

Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
2:00 PM

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Kristine Cai)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Terry, Chair at 2:03 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL (Jeaneen Cervantes)

Rob Terry, City of Reedley
David Merchen, City of Clovis
Dan Zach, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Crystal Yunker, San Joaquin Valley Air District
George Uc, LAFCo
David Padilla, Caltrans
Carolina Ilic, Public Transportation Urban
Tina Sumner, Active Transportation
Eric VonBerg, Broad-Based Business
George Cummings, Education
Adam Livingston, Environmental
Keith Berthold, Public Health Advocate
Gail Miller, Public at Large
Jim Hunter, Public at Large
Sal Petrucelli, Public at Large
Napallo Gomez, PG&E
Paul Sereno, City of Huron
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Isaac Moreno, City of Selma
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit
David Brletic, City of Sanger

II. NEW INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. RTP/SCS Roundtable Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2020 [APPROVE]

Changes noted by Chair Terry. Correction will be made.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Sumner (Cycling Club) motioned and Mr. Petrucelli (Public-at-Large) seconded to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed, 22 yes votes.

B. RTP 2020 Public Opinion Survey Report (Brenda Veenendaal) [ACCEPT]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that in early in 2020, the Fresno Council of Governments sought to contract with a research consultant to conduct an opinion survey for which participants were to be reflective of Fresno County's demographics, including the Spanish speaking population and adequate rural representation.

Rea & Parker Research was selected to be the consultant and was tasked to survey the ranking of defined community values and transportation funding priorities from the sample population. Along with these value and funding priority questions, the survey was planned to include population demographics and trip/travel characteristics.

Ten "community values" and nine "transportation funding priorities" were agreed upon by Rea & Parker Research and Fresno COG. The survey consultant presented results to the Roundtable.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

C. Project Scoring Criteria (Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that the RTP Programming Technical Working Group has developed draft project scoring criteria for the 2022 RTP. A document representing the result of three meetings, where participants reviewed the criteria from the 2018 plan and updated them for this round was provided. Substantive changes were made, including the addition and removal of criteria, points awarded per question, how criteria apply to the various project modes, and general verbiage updates throughout.

One significant change from the last plan's criteria is how submitted projects will be categorized. In the previous plan, each project belonged to only one of five modes (bike & pedestrian, capacity increasing, maintenance, operations, or transit), and each project was evaluated strictly by the criteria applicable to the chosen mode. This round, the approach was taken to allow multi-modal projects to be evaluated by all applicable criteria, which allows for more flexibility in how projects are scored and funded.

COG staff is grateful to those who participated in the working group for their focused and detailed engagement in this highly technical process.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Oldham (New Technology) motioned and Mr. Petrucelli (Public-at-Large) seconded to approve the draft scoring criteria for incorporation into the 2022 RTP. The motion passed, 21 yes votes.

D. RTP Mapping Capabilities (Seth Scott) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that staff added mapping data to all the projects from the 2018 RTP constrained list. In the 2022 plan and beyond, COG will be asking its member agencies to verify or update location information for each project they submit in the call for projects. This means that COG staff will be able to view, publish, and analyze all future submitted projects by spatial location, which addresses suggestions and appeals from stakeholders to include this functionality in past plans.

COG staff is pleased to showcase some of the ways these new data can be analyzed and presented. It is staff's hope that the examples presented will help educate the Roundtable on the types of information now available, as well as spark the imagination of those who might suggest further analyses and reports as may be useful or informative as work on the plan continues.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

E. Request for Proposals for Legal Services for the Development of the 2022 RTP/SCS, Program Environmental Impact Report, and Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released a request for proposals on August 10 for qualified consultants or firms to provide legal assistance with three planning efforts over the next couple of years – the 2022 RTP/SCS, the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the RTP/SCS, and the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan.

In the last RTP cycle, the attorney that was on the PEIR contract also provided legal advice for the development of the RTP/SCS as well. Fresno COG felt it was beneficial to have an experienced attorney available to help with questions regarding procedures, review documents and public notices, and help respond to comment letters.

The 2022 RTP/SCS cycle is occurring in tandem with the development of the state-mandated 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan. The RHNA Plan will identify the number of housing units that each local government must accommodate in the Housing Element of its General Plan. Fresno COG staff feels that it would be beneficial to have legal assistance with this effort as well.

Proposals are due on Monday, August 31, and it is anticipated that consultant interviews would take place on Wednesday, September 8. The contract amount is not to exceed \$75,000 and is expected to kick off in October.

Fresno COG is seeking representatives of member agencies and the RTP Roundtable to participate in the consultant selection process. If you are interested, please contact Meg Prince.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

**F. Regional Transportation Plan Project Suggestions Virtual Public Workshops for Online Input (Brenda Veenendaal)
[INFORMATION]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff, working with the three Regional Transportation Plan Mini-Grant recipient organizations, will host virtual community workshops and solicit public input throughout the month of September and into early October 2020. To date, the outreach will be conducted in English, Spanish and Punjabi, with translation and interpretation services provided by the mini grant groups.

Fresno COG is developing an online survey for the outreach, allowing community members opportunity to provide transportation project suggestions that could be submitted by local agencies in response to the RTP Call for Projects scheduled on November 1, 2020. The workshops will be advertised through various means by Mini-Grant organizations and Fresno COG. Invitations and requests for project suggestions will be posted to websites, emailed to databases and shared through social media posts and advertising.

The online survey being developed for project suggestions will request that participants open the map of Fresno County and drop a dot or draw a line showing where their suggested project is located. Then they will be asked to describe the improvement and indicate which of the following categories it fits most closely: Streets and Roads, Transit, Active Transportation and New Technology.

In early October, Fresno COG staff will process the submitted transportation suggestions and forward all of them to local agencies for consideration. Staff plans to launch the online survey by September 8, 2020 and will be looking for outreach opportunities through the RTP Roundtable membership. All such opportunities should be communicated to Brenda Veenendaal.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

III. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that the SCS Technical Committee had its first meeting and will meet twice a month. The SCS Technical Committee will discuss Futures, Indicators and Scenarios. Items from the Committee will be brought to the Roundtable for discussion and approval.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

Upcoming meeting dates:

September 23, 2020 from 2-4 p.m.

October 28, 2020 from 2-4 p.m.

November 18, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. (Third Thursday)

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Members of the Public:

Matt Gillian, Inspiration Transportation

Anthony Molina, Fresno Cycling Club

Diana Sedigh-Darbandi, FCTA

Sophia Pagoulatos, City of Fresno

Greg Barfield, Fresno Area Express

Jill Gromley, City of Fresno

Sean Smith, City of Clovis

Shelby Elia, City of Clovis

Louis Rea, Consultant

Richard Parker, Consultant

Mariah Thompson, CRLA
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Mike Harrison, City of Clovis

FCOG Staff:

Tony Boren
Kristine Cai
Robert Phipps
Jeaneen Cervantes
Kai Han
Trai Her-Cole
Jennifer Soliz
Braden Duran
Suzanne Martinez
Brenda Veenendaal
Meg Prince
Seth Scott
Peggy Arnest
Santosh Bahattarai
Jeff Long
Todd Sobrado