

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, March 13, 2020
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via teleconference.

Members Present via Teleconference:

Jean Rousseau, Fresno County
Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler
Wilma Quan, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman (In person)
Cristian Gonzales, City of Mendota
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger
Matt Flood, City of San Joaquin
Teresa Gallavan, City of Selma
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:26 a.m. by Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County), Chair. With eight members present via teleconference, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of February 14, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. Second Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. City of Fowler Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Fiscal Year 2019 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report (Jeff Long) [ACCEPT]
- E. Circuit Planner and Engineer - Update on Current Tasks (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- F. California Air Resources Board Approval of AB617 South Central Fresno Community Emissions Reduction Plan (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- G. Regional Transportation Plan Committee Applications and Community Outreach Mini Grant Application (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]
 1. Fresno COG's Community Outreach Mini-Grant Program – Application released
 2. RTP Roundtable Participant Application
 3. Environmental Justice Subcommittee Participant Application

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Chapa (Sanger) motioned and Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Quorum: City of Clovis and Reedley joined, 10 members present.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno County Regional Transit On-Board Survey (Santosh Bhattarai) [APPROVE]

Mr. Bhattarai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG in partnership with Fresno Area Express (FAX), Clovis Transit, and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), requested proposals from consultants to develop the first countywide

origin-destination transit on-board survey for the Fresno County. The survey will represent all the fixed transit routes within the county, operated by three transit providers.

Along with service-related questions, the survey will include transit trips' origins and destinations, transfers, rider demographics, customer trip/travel characteristics, customer satisfaction, customer preferences for receiving communications and other transit trip information. The survey will be used to assist transit agencies in planning future service improvements, and will also provide valuable data to help improve the transit ridership forecast capability for COG's activity-based model (ABM).

Staff received three proposals for this project. On February 19, 2020, a scoring committee representing Fresno COG, FAX, Clovis Transit, and FCRTA interviewed the consultants, and unanimously recommended Moore & Associates to conduct the survey.

Moore & Associates has focused solely on public transportation and transit for nearly 30 years, crafting community-based transit solutions throughout the nation. Besides multiple successful transit on-board surveys both in and outside of California, Moore & Associates has conducted three consecutive rounds of customer and community surveys, along with marketing and advertising services for Golden Empire Transit District in Bakersfield. This experience provides the firm with sound knowledge of demographics, travel patterns, and transit ridership.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Chapa (Sanger) seconded to approve Moore & Associates for the Fresno County Regional Transit On-Board Survey project and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Moore & Associates for an amount not to exceed \$202,441.89. The motion passed.

B. Regional Transportation Plan Public Opinion Survey Consultant Selection (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released a request for proposals (RFP) on February 1, 2020, seeking a qualified consultant with substantial experience in designing and conducting opinion surveys whose participants are reflective of the county's demographics, including the non-English speaking populations. The consultant will be responsible for ranking the Fresno County community's defined values and transportation funding priorities, with a budget not to exceed \$50,000.

Staff received four proposal from the following firms: Rea & Parker Research, Nichols Research, Probolsky Research and Think Now

A scoring committee comprising Fresno COG staff members reviewed and scored the applications, holding phone interviews with each consultant on Thursday, March 5, 2020. The scoring committee's recommendation will be presented to the TTC/PAC at their meeting.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Ms. Quan (Fresno City) seconded to approve the scoring committee's consulting firm recommendation for completion of the Fresno COG Regional Transportation Plan Public Opinion Survey, and the authorization of Fresno COG's Executive Director to enter into a contract for an amount not to exceed \$50,000. The motion passed.

C. Fresno COG Public Participation Plan Update Released for 45-day Review and Comment Period (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff released its draft 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP) for 45-day public review and comment on March 3, 2020. The public comment period closes at 5 p.m. on April 17, 2020.

The PPP is a plan intended to give the Fresno COG Policy Board and staff guidance in providing for public involvement and interagency consultation early and often during the regional planning process. It contains policies, guidelines, processes and procedures to which Fresno COG commits while seeking and fostering open public involvement during the decision-making process, regarding all matters within discretion. The PPP also identifies opportunities for involvement in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

On March 26, 2020, Fresno COG Policy Board will conduct a public hearing on the PPP during its normal monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Sequoia Conference Room, 2035 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721. The meeting is accessible to the disabled. Individuals with disabilities may call Fresno COG (with three working days advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the public hearing. Translation services are available (with three-day advance notice) to participants speaking any language with available professional translation services. Public comments are welcomed at the public hearing or they may be submitted in writing via mail or email to Brenda Veenendaal, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA 93721, brendav@fresnocog.org.

After addressing all submitted comments, staff will request the Board adopt the 2020 Public Participation Plan by resolution on May 28, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting. All documents are available for review or download on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org or in hard copy at the Fresno COG offices.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

D. Senate Bill 743 Implementation Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill 743 (SB 743), passed in 2013, and incorporated in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in December 2018, will take effect on July 1, 2020. It requires Level of Service (LOS) be replaced with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the metric for transportation impact analyses in the CEQA process. SB 743 is going to have profound changes to how local land use development projects and transportation capacity projects are approved. It will serve the State's overall climate change goals by encouraging infill development and discouraging greenfield development, supporting green projects such as transit and active transportation projects and minimizing capacity increasing projects.

Fresno COG has been working with the local governments and a consultant team in developing regional guidance and recommendations for SB 743 implementation in the Fresno region. A threshold of 13 percent reduction has been recommended by Fresno COG's process based on the new GHG reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board for the Fresno region, compared to the statewide 15 percent reduction target recommended by the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

Fresno COG's process has resulted in a series of screening criteria to help local jurisdictions screen out projects that have less-than-significant VMT impacts. Fresno COG has also distributed draft VMT maps for each jurisdiction, which is one of the screening criteria. Fresno COG staff and the consultant team are working on developing an online VMT calculation tool for projects, and a list of mitigation measures that will work for the region.

Based on the work so far, the SB 743 process will have more impacts on projects in the fringe areas than the urban core, and it will add more of a cost/burden to small cities for growth than to the metropolitan areas. It is consistent with the State's goal of reducing travel-related GHG by concentrating growth in the urban areas, where travel is relatively shorter, than small communities where people tend to travel longer distances for different purposes.

As part of the CEQA process, projects sponsors will need to mitigate the impact to a less-than-significant level to avoid an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If the impact can't be mitigated, a Statement of Overriding Considerations can be provided through an EIR process, which might potentially be riskier.

There hasn't been any clear guidance from the State on how mitigation measures can be quantified. OPR seems to think on-site mitigation on a project-by-project basis is less effective than coordinated regional efforts, such as a regional mitigation bank or exchange, which is brand new in the VMT arena.

Fresno COG's recommendation will be advisory. The cities and the County will need to make their own judgement on what will work best based on individual growth policies and other considerations, such as economic development. Local government staff is strongly encouraged to stay involved in the process with Fresno COG.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Modeling On-Call Contract (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Quan (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020 Valley Voice Sacramento (Robert Phipps/Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that staff Fresno COG staff attended the San Joaquin Valley COG's 2020 Valley Voice trip to Sacramento, March 10-11.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that the CMAQ and TOD scoring committee meetings have been postponed to a date to be determined.

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) reported that the County Administrators Office has spent a lot of time with county health department regarding the Coronavirus.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

None

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Les Beshears, Kristine Cai, Jennifer Soliz, Trai Her-Cole, Peggy Arnest, Santosh Bhattarai, Brenda Veenendaal, Braden Duran, Jeff Long, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Jeaneen Cervantes