



Fresno Council of Governments

DRAFT 2021 Legislative Platform

**City of Clovis
City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
City of Fresno
City of Huron
City of Kerman
City of Kingsburg**

**City of Mendota
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of Sanger
City of San Joaquin
City of Selma
County of Fresno**

PURPOSE OF THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Fresno COG, in coordination with our member agencies, has established a 2021 Legislative Platform that reflects the current priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform represents a unified voice on regional issues when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal legislators as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to the Fresno COG staff and lobbying partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board. The goal of the Legislative Platform is to have a document in place that outlines the legislative priorities of the region while directing advocacy efforts for improvements in areas such as air quality, transportation mobility, and adequate funding for existing infrastructure systems that will ultimately contribute to prosperity and improved quality of life throughout the Fresno County region.

TRANSPORTATION

PROTECT AND ENHANCE CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS FOR TRANSPORTATION-RELATED PROGRAMS

- Continue to advocate for core State and Federal transportation funding for maintenance, operation, rehabilitation and improvement of existing transportation infrastructure and systems for all modes
- Continue to advocate for transportation-related improvements in state and federal legislation that support sustainable communities and facilitate economic development
- Continue to advocate for transportation improvements and programs to ensure adequate intermodal capacity and systems for safe and efficient movement of freight and commodities
- Continue to coordinate advocacy efforts with local and regional partners to identify, develop consensus, and advance common goals and shared interests that will contribute significantly to an improved quality of life for Fresno County residents
- Support efforts that advance alternative fuels infrastructure
- Support funding for innovative transit and shared mobility programs
- Support funding allocations made by population, air quality status and disadvantaged community status by maintaining CalEnviroScreen criteria to determine disadvantaged communities

INTER CITY RAIL

- Continue to provide regional leadership in the implementation of AB 1779 which enabled the formation of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority for the purpose of regional governance/management of the existing San Joaquin Intercity passenger rail service between Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-Oakland

HIGH SPEED RAIL

- Support federal and state funding for the development of the high-speed rail system in California

GOODS MOVEMENT - Surface Highway System

- Advocate for sufficient state and federal funding to maintain and improve goods movement corridors, recognizing that the majority of goods movement takes

place on surface highways and that State Route 99 and Interstate 5 in the San Joaquin Valley are major national goods movement corridors

- Support efforts to include the San Joaquin Valley in distribution of air quality impact fees collected at California ports
- Continue to advocate for timely completion and upgrade of State Route 99 as a six-lane freeway from Kern County to Sacramento
- Support efforts to integrate goods movement as a critical element in Statewide economic and transportation planning efforts

GOODS MOVEMENT - Rail and Air Freight Rail

- Seek increased state and federal funding for highway-railroad grade separations, to increase safety and efficiency of surface highways, and facilitate movement of freight rail
- Support efforts to use passenger rail funding to improve freight rail capacity when facilities are jointly used by freight and passenger rail (Amtrak)
- Support efforts to investigate and site intermodal facilities to make the movement of freight in, out, and through the San Joaquin Valley more cost-effective, create more economic opportunities, and reduce pollutant emissions

Short -Haul Rail

- Support efforts to fund supporting research for short-haul rail, short-seas shipping and other programs that lead to development of new options for intermodal shipping
- Support the Central California Rail Authority's effort to prevent additional short-haul rail abandonments or discontinuance of service on existing short line railroad in the Central Valley
- Pursue revisions to short-haul rail abandonment regulations to require short-line rail operators to notify transportation planning agencies of their intent to abandon a segment of rail line

Air Freight

- Advocate for air freight transportation improvements to ensure adequate intermodal capacity
- Support efforts to seek proportionate funding to maintain, rehabilitate, and improve air freight infrastructure at Fresno Yosemite International Airport
- Support funding and programs that advance electrified aviation

LOCAL & REGIONAL PLANNING

PROCESS STREAMLINING

- Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to streamline the federal and state government's project delivery process and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements

SENATE BILL 375 (2008)

- Advocate for funding proposals that adequately assist Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and local governments in the implementation of SB 375
- Advocate for funding proposals that direct revenues to transit, active transportation, road operations, maintenance and the placement of complete street infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions, in-line with SB 375 implementation strategies

INTEGRATED PLANNING-TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE

- Support efforts/legislation that promote sustainable land use development practices and that maintain or increase local control of land use and development
- Support climate change adaptation funding and resources to help local jurisdictions comply with the requirements of SB 379 to address climate adaptation and resiliency in the safety element of general plans or local hazard mitigation plans.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing funding for programs and projects mandated under AB 32 and SB 375. Planning and implementation initiatives to include the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), and General Plan Housing Element updates
- Support efforts that encourage the creation of jobs near housing to improve the jobs/housing balance and reduce travel
- Support funding that furthers housing production
- Support regional energy planning efforts in the San Joaquin Valley and continue to work with state, federal and local jurisdictional partners in implementing sustainable energy projects for the region
- Support efforts/legislation that support healthy communities and advance public health

AIR QUALITY

- Seek the establishment of a new San Joaquin Valley designation as an Air Quality Enterprise/ Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level
- Continue to advocate for state and federal incentives and support to reduce emissions from businesses and transportation
- Advocate for clean-air assistance rather than penalties in the San Joaquin Valley: recognize distinct regional conditions of meteorology, topography, heavy through-freight traffic and associated diesel emissions which contribute to delay in meeting air quality goals, and high proportion of low income residents and disadvantaged communities without resources to achieve clean air standards
- Continue to monitor the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Rule for mandates that would negatively impact the region's ability to meet GH and emission reduction goals

WATER

- Support partnerships between State and Federal Legislators, and water management and infrastructure agencies to work through the complex issues surrounding water supply, reliability, and quality
- Support state and federal planning and funding for a long-term solution to Delta water and delivery issues to ensure a reliable water supply for all users of water delivered through the Delta
- Support use of Integrated Regional Water Management planning processes for coordinated management of water resources and allocation of water project funding
- Support funding to assist disadvantaged rural communities to secure and maintain safe, affordable, and reliable community water systems and water supplies
- Support opportunities for investigation and funding for increased surface and groundwater storage to increase water supply, reliability, and flexibility through conjunctive use.
- Support funding for Temperance Flat Water Storage Facility through Proposition 1, the Water Bond act that addresses storage as well as drought relief, water supply reliability, Delta sustainability, statewide water system operational improvement, conservation and watershed protection, groundwater protection and water quality, and water recycling and water conservation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the inclusion of transportation and other types of infrastructure funding in any state and federal proposal for an economic stimulus package
- Support economic development incentives and expand federal opportunity zones

FUNDING

- Support legislative efforts to direct investment towards transportation infrastructure, not only for roads and highways, but for transit, goods movement, and non-motorized transportation

FEDERAL

- Work collaboratively with state and federal government agencies through the implementation and reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act provisions.

STATE

- Support legislation to implement and maximize Fresno County's regional share of state funding including funds for State Route 99 improvements, local match programs, and Cap-and-Trade programs
- Support the Implementation of SB 1 Funding and Program

LOCAL

- Support efforts to reward self-help counties in funding programs and policies
- Support legislation that includes the use of design/build, public/private partnerships, and other innovative financing for transportation infrastructure projects

LOCAL & REGIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program and Federal appropriation requests for Fresno COG **One Voice** projects and priorities.
- Continue to pursue state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the Fresno COG **One Voice** efforts.
- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program authorizations and Federal appropriation requests for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's **Valley Voice** projects and priorities.
- Continue to pursue state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's **Valley Voice** efforts.

ABOUT THE FRESNO COG

OUR ROLE:

The Fresno Council of Governments brings together mayors, city council members and county supervisors to work on regional transportation and related issues for Fresno County. Since its inception in 1969, Fresno COG has primarily acted as the regional transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for Fresno County. Fresno COG functions as both the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and for federal purposes, as the county's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

ORGANIZATION:

A 16-member Policy Board gives Fresno COG policy direction. The Board consists of the mayors from each of the 15 incorporated cities in Fresno County and the Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

REGIONAL PROFILE:

Fresno County is classified as an urban county (despite many rural characteristics) and is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley within the state of California. Fresno County is the most populous county and second largest county in the San Joaquin Valley, encompassing approximately 6,000 square miles .

As the nation's third highest-grossing agricultural county, Fresno County's gross value of agricultural products was \$6.6 billion in 2015 and \$6.2 billion in 2016. The estimated population as of January 1, 2017 was 995,975 placing Fresno as the tenth most populous county of the 58 counties in California. There are fifteen incorporated cities and the County contains a federally recognized urbanized area, known as the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA), with a population of 636,594. The City of Fresno is now the fifth largest city in the state, with a population of 525,832

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