

**Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, July 25, 2019
5:30 PM**

Members Attending:

Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
Councilmember Felipe Perez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Councilmember Luis Chavez, City of Fresno
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
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma

Eric Olson, Caltrans
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Absent:

Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Chair.

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 12 members representing 79.24% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Fresno City, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Selma).

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. Sitting as the Fresno County Mayors Selection Committee (Includes the County)

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of June 14, 2019 [APPROVE]
- B. 2019-20 Measure C Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Urban Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. 2019 FTA Section 5310 Program of Projects (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]
- G. Countywide Homelessness Priorities for Calendar Year 2019 (Jean Rousseau/Tony Boren) [APPROVE]
- H. Survey for the Fresno County Regional Transportation Network Vulnerability Assessment (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- I. Notice of Release - Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Grants Application and Guidelines (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- J. Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee Vacant Positions (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Leon (Huron) request to pull item I-D and I-E.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda. The motion passed.

- D. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency & Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Rural Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and Fresno County Economic Opportunities

Commission (FCEOC) are claiming \$550,952 in Transportation Development Act funding to support the \$2,595,052 2019-20 Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency operating budget.

Action: Adopt Resolution 2019-21 approving the FCRTA/FCEOC 2019-20 Transportation Development Act claim.

E. Urban & Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Monty Cox) [APPROVE]

Mr. Stites (FCRTA) reported that the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget (OPB) for 2019-20 is available on Fresno COG's website at: <http://fresnocog.org>. The document is designed to provide an overview of how and in what manner the CTSA will provide social service transportation throughout Fresno County over the next fiscal year. The OPB consists of an urban component and a rural component. Co-designees for the urban CTSA are the City of Fresno/FAX and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC). Co-designees for the rural CTSA are the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and the FEOC. The OPB's 45-day review process began on May 7, 2019 and the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) approved the document on June 25, 2019.

Previously, at the June 4, 2019 SSTAC meeting, the City of Fresno, as the fiscal agent and co-designee for the urban CTSA, requested the SSTAC to defer action on the OPB until it could review accounting-related issues in the urban OPB. At issue was a funding carryover that had extended over several fiscal years. FCRTA, the fiscal agent and co-designee for the rural CTSA, supported deferring action on the rural OPB so that action could be taken on both OPBs at the same time.

Between the June 4 and June 25 SSTAC meetings, FAX and FEOC staff worked together to satisfactorily address the carryover issues. At the June 25, 2019 SSTAC meeting, both the City of Fresno and FCRTA recommended that the SSTAC approve the urban and rural CTSA OBPs with the stipulation that existing MOUs be reviewed, updated and revised accordingly for both the urban and rural co-designations.

Action: Approve Resolution 2019-16, adopting the Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's Operations Program and Budget.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) seconded to approve Items D and E of the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Quorum: Firebaugh and Sanger entered. There were 14 members present representing 82.69% of the population.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Consultant Selection for Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released a request for proposals (RFP) in May for a combined 2019-20 Circuit Planner and Engineer Program with a contract amount of \$100,000. The Circuit Planner and Engineer Program is intended to provide technical assistance to the small cities in Fresno County. Such assistance could include planning studies, project deliveries, grant applications, environmental documents, engineering services, etc.

Fresno COG received two proposals from planning and engineering firms. The consultant selection committee comprising representatives from the Cities of Kingsburg, Reedley, San Joaquin, and Fresno COG reviewed both proposals and interviewed both teams of consultants on June 19. Although both teams were highly qualified, the committee chose the Rincon Consultants Inc., which includes Collins & Schoettler and VSCE as sub-consultants, as the preferred contractor. The

Rincon team's areas of expertise and its extensive history working with small cities in Fresno County will provide a good foundation for understanding and addressing the cities' needs.

The Rincon team will begin reaching out to each of the small cities in August to solicit projects for this program year.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Silva (Mendota) seconded to approve Rincon Consultants, Inc. and authorize Fresno COG's executive director to enter into a contract with Rincon Consultants Inc. for \$100,000.

B. Work Element 160 - Better Blackstone Design Challenge Strategic Partnership Grant (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG, in partnership with the Fresno Metro Ministries, was awarded \$543,950 through Caltrans' Fiscal Year 2019-20 Strategic Partnership Grant for the Better Blackstone Design Challenge.

The Better Blackstone Design Challenge (BBDC) is a strategic partnership aimed at increasing investment in sustainable transportation projects by developing tools for transit supportive land uses; objectives and policies for complete streets; multi-modal systems, and; protecting regional facility capacities. The project will produce alternative, feasible transit-

oriented development design scenarios for more than 200 mixed-use designated parcels. It includes gap-financing-related economic, real estate and urban footprint analyses translated into useful web-based tools and ongoing technical assistance for property owners, developers and funders.

This grant award leverages Fresno COG Overall Work Program (OWP) work element 146, which is funded with Senate Bill 1 formula funds. Work elements 146 and 160 will be closely coordinated; both will be completed concurrently and without duplicating tasks or deliverables.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Chavez (Fresno City) motioned and Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) seconded to authorize Fresno COG's executive director to enter into a contract with Fresno Metro Ministries for the Better Blackstone Design Challenge Strategic Partnership Grant for an amount not to exceed \$ 519,948, which includes \$62,391 in non-reimbursable matching funds.

C. Measure C Agricultural Worker Outreach Contract Extensions (Esperanza Velasco) [APPROVE]

Ms. Velasco (FCOG) reported that during 2018-2019, Fresno COG contracted with multiple community-based organizations to conduct diverse and extensive grassroots outreach among people who may qualify for subsidies under Measure C's Ag Worker Vanpool (AVP) program. The goal was to double annual participation and ridership from an average of 45 vanpools to more than 100.

The outreach contracts expired on June 30, 2019. However, the contracted agencies have agreed to a contract extension through June 30, 2020, to continue the outreach with a renewed focus. The two agencies are:

- **Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities (CBDIO)**
- **Office of Community and Economic Development- Fresno State (OCED)**

Program background:

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.

Work accomplished in the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

During the contract year, CBDIO (Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueno) (Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities) conducted an extensive and direct outreach from June–December 2018. The strategy consisted of community and targeted-area outreach events. Such events included: several dates at the Mexican Consulate's "Ventanilla de Salud" (Window of Health) and "Sabatino Health Fair" (Saturday Health Fair) days; community events in Kerman, Parlier, and several workshops in Fresno elementary schools. CBDIO staff dedicated eight days toward door-to-door contacts in six targeted zip codes. CBDIO referred ten interested people to CalVans to get vetted

as CalVans drivers. Two completed all requirements specified by CalVans. Neither driver, however, picked up the two vans that were set aside for them.

CSUF Fresno Foundation through the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) contacted several labor contractors from April-June, 2018. Ten identified labor contractors showed interest in learning more about the Measure C program. Follow-up workshops were to be conducted by OCED to go over the information and sign up contractors. The proposed schedule was September 11 in Mendota; September 13 in Huron; October 16 in Parlier, and October 18 in Fowler. The ten contractors were also referred to CalVans as well to learn about the pros and cons of using vans provided by CalVans in place of their own ag-labor transportation vehicles. OCED suffered staff turnovers after June 2018 and was unable to complete its proposed objectives within the grant period.

Debrief discussions with the outreach agency staff revealed that grantees understood that CalVans was the only vanpool provider qualified to receive the Measure C ag worker subsidies. Lack of available vans from the assumed provider (CalVans) during the last six months of 2018 and the first months of 2019 also dampened the grantees' outreach progress. A large percentage of newly-acquired CalVans vans are already committed even before they are delivered, with about 50 percent of them being used to transport H2A workers through the various counties where CalVans operates.

Therefore, Fresno COG staff and representatives from the two outreach agencies would like to continue working together to correct misunderstandings about the availability of program dollars and continue outreaching to ag workers and farm labor contractors using grant dollars previously approved. Outreach would continue through the end of the fiscal year 2019-20.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Robertson (Selma) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to authorize the executive director to extend two \$25,000 contracts for the community-based organizations listed above, through June 30, 2020, on behalf of the Measure C Agricultural Vanpool program's public outreach services.

D. Senate Bill 743 Regional Guidelines Consultant Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill 743 (SB 743, 2013), requires that the traffic congestion metric level of service (LOS) be replaced in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process with a metric that would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), develop a multi-modal transportation system and increase land use diversity. The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommended vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the most appropriate metric to measure the transportation impacts for developments, considering it is more aligned with the state's goals of reducing GHG emissions through infill development, active transportation and other sustainable land use and transportation projects.

The California Natural Resources Agency approved the CEQA update implementing SB 743 in December 2018. The new CEQA guideline sections created under SB 743 will take full effect statewide on July 1, 2020, although lead agencies may choose to opt-in earlier. SB 743 will have profound impacts on how local governments and other lead agencies approve land use and transportation projects.

Fresno COG has developed an SB 743 Local Assistance Program to assist member agencies. Approximately \$270,000 has been set aside to develop regional guidelines for local governments to update their traffic impact study policies. The guidelines will be advisory, and the local governments can endorse the entire document or some components of it based on their individual needs. The guidelines will take into consideration large and small cities, as well as urban and (county) rural areas.

Staff issued an RFP in May and received two proposals. A scoring committee comprising representatives from COG, Fresno, Clovis, County of Fresno, eastside cities and westside cities interviewed the consultant teams. The committee recommended LSA be selected to develop the regional guidelines. LSA is an established environmental firm with expertise in CEQA and SB 743. As a recognized leader on SB 743, LSA has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the regulatory environment and has been closely following SB 743 implementation throughout the State. The scope for the SB 743 regional guidelines development project was provided.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Chavez (Fresno City) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to authorize the executive director to enter into a contract with LSA for an amount not to exceed \$ 269,605.58.

E. Delegated Authority Authorization for Upcoming Formal Federal Transportation Improvement Plan/Regional Transportation Plan (FTIP/RTP) Amendment and Corresponding Conformity Analysis (Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that earlier this month, TTC and PAC were informed that the 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) and 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) would have to be amended to extend the schedule for the City of Fresno's Veteran's Boulevard project. The change to this project requires a formal Type 5 amendment to the FTIP/RTP and a new conformity determination based on the project's regional significance.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule and its potential to cause severe delays in Fresno COG's ability to deliver regionally significant, capacity-increasing, and non-exempt projects, it is in the region's interest to fast-track this upcoming amendment before the final SAFE rule is released. Further information on the SAFE Vehicles Rule is provided as an attachment.

Consequently, staff is requesting that the Board grant delegated authority that authorizes the Executive Director to approve the upcoming formal Type 5 FTIP/RTP amendment and corresponding air quality conformity analysis. Staff plans to release the amendment for a 30-day public review period in early August with a public hearing in mid-August. Once all public comments are sufficiently addressed, this action would give the executive director the authority to approve the amendment and the conformity analysis, and submit to Caltrans and FHWA for State and Federal approval.

Please note that should the SAFE Vehicles Rule be released without any grace period for compliance, the amendment may not be approved by FHWA.

If approved today, staff will bring the director-approved formal Type 5 amendment to the TTC, PAC, and Board as an informational item in September 2019.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Chavez (Fresno City) motioned and Councilmember Beck (Reedley) seconded to authorizing the Executive Director to approve the upcoming formal Type 5 FTIP/RTP amendment and corresponding conformity analysis to be released for public comment in August 2019.

F. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Olsen (Caltrans) reported:

- State Route (SR) 99 realignment to accommodate High Speed Rail – The project is substantially completion. The contractor is finalizing punch list items. Landscaping will continue until 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. Remaining work is limited to the bridge barriers. Grating has not yet resumed on the main line, the contractor is working to reconfigure equipment to do the work. Oliver Avenue is reopened. Rio Vista was closed to through traffic. A detour is in place and is working well. Nesting, migrant birds were discovered, but work continues and birds are being biologically monitored.
- SR 180 connector guard rail. SR 41 to SR 180 connector. The project is to remove metal guard railing and replacing it with a concrete barrier on the westbound 180 connector. This project is expected to be completed by the end of June.
- Interstate 5 – Pavement preservation from Tuolumne Avenue crossing to north of the State Route 33 and Interstate 5 separation. All paving work has been completed. Pavement striping and installing rumble strips and electrical systems. Work is expected to be completed by the end of August 2019.
- State Route 269 Bridge – Work is progressing is constructing the embankment and the bridges. Paving will begin over part of the SR 269 main line over the following month. The project is on schedule. The project is anticipated to be open to traffic on November 11, 2019. Project completion is expected mid-December 2019.
- Shaver to Huntington – Asphalt overlay work began this week. Anticipated completion is summer 2019.
- I 5 freight corridor California aqueduct. Contractor started work on the approach slabs the week of July 17. There will be three weeks of this type of work. The last working day is supposed to be August 1st, but the project has had some delays. It is unlikely it will be complete in a week.
- City of Firebaugh new ADA curb ramps and sidewalks. Bids were opened last week and the project should proceed to construction in September.
- City of Kingsburg SR99 rehabilitation - SR 99 to the 201 separation. The project is scheduled to go out to Bid on August 5.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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

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

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local Government Planning support Grants Program (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that on June 13, 2019, the California Legislature approved the 2019-20 state budget, which included \$900 million in housing incentive funds. On June 27, trailer bill language addressing the incentive funds was simultaneously placed into SB 102 and AB 101. Both companion bills designate \$250 million for cities, counties and COGs to use toward preparing for the sixth cycle of Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

The \$250 million in housing planning funds is further divided in half, with \$125 million intended for COGs and regional agencies to use and/or distribute on a grant basis to local jurisdictions. Eligible expenditures include education and outreach strategies, developing improved methodologies for RHNA funding distribution, technical assistance, and establishing regional or jurisdictional housing trust funds, among other uses.

Overseeing the entire process is a working group that is required to include at least one large city representative, one small city representative and one county supervisor from each participating county. The city representatives are to be appointed through the county's city selection committee. Fresno COG is requesting the County's City Selection Committee meet in July to appoint Fresno's regional representatives. The San Joaquin Valley is receiving an additional \$6 million to offset costs associated with convening this working group. The SJV's share of funds is anticipated to be somewhere between \$18.5 and \$20.5 million.

Regional entities have approximately five months (November 30, 2019) to seat the working group. After that, funding allocations may be requested. Staff is recommending an assertive timeline for determining: a) how to best complete the initial application for funding and working group administration (staff or consultant); b) how much, if any, funding will be held regionally or passed down to jurisdictions, and; c) how funding will be allocated among the eight SJV COGs.

In June, the SJV COG Directors were briefed on this issue and the associated critical timelines, with particular regard to working group assignments. The Directors approved Fresno COG as the fiscal agent for this grant funding, following the bill's requirements. Over the last month, Fresno COG staff and coordinator Michael Sigala have brainstormed options and recommendations for the three immediate questions presented above.

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

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren stated that there will be no August meeting. Next meeting is September 26th.
- Mr. Boren will bring to the Board information of the intersections urban and rural with the most accidents.
- Ms. Her-Cole announced there will be an Electric Vehicle workshop here at the COG offices on September 25th.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) reported on the T-Mobile/Sprint merger.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

Mario Santoyo, spoke to the Policy Board about SB1 and asked the Board to consider sending a letter to the Governor and legislators to stop SB1 or amend SB1.

Meeting was adjourned to FCRTA at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Joseph Oldham, Calstart
Keith Bergthold, Metro Ministries
Jared Nimer, Fresno County
Julia Jauregui, Stantec
Scott Spencer, CCUCP
Eric VonBerg, Rincon
Denise DiBenedetto, FCTA
Mario Santoyo

Staff:

Robert Phipps
Esperanza Velazco
Suzanne Martinez
Trai Her-Cole
Meg Prince
Braden Duran
Todd Sobrado
Moses Stites
Janelle Del Campo
Jeaneen Cervantes