

Fresno COG Policy Board Executive
MINUTES
Thursday, September 26, 2017
5:30 PM

Members Attending:

Councilmember Bob Whalen, City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
Mayor Pro Tem Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Councilmember Paul Caprioglio, 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 Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Councilmember Robert Beck, City of Reedley
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Nathan Magsig, County of Fresno

Gail Miller, Caltrans
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Absent:

None

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 16 members representing 100% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno City, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma, Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), 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]
- 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]
- R. 2019 Fresno Regional Transportation Innovations Summit (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]
- S. City of Kerman Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mayor Leon (Huron) pulled items I-J, I-K, I-L, I-P, I-Q.

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

I-J. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Call for Projects (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG administers the Circuit Planner and Engineer Program, which offers free technical assistance to the small cities in Fresno County. The circuit planner and engineer are available to help complete smaller transportation-related projects that support the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy or assist with other various roadblocks in delivery of projects.

The programs are not intended to replace contract planning and engineering staff, but help with smaller projects or obstacles so that local agency staff can remain focused on day-to-day duties and larger projects.

The circuit planner, Rincon Consultants, has been reaching out to the small cities over the last month to solicit potential projects for this program cycle. If you have a project that you would like assistance with and have not already talked with the circuit planner, please contact Meg Prince, Associate Regional Planner, at mprince@fresnocog.org or (559) 233-4148 x203.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

I-K. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Draft Round 5 Guidelines and Technical Assistance (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that The Strategic Growth Council has released the [Draft Round 5 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Guidelines](#). The public comment period for this draft is open from August 30 to September 30, 2019. Please submit comments to SGC by email at AHSC@sgc.ca.gov, or by mail (California Strategic Growth Council, Attn: AHSC Program, 1400 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814). Please review the [summary memo](#) for additional details and instructions.

Round 5 Timeline

- **Late August 2019:** Draft guidelines release
- **Early September 2019:** Draft guidelines workshops
- **October 31, 2019:** Council meeting to adopt final draft guidelines
- **Early November 2019:** Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) release
- **February 2020:** Application due date
- **June 2020:** Awards date

Staff from SGC, CARB, and California Department of Housing and Community Development will host a series of public workshops in September to explain changes proposed to the guidelines and quantification methodology, and to receive feedback on these proposed changes.

- **September 12, Fresno:** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Fresno Council of Government Offices, Fresno – [register here](#)
- **September 16, Webinar:** 10 a.m. – noon; GoToWebinar – [register here](#). Technical assistance is also available.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

I-L. Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the California Natural Resources Agency will be accepting proposals for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program from **August 20 through October 11, 2019**. \$27.7 million in awards will be funded by this program.

The City of Sanger will host a technical assistance workshop from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, September 26 at the City Council chambers, as well as a webcast from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, September 25 via <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>. For more information, please visit: <http://resources.ca.gov/grants/trails/>

This item was informational only; no further action was required

I-P. Community Emissions Reduction Plan drafts for the AB 617 South Fresno Community (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that the Assembly Bill 617 process in south Fresno has begun wrapping up its first year of implementation to reduce air pollution in one of California's most impacted communities. The goal is to create a Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) that heavily relies on community-specific monitoring to establish a community-level action framework for air protection. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) lead the effort.

The process began in October 2018, and the first steering committee meeting was held in December 2018. The CERP must be adopted and sent to CARB's Governing Board by October 2019. Since the last update to the Policy Board, the SJVAPCD has worked with the community steering committee to develop the CERP's first and second drafts, incorporating public comments along the way. These drafts are available online at <http://community.valleyair.org/>

This item was informational only; no further action was required

I-Q. Call for Application: Clean Mobility in Schools Pilot Project (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has released a grant solicitation for the Clean Mobility in Schools Pilot Project for 2018-19, with an option for new grant agreements for 2019-20 and 2020-21. Available funding for 2018-19 is \$10 million.

The pilot is intended to deploy synergistic greenhouse gas emission reduction techniques that can be emulated on school campuses statewide. This will increase visibility and accessibility to zero-emission transportation options with support for charging/fueling infrastructure in one or more schools. In addition, the program intends to provide a platform to test clean, shared mobility concepts such as a car share component for staff at schools to rotate using zero-emission vehicles, and outreach to students, parents and the community.

Eligible applicants include public school districts and county offices of education that serve or are located in a disadvantaged community. **Applications are due Monday, October 21, 2019.**

CARB will hold two applicant teleconferences:

DATE: 10:00 a.m. September 5, 2019, and 1:30 p.m. October 1, 2019

CALL-IN: 888-469-3065, Passcode: 3808551

CARB will collect questions via email; however, staff will only respond to questions regarding this solicitation during the applicant teleconferences and will not respond to emailed questions until after the final applicant teleconference has taken place. If you have any questions regarding the Clean Mobility in Schools Pilot Project Applicant Teleconferences, contact Heather Choi at (916) 322-3893.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

After an opportunity for public comment, Supervisor Magsig (Fresno County) motioned and Councilmember Caprioglio (Fresno City) seconded to approve in one with one Items I-J, I-K, I-L, I-P and I-Q. 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, Supervisor Magsig (Fresno County) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) 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, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) seconded to recommend the approval of a regional education effort designed to bring a Measure C reauthorization question to the ballot in November 2022.

E. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Miller (Caltrans) reported:

- Kings Canyon Expressway SR 180 Segment 3; structure work is substantially complete at four locations, China Slew, Kings River, Cameron Slew and Bird Slew. Remaining work is limited to the bridge barriers. Concrete paving is nearing completion. Traffic has shifted to the new alignment. Once the traffic shift is complete the contractor will work on reconstructing the Kings Canyon overflow structure in Minkler and the eastbound SR 180 mainline concrete pavement between Rio Vista and Cameron Slew. Frankwood and 180 will be closed on September 30. A detour for Franklin is prepared for implementation with review and comments from Fresno County. Caltrans Public Information Office is working with locals to provide notification. Critical path to completion continues to be the mail line.
- 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 was completed and the contract was accepted this week.
- Interstate 5 – Pavement preservation from Tuolumne Avenue crossing to north of the State Route 33 and Interstate 5 separation. Work has been completed as of August 30.
- State Route 269 Bridge – Traffic is scheduled to shift onto 269 on November 1. Project completion is expected early December 2019.
- Shaver to Huntington – Paving, striping and guard rail are complete. Anticipated completion is by the end of the year.
- City of Firebaugh new ADA curb ramps and sidewalks. Project will be awarded in the next couple of weeks. Weather permitting the project will start later this year, otherwise it will have to wait for spring.
- City of Kingsburg SR 99 rehabilitation - SR 99 to the 201 separation. The project was advertised on August 5, bids will open in October.
- Coalinga Avenue Rest Area – Waste Water upgrade. Project was awarded on August 28. Project will update the waste water systems to current standards. Rest areas will be closed during project work. Work will begin later this year and continue to fall of 2020.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Beck (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Beltran (Parlier) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2019-20 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the 2019-20 OWP Amendment No. 2, increasing the budget \$210,099 to \$20,121,141. There are eleven Work Elements in this amendment. These items were approved, appropriated and entered into contacts last year. Nine of these items are technical items that are adjustments to the budget to reflect funding agreements with Caltrans.

Work Element 110 Regional Streets and Roads. FCOG will be hiring a consultant to perform a \$300,000 East Side Corridor Study focusing on Academy and Manning Avenues east of State Route 99. Identified transportation projects will likely serve as potential candidate projects for Measure C III.

Work Element 148 Transit On-Board Survey. This 2019-20 RMRA program is renamed from Sustainable Communities Infrastructure Grant. An RFP will be issued to perform Transit On-Board Surveys for FAX, FCRTA, and Clovis Transit who will contribute \$25,040 to the project. Caltrans has advised us there is \$15,598 in addition apportionment. The work element increases \$47,850 to \$205,191.

After an opportunity for public comment, Supervisor Magsig (Fresno County) motioned and Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) seconded to Authorize 2019-20 OWP Amendment No. 2, increasing the budget \$210,099 to \$20,121,141

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren reported that the Fresno COG server was breached and held for ransom.
- Ms. Cervantes reported that the Fresno COG Policy Board October meeting is scheduled on Halloween, will of the Policy Board to keep as scheduled or move. The Policy Board agreed to move the meeting to Wednesday, October 30th.
- Mr. Phipps reported that Mayor Roman agree to MC the Fresno Regional Transportation Innovation Summit on October 23.

B. Items from Members

- **Mayor Leon (Huron) invited the Policy Board to an event in Huron on October 12, celebrating roots.**

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Meeting adjourned to FCRTA at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Julia Jauregui, Stantec

Dave Fey, LAFCo

Conrad Delmondo

Staff: Les Beshears, Robert Phipps, Kristine Cai, Jen Soliz, Meg Prince, Trai Her-Cole, Braden Duran, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Jeaneen Cervantes