

**Fresno COG Policy Board  
MINUTES  
Thursday, March 28, 2019  
5:30 PM**

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Marcia Sablan, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota  
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove  
Mayor Pro Tem Trinidad Pimentel, City of Parlier  
Councilmember Robert Beck, City of Reedley  
Councilmember Jose Ornelas, City of San Joaquin  
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger  
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma  
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

Gail Miller, Caltrans  
Kyle Roberson, Legal Counsel  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

**Absent:**

Mayor Lee Brand, City of Fresno

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

**Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Meeting Package - Meeting will follow Policy Board meeting**

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 15 members representing 46.55% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma, Fresno County).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

**A. Zoo Authority / Measure Z (Scott Barton/Michelle Roman) [INFORMATION]**

Scott Barton, Zoo Director presented the Fresno Chaffee Zoo annual report. Mayor Michelle Roman, Zoo Authority Board Chair presented the Zoo Authority report.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of February 8, 2019 [APPROVE]
- C. Notice of Funding Opportunity - USDA Community Connect Grant (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- D. Notice of Funding Opportunity - Social Impact Partnership Demonstration Projects (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- E. Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

- F. Funding Opportunity Announcement - Bay-Delta Restoration Program: CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Leon (Huron) pulled Item I-B for discussion.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

- B. Contract Extension for YARTS (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Mayor Leon (Huron) asked for information on YARTS ridership. Ms. Arnest (FCOG) responded that to date ridership is about 57,000 riders. In 2018 ridership was significantly lower due to fires.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) seconded to approve extending the YARTS contract for the 2019 season.

## II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that 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](http://fresnocog.org).

A 30-day public review and comment period began January 14 and ended on February 13, 2019. Comments were due by 4:30 p.m. Fresno COG staff held a public hearing at 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, 2019, and received no comments. The 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis are scheduled for adoption at the March 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](mailto:smartinez@fresnocog.org) with any questions.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Silva (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to adopt the 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis via Resolution No. 2019-03.

- B. **Fresno County Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Network Plan Consultant Selection (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG received a 2018-19 Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grant to develop the Fresno County Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Network Plan (EVCI Plan). The EVCI Plan will identify network gaps and funding, as well as prioritize potential sites for deploying future infrastructure investment.

Fresno COG released an RFP for consultant services on November 28, 2018, and received six proposals. A consultant selection committee comprising representatives from the cities of Clovis and Reedley, County of Fresno, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, and Fresno Equal Opportunities Commission, interviewed the top three scoring consultants on February 20, 2019. The committee unanimously chose Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) as the preferred consultant. CSE's experience includes developing several similar plans for California municipalities, including the SJV Air District. In addition, CSE administers the California Air Resources Board's and California Energy Commission's clean air rebate and incentive programs.

Fresno COG is seeking representatives for a working group to assist with the plan development. Please contact Trai Her-Cole, Associate Regional Planner, at [traih@fresnocog.org](mailto:traih@fresnocog.org) or (559) 233-4148 x205 for more information.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lander (Coalinga) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract, not to exceed \$149,944, with Center for Sustainable Energy as the consultant for the Fresno County Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Network Plan.

**C. Update 2019 Unmet Needs Process (Todd Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**

Mr. Sobrado (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in fiscal year 2018-19 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. This is accomplished with the annual Unmet Needs process.

Fresno COG's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Staff is completing the public outreach component of the process.

Each year the SSTAC begins soliciting public comment by sending approximately 400 letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. The request for comments letters in English and Spanish were mailed out in early February.

In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC is holding eight information-gathering meetings: four in rural communities and four in urban communities. Details are included within the attached flyer.

Once comments and feedback have been received, Fresno COG will prepare an unmet needs report for the SSTAC's consideration. Once the public comment period for the 2019 Unmet Needs Report for Fresno County has closed, it will be submitted to the Committee for final review and approval. Flyers in both English and Spanish announcing the public outreach meetings were provided.

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

**D. High-Speed Rail Discussion (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]**

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that Governor Gavin Newsom's recent announcements in his State-of-the-State address about high-speed rail (HSR) and its financial future raised several questions for the Fresno County region. Mr. Boren reported on implications and potential strategies going forward. Mr. Boren read from a letter from the CEO of California HSR Authority to the Director of the Federal Railroad Administration. We need to stress to the Authority there is \$27 million in HSR funding in the Veterans Boulevard project, the top regional project. We want to ensure the funding to complete the project stays in place and with a number of projects happening in Fresno, we need to stress to the Authority that we can't have partially completed projects.

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

**E. Regional Housing Discussion (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]**

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that in both his State-of-the-State address and in a new Legislative Analyst's Office report, Governor Gavin Newsom has laid out his plans for changing state oversight over local housing decisions.

According to the report "What Can Be Done to Improve Local Planning for Housing?" Governor Newsom proposes "(1) establishing new short-term housing goals for local communities and providing funding to help them plan to meet these goals, (2) offering additional funding to communities that make progress toward meeting the short-term goals, (3) revamping the state's existing process for establishing long-term housing goals for communities, and (4) linking receipt of funds for local streets and roads to communities' progress toward meeting long-term housing goals."

In short, housing is poised to be the next regional frontier. Staff will discuss how the process might work and what it may look like in the near future.

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

## F. Caltrans report

Ms. Miller (Caltrans) reported:

- State Route (SR) 99 realignment to accommodate High Speed Rail – The contractor’s critical path is still the construction of the retaining wall that runs parallel to SR 99 between the Caltrans right-of-way and the HSR right-of-way and the final northbound SR 99 to Goldenstate off ramp is complete. The paving of the ramp is complete. There is will be one Saturday closure to wrap up the final pavement delineation on the northbound 99/Goldenstate off ramp. This project will be completion is expected for March 2020.
- Kings Canyon Expressway SR 180 Segment 3; structure work is nearing completion at four locations, China Slew, Kings River, Cameron Slew and Bird Slew. Grating work is progressing on the main line. SR 180 concrete base and paving began. A detour is in place and is working well.
- San Joaquin River Bridge seismic retrofit. All work is complete except for final restriping. The end of construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.
- Caltrans is working with the City of Fresno and the County of Madera on the relinquishment of the bridge. To relinquish it to the City and County of Fresno.
- Interstate 5 – Pavement preservation from Tuolumne Avenue crossing to north of the State Route 33 and Interstate 5 separation. This is a SHOPP project. The project will begin then go into winter suspension and will continue in the spring. Completion is anticipated for summer 2019.
- State Route 269 Bridge – Construction began mid-January. There is temporary detour adjacent to the project will open on April 5.
- Shaver to Huntington – Asphalt overlay on 168. Project is winter suspension and will begin when weather is better. Anticipated completion is summer 2019.
- Shepherd/168 – Rumble strips. Project was awarded and construction will begin in April.
- Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Stations at various locations in Fresno, Tulare, Kern Counties along SR 99 and I-5. The CTC allocated construction funding at the March meeting.

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

Mayor Silva (Mendota) stated that a meeting is needed to discuss what the plan is for the SR 180 west extension to Interstate 5. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that FCTA created an aerial map showing a possible route, but nothing is final. FCTA allocated \$350,000 for project initiation doctrine that Caltrans will conduct.

Francisco Chavez, Huron resident addressed the Policy Board stating the need for a memorial at location of deaths at the 269 Bridge.

## III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- C. Monthly Legislative Report (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Silva (Mendota) pulled item III-B for discussion.

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

- B. Letter of Support Reappoint Joe Del Bosque to the California Water Commission (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that at the request of the San Joaquin Valley Water Authority, included as an attachment in your packet is a Fresno COG Policy Board letter of support for Joe Del Bosque (Los Banos) to be reappointed to a four-year term on the State of California Water Commission. Mr. Del Bosque has served on the State Water Commission since 2010, including several years as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Del Bosque is a very well respected member of the agricultural community and has been involved in local and state water issues for over thirty years. Mayor Silva (Mendota) stressed to the Policy Board that the letter of support to reappoint Mr. Del Bosque is important. It is important to have a voice of the valley on the Commission.

**Quorum:** Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) exited. 14 members representing 35.25%, there was no quorum to conduct business. Reminder or agenda was taken out of order for information items.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DICUSSION ITEMS

There were no items

#### VI. OTHER ITEMS

##### A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Cervantes (FCOG) reported that Form 700s are due to the County Clerk by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

##### B. Items from Members

There were no items from members

#### VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

##### A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations

**Quorum:** Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) entered. 15 members representing 46.55%, there was a quorum to conduct business.

III-B. Letter of Support Reappoint Joe Del Bosque to the California Water Commission (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Silva (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve the Letter of Support for Joe Del Bosque to be reappointed to the State of California Water Commission.

#### V. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Current:

Mayor David Cardenas (Fowler) Interim Chair

Mayor Robert Silva (Mendota) Interim Vice Chair

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) nominated Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) for Policy Board Chair and Mayor Silva (Mendota) for Policy Board Vice Chair.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) seconded to approve the election of Chair and Vice Chair to serve March 2019 – March 2020. The motion passed.

Adjourned to FCRTA 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

#### Public

Cathy Crosby, Zoo Authority

Scott Barton, Zoo Authority

Ron Alexander, CAO & Zoo

Felipe Perez, Biola

Carolina Ilic, FAX

Phillip Cervantes, Biola

Francisco Chavez

#### Staff

Kristine Cai, Meg Prince, Trai Her-Cole, Brenda Veenendaal, Peggy Arnest, Braden Duran, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Todd Sobrado, Jeaneen Cervantes