

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, January 15, 2021
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Gregory Barfield, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Cristan Gonzales, City of Mendota
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Sonia Hall, City of Parlier
Isaac Moreno, City of Selma
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Moreno (Selma), Substitute Vice Chair. With eight members present via Zoom, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of November 6, 2020 [APPROVE]
- B. City of Coalinga Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. City of Firebaugh Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. City of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. 2020 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Final Audit Reports (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- F. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program: Update on Current Tasks (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- G. Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Technical Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (Meg Prince/Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]
- H. Quarterly Update on the Fresno-Madera State Route 41 and Avenue 9 Sustainable Corridors Study (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- I. Modeling On-call Contract with RSG (Kristine Cai) (Approve)
- K. Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- L. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Electric Vehicle Rideshare/Carshare/Rural Transit Expansion Plan (Jennifer Soliz) [ACCEPT]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) pulled item I-J.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda. The motion passed.

- J. SB 743 Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG published the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines in July 2020, and has developed several tools related to SB 743 vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) analysis for user convenience. Fresno COG staff has also been providing modeling assistance to project sponsors in their VMT analysis using its activity-based model (ABM). Due to emerging new data and technical issues, Fresno COG has been working with the

consultant team to update its SB 743 tools with the best information available, and is committed to continuing such efforts in the future.

The VMT screening tool has been updated and is available at: <http://gis.lsa-assoc.com/FCOGVMT/>. The VMT calculation tool, which calculates VMT for existing + project scenario for smaller projects, is still undergoing further improvement, and is expected to be available within a couple of weeks. For those who are interested in conducting VMT analysis for a small project, Fresno COG staff will be able to provide modeling assistance while the VMT calculation tool is temporarily unavailable.

For projects that require multiple scenario analysis, please contact Santosh Bhattarai at bhattarai@fresnocog.org, or Kai Han at khan@fresnocog.org for further assistance.

The step-by-step guide for VMT analysis is available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/sb743-regional-guidelines-development>.

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

1. SCS Strategies (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that The Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) will include land-use and transportation strategies that aim primarily to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to travel and foster co-benefits that advance equity and sustainability throughout the Fresno County region.

COG staff has compiled a list of applicable strategies from multiple sources, including the Fresno Futures workshops hosted by COG staff in February, the 2050 California Transportation Plan, and the RTP/SCSs from other MPOs throughout the state. Over several meetings, the SCS Subcommittee has refined this to a concise and comprehensive list of strategies that are appropriate for the Fresno County region and that can be quantifiably modeled within COG's technical capabilities.

The strategies that are chosen will form the basis of how the SCS scenarios will be developed. The RTP Roundtable further refined this list. The current version was provided.

The TTC voted to eliminate capacity increasing from the language of the strategy and to combine the strategy to read: "Provide efficient, reliable and safe roadway systems for movement of goods.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Barfield (Fresno City) seconded to recommend to the Board the presented strategy list for inclusion in the 2022 RTP/SCS. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

B. Fresno COG Local Housing Planning Grants Program Final Guidelines (Meg Prince) [ACCEPT]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is proposing to distribute approximately \$900,000 received from the state in Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program (REAP) funds through a competitive, local housing planning grants program.

In accordance with state requirements, these funds must be used for planning efforts that will accelerate the production of housing and meet the requirements of the sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan.

The draft guidelines were released in October with the deadline for comments on Dec. 18, 2020. The final guidelines were provided. Proposed timeline provided

Revisions included in the final guidelines include:

- Agencies limited to submitting three applications for this round of funding
- Agencies partnering with a sub-applicant must provide a letter of commitment from the sub-applicant in the application

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) seconded to recommend that the Policy Board accept the Fresno County Local Housing Planning Grants Program Final Guidelines and open the call for applications. Motion passed.

C. DRAFT 2021 FTIP, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 4, and Corresponding Conformity Analysis (Braden Duran/Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is federally mandated to prepare and maintain the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This four-year program of projects includes a listing of all transportation-related projects requiring federal funding or other approval by federal transportation agencies. The FTIP also lists non-federal, regionally significant projects for information and air quality modeling purposes. Projects included in the FTIP are consistent with Fresno COG's Regional Transportation Plan and are part of the area's overall strategy for providing mobility, congestion relief, and reducing transportation-related air pollution to help attain federal air quality standards.

Fresno COG is required to update the FTIP every two years. The most recent update was the 2019 FTIP, which was adopted by Fresno COG's Policy Board on July 26, 2018. Fresno COG is now proposing a draft 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, a draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan amendment No. 4 (2018 RTP amendment No. 4), and a draft conformity analysis. See the attached draft resolution for details. Referenced documents are available at <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/federal-transportation-improvement-program-ftip/>

A transportation conformity analysis is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990, in non-attainment areas to ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of national ambient air quality standards.

A 30-day public review and comment period began December 7, 2020 and ended on January 5, 2021. Fresno COG staff held a public hearing at 5 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 16, 2020 and did not receive any comments. The 2021 FTIP, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 4, and conformity analysis are scheduled for adoption at the Jan. 28, 2021 Fresno COG Policy Board meeting.

The draft 2021 FTIP, 2018 RTP amendment No. 4, and conformity analysis meet all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450, 40 CFR Part 93, and conform to the applicable SIPs.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Gonzales (Mendota) seconded to recommend the Policy Board adopt the draft 2021 FTIP, draft 2018 RTP amendment No. 4, and corresponding conformity analysis via resolution No. 2021-01. Motion passed.

D. Measure C TOD Program Cycle IX Call for Projects (Kristine Cai/Trai-Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that The Measure C Transit-Oriented Infill Program (TOD) program was created as part of the 2006 Measure C Extension Plan to boost transit ridership and encourage transit supportive land uses such as high density residential development and mixed-uses. The TOD program is estimated to generate \$16.9 million during the 20-year lifespan of the Measure C program, and accrue about \$850,000 annually. There is approximately \$910,000 available for cycle nine.

All of Fresno COG's 16 member jurisdictions are eligible for the funding. Non-profit and private sector businesses may apply for TOD funding through the local government where the project is located. There are three sub-programs under which applications can be submitted: Capital Improvement Program, Planning Program and Housing Infill Incentive Program.

The TOD Program Policies and Guidelines can be found at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-TOD-Program-Policies-and-Guidelines.pdf>.

The call-for-projects for TOD program cycle nine opened on Jan. 15 and applications are due on March 1, 2021. A scoring committee will review the applications and make recommendation in March, and the funding recommendation will be presented to COG Policy Board for approval in April. The Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Board will approve the funding recommendations in June 2021. The application package was provided.

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

E. Multi Jurisdictional Local Roadway Safety Plan (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that Federal regulations require each state have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), In coordination with federal, state, local, and private sector safety stakeholders, the SHSP establishes goals, objectives, and emphasis (or challenge) areas. The SHSP address the four "Es" of traffic safety: engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services.

A Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) can be a means for providing local and rural road owners with an opportunity to address unique safety needs in their jurisdictions while contributing to the success of the SHSP. The development process provides a framework for organizing stakeholders to systematically identify, analyze, and prioritize roadway safety improvements on local and rural roads. Safety projects stemming from the plan must be consistent with federal and state project funding requirements if those funds will be used for project implementation (i.e. HSIP).

Future HSIP funding cycles will soon require all jurisdictions to have a Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) or an equivalent document. To ensure the Fresno region can continue to receive its share of HSIP funds, Fresno COG is seeking to develop a Multi-Jurisdictional Local Roadway Safety Plan (MLRSP) for those agencies that do not have one. These include: Fresno County, Coalinga, Clovis, Huron, Firebaugh, San Joaquin, Orange Cove, Kerman, Mendota and Selma.

The approach to develop a multi-jurisdictional plan provides a unique opportunity to analyze the entire roadway system and coordinate transportation safety measures at a regional and local level. The benefits to a multi-jurisdictional plan would maximize economies of scale by leveraging local and state funds, sharing costs and resources. Furthermore, this process avoids duplication of efforts across 10 jurisdictions and would provide a structure that supports local jurisdictions with project management.

Fresno COG has recently launched the Regional Safety Plan (RSP) to address safety issues in the region. The RSP will develop a deeper understanding of crash patterns and safety performance across Fresno County's roadways and intersections, identify safety countermeasures, prepare a transportation safety education program, and create an implementation plan tied to available funding sources to help the region achieve its safety goals. Kittelson and Associates was selected through an RFP process to develop the RSP, which due in December 2021. The RSP scope of work was provided.

The MLRSP should build off of the RSP and be developed concurrently to maximize public engagement, data analyses and development of countermeasures. Fresno COG will closely coordinate both documents to ensure consistency, achieve fiscal savings, reduce duplicate work and finalize both documents for adoption by March 2022 before the next HSIP funding cycle opens in April 2022.

Fresno COG was awarded \$180,000 from the HSIP set aside to complete the MLRSP. The 10% required local match of \$20,000 will be split even among the 10 participating jurisdictions, and Fresno COG will be contributing \$71,000 in remaining SB1 formula funds for a total project budget of \$271,000.

On Jan. 4, 2021 Fresno COG released a request or proposal for qualified consultants to develop the MLRSP. Proposals are due Jan. 22. A scoring committee will review proposals and return in February with a recommended consultant, and anticipates kicking off the project in March. The request for proposals was provided.

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

F. Fresno Electric Vehicle Readiness Draft Plan (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (EVRP) was developed in partnership with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), AECOM and funding from the Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant. The EVRP was developed to meet local need and state targets for increased electric vehicle adoption and to serve as a regional resource in guiding electric vehicle charging infrastructure installation. The EVRP includes a holistic analysis of existing local conditions, a data-driven forecast, funding sources, and stakeholder engagement to develop recommendations for priority sites of charging infrastructure, as well as policy and permitting recommendations. The draft EVRP is available for public review at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/special-studies/>. All comments should be sent to Trai Her-Cole at traih@fresnocog.org by January 31, 2021.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) contracts -- Mintier-Harnish and Raimi, Associates (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
- B. Draft 2021 Legislative Platform (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020-21 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2 (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported:

WE 110 Regional Streets and Roads - Fresno COG receives federal planning funds through the Federal Highway Administration's Consolidated Planning Grant program (CPG). To simplify accounting, Caltrans is encouraging Metropolitan Planning Agencies (MPOs) to spend down any unspent prior-year carryover balances provided by the Federal Transit Administration. At the end of 2019/20, Fresno COG had \$197,794 in unprogrammed CPG carryover. This amendment programs that carryover entirely in work element 110 – Regional Streets and Roads against the East Side Corridor Study in lieu of local funds. There is no increase in cost. When the 2020/21 budget was prepared in January 2019 all anticipated CPG funds had been programmed against other projects, leaving this project to be funded with local funds. When the 2019/20 balances were reconciled, additional CPG funds were identified, and staff can now program them on this eligible project.

WE 153 Airport Land Use Plan - In 2019/20 FCOG completed the Fresno County Airport Land Use Plan using Coffman and Associates. From time to time minor amendments to the plan are required. Staff initially budgeted \$5,000 for this purpose and request that the amount increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for on-call services with Coffman related to ALUCP amendments.

WE 162 Regional Safety Plan Phase III - This work element originally reserved \$71,732 for a Sustainable Communities Grant program. Staff wishes to use that funding for Phase III of the Regional Safety Plan and rename the work element accordingly. Caltrans has agreed to include \$180,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program funding, and 10 member agencies have agreed to provide \$2,000 each for the \$20,000 match, increasing the funding for this project \$200,000.

WE 420 Regional Housing Needs and WE 421 Regional Early Action Plan Housing - Work associated with the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) was originally combined with work for the Regional Early Action Planning program (REAP) because of the overlap in eligibility; however, the REAP agreement contains accountability provisions that merit keeping the projects separate. Therefore, we are funding staff work for RHNA with \$71,899 in local funds and creating WE 421 to transfer and separate the \$10,218,831 in REAP program funds.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to adopt resolution 2021-05 approving the 2020-21 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2, increasing the budget \$276,899 to \$27,784,450. Motion passed.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were public presentations

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Brendan Connelly
Dana Alqadi
Ezra Beeman
Elena Garcia, LCJA
Leslie Martinez, LCJA
Miles Butler
Monte Cox, Fresno County EOC

Staff:

Kai Han
Braden Duran
Trai Her-Cole
Kristine Cai
Les Beshears
Robert Phipps
Seth Scott
Brenda Veenendaal
Meg Prince
Suzanne Martinez
Peggy Arnest
Moses Stites
Janelle Del Campo
Jeff Long
Jeaneen Cervantes