

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

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Jose Flores, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ron Ramsey, City of Coalinga  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Councilmember Esmerelda Soria, City of Fresno  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Councilmember Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove  
Mayor Mary Fast, City of Reedley  
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 Alfredo Valdez, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota  
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier  
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin  
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 11 members representing 77.47% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Fowler, Fresno City, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Reedley, Sanger, Selma).

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Chair.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of September 10, 2021 [APPROVE]
- B. City of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. AB 361 -- Future Committee Meeting Format (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. 10 yes, members Coalinga, Firebaugh, Mendota, Parlier, San Joaquin and Fresno County absent. The motion passed.

**II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Update**

**1. Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Scenarios Presentation (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff has been working on producing the performance indicator results for the three Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) scenarios over the summer. These three scenarios are:

Scenario A: This scenario focuses on addressing equity and planning for transportation investments that meet the needs of the transit-dependent communities.

Scenario B: Reducing sprawl while supporting higher densities in urban centers to complement high-quality transit investment defines this scenario's priorities.

Scenario C: This scenario prioritizes conserving important farmland while providing for clean air and climate resiliency.

Although every scenario has its investment priorities, each includes all 20 SCS strategies approved by the Roundtable, TTC, PAC and Policy Board. According to the modeling results, the three scenarios have slightly different impacts in various areas demonstrated by the performance indicators. The draft performance indicator results can be found on the planfresno.com website. All three scenarios are consistent with local general plans, and will be able to meet the greenhouse gas targets of 13% per capita reduction by 2035, should any of the plans be implemented. COG staff presented the performance indicator results for the three SCS scenarios.

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

**Quorum: Coalinga entered; 11 members present representing 79.16% of the population.**

## **2. Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Scenarios Fall Outreach Summary (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Veenendaal (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released three Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) scenarios for public review and comment on August 25. Public outreach ran through September 26, using a four-pronged approach that included the following strategies:

1. Online, interactive surveys for scenario review and selection in English and Spanish, easily accessible via smart phone or computer.
2. Hosted eight workshops throughout the county in Reedley, Coalinga, Sanger, Clovis, Kerman, Selma, Fresno and Mendota.
3. Five additional presentations to rural residents and community organizations.
4. Hosted two virtual workshops in English and Spanish, day and evening.

Additional outreach included the following:

- Dedicated website developed for access to RTP/SCS information at [www.planfresno.com](http://www.planfresno.com) that included an SCS Fall Outreach webpage
- Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter. Purchased ads to run on Facebook and Instagram regarding the workshops and online survey.
- Videos posted to YouTube and linked in the SCS survey explaining the scenarios.
- RTP/SCS handout developed in English and Spanish distributed at each workshop and posted online with detailed indicator definitions, reporting data and other explanations.
- Constant Contact emails sent to 4,500 email addresses.
- Staff worked with each host city to invite community members to attend meetings.  
SCS scenario indicator data results were depicted in various graphic forms for scenario reporting.

Staff provided a summary of the feedback from the public about the three SCS scenarios.

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

## **3. Preferred SCS Scenario Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the formal recommendation from Staff, TTC and Roundtable recommend that Scenario B be selected as the preferred scenario.

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability voiced their support for scenario A.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Soria (Fresno City) motioned and Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) seconded to recommend to the Policy Board that scenario B be selected as the preferred scenario for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. 9 yes, members Coaling and Huron voting no, members Firebaugh, Mendota, Parlier, San Joaquin and Fresno County absent. The motion passed.

## B. Measure C Renewal Update (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that FCTA and FCOG hosted a series of workshops in person on October 26<sup>th</sup> and via Zoom on October 27<sup>th</sup>. FCTA accountant has estimated that the renewal would raise approximately \$3 billion dollars over the next twenty years.

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

## C. State Route 41 Elkhorn to Excelsior Project (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) ITIP has supported the district's request for \$23 million. FCTA will fund \$13 million and the future STIP will fund \$10 million to fully fund the project. There are still state hearings to get through and CTC vote in January.

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

## D. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) reported:

- **Selma to Fowler Rehab** - The project started construction phase on June 27<sup>th</sup>.with actual construction starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Reconstruction of the shoulders is complete. Striping for southbound is currently being done. This will be followed by NB striping and then installation of k-rail in the median. All of this is night work. Once the k-rail is installed for northbound and southbound, all-day work will start. We recognize the need for continued communication throughout and in advance of changes to the stages and traffic shifts.
- **South Fresno 99 Corridor Project** - (SR 99/North/Cedar Avenues & SR99/American Avenue Interchanges). Project is in the environmental clearance phase. Draft environmental document was released for circulation on October 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be public hearing on November 4<sup>th</sup> (Virtual). Construction is targeted for late 2024.
- **Veterans Interchange** - Bids were opened September 28<sup>th</sup>. Going to City Council on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Contractor could begin work by the end of the year. Project has Federal BUILD grant funding.
- **Excelsior Expressway** - The Draft 2022 ITIP came out October 15<sup>th</sup> and has \$23M in new funding. FCOG and FCTA put up a \$23M match. The design would be completed by June 2024 and a contractor would be on board by the end of 2024 with work starting after the rainy season (i.e. spring 2025).
- **Mendota SR 180 - Mendota Ped Safety Project** - In collaboration with the City we are initiating the design of a Road Diet Project on SR 180 from Belmont to just south of SR 33. This would complement the future roundabout. It will include Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at all marked crosswalks and at the request of the City we will be adding a crosswalk at 7<sup>th</sup>. We are aggressively targeting next spring/summer for construction and funding with our minor program. Potential for Clean CA enhancements. Presented to the City Council on October 12.
- **State Route 41 Aux Lane for Ashlan to Shaw** - This project constructs an auxiliary lane in Fresno County on Route 41 from the NB Ashlan Ave. on-ramp (PM R27.6) to the NB Shaw Ave. off-ramp (PM R28.3) and widen the Shaw Ave. NB off-ramp to two lanes. As part of the construction of the auxiliary lane a retaining wall (soil nail wall) will be built to accommodate the widened roadbed. It is also proposed to construct a sound wall along the Shaw Ave. off-ramp on NB Route 41 at the north end of the project. No additional right of way is anticipated for this project. This project will be in construction this summer.

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

## III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

### A. 2022 One Voice-Washington Program (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ontiveros (Sanger) motioned and Mayor Flores (Clovis) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. 11 yes, members Firebaugh, Mendota, Parlier, San Joaquin and Fresno County absent. The motion passed.

## IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There are no Administrative Action/Discussion Items.

## V. OTHER ITEMS

### A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that November's meeting will be one week earlier because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

### B. Items from Members

- Councilmember Soria (Fresno City) reported that she elected President of the League of Cities Latino Caucus. The first webinar will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) reported that Orange Cove received \$8 million for a water well.

## VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

### A. Public Presentations -

There were no public presentations.

**The meeting was adjourned to FCRTA at 7:49 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

### Public:

Laura North, City of Kingsburg  
Cynthia Echevarria Baruch  
Ivanka Saunders, LCJA

### Staff:

Kai Han  
Braden Duran  
Kristine Cai  
Robert Phipps  
Brenda Veenendaal  
Jennifer Soliz  
Meg Prince  
Esperanza Velazco  
Jake Martinez  
Pankaj Joshi  
Moses Stites  
Janelle Del Campo  
Jeaneen Cervantes