

**Policy Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES**

**Friday, May 8, 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

Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley

Elizabeth Nunez, City of San Joaquin

Jamaica Gentry, Caltrans

Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County), Chair. With seven members present via teleconference, there was a quorum to conduct business.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of April 10, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. County of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Circuit Planner and Engineer - Update on Current Tasks (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- D. Fresno COG's Draft 2020 Public Participation Plan – Public Hearing rescheduled for May 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]
- E. Notice of Funding Availability Transit-Oriented Development Housing Program Round 4 (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

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.

**II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that on April 1, 2020, Fresno COG staff submitted the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019/20 Obligation Plan to Caltrans's Division of Local Assistance. This plan documents Fresno COG's estimated project delivery for the remainder of 2019/20. The obligational authority (OA) target for 2019/20 is \$27,758,441.

As of March 31, 2020, only \$7,418,221 or 26.7 percent of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding had been obligated, leaving our region with an estimated OA balance of \$20,340,220. The obligation plan outlines approximately \$18 million in additional, combined CMAQ and STBG, which is still short of the remaining OA target.

In April, COG staff met with all local agencies to discuss their obligation plans and any changes to programmed projects. Approximately \$3.9 million in projects will be delayed, and another \$2.5 million were expedited to offset those delays. These changes are reflected on the quarterly report attached. In January, staff reviewed the 2019/20 OA plan and determined the region was on track to exceed its OA target by 1 percent. With the delays and other changes, staff is now projecting a delivery rate of 93.9 percent.

The FFY ends September 30, 2020; however, as of May 1, the federal funds become available to the rest of the state on a first-come, first-served basis. Per Caltrans HQ and Local Assistance, the state is anticipating OA will be exhausted by mid-

May. This is much earlier than we have seen in previous years, and projects not submitted to Caltrans for authorization by May 1 are at risk of being delayed.

It is the state's goal to exceed the OA target and, in August, receive additional federal funds redistributed from other states to projects pending authorization. We encourage all agencies to submit their Requests for Authorization as soon as possible to get in the queue for the funds that will become available. If projects do not receive authorization approval after August, they will be delayed to October 2020, the next federal fiscal year.

Please keep Fresno COG staff updated on any changes that could impact the region's project delivery plan.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

#### **B. Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable Public-At-Large Applicant Selection (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's Policy Board approved its 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable positions in February 2020 with the caveat that all public-at-large applications be screened by COG staff, appointment recommendations be forwarded to the TTC and PAC for review and recommendation, and the Policy Board grant final approval at its May meeting. The first Roundtable meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on June 24.

The Roundtable supports Fresno COG staff and COG standing committees in developing the 2022 RTP and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). It is vital to the process that the Roundtable generates consensus about the plans, based upon the input of an informed and active local constituency. While the Roundtable will provide comments and input on issues related to the 2022 RTP/SCS, the final decisions on RTP content will be the Policy Board's responsibility.

COG staff released the RTP Roundtable application on March 3, 2020, for those positions that are not appointed by a local or public agency. Three public-at-large applications were received for review and approval, and have been attached. The applicants are:

- Gail Miller, retired, Caltrans
- Jim Hunter, Senior Managing Consultant (semi-retired) for Knowledge Solutions Group
- Sal Petrucelli, retired, Longs Drugs/CVS Pharmacy management (application to follow)

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to concur with the public-at-large appointments and forward the recommendation to Fresno COG's Policy Board. The motion passed.

#### **C. FINAL 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$21,737,779, is submitted for approval. The proposed budget increased \$1,524,545 from last year.

Federal revenues decreased 19 percent (\$1,137,460). FTA 5304 decreased \$269,372, reflecting progress on the Better Blackstone Challenge. Projects funded by FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities program decreased \$494,705 reflecting programmed bus procurements for transit agencies while FTA Section 5316 & FTA Section 5317 were reduced by \$156,281 as grants funded by the discontinued JARC and New Freedom program are closed out. Federal planning funds decreased \$349,461 as carryover FHWA PL and FTA 5303 balances are spent down.

State revenues increased 257 percent (\$4,588,834). The largest portion of this increase centers around the State Regional Early Action Planning Program (REAP) which provides \$4,749,860 to Fresno and Central Valley MPOs to develop a Valleywide plan for housing. Also, STIP planning funds (\$399,000) were reinstated in the 2018 STIP to fund FCOG's stewardship of the multi-million dollar federal aid projects allocated to local agencies in Fresno County. State Highway account, SPR, and RMRA funding all decreased a total of \$569,421, reflecting progress on programmed projects.

Local revenues decreased 15 percent (\$1,834,556), reflecting drawdowns on Measure C funded projects such as the significant design phase of the Golden State corridor, Fresno State Transportation Institute, and FCRTA electric vehicle purchases.

Staff activity surrounding the Measure C III reauthorization will also be a major initiative for 2020-21.

Staffing & Benefits: There are no new Fresno COG planning positions included in this year's proposed budget. FCRTA reclassified an Administrative Assistant position to Operations Manager and added an accounting position. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases as well as contingencies for anticipated health insurance increases. The overall proposed budget for salaries increased by 8 percent and benefits by 11 percent.

Overhead Accounts: Overhead accounts increased by 4 percent (\$18,793 total) reflecting increases in computer supplies (\$5,000), building maintenance (\$1,000), and travel (\$11,500). The office lease also was adjusted up \$8,937 per the existing contract. Another \$7,644 in audit expenses were reallocated to a direct program.

Consulting: The overall consulting budget is \$4.8 million, which is a decrease of \$744,846 corresponding to projects associated with revenue reductions discussed above regarding multi-year projects. Some of those include the Eastside Corridor Study and the Fresno-Madera Sustainable Corridor Study along State Route 41.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Quan (Fresno City) motioned and Ms. Zieba (Reedley) seconded to recommend the Policy Board approve Fresno Council of Governments' final Fiscal Year 2020-21 Overall Work Program and budget. The motion passed.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

#### A. Monthly Legislative Report (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

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

There are no Administrative Action/Discussion items.

### V. OTHER ITEMS

#### Items from Staff

- Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the 2022 RTP kick off meeting will be June 24. Member agencies are allowed one appointment to the Roundtable.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that Lang Yu has left Fresno COG and the open position has been posted.

#### B. Items from Members

- Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) reported that the County has received word from the State about reopening businesses.
- Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) provided an update on COVID-19.

### VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Public Presentations -

There were no public presentations

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Christine Brocket, Public

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Kristine Cai, Les Beshears, Trai Her-Cole, Brenda Veenendaal, Jennifer Soliz, Braden Duran, Suzanne Martinez, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Jeaneen Cervantes