

Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, June 25, 2020
5:30 PM

Members Attending:

Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
Mayor Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Pro Tem Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Louis Franco, City of Selma
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Absent:

Councilmember Paul Caprioglio, City of Fresno

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 13 members representing 44.90% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno City, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma).

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Chair.

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- B. Third Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. 2020-21 Final State Transit Assistance Estimates (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. 2020-21 Final State of Good Repair Estimates (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. City of Parlier Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- G. Appointments to the Fresno COG Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]
- H. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, Fiscal Year 2020-21 (Amy Hance) [APPROVE]
- I. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- J. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency 2020-21 Annual Budget (Moses Stites) [APPROVE]

Mayor Beltran (Parlier) pulled Item A and Mayor Pro Tem Fast (Reedley) pulled Item C.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Beltan (Parlier) motioned and Mayor Castro (Mendota) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda. A roll call vote was taken 13 yes, members Fresno City, Huron and Orange Cove absent. The motion passed.

Quorum: Orange Cove joined, there were 14 members present, representing 45.84% of the population.

A. Executive Minutes of May 28, 2020 [APPROVE]

Mayor Beltran (Parlier) made the correction that she was in attendance. Not Mayor Pro Tem Pimentel. The change was noted and will be corrected.

C. 2020-21 Final Local Transportation Fund Estimates (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the County Auditor-Controller initially estimated the 2020-21 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) apportionment at \$39,607,568. This number has been circulated among transit operators and member agencies since January to assist in preparing budget and claims. However, this number is pre-COVID-19. The Fresno County Transportation Authority's financial advisor Doug Montague has advised FCTA that sales tax collections could be reduced by 8.6 percent. Applied to the LTF estimate could result in an estimated apportionment of \$37,536,240. The Department of Finance projects tax receipts may be impacted lower by 27.5 percent. In such a climate, it is hard to predict what receipts will be. Staff recommends adopting the original number, considering it has been available for four months, and budgets and claims have already been prepared on that basis. However, this number will likely be revised downward significantly when the depth and breadth of the COVID-19 reduction in tax revenues become clearer.

Mayor Pro Tem Fast (Reedley) asked how Fresno COG will caution members agencies that will receive funds. Mr. Beshears responded that as claims are submitted for adoption, Fresno COG will advise member agencies that the numbers are tentative and provide updates throughout the year.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Beltan (Parlier) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to approve Items A and Item C of the consent agenda. A roll call vote was taken 14 yes, members Fresno City and Huron absent. The motion passed.

Quorum: Huron joined, there were 15 members present, representing 46.56% of the population.

I. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

1. 2022 RTP/SCS Kick-off and Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is officially launching the 2022 RTP/SCS development process in June. The first RTP Roundtable meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on June 24. The RTP/SCS is updated every four years. The long-range plan provides policy guidance for transportation investment in the Fresno region for the next 20 years. An approved plan ensures transportation funding continues flowing into our region.

The 2022 RTP/SCS will have many challenges that include, but are not limited to: revenue shortfalls due to COVID 19, incorporating SB 743, new GHG reduction targets, transportation conformity under new SAFE vehicle rule, housing and employment forecast, public outreach, etc. The sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) will be developed in conjunction with the RTP/SCS.

It is critical that Fresno COG have strong and robust engagement from local governments, the general public and other stakeholders so that the process can be inclusive, and the policies and strategies developed in the RTP/SCS are representative of the region's values and vision.

There are 39 seats on the RTP Roundtable, including one for each member agency. Staff is requesting that each member agency inform Fresno COG of its representative on the Roundtable. The application package is available for applicants from non-member agencies: <https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2022-RTP-Roundtable-application-for-appointment.pdf>.

COG staff will provide monthly updates to the TTC/PAC and the Policy Board regarding the 2022 RTP/SCS progress

This item was informational only; no further action was required

2. Fresno COG's Draft 2020 Public Participation Plan Adoption (Brenda Veenendaal) [APPROVE]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that in accordance with public participation plan requirements, Fresno Council of Governments released its draft 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP) for a 45-day public review and comment period from March 3, 2020, through April 17, 2020. The Policy Board also held a public hearing during its regular May 2020 meeting.

The PPP is a plan intended to give Fresno COG's 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 Fresno COG commits to implementing while seeking and fostering open public involvement during the decision-making process, regarding all matters within discretion. The PPP also identifies opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. No comments were received regarding the plan.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to adopt Fresno COG's 2020 Public Participation Plan. A roll call vote was taken 15 yes, member, Fresno City absent. The motion passed.

3. Environmental Justice Subcommittee-Fresno County Position (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that The Environmental Justice Subcommittee supports Fresno COG's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). This subcommittee meets to assist Fresno COG staff in setting thresholds for environmental justice populations for the Environmental Justice Report within each Regional Transportation Plan.

The subcommittee was initially created with 10 positions to provide a full, diverse and equitable representation of the region's environmental justice populations. The subcommittee has not included a position for the County of Fresno. Staff is proposing to add an additional seat for a representative to be designated by the County of Fresno.

Fresno COG is also seeking recommendations for an east side city and west side city representative. Member jurisdiction staff interested in participating should contact Trai Her-Cole at traih@fresnocog.org.

The Board discussed adding a position for the participation for a member that is 25 years of age or younger. This discussion was tabled to be brought back to the Board formally at a later date.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Beltran (Parlier) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Fast (Reedley) seconded to add one seat to the EJ Subcommittee representing the County of Fresno. A roll call vote was taken 15 yes, member, Fresno City absent. The motion passed.

B. Measure C Transit Oriented Infill Development (TOD) Program Eight Cycle Funding Recommendation (Kristine Cai/Trai Her Cole) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the Measure C's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) program was designed to boost transit ridership and encourage transit-supportive land uses, such as high-density residential and mixed-use development. The program is estimated to generate \$850,000 annually. The eighth cycle has \$1,015,750 available with rollovers from the previous years. The funding level is forecast to be lower for the next cycle due to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Franco (Selma) seconded to approve funding for cities of Fresno, Clovis and Reedley. A roll call vote was taken 15 yes, member, Fresno City absent. The motion passed.

C. 2019-20 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Regional Bid Project Recommendations (Braden Duran) [APPROVE]

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that On September 28, 2019, the Fresno COG Policy Board Issued a formal call-for-projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) regional bid program. The available funding for this round was \$20,416,768. Staff received 51 applications, representing more than \$47 million in funding. The CMAQ scoring committee convened virtually over a video conferencing platform on May 6 and 7, 2020 to score projects and deliberate on the recommended funding of projects. The scoring committee comprised the following representatives: Clovis representing

the Fresno-Clovis metro area, Fresno County, east side cities, west side cities, Caltrans, Fresno COG, FCRTA (representing transit) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The CMAQ scoring committee is recommending the following projects, in ranked order:

Applicant	Project Title (* = Cost-Effective Project)	CMAQ Funds Requested	Recommended Funding
Huron	Lassen Avenue Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons	\$416,994	\$416,994
Fresno	Blackstone Smart Mobility Project	\$1,792,800	\$1,792,800
FAX	Southwest Fresno Route 29	\$2,833,846	\$2,833,846
Fresno Unified	Purchase 5 CNG School Buses (Funded 3)*	\$973,224	\$583,935
Clovis	Shepherd Avenue Signal Interconnect	\$1,258,011	\$1,258,011
Clovis Unified	Purchase 4 CNG School Buses (Funded 2)*	\$769,199	\$384,600
Fresno County	Lincoln Ave Shoulder Improvements*	\$2,478,840	\$2,478,840
San Joaquin	Sutter Ave Paving Improvements*	\$637,453	\$637,453
Sanger	Fowler Switch Canal Trail and Bethel & Church Ave Bike Route Improvements	\$615,000	\$615,000
Clovis	DeWolf and Owens Mountain Roundabout	\$900,350	\$900,350
Southwest Trans	Purchase 6 CNG School Buses (Funded 2)*	\$1,354,508	\$451,503
Firebaugh	Alley Improvements*	\$463,162	\$463,162
Kingsburg	12th Avenue Sidewalks	\$77,020	\$77,020
Coalinga	Coalinga Multi-Use Trail Phase 3	\$1,147,526	\$1,147,526
Reedley	Reedley Paving Project 2019*	\$706,912	\$706,912
Coalinga	Coalinga Alley Paving Phase 2 (Segments 38-44)*	\$681,628	\$681,628
Firebaugh	J Street / 10th Street Improvements*	\$483,921	\$483,921
Selma	McCall and Dinuba Traffic Signal	\$838,114	\$838,114
Fresno	ITS Friant Road Adaptive Traffic Signal Synchronization Project	\$1,983,000	\$1,983,000
Fowler	7th Street and Merced Street Right Turn Pocket	\$132,795	\$132,795
Kingsburg	18th Avenue Sidewalks	\$139,876	\$139,876
Huron	Huron Alley Paving 2019*	\$532,702	\$532,702
Orange Cove	Orange Cove Alley Paving 2019*	\$418,476	\$418,476
Mendota	Alley Paving Project*	\$1,183,432	\$458,304

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Franco (Selma) motioned and Mayor Beltran (Parlier) seconded to approve the project recommendations for the 2019-20 CMAQ regional bid program. A roll call vote was taken 15 yes, member, Fresno City absent. The motion passed.

D. Fresno-Madera State Route 41 and Avenue 9 Sustainable Corridors Study Consultant Selection (Braden Duran) [APPROVE]

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that the Fresno COG, in partnership with Madera County Transportation Commission, is conducting a study to determine the future transportation needs of the SR 41 corridor in the City of Fresno and the southern segment of SR 41 in Madera County. In addition, the study will analyze the future transportation needs of the Avenue 9 corridor in Madera County between SR 41 and SR 99.

The study will identify existing and future issues along the two corridors related to safety, mobility, congestion, etc., and recommend sustainable improvements that will address the transportation needs of the residents in both counties through multi-modal approaches. Issues to be addressed include mobility, access, safety, and connectivity for all modes of travel including automobiles, transit, walking, and bicycling. Ultimately, transportation projects the study identifies could potentially serve as candidate projects in both counties' transportation sales tax measure expenditure plans, as well as Fresno COG's and Madera CTC's 2022 Regional Transportation Plan(s). The scope of work is attached.

Fresno COG released a request for proposals on April 20, 2020 for consultant services and received five proposals. A consultant selection committee comprising representatives from Fresno COG, Madera CTC, City of Fresno, and Caltrans interviewed their top three consultants and unanimously chose IBI Group (along with sub-consultants RSG and BluePoint Planning). The IBI Group team will bring combined expertise in performance-based sustainable corridor planning, transportation and civil engineering, traffic modeling, public outreach, and economic development.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with IBI Group for an amount not to exceed \$399,747. A roll call vote was taken 14 yes, members Fresno City and Mendota absent. The motion passed.

E. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding Allocation Recommendation (Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that In June 2018, Fresno COG received its first apportionment of \$2,438,180 in Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds. (HIP funding Fact Sheet attached for reference). In October 2018, Fresno COG's Policy Board approved allocations to projects on the contingency list from the 2017/18 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program call-for-projects. The original list of projects is attached. In summary, the 2018 HIP funding was allocated to eight additional projects, seven of which were awarded funding for their preliminary engineering (PE) phases only.

In 2019 and 2020, Fresno COG received additional apportionments of HIP funds totaling \$4,432,559. To assure delivery of the projects that received HIP funding in the first round, staff recommends the additional HIP funding be allocated to five of the seven projects that previously received PE-only HIP funds. The two remaining projects were recently awarded Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding in the 2019/2020 STBG call-for-projects and do not require additional funds. Funding the five remaining projects amounts to \$4,032,395, leaving \$400,164 available for additional award. For the remaining balance, staff recommends allocation to the first project on the 2019/2020 STBG contingency list. That project is the City of Clovis' Fowler Ave Rehabilitation Project. A spreadsheet is included with this agenda item detailing how staff proposes to allocate the additional HIP funding.

As implemented previously, staff will attempt to limit the number of projects with programmed HIP funding to make it easier to track obligation and expending deadlines. The RSTP/STBG regional bid funding discharged from any project and programmed with HIP would then be allocated to the projects on the proposed HIP funding list. If approved, staff will program these project changes in the next appropriate 2019 FTIP amendment.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve allocating 2019 and 2020 HIP funding to 2017/2018 RSTP/STBG regional bid projects as presented. A roll call vote was taken 14 yes, members Fresno City and Mendota absent. The motion passed.

F. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Findings Report (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]

Mr. Sobrado (FCOG) reported that Under California's Transportation Development Act, Fresno COG's Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in fiscal year 2020-21 prior to approving Local Transportation Fund claims for streets and roads. The Fresno COG Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs.

Each year the SSTAC begins soliciting comments by sending approximately 400 letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. The request for comments letters, in English and Spanish, were sent in February 2020.

In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC held six formal meetings split evenly, with four in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area and two in rural communities (Kerman and Fowler). To facilitate participation in the rural meetings, FCRTA provided transportation to and from the meetings scheduled for the west side and east side of Fresno County.

The unmet transit needs meeting schedule was publicized in Fresno COG's e-newsletter; via public notices in the Fresno Bee and Vida En La Valle newspapers; and posted on Fresno COG's social media channels. The meetings were also publicized in the Fresno Area Express' e-newsletter, reaching more than 300 subscribers. Attendance ranged from zero to around 20 people.

After a thorough review of all comments and issues, the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) found there to be no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in Fresno County at its meeting on May 19, 2020.

Matthew Gillian, Inspire Transportation, addressed the committee stating that more needs to be done to include social service transit providers and social services transit riders in the Unmet Transit Needs process.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Fast (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Roman (Kingsburg) seconded to approve Resolution 2020-19, and find that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in Fresno County. A roll call vote was taken 15 yes, member, Fresno City absent. The motion passed.

G. Circuit Planner and Engineer – End of FY 2019-20 Update on Tasks and Discussion (Braden Duran/Meg Prince) [INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's Circuit Planner and Engineer Program is wrapping up its contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc. and subconsultants. Fresno COG staff, management, and Rincon's project manager met in May to discuss the FY 2020-21 contract's goals and priorities. One proposal centered on designing a template for a model zoning ordinance that all jurisdictions could use because many of the member agencies have outdated zoning ordinances. Attached with this item is a copy of the draft model zoning ordinance Rincon developed.

Additionally, below is the update on tasks underway that will roll-over into the new contract:

Circuit Planning & Engineering

- Reedley Manning/Buttontwillow Master Plan Assistance – VSCE will provide updated drafts based on City and Rincon's comments.

Circuit Planning

- Selma Downtown Multi-Use Overlay Zone – Rincon has confirmed the zone boundary with the City. The next step is to provide an outline/summary, including the Overlay Zone's purpose and goals, to present to the Planning Commission and/or City Council for their input before June 30, 2020. Based on that input, the project would move forward in the next FY contract.

Circuit Engineering

Conducting active transportation counts have been put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eric VonBerg, Rincon Consultants, presented to the Committee on the Model Zoning Ordinance and next steps.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

H. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) reported:

- A new Caltrans Director has been appointed, Diana Gomez, she will start next month.
- COVID-19 has not affected projects, bids are still going out and construction continues.
- Planning Grants have been awarded and announced. Congratulations to Clovis and City of Fresno.
- City of Kingsburg to Selma SR 99 rehabilitation - Construction started in April and is anticipated to end in spring 2021. Mayor Roman's safety concerns expressed were discussed with Kingsburg City Manager and the Fire Chief. Caltrans maintenance crew will be addressing these issues over the next couple of weekends. Completion is scheduled for Spring of 2021
- City of Selma to Fowler SR 99 rehabilitation – Project will go before the CTC next week for allocation. Construction to begin in the Summer of 2021
- Kings Canyon Expressway SR 180 Segment 3; Major traffic shift took place. The project is estimated to be completed by September.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

II. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. CONTRACTS

1. WSP On-Call Contract for Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Services (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
2. LSA Contract Extension (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]
3. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Contract Renewal / Extension (Meg Prince / Braden Duran) [APPROVE]
4. Walker Consultants Contract Extension (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
5. 2019 FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Contracts (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

6. Ecounteractive Contract (Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]
 7. Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Valleywide Coordinator (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]
- B. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
 - C. Monthly Legislative Report - INVEST in America Act (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken 14 yes, members Fresno City and Mendota absent. The motion passed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley Multi-Agency Working Group Regional Early Action Planning Grants Program (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that the San Joaquin Valley Multi-Agency Working Group for Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) designated Fresno COG as its Valleywide fiscal agent for the state-sponsored grant program.

REAP funds are intended as an incentive for local jurisdictions and regions to undertake the early planning work necessary to prepare for the sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment, which is expected to yield anywhere from one-and-a-half to three times the number of housing units required by the State for permitting as in previous cycles.

Under the fiscal agent designation, Fresno COG staff submitted a REAP application for \$4,743,830, representing the first 25 percent of available funds Valleywide. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) approved that application in May, but requires grantees to adopt a resolution authorizing an official to sign agreements. The grant is included in the adopted 2020-21 Overall Work Program and budget.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Franco (Selma) seconded to adopt Resolution 2020-24 authorizing Fresno COG's executive director to sign the agreement with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to receive funding and administer the San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning program. A roll call vote was taken 14 yes, members Fresno City and Mendota absent. The motion passed.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members

V. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations –

There were no public comments.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken 14 yes, members Fresno City and Mendota absent. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned to FCRTA at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Amy Hance, City of Clovis

Eric VonBerg, Rincon

Matthew Gillian, Inspire Transportation

Staff:

Kristine Cai

Les Beshears

Robert Phipps

Jennifer Soliz

Trai Her-Cole

Braden Duran

Peggy Arnest

Kai Han

Meg Prince

Brenda Veenendaal

Suzanne Martinez

Jeff Long

Todd Sobrado

Moses Stites

Janelle Del Campo

Jeaneen Cervantes