

**Transportation Technical Committee
MINUTES
Friday, April 8, 2022
8:30 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Moses Sties, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
Dario Dominguez, City of Fowler
Marilu Morales, City of Reedley
John Mulligan, City of Sanger
Carolina Ilic, Fresno Area Express
Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
Jennifer Clark, City of Fresno
Tina Sumner, Fresno Cycling Club
Christopher Xiong, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Mr. Stites (FCRTA), Chair.

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, Ms. Sumner (Cycling Club) motioned and Mr. Khorsand (County) 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. Khorsand (County) motioned and Ms. Clark (Fresno City) seconded to recommend that the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter into an agreement with PlaceWorks to produce the sixth-cycle multijurisdictional 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. Sumner (Cycling Club) motioned and Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) 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. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from Staff.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from Members.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Dave Peters

Dawn Marple, P&P

Mark Teague, Placeworks

Mary Church, City of Fowler

Thomas Gaffery, City of Fowler

Nick Paladino, Active Transportation

Staff:

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