

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, October 9, 2020
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler
Wilma Quan, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Isaac Moreno, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Ms. Gallavan (Selma), Vice Chair. With six members present via Zoom, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of September 11, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, Fiscal year 2020-21 (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]
- C. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency\Fresno County EOC Rural Consolidated Transportation Service Agency Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Fresno County EOC Urban Consolidated Transportation Service Agency Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. Redesignation of the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSA's for FY 2021-22 (Todd Sobrado) [INFORMATION]
- F. 2021 Cycle 5 Active Transportation Program Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- G. Availability of Director-Approved 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 12, 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 3, and the Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- H. Quarterly Update on the Fresno-Madera State Route 41 and Avenue 9 Sustainable Corridors Study (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Ms. Quan (Fresno City) 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 Regional Transportation Plan Policy Element Subcommittee (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the California Government Code Section 65080 requires each Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to include a policy element that describes transportation issues and needs; identifies legislative, planning, and financial 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 producing the policy element. In 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 updated guidance from the 2017 RTP Guidelines and 2019 SCS Evaluation Guidelines.

It's anticipated that the Policy Element Subcommittee will meet several times between November 2020 and February 2021 to develop the draft Policy Element prior to bringing an outline to the RTP Roundtable, TTC, PAC, and Policy Board for review and comment in spring 2021.

Those interested in participating in the Policy Element Subcommittee or who would like to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Meg Prince.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

2. RTP Transportation Needs Survey Progress (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that as Fresno COG's 2020 Transportation Needs Survey opened on September 9 and will be collecting responses through October 15. The survey provides 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 next RTP update if our member agencies choose to submit them as part of the RTP call for projects, to be released November 1, 2020.

The online survey is most easily accessed through Fresno COG's RTP website www.planfresno.com on the RTP Survey page. There are English, Spanish and Punjabi survey language options. Participants are invited to drop a marker on a map of Fresno County to show where their suggested project is or would be located. Participants are asked to describe the transportation need/suggestion, attach a photo of the area if available, and answer relevant demographic questions.

Fresno COG staff encourages its member agencies and community partners to share the survey opportunity with their contacts via email, social media or other communication methods commonly used to communicate information. Fresno COG has email invitations, social media posts and flyers in English and Spanish to use in the outreach.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

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

Mr. Scott (FCOG) Fresno COG will implement futures planning in its 2022 RTP/SCS scenario analysis, which envisions extreme future conditions against which scenario strategies can be tested. In July, the RTP Roundtable recommended three futures be explored 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 the SCS Technical Subcommittee developed was provided as an attachment to the agenda.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded approve the three futures (extreme climate, high-tech innovation, and regulatory challenges) as described in the narrative descriptions and lists of impacts. The motion passed

B. Fresno COG Regional Transportation Safety Improvement Plan Consultant Selection (Trai Her-Cole/Santosh Bhattarai) [APPROVE]

Mr. Bhattarai (FCOG) reported that during the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) process, traffic safety was a large concern for Fresno County residents. Providing a detailed regional traffic analysis of incident causes and locations would address that need.

A safety plan would assist the region in achieving a safer transportation system for all motorized and non-motorized users in Fresno County by reducing fatalities and serious injuries. In addition, the plan would help set federal safety performance targets and support California's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) in meeting the Strategic Highway Safety Plan's (SHSP) vision and goals.

The plan will identify potential countermeasures for urban and rural areas by mode and develop implementation strategies through a robust public outreach component to engage disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

Fresno COG released a request for proposals on August 19 for the Safety Improvement Plan and received seven proposals. A consultant selection committee comprising representatives from the County, cities of Fresno, Reedley, Mendota, and Fresno COG reviewed all proposals and conducted consultant interviews on September 24.

The consultant selection committee unanimously chose Kittelson as the preferred consultant. Kittelson is an industry leader, has extensive experience in developing similar plans throughout the state, and has implemented successful outreach programs in region.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Gallavan (Selma) motioned and Ms. Quan (Fresno City) seconded to authorize the executive director to enter into an agreement with Kittelson to produce the Regional Transportation Safety Plan for an amount not to exceed \$199,980. The motion passed.

C. Consideration of Request by the California High Speed Rail Authority to Repurpose \$24.5 million in Measure C Funding from a Heavy Maintenance Facility to a High-Speed Rail Campus (Tony Boren) **[INFORMATION/DISCUSSION]**

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) along with the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) and the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) received correspondence, correspondence was provided as an attachment to the agenda, from the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) requesting that the Fresno COG and FCTA Policy Boards consider “repurposing” the remaining \$24.5 million in Measure “C” Alternative Transportation Program funding that had originally been designated for a Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) in Fresno County. The HMF funding was conditioned on Fresno County being formally selected by the CHSRA as the designated site for the HMF, prior to allocation of the funds by the FCTA.

In 2010, Fresno COG and the FCTA Policy Boards approved Amendment #1 to the 2006 Measure “C” Expenditure Plan in order to allocate \$25.0 million in Measure “C” Alternative Transportation Program funds to the CHSRA for various expenses associated with the development of the HMF at the site identified by the *Fresno Works* regional advocacy group (see attached map). The utilization of these funds by the CHSRA required Fresno County to be formally selected as the site for the new CHSR HMF prior to the funds becoming available. Subsequently, in 2017 both the Fresno COG/FCTA Policy Boards approved Measure “C” Amendment No. 3 to authorize the use of \$500,000 of the \$25.0 million to obtain real estate purchase options for the properties necessary for the *Fresno Works* HMF site. Unfortunately, due to a variety of circumstances, the CHSRA Board was unable to make a decision on the location of the HMF within the two years specified in the options and therefore those property options expired.

The requested repurposing of the funds by the CHSRA from the HMF to a HSR Campus, will require a new Measure “C” Plan amendment as the HSR Campus involves different land uses and facilities from the HSR HMF facilities approved in Measure “C” Amendment No. 1, which was approved by the Fresno COG and FCTA Policy Boards in 2010. The newly proposed HSR Campus will include an Operations Control Center, Training Center, Maintenance of Way Station, and a Light Maintenance Facility, but will not include a HMF as originally envisioned. CHSRA staff have made it clear that an HMF will not be needed for many years and therefore will not be sited at this time. They do not anticipate the need for a HMF until the rolling stock has been in service for years and is ready for comprehensive maintenance. The planned Light Maintenance Facility (LMF) will suffice until the need for an HMF is established. Train sets can also be assembled at the LMF.

As both Fresno COG/FCTA Policy Board’s support for the original HMF funding was centered to a great degree on the regional economic benefits that would be generated by the HMF, there has been considerable discussion with the Fresno County EDC Executive Director (Lee Ann Eager) about the number and type of jobs that would be associated with the facilities identified in the new HSR Campus proposal. To answer this question, Ms. Eager is currently putting together projections for jobs and the likely overall economic impact that would result from the HSR Campus facility and will present those findings to both the Fresno COG/FCTA Policy Boards. Tentatively, based on an early assessment, it does appear the number of jobs and diversity of jobs that would be created are substantial. Going further, the initial assessment shows that these are jobs that would be available within the next few years.

Due to the lengthy history and details associated with the Fresno regions' pursuit of the CHSR HMF, this agenda item is being presented as "discussion only" this month. The Fresno COG Policy Board discussion will be followed by the FCTA having a similar Board "discussion only" agenda item at its next meeting. In terms of process, in the event that after discussing the repurposing of the HMF funds, both the Fresno COG/FCTA Boards wish to move forward with formally repurposing the Measure "C" funds, Fresno COG will schedule an action item for the new Measure "C" Plan Amendment that will be required to shift the funding from the HMF to a CHSR Campus. The Fresno COG Board meeting would then be followed by an FCTA Board "action" hearing on the proposed amendment. Formal approval of a Measure "C" Plan Amendment requires the support of both the Fresno COG/FCTA Policy Boards.

Mr. Boren encouraged member agencies to keep their City Council's apprised of this information as it will be coming back for action. Reedley expressed support of allocating the entire \$24.5 million to the HSR campus per the HSRA request.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

There were no Administrative Consent Items.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Administrative Action/Discussion Items.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Prince reported that Fresno COG will issuing a request for proposals for the EIR for the 2022 SCS/RTP in November. A consultant selection committee will meet in December and January and kick-off will be in March 2021.
- Ms. Martinez reported that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Call-for-Projects will open on November 2, for the collection of proposed long-range regional projects. All projects must be submitted to Fresno COG via FresnoTrak no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.
- Robert Phipps – Regional Early Action Planning funds from Housing and Community Development has been received.

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 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Mike Leonardo, FCTA, Denise DiBenedetto, FCTA, Diana Sedigh, FCTA, Jim Rodriguez, Michelle Tutunjian, Monty Cox

Staff:

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, Janelle Del Campo, Stephanie Maxwell, Todd Sobrado