

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

Meeting held via Zoom.

Jean Rousseau, Fresno County  
Pio Martin, City of Firebaugh  
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler  
Wilma Quan, City of Fresno  
John Jansons, City of Kerman  
Cristian Gonzalez, City of San Joaquin  
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley  
Teresa Gallavan, City of Selma  
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

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

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of June 12, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. City of Fowler Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. City of Huron Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Measure C 2020-21 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. Grant Solicitation: Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- F. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Network Plan Update (Trai Her) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Ms. Galavan (Selma) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

**II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy**

**1. 2022 RTP/SCS Schedule and Milestones (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Kai (FCOG) provided a brief summary of the 2022 RTP/SCS development schedule and process milestones. A list of the 2022 RTP/SCS key milestones and timeline was provided.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

**2. Introduction to Futures Planning (Seth Scott) [INFORMATION]**

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that uncertainty about the future is a major challenge inherent in long-range planning. To combat uncertainty, planning agencies are developing diverging assumptions of future conditions against which to model the resilience of their strategies. Notable examples include the California Transportation Plan 2050 (Caltrans) and Plan Bay Area 2050 (Metropolitan Transportation Commission).

Fresno COG has adopted this practice and will include futures analysis in its 2022 SCS. Each planning scenario's strategies will be tested against several futures: one base future, as well as two-to-three others. Each scenario will be reported and evaluated based on its performance alongside each future, providing a sort of "stress test" for the strategies identified in that scenario.

The presentation introduced the concept of futures and how they will operate within the framework of the development and testing of the SCS scenarios. Next month, staff will propose specific futures for consideration and approval.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

**B. Amendment to the 2021 Regional Active Transportation Program Guidelines, Resolution 2020-11, Amending Resolution 2020-28 (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that in April, Fresno COG's Policy Board approved the 2021 Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 5 Guidelines. Those guidelines were submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), with approval originally scheduled for the May meeting. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the CTC approved an amendment to the 2021 ATP schedule on April 29, 2020, and the program was delayed by approximately three months.

On May 14, 2020, Fresno COG held a virtual workshop to discuss and finalize a revised schedule to align with the amended 2021 ATP. Following the revised schedule, CTC staff reviewed Fresno COG's regional guidelines and recommended changes to maintain the regional scoring committee. To get feedback from the regional Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG), CTC staff delayed the regional guidelines to the August CTC meeting. Based on the discussion at a June 23 workshop, the MAG and staff's proposed changes to the 2021 Regional ATP Guidelines include:

- Point distribution changes to the small infrastructure application scoring criteria in the following categories:
  - Benefit to disadvantaged communities
  - Need
  - Scope and plan layout consistency
  - Leveraging
  - New category added – consistency with Fresno COG's adopted 2018 RTP or an adopted Active Transportation Plan
  - Added clarifying language in funding set-aside, project application and submittal requirements, and scoring criteria categories
  - Supplemental Application required for Regional ATP Call-for-Projects (Appendix B in Guidelines)

The proposed changes are identified in the guidelines. These changes are consistent with the statewide guidelines. Regional ATP documents are all included for review and approval and are posted to [fresnocog.org](http://fresnocog.org). Enclosures for this item include:

- Amending Resolution 2020-28
- Amended FCOG 2021 Regional ATP Guidelines (Tracked Changes Shown)
- Amended FCOG 2021 Regional ATP Guidelines (Tracked Changes Accepted)

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Ms. Gallavan (Selma) seconded to recommend the Policy Board approve amending Resolution 2020-28 and the amended 2021 Regional Active Transportation Program Guidelines. The motion passed.

**C. SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines (Kristine Cai) [ACCEPT]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill 743 (SB 743) was passed by the State legislature in 2013, and incorporated in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines in 2018. The actual implementation of SB 743 began on July 1, 2020. SB 743 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 serves 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. The intended transportation and land use changes through SB 743 will help people drive less, promote a diversity of land use mixes and encourage alternative transportation such as transit, walking and biking.

Fresno COG has been working closely with the local governments and a consultant team on developing regional guidance and recommendations for SB 743 implementation in the Fresno region. The regional guidelines are intended to provide local agencies with technical tools to navigate through implementation.

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. The regional guidelines provide recommendations for thresholds and methodologies for VMT analysis. The guidelines also provide substantial evidence for a threshold alternative of 13 percent VMT reduction, as opposed to the State's 15 percent for residential and office projects. Fresno COG staff and its consultant team are developing a VMT tool to estimate VMT/person & VMT/employee for individual projects. This is expected to be available by the end of July. A list of mitigation measures will be included with the tool.

In order to help our member agencies understand and adapt to the new requirements of SB 743, Fresno COG staff will offer a training workshop to local agencies and stakeholders on methodologies and tools recommended.

Fresno COG is not a lead agency for any land use or transportation projects. The recommendations in the regional guidelines are advisory, and may be used by member agencies at their discretion, based on their individual growth policies and economic development goals.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Gallavan (Selma) motioned and Ms. Quan (Fresno City) seconded to recommend that the Policy Board accept the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines. The motion passed.

#### **D. Measure C Regional Transportation Program Update Fiscal Year 2020-21 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Measure C's Regional Transportation Program includes major highway infrastructure projects approved by the voters in 2007. Total anticipated revenues across all sources increased \$12.5 million from the 2017 adopted plan. Actual project costs declined \$1.27 million; however, total outlays increased \$36 million, reflecting increased internal borrowing costs from Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee projects that Measure C finances.

##### **Revenues**

Sales tax expectations for 2020-21 were adjusted downward 8.6 percent to reflect the COVID-19 recession, lowering sales tax projections by \$22.2 million.

Currently, \$45.3 million in future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds are dedicated to the North\Cedar phase of the South Fresno Interchange. The recession may affect future STIP revenues.

The state's three-year SB 1 Local Partnership Program (LPP) formula cycle (2020-21-2022- 23) includes \$1.9 million in additional funding for the final phase of Veterans Boulevard. Staff has submitted an application to the LPP competitive pot of \$7 million for the Golden State Corridor Project and holds \$3.8 million in formula funding reserved, pending award of the competitive program.

The California High-Speed Rail Commission increased the City of Fresno's award to build structures spanning the railroad right-of-way at Veterans Boulevard \$5.8 million to \$33.84 million. The City of Fresno was also awarded a \$10.54 million federal BUILD grant for Veterans Boulevard. That project is now fully funded.

During the 2020 update to the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF), the nexus was expanded and the fee increased to provide funding for the North\Cedar phase of the South Fresno Interchange, increasing anticipated RTMF revenues by \$32 million.

Non-RTMF local development fees decreased \$16.18 million as the City of Fresno secured additional grant funding sources described above to perfect funding for Veterans Boulevard.

Interest earnings increased \$2.1 million.

##### **The Urban Program**

The urban program has an estimated \$752.87 million in revenues, \$797.92 million in expenses and a net deficit of \$45 million. Net project costs increased \$1.7 million.

Veterans Boulevard costs are anticipated to be \$5.8 million less than in the previous plan. The project is being built in five phases, with the Bullard Extension completed and the UPRR grade separation under construction. The Shaw-to-Barstow connection will be completed in 2020, while the full interchange and Herndon Avenue connection will finish in 2021.

The North/Cedar interchange is the next major project on the urban tier 1 list. Planning, acquisition and design on North/Cedar will proceed concurrently with the rural program, including American Avenue as a single two-phased project with construction anticipated in 2023-24. Cost estimates for North/Cedar are \$9,1 million less than in the previous plan.

The SR 180 landscaping project – from Brawley to Hughes West – is programmed for 2020-21 in the 2020 STIP.

Shaw Avenue – Dewolf to McCall – increased by \$5.37 million to \$24.5 million. The measure will fund 80 percent of the construction cost, with local Clovis development fees providing a 20 percent match.

Herndon – Polk to Milburn – increased by \$9.68 million to \$24 million. The Measure will fund 80 percent of the construction cost, with local Fresno development fees providing a 20 percent match. Due to the reduction in sales tax estimates, construction must be delayed one year to 2022-23.

### **The Rural Program**

The rural program has an estimated \$481.41 million in revenues, \$727.52 million in expenses and a net deficit of \$245.11 million. Net project costs decreased \$2.4 million.

Design continues on Golden State Boulevard, with construction anticipated in 2020-21. After performing preliminary engineering studies, the Union Pacific Railroad determined the class A trail planned along the project would require significant enhancements to various intersections, resulting in a prohibitive cost increase. After conferring with participating member agencies, Fresno COG removed the trail and will work with members to develop an equivalent improvement in each jurisdiction.

The rural program includes \$61.9 million to environmentally clear, design, acquire right-of-way, and construct the American Avenue phase of South Fresno Interchange in sync with the North/Cedar Interchange.

FCTA has approved conducting preliminary studies to explore improvements along the SR 180 West connection to I-5, with the intent of developing a financeable improvement during the life of the current measure that could extend into a proposed third measure.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) motioned and Ms. Davis (Fowler) seconded to recommend that the Policy Board approve the Measure C Regional Transportation Program Update for Fiscal Year 2020-21. The motion passed

### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **A. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]**

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Gallavan (Selma) motioned and Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) 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**

#### **A. Items from Staff**

- Mr. Boren reported that there will be no August meeting.

#### **B. Items from Members**

There were no items from members.

### **VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Public Presentations**

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Boren

Public:

Tony Petros

Jasmin, FHWA

Monte Cox, Fresno EOC

Staff:

Jeaneen Cervantes

Kai Han

Braden Duran

Jen Soliz

Trai Her-Cole

Kristine Cai

Les Beshears

Seth Scott

Brenda Veenendaal

Meg Prince

Suzanne Martinez

Moses Stites