

**Transportation Technical Committee  
MINUTES  
Friday, September 11, 2020  
8:30 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Greg Barfield, City of Fresno-FAX  
Tina Sumner, Fresno Cycling Club  
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno  
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno  
Mohammad Alimi, County of Fresno  
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency  
Jamaica Gentry, Caltrans  
Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis  
Joey Daggett, City of Selma  
Matt Flood, City of San Joaquin  
John Jansons, City of Kerman  
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Mr. Barfield (FAX), Chair.

**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. Stites (FCRTA) motioned and Ms. Sumner (Cycling Club) 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, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) 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. Stites (FCRTA) motioned and Ms. Sumner (Cycling Club) 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Mozier (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) 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:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>New Tech Request</b>	<b>New Tech Funding Recommendation</b>
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	<b>Parking assist technology</b> , 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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,183,048</b>	<b>\$5,345,048</b>
	<b>New Tech Funding Available (2020)</b>		<b>\$5,380,000</b>
	<b>New Tech Funding to roll over to next cycle in 2022</b>		<b>\$34,952</b>

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) motioned and Ms. Sumner (Cycling Club) 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 queueing 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. Stites (FCRTA) motioned and Mr. Alimi (Fresno County) 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. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned and Ms. Sumner (Cycling Club) 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. OTHER ITEMS

#### A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

#### B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

### IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Public Presentations

There were not public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

#### Public:

Kevin Meikle, City of Fresno  
Louis Rea, Rea & Parker  
Richard Parker, Rea & Parker  
Kielan Rathjen, GO BIZ  
Anthony Molina  
Joe Vargas, FAX  
Melissa Perry  
Michael Musca  
Nick Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club  
Shelby MacNab

#### Staff:

Jeaneen Cervantes  
Kai Han  
Braden Duran  
Jen Soliz  
Trai Her-Cole  
Kristine Cai  
Les Beshears  
Robert Phipps  
Seth Scott  
Brenda Veenendaal  
Meg Prince  
Suzanne Martinez  
Peggy Arnest  
Santosh Bhattarai  
Moses Stites