

Transportation Technical Committee

Date: Friday, February 12, 2021
Time: 8:30 PM
Place: COG Ash Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION REGARDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS THE FEBRUARY 12, 2021, POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:30 A.M. WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM.

JOINING THE MEETING:

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/92808531363?PWD=WHYXDJHKMLVERLVIZKFOQJRKAUTRZZ09](https://zoom.us/j/92808531363?pwd=WHYXDJHKMLVERLVIZKFOQJRKAUTRZZ09)

MEETING ID: 928 0853 1363

PASSCODE: 131084

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE AGENDA, CLICK ON THE ICON LABELED "PARTICIPANTS" AT THE BOTTOM CENTER OF YOUR PC OR MAC SCREEN. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WINDOW ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN, CLICK THE ICON LABELED "RAISEHAND". YOUR DIGITAL HAND WILL NOW BE RAISED.

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WHEN ON THE PHONE, IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE AGENDA, PRESS *9 TO "RAISEHAND" AND WE WILL SELECT YOU FROM THE MEETING CUE.

****IF JOINING BY PHONE USE *6 TO UNMUTE AND MUTE YOURSELF. WHEN JOINING THE MEETING ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED. DO NOT USE THE MUTE FUNCTION ON YOUR LAN LINE PHONE OR CELL PHONE.**

THOSE ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE MUST STATE THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME AND AGENCY FOR THE RECORD.

TO FACILITATE ELECTRONIC ACCESS, NO PERSON SHALL SPEAK UNTIL RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Transportation Technical Committee will consider all items on the agenda. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.

Exhibits:

Agenda Annotated Agenda

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

About Consent Items:

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of January 15, 2021 [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

January Minutes

B. City of Clovis Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

TDA Claim Resolution 2021-07

Approve resolution 2021-07 adopting the City of Clovis' 2020-21 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$5,803,658.

C. City of Coalinga Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

TDA Claim Resolution 2021-08

Approve resolution 2021-08 adopting the City of Coalinga's 2019-20 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$830,554.

D. City of Reedley Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

TDA Claim Resolution 2021-09

Approve resolution 2021-09 adopting the City of Reedley's 2020-21 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$1,249,480.

E. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

LTF Preliminary Estimates

Summary: The County Auditor/Controller has estimated the fiscal year 2021-22 Local Transportation Funds (LTF) apportionment at \$43,000,000. This represents a \$3,392,432 (9 percent) increase from last year's estimate; however, amounts to member agencies may vary due to population changes. A spreadsheet distributing the funding to member agencies is provided for budgeting purposes. The population estimates will be updated for 2021 when the Department of Finance releases its numbers in May.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

F. **Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Transit Assistance (STA) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears)**
[INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

STA Preliminary Estimates

Summary: The State Controller's Office has estimated the fiscal year 2021-22 State Transit Assistance (STA) apportionment at \$8,349,702. This is down \$1,507,242 (15 percent) from the May 2020 final estimate last year and reflects the SB 878 methodology, requiring the State Controller's Office to distribute STA. A spreadsheet distributing the funding to member agencies is provided for budgeting purposes. The population estimates will be updated for 2021 when the Department of Finance releases its numbers in May.

Action: Information. The Committee Policy Board may provide further direction at its discretion.

G. **Fiscal Year 2021-22 State of Good Repair (SGR) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears)**
[INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

SRG Preliminary Estimates

Summary: The State Controller's Office has estimated the fiscal year 2021-22 State of Good Repair (SGR) apportionment at \$1,785,808. This is up \$208,902 (13 percent) from the May 2020 final estimate and reflects SB 878 methodology, requiring the State Controller's Office to distribute STA. A spreadsheet distributing the funding to member agencies is provided for budgeting purposes. The population estimates will be updated for 2021 when the Department of Finance releases its numbers in May.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

H. **Fresno Regional Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (Trai Her-Cole) [ACCEPT]**

Summary: Fresno COG's 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 needs 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 was released on January 8th for public review and comment.

A supplemental map of proposed charging locations within Fresno County's unincorporated areas was published as an addendum to the draft document and has been incorporated into the final plan. Troy Hightower and Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development submitted comments generally in agreement with the components presented or discussing next steps (e.g. specific locations and considerations for siting) that are beyond the EVRP's immediate scope. All comments have been documented. Additionally, all comments to the extent relevant have been addressed and incorporated into the final EVRP. The final EVRP is available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/special-studies/>.

Action: Staff requests the TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board accept the Fresno COG Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan.

I. **Fresno County Local Housing Planning Grants Program Call for Applications (Meg Prince)**
[INFORMATION]

Summary: The call for applications is now open for the Fresno County Local Housing Planning Grants Program. The funds are intended for planning efforts that will accelerate housing production and meet sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan requirements. Approximately \$900,000 is available in this round of funding, with a second round anticipated later this year.

Applications will be due March 5, 2021.

The final guidelines and application are available on Fresno COG's website:

<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/fresno-cog-administered-grant-programs/>

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

J. **2021 FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Application (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]**

Fresno COG is the designated recipient of FTA Section 5310 program funds for the Fresno Metropolitan Area, which provides capital and operating assistance grants for transportation projects that meet the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The funds may be used for projects where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate; exceed the requirements of the ADA; that improve access to fixed-route service and; that provide alternatives to public transportation.

Fresno COG released an application for FTA Section 5310 funding in the Fresno/Clovis urbanized area on Feb. 9, 2021. The deadline for applications is March 24, 2021. Approximately **\$1,066,478** will be available for **traditional capital** projects and another **\$118,497** for **other capital and operating** projects, totaling **\$1,184,976**. For more information, see <http://www.fresnocog.org/fresno-cog-administered-grant-programs> or contact Peggy Arnest at parnest@fresnocog.org or 559-724-9218.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide further direction at its discretion.

K. **RTP Action Element (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: California Government Code Section 65080 requires each RTP to include an action element that describes the programs and actions necessary to implement the RTP and assigns implementation responsibilities. It will consist of short and long-term activities that address regional transportation issues and needs and will address all transportation modes. The action element will also consider congestion management activities within the region.

The action element is critical to providing clear direction about the MPO's and other agencies' roles and responsibilities to follow through on the RTP's policies and projects. The action element will support the approved policies and strategies developed through the policy element subcommittee. The action element will also be consistent with the financial element to identify investment strategies, alternatives and project priorities.

The draft action element outline will be available for review and comment prior to bringing the draft action element outline to the RTP Roundtable for approval in May 2021.

Action: Information. Additional direction may be provided at the Committee's discretion.

L. **Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for fiscal year 2021 (Harold Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Fresno Council of Governments is kicking off another cycle of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for fiscal year 2021, with the Social Services Transportation Technical Committee (SSTAC) meeting to be held virtually on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Under California's Transportation Development Act, Fresno COG's Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in 2020-21 before approving Local Transportation Funds (LTF) claims for streets and roads. Fresno COG's SSTAC is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs.

Public outreach and feedback is an essential component of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment. Because of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from COVID-19, public outreach will be different from years past. Outreach, this year will be primarily virtual and broken down into two main components: virtual meetings and an online survey.

Four virtual meetings are planned, with three scheduled through ZOOM and a fourth planned for Facebook. The virtual meetings scheduled are as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021

10:30 a.m. via ZOOM

2:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Noon via Facebook

5:30 p.m. via ZOOM

The second major form of outreach will be an online survey providing stakeholders with the ability to electronically submit comments and feedback. Both the virtual meetings and survey will be heavily marketed online and through Facebook. Notification will also take place via email to COG mailing lists and on social media.

Facebook campaigns will be highly targeted and limited to Fresno County.

Both campaigns started on Feb. 8, 2021, with messaging for virtual events running through March 2, 2021, the final virtual event date. Messaging for the online surveys will run through the end of March 2021.

Comments can be submitted via email to comments@fresnocog.org

Comments can also be submitted via conventional mail to:

Brenda Veenendaal, Administrative Services Manager

Fresno Council of Governments

2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA 93721

The public hearing satisfying the unmet transit needs requirements is scheduled for the March Fresno COG Policy Board meeting, March 25, 2021.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

1. Draft Policy Element Outline (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

 Draft Policy Element Outline

Summary: The policy element is a required component of the RTP and serves as a foundation for short and long-term regional planning and identifies areas of regional consensus.

Fresno COG convened a Policy Element Subcommittee, which included approximately 20 representatives from local government, transit, public health, community-based organizations, active transportation, the building industry, Measure C, and the RTP Roundtable. The Policy Element Subcommittee met three times in November and December to help develop the Draft Policy Element Outline.


The outline has been consolidated and updated based on the 2018 policy element and is included as an attachment to this agenda item. Staff is requesting approval for the vision, overarching goals, and supporting policies in the outline to be included in the draft RTP/SCS, which will be circulated for public review and comment in spring 2022.

Meg Prince can be contacted for questions or more information at mprince@fresnocog.org.

Action: Staff and the RTP Roundtable request that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Draft Policy Element Outline.

2. **SCS Scenario Concepts (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

 Scenario Concepts

Summary: Scenario development is at the core of the SCS, which requires MPOs to test various strategies to meet GHG reduction goals and maximize co-benefits for regional sustainability. As such, the scenarios that are selected for analysis within the SCS form the backbone of the plan's demonstration of how GHG reduction targets are met.

In the context of the SCS, a scenario is a snapshot in time that represents a future result of certain land-use and transportation strategies. Different strategies, as well as different priorities among strategies, will result in diverging visions of the future; and the purpose of the SCS is to choose the preferred scenario that 1) demonstrates the region's ability to meet GHG reduction targets, and 2) represents a sustainable vision of the Fresno County region that is both ambitious and achievable.

The RTP Roundtable has submitted five scenario concepts for consideration. These draft concepts are built around SCS strategies that were previously discussed, where each concept is defined by the degree of prioritization given to each of the 20 SCS strategies relative to each other.

Fresno COG staff is planning an outreach effort that will present these five scenario concepts to the public and garner input on them. Staff plans to report back in May or June with the results, and will be asking for three scenarios to include in the SCS for analysis.

Action: Staff and the RTP Roundtable request that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the five scenario concepts for public input.

3. **Telecommute Survey Results (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: In November 2020, Fresno COG released a telecommute survey for both employees and employers to assess the rate of telecommuting in Fresno County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results gathered will help provide some basis for the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gases (GHG) reduction quantification of a telecommute strategy, which will be applied in Fresno COG's 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Increased telecommuting long-term may lead to reduced VMT and GHG emissions, relieve congestion, and help the region meet air quality goals.

There were 597 employee responses and 47 employer responses. Staff will provide a brief presentation of the survey results.

Action: Information and discussion. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

4. **RTP Project Submittal (Suzanne Martinez) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Fresno COG initiated the 2022 RTP call for projects on Nov. 2, and all projects were due by Dec. 16. Staff performed a preliminary analysis of all projects received. Below is a breakdown of that analysis:

Project Type	Total Dollars		Number of Projects	
	Dollar Amount	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Bicycle/pedestrian	\$616,804,000	6.8%	459 (+226)	18.12% (+8.98%)
S&R Capacity Increasing	\$2,228,967,000	14.58%	357	14.13%
S&R Operations & Maintenance	\$3,066,233,000	31.70%	1568	61.97%
Transit	\$3,036,287,000	33.37%	143	5.66%

TOTAL	\$8,948,291,000	100%	2527	100%
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As previously reported, the 2022 RTP call for projects allowed agency staff to choose multiple modes for a single project to provide flexibility in how they are scored and funded. As such, in the analysis above, the number in parenthesis within the bicycle and pedestrian mode depicts the number of projects from other modes that also include a bike/ped component.

Next steps include mapping the 2022 RTP projects received and ranking them with the project evaluation criteria established in fall 2020.

Action: Information and discussion. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

B. Eastside Transportation Corridor Improvement Study (Jennifer Soliz) [ACCEPT]

Summary: The Eastside Transportation Corridor Improvement Study is intended to determine future transportation needs within the eastern portion of Fresno County, focusing primarily on the major north-south and east-west transportation corridors, Academy and Manning avenues. The project seeks to plan a future for both corridors that is safe, connected for all modes, provides a better experience for users, and supports the local economies.

Throughout project development, a steering committee participated to identify challenges and solutions for the eastside corridors. The steering committee included representatives from FCOG, Fresno County, Caltrans, project area cities: City of Fresno, Clovis, Sanger, Parlier, Kingsburg, Fowler, Selma, Reedley, and Orange Cove, and local stakeholders including business organizations and bicycling groups. Outreach efforts also included public workshops and were intended to be inclusive and maximize diverse community and stakeholder participation.

The draft Eastside Transportation Corridor Improvement Study was circulated for a 30-day public comment period on Dec. 21. The study can be found on the project website: <http://fcogeastsidecorridor.rinconconsultants.com/> and is also at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/special-studies/>.

Action: Staff requests TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board accept the final Eastside Transportation Corridor Improvement Study.

C. Valleywide Household Travel Survey (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The traffic model has been a key tool in many planning activities such as SB 743 implementation, developing the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), air quality conformity, environmental impact report (EIR) development, corridor studies, etc.

The model's integrity relies on the data it receives. San Joaquin Valley transportation agencies' models, including Fresno COG's ABM, were based on the household travel survey that Caltrans conducted in 2010/11. Valley residents' travel behavior has changed in that time. In addition, federal air quality conformity regulations require that models applied in the conformity process cannot be more than 10 years old. Most of the models in the Valley are close to that age limit. Fresno COG's AMB, which has a base year of 2014, will expire in 2024.

Caltrans conducted two statewide household travel surveys in the past two decades but will no longer be leading them. Instead, regional agencies are taking on the responsibility. The eight Valley MPOs have collectively decided to pursue funding to conduct a Valleywide household travel survey. The project is estimated to cost around \$1.5 million, and if all funding falls in place, the project will kick-off later this year and will be wrapped up in 2022.

The survey will reach approximately 6,700 households, with targeted outreach for low-income and minority communities to ensure a high and unbiased response rate from all counties. About a third of the cost may potentially come from Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) funding to address housing-related issues and hopefully inform housing element development over the next few years.

Survey data will be used to update all the Valley COGs' travel models. The model update would take place in 2023 for Fresno COG and later for other COGs. The updated models will be applied in the

2026 RTP/SCS, and SB 743 baseline information will be updated with the new model.

Fresno COG is leading the project, working closely with the other seven Valley COGs to pursue Caltrans' Sustainable Transportation Planning grant and REAP funding. Other funding sources for this project include left-over federal planning dollars from Kings County Association of Governments and SB 1 formula planning dollars from all the COGs.

Action: Information and discussion. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

D. Multi-Jurisdictional Local Roadway Plan Consultant Selection (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]

Summary: Future Highway Safety Improvement Program (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.

On Jan. 4, 2021, Fresno COG released a request or proposal for qualified consultants to develop the MLRSP. Proposals were due January 22nd and Fresno COG received three proposals. A scoring committee comprised of representatives from Fresno COG, County of Fresno, City of Clovis, and City of Coalinga scored each proposal and recommended Kittleson and Associates as the preferred consultant.

Kittleson and Associates has extensive experience developing local roadway safety plans for jurisdictions and has worked closely with several valley cities on public engagement. Kittleson is also the consultant developing the Regional Transportation Safety Plan which will inform the MLRSP, both documents will require close coordination and will be developed concurrently to ensure completion by March of 2022 before the next HSIP Cycle in April 2022.

The contract amount is not to exceed \$271,536.18 and is expected to kick off in March with the Policy Board's approval on February 25th.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Kittleson and Associates to develop the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Roadway Safety Plan in an amount not to exceed \$271,536.18.

E. Draft 2021-22 Overall Work Program (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Exhibits:

OWP Executive Summary

Summary: The fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling just over \$35 million, is submitted for Board and public review. The proposed budget increased \$7.22 million from last year. Operational revenues remain intact, reserves are adequate, and the agency continues to operate within the bounds of prudent management.

The largest part of the increase is attributed to a \$5 million FTA 5339 grant awarded to FCRTA for its maintenance facility. Another significant factor affecting this increase is that the budget contains fully funded multi-year projects, and as these "one-time" funds are spent they are not reflected in subsequent years' budgets. Generally, operating expenses are not affected this way.

Federal revenues increased 19 percent (\$2 million), mostly associated with the previously mentioned FTA 5339 grant. However, an additional \$1.1 million in FTA 5310 apportionments will also be distributed to transit operators for bus procurement. Kings County Association of Governments, (KCAG) agreed to transfer \$325,000 in FHWA planning funds to perform a Valleywide household travel survey.

State revenues decreased 257 percent (\$4,588,834). The largest portion of this decrease centers around the State Regional Early Action Planning grant (REAP), which this year provided \$10 million to Fresno and Central Valley MPOs to assist local governments with housing plans and produce Valleywide activities for housing as well. Staff anticipates spending approximately \$3 million of that and carrying over the balance into next year's budget. Specific budget and activity highlights follow.

Staffing & Benefits:

There are no new Fresno COG planning positions included in this year's proposed budget. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases. The overall proposed budget for salaries increased by 4 percent and benefits by 3 percent.

Consulting

The overall consulting budget is \$10.7 million, which is a decrease of \$107,450, corresponding to projects associated with revenue reductions discussed above regarding multi-year projects. New consulting projects are discussed below under the work element discussion.

Measure C Commuter Vanpool Subsidy

The budget decreased \$228,000 reflecting reduced activity from COVID restrictions.

Measure C Farm Worker Vanpool Subsidy

The budget decreased \$175,000, reflecting reduced activity from COVID restrictions.

FTA Section 5339

This is a new \$10.2 million budget for FCRTA's maintenance facility infrastructure. FCRTA will match the federal funds with \$5.1 million.

Agency Pass Through

This account decreased by \$3.2 million related to the State REAP funds paid to Valley COGs.

You can review the document on our website <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/overall-work-program-owp/>.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Board release Fresno COG's 2021-22 Overall Work Program and budget for its 30-day public review.

III. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

B. Items from Members

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes.**

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

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A. Fresno LAFCo Allocation Process (Dave Fey, LAFCo) [INFORMATION]

Exhibits: — -

Presentation

B. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]