nexus to be updated every five years. The last update was 2015; therefore, the nexus update must be completed by January 2020 to continue collecting the fees.

Fresno COG used WSP (formerly Parsons Brinckerhoff) to develop the original nexus and provide the 2014 update. Fresno COG also maintains an on-call contract with WSP to provide technical expertise on collection issues. WSP has bid \$105,000 for the 2020 update. The Transportation Authority will pay for the update with proceeds from the fees collected. A budget appropriation will be heard at the Authority's October 10 board meeting.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Kunkel (Kerman) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with WSP for \$105,000 to update the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Nexus. The motion passed.

B. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding Allocation Recommendation (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that in June 2018, Fresno COG was notified that approximately \$2 billion in Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds were set aside and apportioned for activities also eligible for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)/Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding. Of that \$2 billion, Fresno COG was apportioned \$2,438,180 in HIP funding that must be obligated by September 30, 2021, and expended by September 30, 2026. A fact sheet regarding the HIP funding is included as an attachment to this agenda item.

Due to the time sensitivity for obligating and expending these funds, instead of developing a separate call-for-projects that are specific to this HIP funding, staff proposes that this newly acquired HIP funding be allocated to projects that were submitted to the 2017-2018 RSTP/STBG call-for-projects. A spreadsheet is included with this agenda item detailing how staff proposes the allocation of this HIP funding.

In summary, staff proposes providing additional funding to four projects that were only partially funded during the 2017/2018 call-for-projects to make them whole. Staff also proposes to fully fund the next project on the list, as well as preliminary engineering for the next seven projects, as detailed in the attached spreadsheet.

The goal is to program the HIP funding on just one project, Fresno County's Jensen: Fig to Fruit Reconstruction project. Limiting the HIP funding to only one project is easier to track for obligation and expending deadlines. The RSTP/STBG funding that is discharged from this project would then be allocated to the rest of the projects on the list.

If approved, staff will program these project changes in the first amendment to the 2019 FTIP after December 2018.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned and Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota) seconded to approve the allocation of HIP funding to 2017/2018 RSTP/STBG regional bid projects as presented. The motion passed.

C. Better Blackstone Design Challenge (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that the Better Blackstone Design Challenge Project follows-up on a number of recent projects focused on Blackstone Avenue in the City of Fresno. Fresno COG completed the Blackstone Corridor Transportation and Housing Study in 2017, which was designed to identify opportunities and tools to achieve the goals in the City of Fresno's General Plan for transforming Blackstone Avenue from an auto-oriented corridor to a multi-modal, mixed-use livable street through focused and strategic interventions.

Fresno COG is working on the Blackstone/Shaw Transportation Corridor Study to develop design concepts for complete-streets improvements that increase the range of public transit and serve the needs of all roadway users, particularly pedestrians. The study will also identify impacts on business opportunities and performance within the study area.

The Better Blackstone Design Challenge Project will develop architectural/urban designs and real estate analyses for eight design scenarios of mixed-use zoned blocks in specific activity center areas along the Blackstone BRT corridor surrounding the intersections of Blackstone at Shaw, Shields, Weldon and Olive Avenues. The recommendations will serve as a guide to direct investment in private development and public infrastructure. This project is relying on SB 1 funding. If Proposition 6 fails in November 2018, project funding will be secure. If Proposition 6 passes, another funding source will need to be secured.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Moreno (Selma) motioned and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded to authorize the Fresno COG Executive Director to enter into a contract with Fresno Metro Ministry to conduct the Better Blackstone Design Challenge Project for an amount not to exceed \$153,998. The motion passed.

D. Measure C Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Program Review (Kristine Cai/Trai Her Cole) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that in 2017, Fresno COG's Policy Board and the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Board approved revised TOD Program Policies and Guidelines to allow all jurisdictions in Fresno County to compete under the program. In the revised guidelines, separate density requirements were developed for the Fresno-Clovis Metro Area

and the rest of the county. The transit requirement was lowered to include Clovis Transit and Fresno County Rural Transit in addition to all FAX routes. The boards established a minimum average score of 70 points to ensure quality projects were being funded. Under the 2017 Guidelines, the TOD program cycle 6 (2018) funded three projects, which were sponsored respectively by the City of Fresno, City of Clovis and City of Kingsburg.

When approving the revised guidelines in 2017, the Fresno COG Policy Board and the FCTA Board directed that a review be conducted to assess the efficiency of the 2017 revised guidelines after the sixth (2018) funding cycle is concluded. The TOD Technical Advisory Committee has recommended adding the following language in the guidelines to address project delivery issues:

"Grant recipients must enter into a cooperative agreement with their sponsoring agencies (if applicable) and the Fresno County Transportation Authority within one year of funding approval by the Fresno COG Policy Board and the FCTA Board for their prospective projects. Recipients unable to enter an agreement with FCTA within a year may ask the FCTA Board for an extension. If no extension is requested or granted, identified funds will revert to the TOD subprogram. Recipients must also make every reasonable effort to meet the project delivery schedule as indicated in their application. If unforeseen circumstances impact project delivery by more than 12 months beyond the submitted schedule, the recipient must obtain a time extension from the FCTA Board."

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota) seconded to approve the 2018 TOD Program Policies and Guidelines with the additional language for project delivery. The motion passed.

E. Climate Change/Senate Bill 375 Update (Kristine Cai/Seth Scott) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, required California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to 1990 levels by 2020. Senate Bill 32 codified the GHG reduction target for 2030 and requires the State to slash GHG emissions to 40 percent lower than the 1990 level.

In July 2018, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released an inventory report that indicated the State reached the 2020 goal in 2016, four years ahead of schedule. However, according to the report, most of the GHG emissions drop came from renewable energy growth such as solar rooftops and power plants. The transportation sector, which produces the highest percentage of GHG, instead increased its emissions in 2016 due to the strengthening economy and cheap gasoline prices. According to CARB, the 2030 target will be a lot harder to reach. CARB's 2017 Scoping Plan shows a 6 percent gap in reaching the 2030 targets. CARB will be working with governments at various levels to try to come up with policies and programs to close that gap.

SB 375 is one of the many programs the State developed to implement AB 32 and SB 32 goals. The MPOs are charged with developing Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) to lower GHG emissions from travel. In light of the 6 percent gap, CARB adopted higher GHG reduction targets for all 18 MPOs in the State in spring 2018. SB 375 authorizes CARB to update GHG targets for the MPOs at least every eight years. Staff expects that CARB will push the targets higher during every update, which will make it harder and harder for the regions to achieve them, with ever-increasing pressure on land use decisions, considering that most of the SCSes are based on local general plans.

In addition, SB 150, passed in 2017, requires CARB to monitor whether the regions are making progress in SCS implementation and to determine whether the regions will be able to achieve the targets that were demonstrated in the plans. CARB staff is working with MPOs in producing the first SB 150 report to the legislature.

CARB is also in the process of updating the SCS review guidelines, which will be applied in the third round of SCSes statewide, which will be the 2022 RTP/SCS for Fresno region. MPOs, including Fresno COG, are working closely with the CARB to ensure that the law is followed and no unnecessary, additional regulatory burdens are added to the regions.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Kerman absent for vote. The motion passed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DICUSSION ITEMS

A. Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported

Work Element 110 – Regional Streets and Roads – The initial budget programs \$30,000 for Fresno COG’s share of a \$90,000 State Route 99/Mendocino study conducted in partnership with Tulare County, and the cities of Kingsburg and Selma. Fresno COG agreed to administer the study. The \$60,000 contribution from participating members will be programmed.

Work Element 115 – Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) – The statutory five-year update to the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Nexus is due in January 2020. Staff recommends budgeting \$105,000 to get started on the update. The Fresno County Transportation Authority will pay for the update from RTMF fee collection proceeds.

Work Element 123 – Long Range Transit Plan – The Board authorized this FTA 5304 project in 2017-18. Staff initially estimated \$150,000 would carry into this budget year but is adjusting that estimate to the actual cost incurred, increasing this work element \$29,566.

Work Element 124 – Commute Options – The Board authorized this FTA 5304 project in 2017-18. Staff initially estimated \$230,533 would carry into this budget year but is adjusting that estimate to the actual cost incurred, decreasing this work element \$16,177.

Work Element 146 – Better Blackstone Design Challenge – This Senate Bill 1-funded work element provides \$153,998 for the Better Blackstone design project.

Work Element 147 – County Trail Master Plan – This Senate Bill 1-funded work element provides \$153,999 to conduct a Fresno County Trail Master Plan update.

Work Element 150 – Other Modal Element & Work Element 310 Intergovernmental – The County of Fresno was initially planning to fund a significant part of the County Trail Master plan using internal staff, costing \$50,000 in county support costs, which is typically programmed in Work Element 310. This was transferred to Work Element 150 – Other Modal Elements; however, now that SB 1 grant funding for an expanded scope is available, residual county support costs are being transferred back to Work Element 310.

Work Element 152 – High-Speed Rail Planning – The prior year budget included \$120,000 for developing the City of Fresno’s High-Speed Rail Station Plan. This adjustment carries over \$75,000 in Measure C Planning funds to complete the project.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to adopt 2018-19 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2, which increases the budget by \$558,002.

B. 2019 One Voice Priorities Call for Projects (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is issuing its 2019 One Voice D.C. call for regional priorities. Each priority should include a strong transportation nexus or component. Please submit any proposed regional priorities using the attached white paper template. Submit all information needed to educate federal elected officials, administration staff and other decision-makers regarding the priority's requests and significance to the region, as well any maps, photos or other visuals available. All proposed recommendations must be submitted to rhipps@fresnocog.org by 4:30 p.m. Friday, November 16, 2018.

Those planning to resubmit a previous year's priority for consideration should provide an updated white paper for review and consideration. Staff strongly encourages the submittal of new regional priorities as well. The Steering Committee will

review and select the 2019 priorities and recommend a regional priority listing for February or March 2019 approval by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Those submitting more than one regional priority for consideration should identify them by order of priority.

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

IV. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Prince (FCOG) provided a brief summary of Senate Bill 35 and Senate Bill 2 draft guidelines which was covered under the Transportation Consent Items.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that the State Route 180 West Passing Lane dedication ceremony will be on October 19. Groundbreaking for State Route 269 Bridge will be held November 1.

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Chapa (Sanger) attended the National ICMA Conference and saw former City Manager of Mendota Vince DiMaggio. He sends the committee his regards.

V. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Greg Barfield, City of Fresno

Staff

Les Beshears
Robert Phipps
Kristine Cai
Peggy Arnest
Meg Prince
Trai Her-Cole
Jennifer Soliz
Braden Duran
Moses Stites
Janelle Del Campo
Jeaneen Cervantes