

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, September 11, 2020
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler
Wilma Quan, City of Fresno
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Matt Flood, City of San Joaquin
Isaac Moreno, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Ms. Zieba (Reedley), Acting Chair. With ten members present via Zoom, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of July 10, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. Fourth Quarter Financial and Work Element Report (Les Beshears)
- C. City of Kerman Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. City of Sanger Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. City of Orange Cove Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. City of Mendota Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- G. Ecointeractive Contract Adjustment (Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]
- H. Addition of Youth Position to Environmental Justice Subcommittee (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]
- I. Circuit Planner and Engineer Update (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- J. Regional Transportation Safety Improvement Plan (Trai Her-Cole/Santosh Bhattarai) [INFORMATION]
- K. San Joaquin Valley Climate Adaptation Workshop (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Moreno (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. RTP 2022 Public Opinion Survey Report (Brenda Veenendaal) [ACCEPT]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that in May 2020 Fresno COG hired Rea & Parker Research to conduct an opinion survey of Fresno County's residents. Participants were to be reflective of Fresno County's demographics, including Spanish speaking and rural representatives.

Rea & Parker Research was tasked with ranking 10 defined community values and nine 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.

Rea & Parker conducted a telephone survey with 650 people who responded to the survey. The telephone sample was supplemented by 300 respondents to an online survey that, when added to the telephone sample, improved the overall survey margin of error to +/- 3.2 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

The survey report summarizing the results is attached for review. The consultants provided a brief presentation during the committee meeting.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

2. 2022 RTP Project Scoring Criteria (Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that the RTP Programming Technical Working Group has developed draft project scoring criteria for the 2022 RTP. The attached document represents the result of three meetings, where participants reviewed the guidelines from the 2018 plan and updated them for this round. Substantive changes were made, including criteria adjustments, 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 working group allowed for multi-modal projects to be evaluated by all applicable criteria, which provides for more flexibility in how projects are scored and funded.

Staff presented the draft scoring criteria to the RTP Roundtable at its August 26, 2020 meeting, and the RTP Roundtable voted to recommend approving the draft scoring criteria.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Quan (Fresno City) motioned and Ms. Davis (Fowler) seconded to recommend the Policy Board approve the draft 2022 RTP Project Scoring Criteria.

3. 2020 Transportation Needs Survey Outreach (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's 2020 Transportation Needs Survey will provide an opportunity for the Fresno region's residents to submit transportation project needs/suggestions via an online portal. Those projects could, in turn, become part of the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The survey will launch by September 8 and close October 15, 2020. Outreach will be conducted in English, Spanish and Punjabi, with translation and interpretation services provided by RTP mini-grant groups. All the transportation suggestions received will be translated (where needed) and relayed to local agencies for review and consideration. The effort will conclude prior to the RTP call for projects release on November 1, 2020.

The Transportation Needs Survey will be advertised through various means by mini-grant organizations and Fresno COG staff. Invitations and requests for project suggestions will be posted to websites, emailed to databases and shared through social media posts and advertising. Some virtual meetings are being scheduled as well. Dates and times for those will be forwarded to the Committee when finalized.

The online survey will request that participants drop a marker on a map of Fresno County to show where their suggested project is or would be located. Then participants will be asked to describe the transportation need/suggestion, attach a photo of the area if available, and answer relevant demographic questions.

Fresno COG is looking for additional outreach opportunities through committee membership. All such opportunities should be communicated to Brenda Veenendaal

This item was informational only; no further action was required

4. Consultant Selection for Legal Services for the Development of the 2022 RTP/SCS, Program Environmental Impact Report, and Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) Fresno COG released a request for proposals on August 10 for 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 provided legal counsel for the RTP/SCS as well. Fresno COG staff believed it was beneficial to have an experienced attorney available to help with questions regarding procedures, review documents and public notices, and to help respond to comment letters.

The 2022 RTP/SCS cycle is occurring in tandem with the state-mandated 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (or "RHNA"), the process through which new housing units that our region must zone accordingly are distributed among local governments. Fresno COG staff believes it would be beneficial to have legal counsel for this effort as well.

Proposals were due on August 31, and Fresno COG received one proposal from Best Best & Krieger (BB&K). A consultant selection committee comprised of representatives from the County, Fresno, Reedley, Mendota, FCRTA, and the RTP Roundtable reviewed the proposal and all concurred that BB&K is well qualified for the scope of legal counsel. A few of the selection committee members have had personal experience working with BB&K, which was all positive. Additionally, BB&K provided legal counsel for development of the 2018 RTP/SCS and corresponding Program EIR and were very knowledgeable and responsive.

The contract amount is not to exceed \$75,000 and is expected to kick off in October.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Moreno (Selma) seconded to recommend that the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Best Best & Krieger for legal counsel the 2022 RTP/SCS, Program EIR, and 6th Cycle RHNA Plan in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

B. Delegated Authority Authorization for Upcoming Formal Federal Transportation Improvement Plan/Regional Transportation Plan (FTIP/RTP) Amendment and Corresponding Conformity Analysis (Suzanne Martinez / Braden Duran) [ACTION]

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is proposing a draft 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 12, a draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 3, and the draft Corresponding Conformity Analysis.

While developing this amendment, Fresno COG staff and its air quality consultant worked to solve conformity analysis issues that arose from the SAFE Vehicle Rule adjustment factors. Staff ultimately achieved a passing result, but after a considerable delay, which put Fresno COG behind schedule with the other SJV MPOs, which are also processing type 5 amendments.

Consequently, staff is requesting that the Board grant delegated authority that authorizes the Executive Director to approve the upcoming formal Type 5 FTIP/RTP amendment and its corresponding air quality conformity analysis. Staff has already released the amendment for a 30-day public review period earlier this month (September 3, 2020 through October 2, 2020), with a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, September 16. The draft package is attached to the agenda. Once all public comments are sufficiently addressed, this action would give the executive director the authority to approve the documents and submit to Caltrans/FHWA directly for state/federal approval.

Delegated authority would accelerate the approval time by about a month, considering staff would not be delayed until October's regularly scheduled COG Policy Board Meeting. This would help keep the original schedule on track with the other SJV MPOs and speed up state/federal approval. It would also alleviate any further delays for projects awaiting amendment approval to proceed.

If recommended for approval today, staff will bring the director-approved formal Type 5 amendment to the TTC, PAC, and Board as an informational item in October 2020.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Flood (San Joaquin) seconded to recommend the Policy Board grant delegated authority authorizing the executive director to approve the upcoming formal Type 5 FTIP/RTP amendment and corresponding conformity analysis that was released for public comment on September 3, 2020.

C. Measure C New Technology Funding Recommendations (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released the Measure C 2020 application for New Technology funding on April 10, 2020. Staff received four applications requesting approximately \$8.2 million against an available \$5.38 million. On August 21, the scoring committee met to interview the applicants and discuss the applications. The following is a list of the applications and the funding recommendations:

Agency	Project Description	New Tech Request	New Tech Funding Recommendation
City of Fresno - Public Works	Adaptive signal control technology, transit signal priority & emergency vehicle preemption installed in downtown Fresno	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
City of Fresno - Public Works	Install 14 contactless pedestrian signal devices at various intersections	\$500,000	\$0
FCRTA	Purchase four electric buses & 50 UV sterilization lights to disinfect FCRTA's entire fleet	\$1,083,048	\$1,083,048
City of Fresno - Airport	Parking assist technology , pay-on-foot kiosks, electric vehicle charging stations, and solar power generation for the new parking structure at Fresno Air Terminal	\$4,100,000	\$1,762,000
	TOTAL	\$8,183,048	\$5,345,048
	New Tech Funding Available (2020)		\$5,380,000
	New Tech Funding to roll over to next cycle in 2022		\$34,952

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jansons (Kerman) motioned and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded to recommend the Policy Board approve the New Technology scoring committee recommendations for funding and forward to the Fresno County Transportation Authority to enter into contracts with the applicants in the amounts recommended.

D. Blackstone/Shaw Study Final Report (Peggy Arnest) [ACCEPT]

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that the Blackstone/Shaw Activity Center (BSAC) Project was funded by federal planning dollars and was requested by the City of Fresno to identify and assess transportation improvements in service of mixed-use development in the project area as envisioned in the City of Fresno General Plan.

To complement the envisioned land use changes and built environment, the Blackstone/Shaw Activity Center Project identified and analyzed transportation projects that would:

- Increase access and safety along the corridor for all travel modes and users, including the elderly, disabled, low-income, students and youth;
- Address deficiencies in the existing street design that are incompatible with the planned land uses outlined in the General Plan and impact business opportunities and performance in the project area;

It also recommended projects that would:

- Improve multi-modal access and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as transit riders;
- Enhance potential sidewalk and streetscape to support pedestrian comfort, access to transit, and access to businesses and services.

In addition, the project evaluated 11 intersections in the vicinity and assessed the following transportation improvements:

- New traffic signals at the following intersections:
 - Blackstone Avenue & the Yosemite Falls Driveway
 - Blackstone Avenue & Santa Ana Avenue
 - Shaw Avenue & Effie Street – This intersection was not recommended by Caltrans because the traffic study showed possible queuing backing up on the SR 41 mainline during peak hour traffic
- Pedestrian half-signal at Shaw Avenue & Glenn Avenue
- Converting the outside motor vehicle lanes on Blackstone Avenue in each direction to business access and transit (BAT) lanes
- Leading pedestrian intervals for signalized intersections of Blackstone Avenue between San Jose Avenue and Santa Ana Avenue

The BSAC project provided the City of Fresno with several sidewalk widening alternatives, each with various funding scenarios. Also included are alternatives for providing a separated bikeway along Blackstone with several specific suggestions on how these bikeways could be constructed in conjunction with the BRT stations.

The project also included an opinion of probable costs, a funding matrix and an estimate of right of way necessary to complete projects that will help the City with future grant applications. The Final Summary Report for the BSAC project was provided.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Ms. Davis (Fowler) seconded to recommend the Policy Board accept the Blackstone/Shaw Activity Center Project final summary report.

E. Fresno COG 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan: Consultant Selection and Update (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is required to develop a methodology and allocation plan to distribute the housing need determined by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to jurisdictions within the region (Government Code Section 65584). Each local jurisdiction must then update the Housing Element of its General Plan in accordance with the community's housing needs.

Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) strengthened the coordination between housing and transportation planning and amended the RHNA schedule and methodology to align with Regional Transportation Plans and Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS). Fresno COG's 2022 RTP/SCS development will happen in tandem with the sixth cycle RHNA process.

The next RHNA Plan for Fresno County is due to the State in August 2022. Historically, Fresno COG has prepared the RHNA plan in-house via coordination with its member jurisdictions and HCD. For the sixth cycle RHNA plan update, however, Fresno COG is seeking a qualified consultant to complete the project, because new State requirements have made the RHNA plan development more complex, and new funding is available for RHNA development from HCD through the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grants program.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

Fresno COG released a request for proposals in June for the RHNA process and received two proposals. A consultant selection committee comprising representatives from the County, Clovis, Fresno, Kerman, Reedley, and Fresno COG conducted consultant interviews on August 21.

The consultant selection committee unanimously chose PlaceWorks as the preferred consultant to assist with the sixth cycle RHNA process. PlaceWorks is a leader in housing planning in California, has experience developing RHNA plans, and has a strong track record of building consensus among agencies and stakeholders.

PlaceWorks' original bid was for \$186,400; however, Fresno COG requested that PlaceWorks add an optional \$12,118 task if any appeals are filed regarding a local jurisdiction's allocation. If no appeals are filed, the funds will not be spent. The cost estimate including the optional task is \$199,748.

RHNA SUBCOMMITTEE

Staff will convene a RHNA subcommittee comprising local government representatives and key stakeholders to advise Fresno COG in developing an allocation methodology. It's anticipated that the RHNA subcommittee will meet seven times, with the first meeting in October 2020. Fresno COG will reach out to potential subcommittee members once the contract with PlaceWorks is executed and will keep the website up to date with relevant information for those interested in the process.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Moreno (Selma) motioned and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter into an agreement with PlaceWorks to produce the sixth cycle RHNA Plan for an amount not to exceed \$199,748.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Golden State Corridor Contract Extension (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]
- B. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

- C. Valleywide Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) revised Master Agreement with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (Robert Phipps) [Information]

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

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020-21 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 1 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that Fresno Council of Governments' 2020-21 Overall Work Program (OWP) Amendment No. 1 increases the budget \$5,769,772 to \$27,507,551. It includes new revenues from the San Joaquin Valley Working Group Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) funding and adjusts carry-over projects from the 2019-20 fiscal year that are programmed in the 2020-21 budget so the project work element (WE) matches the residual contract and programmed grant funding per the requirements of grant funding agencies.

Specific changes, classified by work element, include:

Work Elements 140 and 148 Regional Safety Program – This \$210,000 project is funded from 2019-20 and 2020-21 State Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation (RMRA) grants. The project is programmed in two phases to satisfy procedural guidelines per Caltrans. WE 148 will program \$174,959 for Phase I, and WE 140 will program \$35,041 for Phase II. WE 148 was initially reserved for a transit on-board survey, which was canceled when transit ridership imploded during the lockdown. This amendment increases WE 148 \$45,769 and WE 140 \$35,041.

Work Element 142 – FCRTA Operational Plan - \$40,095 remains in the Walker Inc. contract for this 2018-19 RMRA grant. This amendment increases WE 142 \$25,095.

Work Element 143 – Industrial Triangle Study - \$88,409 remains in the GHD contract for this State Planning grant (SPR). This amendment decreases WE 143 \$30,347.

Work Element 144 – Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - \$36,630 remains in the AECOM contract for this 2018-19 RMRA grant. This amendment decreases WE 144 \$38,370.

Work Element 146 – Better Blackstone Design Challenge - \$70,128 remains in the Fresno Ministries contract for this 2018-19 RMRA grant. This amendment decreases WE 146 \$4,872.

Work Element 147 – Fresno County Trail Master Plan - \$85,123 remains in the Toole Inc. 2018-19 RMRA grant. This amendment increases WE 147 \$10,123.

Work Element 149 – Transportation Impact Analysis - \$81,732 remains in the LSA contract for this 2019-20 RMRA grant. This amendment increases WE 149 \$51,732.

Work Element 160 – Better Blackstone Phase II - \$437,383 remains in the Fresno Ministries contract for this FTA 5304 grant. This amendment increases WE 160 \$216,901.

Work Element 162 – Sustainable Communities Grant – There is \$71,732 budgeted for the 2020-21 Sustainable Communities program. Funding was transferred to WE 140 to perfect funding for the Regional Safety Program. No project selection process has occurred yet. Staff will keep the Board apprised on the status. This amendment decreases WE 162 \$20,361.

Work Element 420 – The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is providing \$10,218,831 for the San Joaquin Valley Working Group to develop Regional Early Action Plans in anticipation of the sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment program, increasing the work element \$5,468,971.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to recommend the Policy Board adopt the 2020-21 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 1, increasing the budget \$5,769,772 to \$27,507,551.

B. Valleywide Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) Coordinator Contract (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee (COG Directors) is responsible for all Valleywide Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) administrative work. Collectively, the eight Valley COGs are eligible to receive approximately \$18.5 million through California's REAP program for local jurisdiction housing planning assistance.

Of that \$18.5 million, HCD has designated \$6 million for tasks, activities and deliverables that are Valleywide in scope, as opposed to any specific region or county. Some of those activities and deliverables will include a Valleywide inventory of housing stock, available land, and obstacles endemic to housing production; a zoning code template; a catalog of best practices for housing planning, and; other deliverables.

The COG Directors, or their designee, reviews and recommends contracts, funding arrangements and other administrative matters relevant to the SJV REAP program. The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) required the SJV COGs and their elected REAP Committee to appoint a "fiscal agent" for the REAP funding, which Fresno COG accepted. Fresno COG is responsible for administering revenues and entering into contracts on the REAP Committee's behalf.

In March 2020, HCD invited Fresno COG to apply for approximately \$5.5 million in REAP funds, representing the balance of funds available for Valleywide deliverables. Subsequently, on May 11, 2020, Fresno COG released a request for proposals (RFP) for a program manager to oversee an anticipated network of consultants who will be responsible for producing all Valleywide tasks, activities and deliverables.

In response to the RFP, Fresno COG received four proposals:

- Michael Baker International
- Regional Government Services (RGS)
- Precision Civil Engineering
- Sigala Inc:

Over a two-day period, June 24-25, 2020, a scoring committee comprising one staff member from each of the eight SJV COGs reviewed, interviewed and scored the proposals.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Davis (Fowler) motioned and Mr. Flood (San Joaquin) seconded to recommend to the Policy Board that Fresno COG's executive director be authorized to enter into a contract with Sigala, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$314,200.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were not public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Kevin Meikle, City of Fresno

Louis Rea, Rea & Parker

Richard Parker, Rea & Parker
Kielan Rathjen, GO BIZ
Melissa Perry
Michael Musca

Staff:

Jeaneen Cervantes
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Moses Stites