

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, April 8, 2022
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

John Holt, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Wilma Quan, City of Fowler
Greg Barfield, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Daniel Galvez, City of Kingsburg
Trevor Stearns, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Barfield (Fresno City), Chair. With seven members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of March 11, 2022 [APPROVE]
- B. City of San Joaquin FY 2019-20 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- C. City of San Joaquin FY 2020-21 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- D. City of San Joaquin FY 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- E. 2022 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment - Public Hearing Announcement (Harold Sobrado) [INFORMATION]
- F. Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- G. Measure C New Technology Reserve Program 2022 Grant Application (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Holt (Clovis) motioned and Ms. Quan (Fowler) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Sixth Cycle Multijurisdictional Housing Element Consultant Contract (Meg Prince) [ACTION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that California housing element law requires every jurisdiction to prepare and adopt a housing element as part of general plans. In California, typically each city or county prepares and maintains its own separate general plan and housing element. During the last round of housing element updates, however, the County of Fresno and 12 of the 15 cities in the region, with Fresno COG's help, prepared a multi-jurisdictional housing element (MJHE).

The MJHE provided an opportunity for countywide housing issues and needs to be more effectively addressed at the regional level rather than just at the local level. In addition, the economies of scale from the multijurisdictional effort resulted in significant cost savings for participating jurisdictions.

State law mandates that housing elements be updated every eight years. The sixth-cycle housing elements will cover the planning period between 2023 and 2031 and must be adopted and submitted to HCD for certification by Dec. 31, 2023.

While legislative changes have increased the cost and complexity of the housing element since the fifth cycle, there are some advantages to pursuing a joint effort, and local members have again requested Fresno COG hire a consultant to be paid for by participating member agencies to develop a sixth-cycle multijurisdictional housing element.

The MJHE's primary objective is to have a regional plan, with individual appendices for each participating jurisdiction, addressing housing needs to be certified by the State. Fresno COG is acting as the fiscal agent and contract administrator for the sixth-cycle, multi-jurisdictional housing element. Fresno COG will convene a MJHE Working Group, which will include participating local government staff, to direct and support the overall effort.

CONSULTANT SELECTION - Fresno COG released a request for proposals on Jan. 27 for qualified consultants to develop the sixth-cycle MJHE, and received two proposals. A consultant selection committee comprising representatives from the County, Kerman, Fowler, Fresno, Selma, and Fresno COG conducted consultant interviews on March 22.

The consultant selection committee is recommending PlaceWorks as the preferred consultant team. The PlaceWorks team includes Ascent Environmental, Provost and Pritchard, and California Coalition for Rural Housing, as subconsultants. The PlaceWorks team has extensive experience preparing housing element updates and is well versed in addressing the latest legislation affecting housing elements and general plans.

The contract cost is broken out by two potential options for environmental compliance. The first option includes each participating jurisdiction adopting its housing element with an addendum to its general plan's environmental impact report (EIR), for a total of \$1,746,266. The second option includes an initial study for each jurisdiction, leading to a negative declaration for the proposed housing elements, for a total of \$1,894,931. Once necessary changes to land use are understood in more detail, PlaceWorks will assist local jurisdictions in determining the appropriate course in terms of environmental compliance.

The estimated cost for each of the 13 smaller jurisdictions ranges from \$110,000 with an environmental addendum to \$125,000 with an initial study/negative declaration. The cost for the County ranges from \$140,000 with an environmental addendum to \$150,000 with an initial study/negative declaration. The estimated cost for the City of Fresno is \$225,000 with an environmental addendum to \$245,000 with an initial study/negative declaration.

NEXT STEPS - At this time, the County, City of Fresno, and 13 other cities have all expressed interest in participating. Participating jurisdictions have (or are in the process of) providing a signed resolution confirming participation in the joint effort as well as a \$10,000 deposit to help Fresno COG alleviate cashflow issues. The deadline for these two items is Thurs., April 28, at which time Fresno COG staff will request the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter into a contract with PlaceWorks.

A kickoff meeting with the consultant and participating jurisdictions will be scheduled for May.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) motioned and Mr. Jansons (Kerman) seconded to recommend that the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter into an agreement with PlaceWorks to produce the sixth-cycle multi-jurisdictional housing element for an amount not to exceed \$1,894,931.

B. Measure C Transit Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program Cycle 10 Funding Recommendation (Kristine Cai/Jennifer Soliz) [ACTION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that the Measure C Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) program was established as part of the Measure C 2006 Extension Plan. It was designed to boost transit ridership through transit supportive land uses such as compact development and mix uses, and other transit complementary infrastructure development and planning activities. It was intended to provide seed money for transit-oriented development in Fresno County and promote livable, sustainable and healthy communities that are walkable, bikeable and transit friendly.

The TOD program accounts for 1.2% of Measure C funding and is estimated to accrue about \$17 million in the Measure's 20-year lifespan. Cycle 10 has about \$1.44 million available. Fresno COG received three applications totaling \$989,932 in funding requests. These applications are:

1. City of Fresno requested \$450,000 for preliminary engineering on segments of Blackstone Avenue from State Route 180 to Pine Avenue as part of the Blackstone Avenue Smart Mobility Project. The project aims to transform the auto-oriented Blackstone corridor into a people-centered, multi-modal community that is walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly.
2. City of Kingsburg requested \$396,165 to construct pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements in downtown Kingsburg as identified in the Downtown Kingsburg Strategic Plan.

3. City of Fowler requested \$143,767 to fund a bicycle infrastructure project in downtown and surrounding areas to connect key activity centers to transit facilities in Fowler.

The scoring committee met and discussed application's qualifications on March 22. The committee unanimously recommended to fully fund all three projects, as requested.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Quan (Fowler) motioned and Mr. Galvez (Kingsburg) seconded to recommend the Policy Board fully fund the projects submitted by the cities of Fresno, Kingsburg and Fowler, totaling \$989,932, through Measure C's TOD program.

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

TWG is currently discussing regional projects. Public outreach will be held on April 18th in Kerman with Mayor Yep and Mr. Boren, Clovis Mayor Pro Tem Ashbeck and Mike Leonardo, and in Reedley with City Manager Nicole Zieba and Georgiena Vivian. Mr. Boren expressed the importance of the member agencies staying engaged.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Voting Protocols for Officer Elections (Les Beshears/Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Holt (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

This item was informational only. No further direction was given by the committee.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Oppose position - Assembly Bills 2237 and 2438 (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that two bills working their way through the California Assembly have the potential for serious ramifications to both regional and local transportation projects.

Together, AB 2237 and AB 2438 -- authored by Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Laura Friedman -- require all projects funded through regional plans and programs, such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), be consistent with the California Transportation Plan (CTP) and the California Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).

Under AB 2438, these requirements also extend to such state funding programs as the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), as well as multiple SB 1 programs, including: Solutions for Congested Corridors, Trade Corridor Enhancement and the Local Partnership Program within the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation (RMRA) Program.

Among other issues, the CTP does not meet the definition of "reasonableness" to which regional plans must adhere. Whereas the CTP is "aspirational," regional plans like the RTP are grounded in "fiscal constraint," or a demonstrable degree of certainty regarding consistent funding sources over time.

For example, CalCOG estimates that pricing assumptions in the CTP are equal to a current-day gas tax increase of \$2.25 per gallon. Federal regulations prohibit regional entities from adopting plans that include such unlikely scenarios. Given that the state plan does not have to adhere to regional plan standards, there is a significant risk that a project may be consistent with the vision in one plan but not the other.

In addition, State policies have a tremendous influence on whether or not a region meets its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target under SB 375. For example, many of the capacity-increasing projects on the State system are sponsored by Caltrans. There are multiple approaches the State might take to achieve such outcomes. AB 2237 should direct state agencies to look at supporting state actions more closely.

The state must be more accountable for its own actions. In another example, the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Scoping Plan states that GHG reductions from "SB 375-like" strategies should be 25 percent. Yet ARB's Plan could only set the SB 375 targets at a 19 percent average, acknowledging the limits of what metropolitan planning organizations like

Fresno COG could feasibility achieve. ARB stated that the 6% gap (25%-19%) would be achieved by “additional state actions.” To date there has been no comprehensive plan to address this issue, or analysis to determine whether actions like CAPTI or SB 743 sufficiently bridge this gap. This kind of analysis is an essential first step in reaching State climate change goals.

Collectively, AB 2237 and 2438 place the full onus of the State's climate change goals and GHG reductions on local and regional transportation projects without addressing additional policies and actions the State Legislature could adopt to help solve the problem. Staff recommends opposing both AB 2237 and 2438.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jansons (Kerman) motioned and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to recommend an "oppose" position to the Policy Board for both AB 2237 and AB 2438, and direct the Executive Director to file letters of opposition with the Legislature.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from Staff

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Jansons (Kerman) asked the committee if they would be interested in a regional compensation and salary study. Mr. Holt (Clovis) offered to share Clovis' recent salary survey and spreadsheets that calculate the total cost of compensation by employee. Ms. Quan (Fowler) stated that the City of Fowler is currently conducting a survey and is happy to share the results when they become available.
- Mr. Galvez (Kingsburg) expressed his gratitude for the support of their TOD project.
- Mr. Holt (Clovis) offered to start up a Fresno County City Manager email list. Former City Manger Luke Serpa use to do it and it was a helpful resource.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Dawn Marple, P&P

Mark Teague, Placeworks

Mary Church, City of Fowler

Thomas Gaffery, City of Fowler

Staff:

Kai Han, Braden Duran, Les Beshears, Kristine Cai, Robert Phipps, Meg Prince, Suzanne Martinez, Santosh Bhattarai, Pankaj Joshi, Shichen Fan, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Jeaneen Cervantes