

Fresno COG Policy Board  
MINUTES  
Thursday, November 19, 2020  
5:30 PM

Meeting held via Zoom.

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Councilmember Paul Caprioglio, City of Fresno  
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota  
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier  
Mayor Pro Tim Mary Fast, City of Reedley  
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin  
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger  
Mayor Louis Franco, City of Selma  
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Alison Samarin, Legal Counsel  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

**Absent:**

Mayor Victor Lopez, Orange Cove

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 11 members representing 94.08% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno City, Kerman, Kingsburg, Parlier, Reedley, Selma, County of Fresno).

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Chair.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of October 29, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. Fresno COG 2021 Annual Meeting Calendar [APPROVE]
- C. First Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Zoning Assessment Tool (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- E. Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grants Program (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- F. Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- G. Sixth Round AHSC Technical Assistance Applications Now Open (Meg Prince/Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- H. Outreach Opportunity for the Fresno-Madera SR 41 / Ave 9 Sustainable Corridors Study (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro tam Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Lander (Coalinga) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed. 11 yes votes, members Huron, Mendota, Orange Cove, San Joaquin and Sanger absent.

## II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

**Quorum:** Huron, Mendota, San Joaquin and Sanger entered. There were 15 members present, representing 99.06% of the population.

#### 1. Demographic Forecast Update (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG, in partnership with Applied Development Economics (ADE), has updated its demographic forecasts. The original report, published by ADE in 2017, included detailed jurisdiction-level forecasts for residential and employment growth and was a critical element of scenario development within the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

In preparation for the 2022 RTP/SCS, and in response to significant changes in the field of demographics and economics (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic and the CA Department of Finance's downward adjustment of its population projections), ADE has developed a draft update to the demographic forecast that incorporates new observed data, projections from various sources, and permit information from local agencies. The report has also been expanded to include additional forecast data that will aid Fresno COG in its RHNA analysis, which coincides with the 2022 RTP/SCS. The updated report was provided.

Doug Svensson, Applied Development Economics (ADE) presented to the committee.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Beltran (Parlier) motioned and Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) seconded to approve the revised demographic forecast report for use in Fresno COG's modeling and planning efforts, most notably in the 2022 RTP/SCS and the sixth cycle RHNA process. The motion passed. 14 yes votes, Orange Cove and Fresno County absent.

#### 2. 2022 Regional Transportation Plan Call-for-Projects (Suzanne Martinez) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Martinez (FCOG) reported that the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Call-for-Projects commenced on Monday, November 2, 2020. All projects must be submitted to Fresno COG via FresnoTrak no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, Fresno COG hosted a training session workshop for submitting RTP projects using the online FresnoTrak system. A recording of this workshop is available upon request.

Ms. Cai (FCOG) provided comments from planning point of view. SB375 is intended to reduce GHG emissions through integrated transportation land use planning. Transportation projects does influence land use growth and land use decisions can also determine what type of land use projects that can support the land use development. They do have influence over each other. Fresno COG encourages the member agencies to have their Planning, Public Works and Transit staff work together when developing the RTP projects. Projects will reflect the needs of the community and the circulation element and support the goals of city's general plan. A new element to consider is the Measure C renewal that will be taken to the ballot in 2022. This means the RTP and the Measure renewal will have coordinated efforts. The Measure will draw RTP projects.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

#### 3. 2022 RTP/SCS Fall Outreach Summary Report (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported Fresno COG's 2020 Transportation Needs Survey, open to the community from September 9 - October 22, 2020, gathered transportation project suggestions from Fresno County residents. While the survey was running, Fresno COG executed an outreach plan using the following communication strategies: Online community survey, e-newsletters, social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, flyers with QR code links to the surveys, requests sent out to members agencies, transit agencies, and other government and community agencies to share our survey invitations with their contacts, Facebook Live community presentation explaining the Fresno COG,

regional transportation plans, and the Transportation Needs Survey, three mini-grants supplied to community-based organizations to engage hard-to-reach communities, virtual meeting presentations and discussions to North Fresno Rotary and Central Valley Partnership, article published in the Fresno Bee's FresnoLand section on October 17, 2020 and follow-up emails sent to all 531 respondents who provided email addresses.

The suggestions and corresponding demographic data were downloaded from the survey website and social media posts following the survey closure. In total, 1,673 participants submitted 1,176 project suggestions via the online portal, while 120 suggestions were received on social media pages, totaling 1,226 projects in all.

Additionally, 531 people signed up to receive updates the RTP's progress reports and Fresno COG's social media following grew substantially which will be a great help to future outreach efforts. Staff will share visuals of respondent demographics during the committee meeting.

COG staff is processing the suggestions and has developed a map of all project suggestions that provided locational information. Other projects not identified by specific locations will be available to view in writing. Mr. Scott (FCOG) shared a link to the map and all written transportation project suggestions will be posted to Fresno COG's RTP Update website, [www.planfresno.com](http://www.planfresno.com).

Fresno COG will also be forwarding all of the project suggestions to the corresponding member agencies for review and consideration as they start to work on RTP project submittals in response to Fresno COG's RTP call-for-projects that went out on November 2, 2020.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

**Quorum:** Parlier exited. There were 14 members present, representing 97.52% of the population.

**B. Redesignation of the Fresno Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies for FY 2021-22 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

**Mayor Leon (Huron) recused himself from this item.**

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) administers the Fresno County Transportation Development Act Trust (TDA) per the Public Utilities Code. Under the PUC, TDA claims may be filed for community transit services, such as transit for the disabled, who cannot use conventional public transit services. In February 1982 the FCOG Board adopted Resolution 82-04 approving the Council of Fresno County Governments Assembly Bill 120 Action Plan, which created the Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSA), consisting of an urban CTSA, a rural CTSA and the Clovis CTSA to provide community transit service for Fresno County.

The City of Fresno (FAX) and Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) were co-designated as the urban CTSA partnership, while Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and FEOC were designated as the rural CTSA partnership. Pursuant to the designations, FEOC became an eligible claimant of TDA funds, which are apportioned to the incorporated cities and Fresno County. The designation of two separate CTSA's was deemed appropriate because funding from the urban CTSA derives from the City of Fresno's area of apportionment and parts of the county within Fresno's sphere of influence. The funding for the rural CTSA derives from the rural incorporated cities and the unincorporated county's area of apportionment. The co-designation occurred so FAX and FCRTA could oversee the operation of the annual Overall Program and Budget (OPB) that FEOC submits annually. The OPB designates the services CTSA provides and ensures those services are appropriately addressing the need.

In 2016/17 a compliance audit that FEOC provided revealed that a significant amount of TDA funding intended for community transit remained unspent, bringing into question the level of services provided. Staff from FAX and the City of Fresno administrative office became involved in a protracted discussion with FEOC over the nature of services provided.

During that discussion, city officials have come to the conclusion the community would be better served if FAX took the lead in administering the urban CTSA. Per an October 23, 2020 letter from the Fresno City Manager's office, the City of Fresno has requested the partnership with FEOC be dissolved and FAX designated as the urban CTSA.

The relationship on the rural side was a little more complex. FEOC not only served as FCRTA’s CTSA partner but also until recently, provided turn-key transit operations pursuant to contracts with the FCRTA for dispatch, bus drivers, and vehicle maintenance. In September 2018 the FCRTA Board terminated its contract service arrangements with FEOC for safety and liability reasons. When the public transit operations contracts were canceled, it brought into question the level of community transit service FEOC was providing to rural cities in Fresno County. In July 2020, the FCRTA Board adopted resolution 2020-13, requesting FCOG to dissolve the rural CTSA co-designation and recognize FCRTA as the rural CTSA.

Both FAX and FCRTA intend to administer the CTSA pursuant to their internal transit budgets similar to the way Clovis Public Transit has administered its CTSA function since 1982. FAX and FCRTA plan to issue a request for proposals for community transit services. FEOC is eligible to bid on that RFP, which may result in uninterrupted CTSA service by FEOC. This item has been reviewed and recommended by the Social Services Technical Advisory Committee.

Emilia Reyes, EOC Director, made comments to the Policy Board that EOC has had a long standing partnership and feels they have fulfilled their obligation. Mr. Beshears summarized comments that came out of the TTC and PAC meetings from the City of Fresno reiterated that they are reforming with the idea that the city will have more of a direct role in designating what the CTSA services are. They do want to continue the relationship with EOC. They do not want to take over the social service agency aspect. FCRTA express that it would be a beginning of a new form of relationship with EOC.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Castro (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) seconded to approve Resolution 2020-34 approving re-designation of the Urban and Rural CTSA’s with Fresno designated as the Urban CTSA’s and FCRTA designated as the Rural CTSA for FY 2021-22. The motion passed. 12 yes, members Huron recuse, Parlier, Orange Cove and Fresno County absent.

**C Fresno County Regional Trails Master Plan Update (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Arnest (FCOG) reported that Fresno County and the Fresno Council of Governments are developing the Fresno County Regional Trails Master Plan Update (Plan). The project team has developed goals and draft recommendations for connections that create safe and comfortable hiking trails and Class I bikeways in the unincorporated portions of Fresno County (outside of city boundaries).

Over the summer, the project team worked to develop a set of recommendations for trails throughout the county. These recommendations are based on the Plan’s goals, community input (over 200 comments), existing trails, data from field visits, and best practices in trail planning.

Staff would like public opinion on the recommended trails. An interactive, online map allows users to review and comment on the proposed trails. Staff is also seeking input on the “Five in Five” activity. Participants can choose which five trails they would like to see built in the next five years. For more information, visit <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/active-transportation/> or email [parnest@fresnocog.org](mailto:parnest@fresnocog.org). The online map will be open until December 4.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

**D. Local Housing Planning Grants Program Draft Guidelines and Application (Meg Prince/Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Approximately \$914,700 of the funds that Fresno COG received from the State through the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program (REAP) will be used for a competitive local housing planning grants program.

In accordance with State requirements, these funds must be used for planning efforts that will accelerate housing production and meet sixth-cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan requirements. Comments on the draft guidelines can be submitted to Meg Prince at [mprince@fresnocog.org](mailto:mprince@fresnocog.org) through December 18, 2020.

PROPOSED TIMELINE	
Policy Board adopts guidelines and application packet	January 28, 2021
Applications due	March 5, 2021
Scoring Committee convenes	March 23, 2021

Release staff recommendations	April 2, 2021
Policy Board approves awards	April 22, 2021
Projects must be completed and submitted to FCOG	August 1, 2023

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

**E. Fresno COG Sixth Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (RHNA) Subcommittee (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG will convene a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Subcommittee comprising local government representatives and key stakeholders to advise Fresno COG in developing an allocation methodology for the sixth cycle RHNA Plan. The RHNA Subcommittee will begin meeting in early 2021.

The proposed subcommittee structure will include

- Staff from each of the 16 jurisdictions in Fresno County
- Three at-large members
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Fresno COG will begin reaching out to potential subcommittee members within the next couple of months and will keep Fresno COG’s website up to date with relevant information for those interested in the process.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

**F. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]**

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) reported:

- Fiscal Year 21-22 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Workshop. Thirty-day review will end on November 4. On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> virtual workshops will be held to discuss comments received, followed by a call for proposals.
- Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) Update virtual Stakeholder Workshops November 12, 17 and December
- State Route 168 is open. There is one-way traffic control for contractor work north of Shaver Lake. Emergency contractor is removing trees, repairing culverts, and building berms in anticipation of winter storms. Field crew completed signage, delineation, and pavement work. They are currently working on replacing burnt snow poles and markers. Guardrail work is 90 percent complete.
- Kingsburg to Selma State Route 99 Rehabilitation - Roadway rehab on SR 99 in and near the City of Kingsburg from SR 99/SR 201 separation to 0.3 mile south of Second Street under-crossing. Paving operations were stopped (4 weeks) due to COVID 19 impacts on cement production. Work recommenced beginning of October. Granite is getting ready to pour the concrete ramp transition at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SB onramp. Current schedule show completion in April.
- Selma to Fowler Rehabilitation - Roadway rehab on SR 99 from Second Street in Selma to just north of Merced Ave in Fowler. Project went to CTC in October for allocation and construction will start following completion of the southern segment through Kingsburg.
- Coalinga/Avenal Rest Area Water/West- water upgrades - Anticipate completion in December.
- Zero Emission Vehicles DC Fast Charging Stations - The ZEV DC fast charging stations project has one of the ten locations in the City of Fresno – outside the Caltrans District Office. Project is in construction phase. Contractor received the fast chargers and is waiting for PG&E to install the connection. PG&E had scheduled installation at a few locations but were unable to follow through as they are now busy with the restoration at the fire sites. Contractor will start installing the chargers once all locations have PG&E connections.
- South Fresno 99 Corridor Project (SR 99/North/Cedar Avenues & SR99/American Avenue Interchanges) - Project is in the environmental clearance phase. Draft environmental document is scheduled for circulation in Early 2021
- Veterans Interchange: Target is to advertise early 2021. Does have BUILD funding. Construction to start in the spring.
- Kings Canyon Expressway Seg. 3: SR 180 from Smith Rd. to Alta Main Canal near the community of Centerville - Anticipated to be complete with entire project end of October. Some delays experienced due to COVID and getting material. Hard date for virtual ribbon cutting pending

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT

- A. San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Memorandums of Understanding (Phipps) [APPROVE]
- B. Postponing Planning Efforts for One Voice 2021 (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
- C. Project, Study or Planning Recommendations for the 2021-22 Overall Work Program (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Fast (Reedley) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed. 13 yes votes, members Orange Cove, Parlier and Fresno County absent.

### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION

There were no administrative action discussion items.

### III. OTHER ITEMS

#### A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren reported that there will be no December meeting.

#### B. Items from Members

- Mayor Lander (Coalinga) announced that this would be his last meeting, he will be retiring.
- Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) announced that after 20 years, this would be his last meeting. He will no longer be on City Council.
- Mayor Lopez (Firebaugh) announced that this would be her last meeting.

### IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned to FCRTA at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

#### Public:

Doug Svensson, ADE  
David Padilla, Caltrans  
Greg Barfield, Fresno Area Express  
Lauren Friesen  
Matthew Gillian, Inspiration Transportation  
Email Reyes, FCEOC  
Monte Cox, FCEOC

#### 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, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Todd Sobrado, Jeaneen Cervantes