

Fresno COG Policy Board  
MINUTES  
Thursday, January 28, 2021  
5:30 PM

Meeting held via Zoom.

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ramsey, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Pro Tem Alfred Valdez, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Mayor Jerry Dyer, City of Fresno  
Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Councilmember Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Victor Lopez, Orange Cove  
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier  
Mayor Mary Fast, City of Reedley  
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin  
Mayor Eli Ontiveros, City of Sanger  
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

**Absent:**

Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota  
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 14 members representing 81.91% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Fresno City, Kerman, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma).

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Chair.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of November 19, 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]
- 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)
- J. SB 743 Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]
- K. Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Fast (Reedley) pulled Item I-E.

Mayor Leon (Huron) pulled Item I-L.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda. The motion passed. 14 yes votes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

**E. 2020 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Final Audit Reports (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Mayor Fast (Reedley) questioned what the audit was. Mr. Beshears (FCOG) responded that the Item shouldn't have been included on this month's agenda.

**L. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Electric Vehicle Rideshare/Carshare/Rural Transit Expansion Plan (Jennifer Soliz) [ACCEPT]**

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that Fresno County Rural Transit Agency was awarded funding in cycle two of Fresno COG's Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program for a combination of two operational plans, expanding FCRTA rural transit service and creating a regional network of rural transit services. Walker Consultants was selected as the preferred consultant and was approved to kick-off the project by the Policy Board in February 2019. This plan includes a broad public involvement plan, creative mobility solutions for expanded rural service and opportunities for implementing a rural electric vehicle ridesharing pilot program in Fresno County, along with key rural transit recommendations. One of the recommendations has already been implemented and was deployed in the unincorporated communities of West Park and Biola. The final plan is available at <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/fresno-cog-administered-grant-programs>.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Fast (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to accept the final Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Electric Vehicle Rideshare/Carshare/Rural Transit Expansion Plan. Motion passed. 14 yes votes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

**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.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) 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. Motion passed. 14 yes votes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

**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, Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) 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. 14 yes votes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

**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, Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Mayor Ramsey (Coalinga) 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. 14 yes votes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

**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](mailto:traih@fresnocog.org) by January 31, 2021.

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

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

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) reported:

- State Route 168 closed north of Shaver until Saturday.
- 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. Estimated 240 working days. Construction continues and the estimated completion is March 2021.
- Selma to Fowler Rehabilitation - Roadway rehab on SR 99 from Second Street in Selma to just north of Merced Ave in Fowler. The project advertised in December 2020, and the bid opening is scheduled for February. Funding: SHOPP. Begin construction scheduled for June 2021.
- Coalinga/Avenal Rest Area Water/West- water upgrades - Construction began in November 2019 and rest areas will be closed for a substantial amount of time during the work. The contractor is working on building work. The estimated completion date is March 2021.
- 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, which will serve both NB and SB 99 EV need. Chargers are active. Fast charging conveniently located at SR 99/Olive – D.O. Multiple locations along SR 99 corridor. Free charging till Caltrans contracts the maintenance and charging of all proposed stations throughout the state.
- 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. Hope to issue permits to City November this year. Does have BUILD funding. Looking at spring construction.
- Kings Canyon Expressway Seg. 3: SR 180 from Smith Rd. to Alta Main Canal near the community of Centerville - Virtual ribbon cutting was held in Dec with drone footage. In place of the public ribbon cutting, project partners made donations that went towards the Sanger Forward Foundations for betterment to the City of Sanger such as downtown revitalization and economic growth.
- Coalinga Rehab - Pavement Rehab: Rehab project through town. We jointly were able to secure an additional \$2.4m in SHOPP Reservations funds for Complete Street elements. Out of 38 applications statewide this was one of 13 selected.
- Excelsior Express II on SR 41 from Excelsior to north of Elkhorn – Recently installed no passing signs as well modified striping to not allow passing. Currently working on project that would place median barrier along this segment by end of the summer.

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, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda. The motion passed. 14 yes votes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent. Motion passed. 13 yes votes, members Mendota, Orange Cove and Fresno County absent.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Mr. Beshears 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, Mayor Robertson (Selma) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) 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. The motion passed. 14 yes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

##### B. Appointments (Tony Boren) [APPOINT]

###### 1. Selection of an Eastside City Representative for the Measure C Renewal Executive Committee

Appointment an eastside city representative for the Measure C Renewal Executive Committee.

Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) volunteered to be the representative. Mayor Leon (Huron) nominated Mayor Ontiveros. After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to appoint Mayor Ontiveros to the Measure C Renewal Executive Committee. Motion passed. 14 yes, members Mendota and Fresno County absent.

###### 2. Yosemite Area Regional Transit Service (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority

Appointment of two Policy Board members to the YARTS Joint Powers Authority.

Mayor Yep (Kerman) nominated Mayor Leon and Mayor Roman. After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to appoint Mayor Leon and Mayor Roman to the YARTS Joint Powers Authority. Motion passed. 14 yes, members Mendota, Fresno County absent.

###### 3. Fresno State Transportation Institute (FSTI) Nomination

Select one representative for the FSTI Board of Directors to be forwarded to Fresno State for appointment consideration.

Mayor Leon (Huron) nominated Mayor Castro. After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to select Mayor Castro for the FSTI Board of Directors to be forwarded to Fresno State for appointment consideration. Motion passed. 13 yes, members Mendota, San Joaquin, Fresno County absent.

#### 4. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Appoint one representative and one alternate member to the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council.

Mayor Yep (Kerman) nominated Mayor Cardenas as second representative and Mayor Roman as an alternate representative. After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to select Mayor Castro for the FSTI Board of Directors to be forwarded to Fresno State for appointment consideration. Motion passed. 14 yes, members Mendota, Fresno County absent.

### V. OTHER ITEMS

#### A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) welcomed new members to the Policy Board and offered to provide an orientation of Fresno COG to anyone that was interested.

#### B. Items from Members

- Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) offered to the member agencies to send a letter to support ag burning so farmers can get back to planting.
- Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) welcomed new members to the Policy Board.

### VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Meeting adjourned to FCRTA at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

#### Public:

Dana Alqadi

Jim Hunter

Laura North, City of Reedley

#### 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, Jeaneen Cervantes