

**Transportation Technical Committee
MINUTES
Friday, September 13, 2019
8:30 AM**

Members Present

Gregory Barfield, City of Fresno
Nicholas Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Mohammad Khorsand, Fresno County
Mohammad Alimi, Fresno County
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
David Padilla, Caltrans
Debbie Hunsaker, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
John Mulligan, City of Sanger
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Jennifer Clark, City of Fresno
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Mr. Barfield (Fresno City), Chair.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of July 12, 2019 [APPROVE]
- B. Fourth Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. City of Kingsburg Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. City of Orange Cove Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. City of Sanger Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. City of Mendota Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- G. City of Firebaugh Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- H. City of Kerman Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- I. REMINDER: Senate Bill 2 Housing Planning Grants (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- J. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Call for Projects (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- K. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Draft Round 5 Guidelines and Technical Assistance (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- L. Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- M. Call for Application: Fiscal Year 2020-21 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- N. Notice of Funding: Fiscal Year 2019 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- O. Notice of Funding: Fiscal Year 2019 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- P. Community Emissions Reduction Plan drafts for the AB 617 South Fresno Community (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- Q. Call for Application: Clean Mobility in Schools Pilot Project (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- R. 2019 Fresno Regional Transportation Innovations Summit (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]
- S. City of Kerman Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Hansaker (Chamber) motioned and Mr. Stites (FCRTA) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **2019/2020 CMAQ and STBG Guidelines, Application Packets and Call for Project Initiation (Jennifer Soliz/Braden Duran) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Programs are authorized in the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and are the cornerstones for transportation funds distributed to regions.

Fresno COG, acting in its role as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is responsible for programming future federal transportation revenues for the Fresno region in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). CMAQ and STBG funds are reimbursable federal-aid funds, subject to the requirements of Title 23, United States code.

Program guidelines describe the policy, standards, criteria, and procedures for developing, managing and adopting Fresno COG's CMAQ and STBG programs. The 2019/2020 CMAQ and STBG programs will cover four years of programming, 2020/21 through 2023/24. CMAQ and STBG funds are distributed and split among Fresno COG local agencies 1) by formula, known as lifeline funds, and 2) through competitive funds, known as regional bid. The regional bid funding is based on scoring criteria and evaluated by a scoring committee.

The Fresno COG Programming Subcommittee met several times in July and August to update and finalize guidelines, application packets and scoring criteria for the upcoming 2019-20 CMAQ and STBG calls for projects. Minor updates for both programs include clarifying language and categories in the program guidelines such as program purpose, matching requirements, eligibility, regional bid selection processes, contingency lists and obligation requirements. Construction-ready projects and expedited project delivery categories were added to both program's scoring criteria. The programming subcommittee approved the adjusted and redistributed criteria points.

The [CMAQ](#) and [STBG](#) program guidelines and application packets can be found on Fresno COG's website. Upon Board approval of the application packets, the call for projects will be initiated.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Stites (FCRTA) seconded to recommend that the Board approve the CMAQ and STBG guidelines and application packets, and initiate the call for projects on September 26, 2019.

B. Measure C Expenditure Plan Update (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that Measure C's ballot requirements provided for the expenditure plan to be updated biannually and approved by both Fresno COG and Transportation Authority boards. While the most recent plan was revised in May 2018, other Measure C-related issues on this agenda provide an opportunity for Fresno COG's Board to consider not only the expenditure's plan's most recent status, but also how it might be adjusted going into a new measure. Beginning the process now allows time for subcommittee meetings and adoption by both boards.

The overall expenditure plan includes all Measure funded projects; however, this memorandum focuses on the Regional Transportation Program, which includes major highway projects and is split into urban and rural divisions of Tier I project listings. The Regional Transportation Program is affected by many dynamic variables. Two major variables are the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2020 cycle and the statutory Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program five-year update. STIP issues will be covered in this memorandum. RTMF will be discussed as a separate item below.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has released draft STIP fund estimates. The Caltrans Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) draft submittal is due October 1, 2019, and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is due December 15, 2019. The CTC will hold hearings and adopt the next STIP in March 2020.

The adopted 2018 STIP provides \$14.616 million for Veterans Boulevard in FY 2019-20. There is a variety of Measure C, RTMF, SB 1 Local Partnership Program (LPP), California High-Speed Rail and local development fee funding on this \$141 million project. The \$34.4 million design and right-of-way phases are complete, using mostly Measure C and RTMF funding, and the City of Fresno is now proceeding with the \$107 million construction in phases.

The first phase, connecting Bullard Avenue to Herndon Avenue is already under construction. The City of Fresno plans to bid the grade separation over the Union-Pacific railroad and high-speed rail tracks in October 2019. The

interchange is expected to bid in spring 2021, incorporating STIP funds; however, there is still a \$10.5 million funding shortfall. The City of Fresno has applied for different federal grants to close that shortfall. Meanwhile, Fresno COG and Transportation Authority staff is exploring different funding strategies with the city.

The 2018 STIP programmed \$3 million in advanced design and engineering funds for the State Route (SR) 99 North/Cedar interchange. The Authority and FCOG boards approved a strategy developed among Caltrans, the Authority and Fresno COG staff to environmentally clear SR 99 North/Cedar interchange along with companion interchange projects, Central/Chestnut, and American Avenue. The SR 99 North/Cedar interchange is on the Measure C Urban Tier I list. The American Avenue project is on the Measure C Rural Tier I list. Central/Chestnut is on the Rural Tier II list and is a candidate for future Measure C funding. The strategy reserves a combination of STIP and Measure C funding for North/Cedar and American Avenue to proceed concurrently to the design and right-of-way stages in 2021-22, with construction planned in 2023-24.

In addition, the 2018 STIP programmed \$2 million of the \$10 million required for design and right of way for the SR 41 Excelsior Expressway, to construct 24 lane miles completing the widening of SR 41 between Elkhorn and Lemoore. This project is not on the current Measure C list however, SR 41 out to Elkhorn was constructed with the original Measure which was extended in 2007. The Fresno COG board approved a strategy to contribute an additional \$4 million STIP to the \$52.5 million construction phase which Caltrans has represented will be funded by ITIP. However, recently Caltrans advised the project has been combined with SHOPP funding to build round-a-bouts at key intersections and along with other cost increases, the construction phases will increase by \$20 million. Caltrans has requested Fresno COG to participate in the cost increase. Staff is waiting to see what the 2020 ITIP requirements will be before committing additional STIP funds, however, if STIP funds are increased pro-rata to the existing STIP contribution, the increase to Fresno COG would be less than \$2 million.

The 2020 STIP fund estimate provided limited new capacity in 2023-24 and 2024-25; however, overall STIP capacity is significantly lower than initially envisioned under new funding that SB 1 provides. Our region has \$36.9 million in unprogrammed balances, while our target through 2024-25 is \$12.4 million. Consequently, our intent will be to maintain the existing strategy of delivering the SR 99 North/Cedar and American Avenue interchanges subject to CTC cash-flow dynamics.

The Measure's top Rural Tier I project and focus is Golden State Boulevard. The project is 60 percent designed with construction scheduled for in 2020-21. The project parallels the Union Pacific Railroad; in the course of evaluating intersections crossing UPRR right-of-way, the railroad required significant improvements associated with the proposed Class I trail. The cost of those improvements rendered the trail infeasible at this time. The project development team was convened and determined to proceed with the project without the trail.

In addition, the expenditure plan has funds set aside to connect I-5 and SR 180 through west Fresno County; however, the cost of the scoped project is well beyond the capacity of the current measure. The Transportation Authority has authorized Caltrans to conduct a preliminary study report to determine if a feasible alternative exists that the existing measure can fund.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

C. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Update (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that State statutes require the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) fee to be updated every five years. The last formal update went into effect in 2015. Staff is working with WSP to have the newest update in place before January 2020 to allow the fee to continue. This effort requires several technical decisions to be addressed. Among them:

The RTMF fee is tied to Measure C and supports projects funded by the Measure, which sunsets in 2027. The Transportation Authority and Fresno COG staff are developing a strategy to extend the Measure beyond 2027; however, most RTMF fees have no sunset provision. Instead, they generally have a deep planning horizon to forecast development, select projects to mitigate that development, and spread the cost over many years. With only eight years remaining in the Measure, limiting the planning to that horizon creates mathematical dilemmas for either this update or the 2025 update required three years before the Measure expires. For example, significant development incorporated into Fresno COG's model projections is expected to occur beyond 2027.

The subcommittee recommends extending the RTMF planning horizon another 20 years beyond the Measure's 2027 sunset. If another Measure extension is successful, the issue is resolved. Should the Measure extension fail, the Board may wish to consider the ramifications of a stand-alone fee.

Another issue involves the modeling tool. The ballot calls for the RTMF nexus to use the Fresno COG model, which was calibrated around general plans adopted consistent with sustainable cities' concepts. The Fresno COG model was never designed to analyze the capacity of specific intersections. The subcommittee recommends incorporating the City of Fresno South Industrial Priority Area Specific Plan into the model using software known as Synchro in the intersection analysis. WSP and Fresno COG staff are coordinating to incorporate those tools into the process.

Finally, the City of Fresno has proposed incorporating the SR 99 North/Cedar project into the RTMF fee. WSP is still calculating for this change, but initially, the fee for residential units may increase 40 percent. Even with this increase, the Fresno County RTMF fee is significantly lower than any peer agency in the state.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

D. Measure C Early Reauthorization (Tony Boren/Mike Leonardo) [APPROVE]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) and Mr. Leonardo (FCTA) reported on potential benefits and pitfalls of beginning the reauthorization effort for the regional Measure C transportation initiative.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Hunsaker (Chamber) motioned and Mr. Prandini (BIA) seconded to recommend that the Board approve a regional education effort designed to bring a Measure C reauthorization question to the ballot in November 2022.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Her-Cole reported on the EV Workshop being held at Fresno COG on September 25, 2019 at 1:30pm.
- Ms. Her-Cole reported on the Transportation Innovation Summit that Fresno COG is co-hosting with Fresno State on October 23, 2019.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations –

There were no public presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53am

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Mike Leonardo, FCTA
Brandon Thompson, CHP
Joe Vargas, FAX

Staff:

Les Beshears	Kain Han
Kristine Cai	Moses Stites
Jennifer Soliz	Janelle Del Campo
Meg Prince	Jeff Long
Trai Her-Cole	Jeaneen Cervantes
Braden Duran	