

Policy Advisory Committee

Date: Friday, February 8, 2019
Time: 1:00 PM
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

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POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Policy Advisory Committee will consider all items on the agenda. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m.

PAC agenda and annotated agenda in PDF format - ALL EXHIBITS ARE AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Exhibits:

Agenda Annotated Agenda

PRESENTATION

1. State Workforce Investment Board Presentation on SB 1 Workforce Training Program

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items:

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- A. Executive Minutes of January 11, 2018 [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

January Minutes

B. Second Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

Second Quarter Report

C. Fresno COG Fiscal Year 2017-18 Audits (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The CPA firm Price Paige and Co. has provided draft versions of three separate fiscal year 2017-18 financial and compliance audits for Fresno COG, the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency. Copies of each audit will be available at the meeting and at fresnocog.org.

Staff has reviewed the drafts and agrees with the presentations; however, various format issues are still being addressed. The reports will satisfy federal and state funding agencies' requirements.

Fresno COG's report details that the agency managed its operations according to funding covenants, within budget and reported no findings of noncompliance. Total revenues were \$8,984,737 and total expenses were \$9,127,135, resulting in a budgeted decrease of \$142,398. Total fund balances at year-end were \$1,268,045. Acquisition of capital assets net of depreciation was \$19,932 resulting in a decrease \$122,466 in net position.

The RTMF report details only Fresno COG's administrative portion of the fee and does not consider total collections, which are forwarded to the Transportation Authority and recognized as revenue at that agency. For informational purposes, Fresno COG collected \$4,787,085 in RTMF fees over fiscal year 2017-18. Administrative fees totaled \$50,892. Total expenses were \$40,293, increasing the fund balance \$10,599 to \$34,586.

Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's operating revenues were \$595,100 and operating expenses were \$7,173,739, which includes \$2,240,662 for depreciation. Non-operating revenues were \$4,337,977; however, when depreciation is netted out, revenues and expenses are in balance. Capital contributions net of depreciation were \$790,337, resulting in an ending net position of \$9,070,881. The fare revenue ratio of 12.06 percent is in compliance with state Transportation Development Act statute requirements of 10 percent.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

D. Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

1. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Preliminary Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

LTF Preliminary Estimate

Summary: The County Auditor-Controller has released preliminary estimates for the fiscal year 2019-20 Local Transportation Fund. The \$38.5 million estimate for this year is up \$2.5 million from the 2018-19 estimate. The State Department of Finance is expected to update its population estimates in May.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

2. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Preliminary State Transit Assistance Fund (STA) Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

STA Preliminary Estimate

Summary: The State Controller's office has released the preliminary estimates for the fiscal year 2019-20 State Transit Assistance fund. The total estimates this year is \$11,650,370, up \$1,644,630 from the revised fiscal year 2018-19 estimate. The population estimates will be updated to 2019 when the State Department of Finance releases the population estimates in May.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

3. **Fiscal Year 2019-20 Preliminary State of Good Repair Fund Estimates (Les Beshears)**
[INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

SGR Preliminary Estimate

Summary: The State Controller's office has released the preliminary estimates for the fiscal year 2019-20 State of good Repair fund. The total estimate this year is \$1,623,047, which is up \$39,585 from the revised the fiscal year 2018-19 estimate. Transit operators should use this to approximate their fiscal year 2019-20 project submittals, however, don't submit projects yet. The population estimates will be updated to 2019 when the State Department of Finance releases the population estimates in May.

The State Controller will release revised allocation estimates August 1, 2019, and project submittals are due September 1. The project list will be submitted to FCOG staff in this and future years per the guidelines.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

4. **Fiscal Year 2018-19 Preliminary Low Carbon Transit Operations (LCTOP) Estimates (Les Beshears)**
[INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

LCTOP Preliminary Estimate

Summary: The State Controller's office has released the preliminary estimates for the Low Carbon Transit Operations (LCTOP). The total estimate this year is \$2,217,475, which is up \$815,727 from the fiscal year 2017-18 estimate. Transit operators should adopt resolutions and submit an allocation request to Caltrans by March 2019. The fiscal year 2018-19 guidelines can be found at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dgmt/splctop.html>.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

E. **Appointments to the Fresno COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)**
(Jeff Long) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

SSTAC Member List

Summary: Fresno COG's Board formed the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) in May 1988 to: respond to State legislation and coordinate social service transportation; assist the Fresno COG Board in identifying transit needs throughout Fresno County; review and recommend action for Fresno COG to address at its unmet transit needs hearing and; advise Fresno COG on other major transit issues. The Fresno COG Board appoints SSTAC members for a term of three years.

SSTAC new member appointments to the Council are:

Robert Mesel, Fresno Area Express-Handy Ride. Replaces Carlos Duarte.

Brian Spaunhurst, Fresno County, Planner I. Replaces Harpreet Kooner.

Article III, Section 99238 of the Transportation Development Act requires a minimum number of SSTAC members in specific categories. There is no maximum membership number specified in TDA and in the interest of diversity, staff is seeking additional nominations. Specifically, staff is seeking members who represent minority groups, social service providers for seniors and potential transit users. A complete list of SSTAC members is included in your agenda package.

Action: Staff requests TTC/PAC to recommend to the Fresno COG Board approve appointments for two new members to SSTAC.

F. **Fresno COG Transit Productivity Evaluation for Fiscal Year 2018 (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

 Transit Productivity Evaluation FiscalYr 2018

Summary: The productivity evaluation is conducted annually to assess transit operators that receive State Transportation Development Act funds and to recommend potential productivity improvements. California Public Utilities Code 99244 requires that "each transportation planning agency ... annually identify, analyze, and recommend potential productivity improvements which could lower the operational costs of transit operators who operate at 50 percent of their vehicle service miles...within the area under its jurisdiction. If the responsible entity determines that the operator has not made a reasonable effort to implement the recommended improvements, then local transportation funds cannot exceed the appropriation from the prior year."

The fiscal year 2018 Productivity Evaluation assesses the following transit agencies:

1. Fresno Area Express and Handy Ride
2. Clovis Stageline and Roundup
3. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
4. Consolidated Transportation Services Agencies for the metropolitan and rural areas.

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed and accepted the fiscal year 2018 Transit Productivity Report on January 15, 2019.

Action: Staff recommends that TTC/PAC accept the fiscal year 2018 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.

G. **Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program Cycle 2 Contract Award (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]**

Summary: In May 2018, the Policy Board approved the Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program project and funding recommendations. FCRTA received \$160,556 in Cycle 2 funding for a combination of two operational plans, expanding FCRTA rural transit service and creating a regional network of rural transit services.

Fresno COG released a RFP on December 3, 2018 for consultant services and received a proposal from Walker Consultants. A selection committee reviewed and interviewed Walker Consultants and chose to contract with them as the preferred consultant.

Action: Staff requests TTC/PAC to recommend that the Policy Board authorize Fresno COG's Executive Director to enter into a contract for \$160,556 with Walker Consultants for FCRTA's Analysis and Operational Plan for Rural Transit Services, as awarded in the Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program.

H. **Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Final Guidelines (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has finalized its SB 2 Planning Grants Program Guidelines. The Notice of Funding Availability is expected to be released in March 2019.

In addition to the planning grants, HCD and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research will be providing technical assistance to help jurisdictions prepare and engage in planning activities that will accelerate housing production.

For more information, visit the SB 2 Planning Grant webpage.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

I. **Call for Nominations - 2019 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 Blueprint Awards

Summary: The American Planning Association California-Central Section has opened the 2019 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards' call for nominations. The program encourages quality in planning and development by recognizing outstanding achievements and practices in the built environment. In recognizing and celebrating projects that reflect the Blueprint principles, the association hopes to provide visual examples of attractive, functional and environmentally friendly projects that could have relevance throughout the Valley.

Awards will be presented at the 14th Annual San Joaquin Valley Spring Policy Conference in a luncheon ceremony on May 8, 2019, at the Tachi Palace Hotel in Lemoore, CA.

The full nomination packet and award criteria are available at http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/oced/documents/PACKET_2019%20Blueprint%20Awards_Call%20for%20Nominations.pdf

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

J. **Save the Date - San Joaquin Valley 14th Annual Policy Conference (Trai Her-Cole)**
[INFORMATION]

Summary: Kings County Association of Governments will host the 14th annual San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference May 8-10, 2019 at Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino in Lemoore. Registration and hotel reservations will open in early February. More information will be coming soon at www.sjvcogs.org.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

II. **TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Housing Element Annual Progress Report New Form and Instructions (Meg Prince)**
[INFORMATION]

Summary: The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released its new Housing Element Annual Progress Report (APR) form and instructions.

Cities and counties must use the new APR form when submitting their 2018 reports, **which are due April 1, 2019**.

The new APR form and instructions include feedback from stakeholders who attended HCD's 2018 open house forums or sent comments during the public comment period. The data in the new APR form will allow for a more complete understanding of California's housing production. SB 35 and AB 879 (2017) added new data requirements to the Housing Element APRs.

Cities and counties with a compliant housing element and up-to-date APR submissions gain access to SB 2 Building Homes and Jobs Act funds and SB 1 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants.


HCD recorded a webinar on January 29, 2019, for those who want to learn more about the new APR form and provide input on tools for completing reports. The recording should be available on HCD's website soon.

For more information, please visit HCD's Housing Elements webpage or email questions to APR@hcd.ca.gov.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

B. **Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Programs Call for Projects (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

 Circuit Planner and Engineer_Info Sheet

Summary: Fresno COG has active contracts with VRPA Technologies, Inc. (VRPA) and Willdan Associates (Willdan) to provide planning and engineering services through Fresno COG's Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Programs. The Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer teams provide

mechanisms for agencies to identify and help eliminate obstacles in project funding or delivery and possibly complete smaller transportation-related projects that support the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). This way, an agency's own staff/consultant teams can remain focused on larger or higher-profile projects as identified by their respective agency.

To initiate a new round of projects, VRPA (Circuit Planner) and Willdan (Circuit Engineer) are available to meet with each city's administration, planning, and public works/engineering staff to discuss potential services. They will also discuss previous year projects, potential funding sources, and the project evaluation process.

Attached is a handout with additional information and example project types.

To learn more or propose a potential project, please contact Meg Prince at mprince@fresnocog.org or 559-233-4148 x203.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

C. **2019 Active Transportation Program Regional Project and Funding Recommendations (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

ATP Cycle 4 MPO Draft Project Recommendations

Summary: Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds are separated into three main components: the statewide competitive program, the small urban- and rural-area competitive program (managed by the state), and the large, urbanized area competitive program [managed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – also known as the Regional Competitive ATP]. Large MPOs such as Fresno COG have the option of developing their own policies, procedures and project selection criteria that differ from those the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted, provided the CTC approves them. The Policy Board approved the regional guidelines and the Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) on June 28, 2018.

The Cycle 4 Fresno COG Regional Competitive ATP will cover four years of funding -- FY 19-20 through FY 22-23. Fresno COG's share provides about \$4.77 million over four years. At least 25 percent of program funds must benefit projects in disadvantaged communities.

The State initiated its ATP call for projects from May 16, 2018 through July 31, 2018. ALL applications must be submitted to the state competition in order to be eligible for the regional competitive program. The Fresno region submitted 18 applications with a total project cost of \$13,098,000. The statewide evaluations took place from July 31, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Supplemental regional applications were submitted to Fresno COG by October 31, 2018.

The regional scoring committee convened on January 22, 2019 to score and deliberate on the recommended program of projects. The scoring committee comprised representatives from: City of Fresno, County, east side, west side, Caltrans, FCOG, a bike expert and a non-government organization. The non-government organization representative was originally a member from Leadership Counsel however, that person resigned and was replaced by a member from California Rural Legal Justice, Inc. The west side city representative was unable to attend the committee at the last minute and the scoring committee decided to move forward without the west side representative's scores. The recommended program of projects is attached to this item and can also be found on Fresno COG's ATP website: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/active-transportation-program-atp/>. Please note that the programming years can vary based on funding capacity for each year.

To summarize the proposed recommendations:

- The scoring committee recommended that a total of \$4,772,000 in ATP funds be programmed for nine projects in Fresno County valued at \$6,142,000.
- All nine of the recommended projects are located within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities, well exceeding the 25 percent minimum.
- There are three bike and pedestrian projects proposed, totaling \$1,547,000. The six remaining projects are Safe Routes to School projects, totaling \$3,225,000.
- The City of Fresno relinquished \$350,000 to fund additional projects.
- The City of Coalinga will reduce the scope of its project based on funds awarded but will still

include the fully disadvantaged segments of the project.


Below is the proposed schedule for adoption of the Cycle 4 Program of Projects:

- Draft project list to TTC/PAC for recommended approval: February 8, 2019
- Draft project list to Fresno COG Policy Board for recommended adoption: February 28, 2019
- Deadline to submit the DRAFT program of projects to CTC staff: February 15, 2019
- Deadline to submit the program of projects to CTC staff: April 30, 2019
- CTC adoption of the various MPO program of projects: June 2019 meeting
- Fresno COG 2019 FTIP amendment to incorporate the approved Cycle 4 ATP projects: Fall 2019

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Cycle 4 Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program of Projects as recommended by the ATP Scoring Committee.

D. Reverse Triangle Study Consultant Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

 Scope of Work

Summary: Fresno COG, in partnership with City of Fresno and Fresno County, received a Caltrans' grant to conduct a study and develop a plan for the Industrial Triangle (commonly known as the Reverse Triangle) area bounded by State Route (SR) 41 to the west, SR 99 to the east, Church Avenue at the north and American Avenue to the south. This is an industrial area that is home to the Amazon and Ulta distribution centers. It is also the potential location for the California High-Speed Rail heavy maintenance facility.

The project's primary goal is to study and mitigate the impacts from the growing industrial centers.

Fresno COG issued an RFP in October 2018 and received a proposal from GHD. A scoring committee comprising representatives from COG, City of Fresno, County of Fresno, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and Malaga Water District interviewed the consultant team. The GHD team will bring combined expertise in engineering, transportation planning, outreach and economic development. GHD has an office in Fresno, and the project manager is also based in Fresno.

Attached is the scope of work for the study.

The scoring committee unanimously recommended that GHD be selected as the consultant to conduct the Reverse Triangle Study.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with GHD for an amount not to exceed \$295,935.18.

E. DRAFT 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis (Braden Duran/Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

 Memo  Resolution 2019-03

Summary: Fresno COG is proposing a Draft 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 3 (2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3) a Draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 1 (2018 RTP Amendment No. 1), and a Draft 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis. See the enclosed memo and draft resolution for details. Referenced documents are available on Fresno COG's website at fresnocog.org.

A 30-day public review and comment period began January 14 and will end on February 13, 2019. Comments are due by 4:30 p.m. on February 13, 2019. Fresno COG staff held a public hearing on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 5 p.m. No comments were received. The 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis are scheduled for adoption at the February 28, 2019, Fresno COG Policy Board meeting.

The Draft 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis meet all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450, 40 CFR Part 93, and conform to the applicable SIPs. Please contact Suzanne Martinez at 559-233-4148 x240 or smartinez@fresnocog.org with any questions.

Action: Staff requests that TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board adopt the 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis via Resolution No. 2019-03.

F. **Fiscal Year 2019-20 Draft Overall Work Program 45 Day Review (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

Executive Summary Draft 2019-20 OWP

Summary: Executive Director Tony Boren will present the draft fiscal year 2019-20 Overall Work Program and budget. Attached is the summary memo and draft FY 2019-20 Overall Work Program.

Action: Staff requests TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board Authorize Fresno COG staff to release the draft Fresno Council of Governments fiscal year 2019-20 Overall Work Program and budget for a 45-day review and comment period.

G. **Caltrans Report (CALTRANS) [INFORMATION]**

III. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

About Consent Items:

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A. **2019 Legislative Platform (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]**

Summary: Fresno COG's legislative platform includes advocacy priorities in state and federal legislative matters. It provides a consistent, reliable voice when communicating legislative priorities to state and federal lawmakers as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also offers Fresno COG staff and advocacy partners guidance when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board. A draft document was released for review and comment in January that received no comments.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the 2019 Legislative Platform.

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

Summary: Attached is the current legislative report for the California State Legislature 19-20 session and federal report from Simon and Company. To locate current and past-year state bill information go to the Official California Legislative Information webpage at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

To locate current and past-year federal bill information go to THOMAS, the Library of Congress's bill information website at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Action: Information only. The Board may provide further direction at its discretion.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DICUSSION ITEMS

A. 2019 One Voice Priorities

Exhibits:

Matrix One Voice Priorities

Summary: Fresno COG's One Voice Steering Committee has recommended 13 regional priorities for the 2019 One Voice D.C. trip, scheduled for May 4-9. A summary table and white papers exploring each of the topics is attached to the agenda.

In a change of strategy, staff has divided the priorities under three major headings: grant requests, appropriations requests and policy requests. This will allow for the contingent to more nimbly spend less time on issues that recur annually and more time on those priorities that are more complex in nature. The priorities are:

Transportation/Infrastructure

- Veterans Boulevard funding (City of Fresno)
- Funding interchanges critical to economic prosperity in Fresno (City of Fresno)
- Millerton Road funding (County of Fresno)
- Cross-Valley rail station in Huron (Fresno COG)
- U.S. DOT: Categorical exclusions for C-listed projects (Fresno COG)

Workforce Development

- Regional Fire Training Center (City of Fresno)
- Establishing a Central Valley Forestry Corps (Fresno Workforce Development Board)
- U.S. DOT: Transportation training facility/workforce (Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission & Fresno County Economic Development Department)
- U.S. DOT: Consistent policies for targeted hiring programs and related workforce training funds (Fresno Workforce Development Board)
- Connecting People with Jobs (Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission)

Economic Development

- Updating FEMA HMA funding guidelines (Fresno Workforce Development Board)
- Modernizing the federally authorized (airport) passenger facility charge (PFC) (City of Fresno)
- Community Services Block Grant/Community Economic Opportunity Act (Fresno EOC)

Action: Staff requests that the PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Fresno COG's 2019 One Voice regional priorities.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

1. Adaptation Planning Grant Scope of Work (Meg Prince)

B. Items from Members

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**