

Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

2:00 PM

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Kristine Cai)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Terry, Chair at 2:02 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL (Jeaneen Cervantes)

David Merchen, City of Clovis
Dan Zach, City of Fresno
Paul Sereno, City of Huron
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Rob Terry, City of Reedley
David Brletic, City of Sanger
Joey Daggett, City of Selma
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Crystal Yunker, San Joaquin Valley Air District
Jamaica Gentry, Caltrans
Carolina Ilic, Public Transportation Urban
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit
Tina Sumner, Active Transportation
Eric VonBerg, Broad-Based Business
George Cummings, Education
Adam Livingston, Environmental
Keith Berthold, Public Health Advocate
Napallo Gomez, PG&E
Sal Petrucelli, Public at Large

II. NEW INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. RTP/SCS Roundtable Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2020 (Jeaneen Cervantes) [APPROVE]

Change noted by Mr. Paladino. Corrections 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. 14 yes votes. The motion passed.

B. Fresno Futures Defined (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG will implement futures planning in its 2022 RTP/SCS scenario development, which envisions extreme future conditions that the scenario strategies can be tested against. In July, the RTP Roundtable recommended the development of three Futures for use in scenario analysis: Extreme Climate, High-Tech Innovation, and Regulatory Challenges. Since then, the SCS Technical Committee has, over the course of three meetings, developed language for each of these Futures, including narrative descriptions and categorized lists of impacts. The draft language developed by the SCS Technical Subcommittee was provided for consideration.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Stites (FCRTA) motioned and Mr. Petrucelli (Public-at-Large) seconded to approve the three Futures (Extreme Climate, High-Tech Innovation, and Regulatory Challenges) as described in the narrative descriptions and lists of impacts. 16 yes votes. The motion passed.

C. RTP Transportation Needs Outreach Update (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's 2020 Transportation Needs Survey is providing an opportunity for Fresno County's residents to submit transportation project needs/suggestions via an online portal. Those projects could, in turn, become part of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that is currently under development.

The survey was launched on September 9th and will close on October 15 (extended to Oct. 22). It is most easily accessed through Fresno COG's RTP website www.planfresno.com on the RTP Survey page. Outreach is being conducted in English, Spanish and Punjabi, with translation and interpretation services provided by our RTP mini-grant groups. All of 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 2, 2020.

The Transportation Needs Survey will be advertised throughout the survey period through various means by mini-grant organizations and Fresno COG. Invitations and requests for project suggestions have been posted to our websites, emailed to our e-news database and shared through social media posts and advertising. Some virtual meetings are being scheduled, and phone banking will be used as a replacement for in-person workshops and door to door canvassing through the mini-grant agencies.

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

Fresno COG is asking for additional outreach opportunities through committees, member agency and community partners. We are looking for opportunities to either obtain a contact list or have emails and social posts forwarded and shared. We also welcome opportunities to speak at established community or community meetings.

It was suggested to reach out to the City of Fresno Disability Advisory Committee and Bicycle/Ped Advisory Committee.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

D. Introducing ABM - Modeling 101 (Seth Scott) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG relies on various models to perform analysis in the RTP/SCS, most notably the Fresno Activity-Based Model (ABM). While the ABM is necessarily complex, the concepts it employs are intuitive and represent a significant improvement in both functionality and quality over the previous 4-step traffic model (VMIP2). Staff provided a primer on the concepts, functionality, and scope of the Fresno ABM to aid the members of the Roundtable committee in understanding the technical work related to the development of the RTP/SCS.

Mr. Scott gave a brief presentation explaining how the Fresno ABM works, what it does, how it differs from previous models, and how it will be used in the 2022 RTP/SCS.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

E. 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) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) updated the Roundtable regarding the legal services contract that was brought to the RTP Roundtable in August. 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.

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 was very knowledgeable and responsive.

The contract amount is not to exceed \$75,000 and is expected to kick off in October, with the Policy Board's approval on September 24.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

F. Policy Element Subcommittee (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the California Government Code Section 65080 requires each RTP to include a Policy Element that describes the transportation issues and needs, and is consistent with the Financial Element. The Policy Element is one of the first components of the RTP to be developed, and its purpose is to identify legislative, planning, financial and institutional issues and requirements, as well as any areas of regional consensus.

As with the 2018 RTP, Fresno COG is convening a Policy Element Subcommittee to assist with the development of the Policy Element. In the past RTP cycles, the Policy Element has been added to or revised based on the previous version. The 2022 Policy Element will be redeveloped based on the updated guidance from the 2017 RTP Guidelines and the SCS Evaluation Criteria released by ARB in 2019.

It's anticipated that the Policy Element Subcommittee will meet via Zoom conference meeting several times between November 2020 and February 2021 to develop the draft Policy Element prior to bringing the draft Policy Element outline to the RTP Roundtable for review and comment in March 2021. If members are interested in participating in the Policy Element Subcommittee or would like to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Meg Prince.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

III. OTHER ITEMS

- Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is preparing to send out the request for proposals for the 2022 RTP/SCS Environmental Impact Report in November. A consultant selection committee will be convened in December to review proposals and conduct interviews. EIR kick-off will be in March.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Members of the Public:

Nick Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club

Anthony Molina

Joe Vargas, Fresno Area Express

Mariah Thompson, CRLA

Denise DiBenedetto, Fresno County Transportation Authority

Sophia Pagoulatos, City of Fresno

Renee Mathis, City of Clovis

Greg Barfield, Fresno Area Express

Jill Gormley, City of Fresno

Joe Vargas, Fresno Area Express

Roger Brown, Public

Ryan Burnette, City of Clovis

Sean Smith, City of Clovis

Shelby MacNab, City of Fresno

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