

April 28, 2022

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Technical Committee
Policy Advisory Committee
Fresno COG Policy Board

FROM: Tony Boren, Executive Director
Robert Phipps, Deputy Director
Les Beshears, Finance Director

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2022-23 Overall Work Program Recommendations:

Summary:

The proposed budget increased \$2,041,250 from the draft budget that was released for review in February. \$2 million of this is attributed to the creation of WE 174 Inland Port Feasibility Phase IV. \$226,896 in State RMRA funding in WE 166 Transit On-Board Survey was transferred to WE 177 Regional Micro Transit Feasibility Study and WE 940 Freeway Service Patrol was increased \$41,250 pursuant to a formal RFP process.

The fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$48,152,677, is submitted for Board and public review. The proposed budget increased \$12,499,458 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 \$7.8 million in anticipated funding from the Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) funds provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Also, Fresno COG member agencies agreed to contribute \$2 million to fund a multijurisdictional housing element. Another significant factor 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 5 percent (\$598,000). Included in this is an increase in FHWA Planning funds of 337,753 which was programmed in the newly created WE 174 Inland Port Feasibility Phase IV. The budget also includes a new \$1 million federal Accelerator Grant (RIA) to provide for phase three of the California Inland Port. Meanwhile, FTA 5310 apportionments decreased \$771,000, as a buildup of previous years apportionments were used to procure buses that were distributed to transit operators last year.

State revenues increased 80 percent, primarily due to the REAP grant.

Local revenues increased 26 percent (\$3.7 million), largely due to financial commitments for the multijurisdictional housing element

Staffing & Benefits:

There are no new Fresno COG planning positions included in this year's proposed budget however, a number of positions turned over last year reflecting younger employees at lower salary and benefit rates. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases. The overall proposed budget for salaries increased by 3 percent and benefits by 1 percent.

Expense Account Format:

Expense items are broken into two categories. General indirect overhead expenses are items attributable to overall agency administration, such as: telephones, insurance, copier leases, and rent that are not identifiable specifically to grant programs. These indirect expenses are combined into a Caltrans approved indirect cost allocation proposal and distributed equally among all funding sources. Expenses charged directly to specific grants and programs are identified as "other direct cost." In some instances, there may appear to be duplications, such as in the indirect account for printing and the other direct costs account for supplies/printing; however, the difference in how they are administered is in the general nature of overhead expenses, as opposed to the project-specific nature of other direct costs. Detail is provided for other direct costs (*other project detail*) showing the work element, activity, and funding sources.

Overhead Accounts:

Overhead accounts increased by 7 percent (\$36,000 total) reflecting three-year cyber security license renewals. Telephone expenses decreased \$500; postage was reduced \$4,000, as migration to virtual meetings lowered agenda mailing costs; printing supplies increased \$7,000 owing to an anticipated lease renewal for the agency's copier, and travel decreased \$3,500, reflecting the virtual meeting environment.

Direct Cost Expenses:

Consulting

The overall consulting budget is \$16.5 million, an increase of \$5.4 million. New consulting projects are discussed below under work elements.

Supplies & Printing

The proposed budget for program-specific printing costs stays unchanged at \$66,000.

Software Support and Maintenance

The software account increased \$40,000 to \$259,000 reflecting renewed cybersecurity licenses mentioned above.

Workshops

The workshops budget increased \$65,000 to \$90,000, associated with the San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference scheduled for May 2022. It is anticipated to be paid for with donations.

Promotion / Public Outreach

The public outreach budget decreased by \$15,000, reflecting decreased public outreach associated with the RTP.

Measure C Carpool Subsidy

The carpool budget remains unchanged at \$48,000.

Prizes & Awards

The budget remains unchanged at \$32,000.

Measure C Commuter Vanpool Subsidy

The budget increased \$40,000 to \$300,000 reflecting vanpool activity building back up from the lockdown.

Measure C Senior Taxi Scrip

The budget remains unchanged at \$480,000.

Measure C Farm Worker Vanpool Subsidy

The budget remains unchanged at \$385,000.

Employee Education, Training, and Travel

The budget remains unchanged at \$37,000.

FTA Section 5339

The budget remains unchanged at \$10.2 million as FCRTA's maintenance facility infrastructure is carried over. FCRTA matches the federal funds of \$5.1 million with the same amount in local funds.

FTA Section 5310 (Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities)

A schedule of transportation for elderly persons and persons with disabilities projects is included in the work element. Completed projects are removed. The account decreased \$727,000 for buses awarded to transit agencies last year using prior year apportionments.

Translation Services

The budget remains unchanged at \$4,000.

County Counsel

The budget increased \$5,000 to \$40,000 for legal review of REAP agreements.

Program Audits

The budget decreased \$46,000 to \$48,000 reflecting completion of a required triennial performance audit.

County Auditor Controller

The budget is unchanged from last year at \$8,000.

Membership Dues

Dues for CALCOG are unchanged at \$21,000.

Board Remuneration

The account reflects the stipend paid for Policy Board members to attend the monthly meeting and

various Board travel expenses. The budget for FCOG board remuneration remains unchanged; however, \$12,000 is budgeted to reimbursement the San Joaquin Valley REAP Committee, which oversees the Valleywide distribution of the \$10 million in housing funds. The budget is unchanged from last year at \$31,000.

Temporary Help

The budget remains unchanged at \$4,000.

Other Misc. Expenses

The budget remains unchanged at \$14,000.

Freeway Service Patrol

The budget increased \$271,000 to \$731,000 subsequent to rebidding the contract and increasing the service on SR 99 per CHP and Caltrans' request.

Equipment

The budget remains unchanged at \$83,000.

Agency Pass Through

This account increased by \$7 million related to the State REAP funds passed through to Valley MPOs.

Grant Administration

This account carries a provision for grants that have multi-year line items for administration. The account increased \$366,000 to \$548,000.

New, Combined and Eliminated Work Elements:

New Work Elements

- (WE 131) Access for All
- (WE 154) Regional ATP Update
- (WE 174) Inland Port Survey Phase 4
- (WE 175) Inland Port Survey Phase 5
- (WE 177) Regional Micro Transit Feasibility Study
- (WE 420) Regional Early Action Plan 2.0

Eliminated Work Elements

- (WE 140) Regional Safety Plan Phase I
- (WE 148) Regional Safety Plan Phase 2
- (WE 160) Better Blackstone Phase 2
- (WE 162) Multijurisdictional Local Road Safety Plan
- (WE 166) Transit On Board Survey

The six primary components of the OWP are as follows:

- I. Regional transportation planning
- II. Transportation program development
- III. Services and general coordination activities

- IV. Regional coordination of transportation, land use & housing
- V. Valleywide coordinated activities
- VI. Administrative activities

Highlights for each of the six OWP components are listed below:

I. Regional Transportation Planning

The work elements contained within this section primarily carry out the long-range regional transportation planning program, for which Fresno COG is statutorily responsible.

Work Element 110 Regional Streets and Highways Planning – This \$15,000 program provides for general street planning but has no major projects this year.

Work Element 111 Regional Transportation Modeling – This \$617,000 program continues the regional modeling effort, including \$118,000 for software and technical modeling support.

Work Element 112 Regional Traffic Monitoring – This \$319,000 budget includes \$237,000 for Fresno County, Fresno, and Clovis to provide traffic counts for the regional program and \$50,000 for traffic counting equipment to accommodate increased traffic counts required for congestion management.

Work Element 114 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – No major update to the ITS plan is required; however, \$14,000 is budgeted for the maintenance of the plan and continued coordination.

Work Element 115 Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) – This \$112,000 program funds RTMF collection for the Fresno County Transportation Authority, including \$50,000 for on-call support.

Work Element 116 National Park Transit Service – This \$761,000 budget provides seasonal public transit service to Yosemite. This will be the last year service emanating from the Fresno County region.

Work Element 117 Golden State Corridor – The \$419,000 program covers the remaining GSC design phase work under the Mark Thomas contract. Additional PUC requirements have delayed and increased the construction cost. The project is anticipated to be ready to list in 2022. The Fresno County Public Works Department is expected to oversee the construction phase.

Work Element 120 Public Transportation – Primarily funded with the City of Fresno's FTA Section 5307 grant, this \$431,000 program coordinates activities among Federal Transit Administration and the four regional transit operators and includes \$122,000 in FTA 5303 to update the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

Work Element 121 FTA Section 5339, and 5310 – Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 and Section 5310 grant programs provide \$11.5 million for FCRTA's maintenance facility and bus procurement for transit operators.

Work Element 131 Access for All – The PUC provides \$222,000 to provide for wheelchair accessible vehicles for private transportation providers.

Work Element 150 Other Modal Elements – This \$46,000 program coordinates activities related to aviation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Work Element 152 High Speed Rail – \$3,000 is programmed for staff planning activities related to high-speed rail.

Work Element 153 Airport Land Use Commission – Approximately \$38,000 is programmed for staff support to the Commission, including a \$10,000 on-call contract for plan amendments.

Work Element 154 Regional ATP Update - \$320,000 is programmed to develop a regional Active Transportation Plan to enhance member agency applications for trails, pedestrian and bike lanes.

Work Element 163 Freight Planning – This \$6,000 work element monitors regional freight networks.

Work Element 164 Inland Port Study – Phase II of the Inland Port study is anticipated to be nearing completion. This \$50,000 work element provides miscellaneous support for this multiphase project for related activities not funded by state or federal grants.

Work Element 165 SJV Household Travel Survey – This \$1.5 million work element coordinates a household travel survey among the Valleywide MPOs.

Work Element 167 Sustainable Communities Planning Grants – This \$144,000 work element reserves State RMRA funding for the 2022-23 Sustainable Communities Planning Grants program. The work element will be updated when projects are selected.

Work Element 168 Inland Port Study Phase 3 – This \$485,000 work element funds phase 3 of this multiphase project. This phase is funded by a CALTRANS planning grant.

Work Element 170 Regional Transportation Plan – Approximately \$457,000 is budgeted to continue the ongoing RTP process, however; the program is reduced significantly from last year as it winds down its four-year development and adoption cycle.

Work Element 171 Transportation Performance Management – Transportation performance management is a federal emphasis area. Approximately \$35,000 is budgeted to develop and maintain performance management criteria.

Work Element 172 Congestion Management Program – This \$45,000 budget maintains the Congestion Management Program.

Work Element 173 Regional VMT Mitigation Program – Approximately \$231,000 is budgeted to develop a vehicle-miles-traveled mitigation strategy.

Work Element 174 Inland Port Study Phase 4 – This \$2 million work element funds phase 4 of this multiphase project.

Work Element 175 Inland Port Study Phase 5 – This \$1 million work element funds phase 5 of this multiphase project. This phase is funded by a Federal Accelerator grant.

Work Element 177 Regional Micro Transit Feasibility Study – This SB1 program provides \$227,000 to explore the feasibility of Micro Transit.

Work Element 180 Air Quality - Approximately \$193,000 is programmed for activities associated with air quality conformity, including \$65,000 to San Joaquin COG for interagency coordination.

II. **Transportation Program Development**

Work Element 210 Measure “C” Extension – Approximately \$3.9 million is programmed for Measure C activities and to update the Capital Projects Strategic Plan, and to screen projects for the Transit-Oriented Development and New Technologies programs. The budget includes \$1.2 million to FCRTA for electric vehicles, and \$2.2 million to Fresno State for the Transportation Institute.

Work Element 211 Measure “C” Citizen Oversight Committee – Approximately \$24,000 is programmed to support the committee.

Work Element 212 Measure “C” Carpool/Vanpool – The \$637,000 budget provides for carpool incentives and commuter vanpool subsidies.

Work Element 214 Measure “C” ADA/Seniors – This \$783,000 budget provides for the Senior Taxi Scrip program.

Work Element 215 Farmworker Vanpool – This \$529,000 program provides subsidies to agricultural workers for vanpool transportation.

Work Element 220 Transportation Program Development - Approximately \$473,000 is budgeted to coordinate project applications with modeling, air quality conformity, congestion management and financial constraint for millions of dollars in member agency projects programmed with federal aid and state-funded grants through web-based software, Fresno Trak.

III. **Services and General Coordination**

Work Element 310 Intergovernmental Coordination – Approximately \$161,000 is budgeted to coordinate with member agencies and other governmental units.

Work Element 311 Public Participation – Approximately \$246,000 is programmed for public involvement in the Fresno COG planning process.

Work Element 313 Environmental Justice – Approximately \$23,000 is programmed to provide environmental justice analysis for disadvantaged communities and stakeholder groups.

Work Element 320 Technical Assistance – Approximately \$369,000 is budgeted to assist member agencies in planning and project development, including the circuit planner and engineer programs.

Work Element 350 Fresno Regional Data Center – Approximately \$86,000 is programmed to maintain census and population related statistics vital to the planning process.

Work Element 360 One Voice Advocacy – Approximately \$131,000 is programmed for the “One Voice” trip to Washington DC, as well as the “Valley Voice” trip to Sacramento and Washington DC. Advocacy programs at both the local and regional levels are ineligible for state and federal participation and must be funded by local assessments.

IV. Regional Coordination of Transportation, Land Use & Housing

Work Element 420 Regional Housing Needs – Approximately \$2.3 is budgeted to assist local agencies develop their Regional Housing Needs Allocation requirements.

Work Element 421 Regional Early Action Plan – Approximately \$13.5 million is budgeted to assist Valley agencies meet their Regional Early Action Plan requirements and administer the San Joaquin Valley REAP program.

Work Element 422 Regional Early Action Plan 2.0 – Fresno COG anticipates \$13.6 million in additional housing funding for plan implementation. Staff is budgeting the first 10% or \$1.36 million. The budget will be amended to incorporate the rest as the program comes into focus.

V. Valleywide Coordinated Activities

Work Element 820 Valley RTPA Coordination – General activities associated with this \$301,000 budget include a \$125,000 consultant contract to coordinate the Valleywide planning effort.

VI. Administrative Activities

Work Element 910 COG Administration – Approximately \$235,000 is programmed to cover non-federal/state general administration.

Work Element 911 Overall Work Program – Approximately \$77,000 is programmed to develop and monitor the Overall Work Program.

Work Element 912 Transportation Funds Admin – Approximately \$119,000 is programmed to administer Transportation Development Act trust funds, distributing \$70 million in local transportation funding to member agencies.

Work Element 920 – 930 Local Agency Administration – Approximately \$681,000 is budgeted to provide administrative staff and support services to the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency and Fresno County Transportation Authority.

Work Element 940 Freeway Service Patrol – Approximately \$762,000 is budgeted to provide assistance to motorists stranded on the state highway system in Fresno during peak traffic hours. The CHP and CALTRANS have recommended service expansion on SR 99 when the project has been rebid this year.