

**Transportation Technical Committee
MINUTES
Friday, October 14, 2022
8:30 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Dario Dominguez, City of Fowler
Jennifer Clark, City of Fresno
Scott Mozier, City of Fresno
Marilu Morales, City of Reedley
Mohammad Alimi, County of Fresno
Carolina Ilic, Fresno Area Express
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Nick Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Tina Sumner, Fresno Cycling Club
Mike Prandini, Fresno Building Association
Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
Myra Banuelos, Enterprise
Tony Boren, Fresno Council of Governments
Christopher Xiong - Caltrans D6

The meeting was called to order at 8:311 a.m. by Mr. Stites (FCRTA), Chair.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of September 9, 2022 [APPROVE]

B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

1. City of Firebaugh Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

Action: Approve Resolution 2022-40, adopting the City of Firebaugh's 2021-22 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$395,224.

C. Valleywide Household Travel Survey Contract Amendment (Kristine Cai) [ACTION]

Summary: The Valleywide Household Travel Survey has been collecting travel data from households in the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley. The data will be critical input for updating planning tools such as the traffic model, which has been essential in developing the Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Regional Transportation Plan's environmental impact report, air quality conformity analysis, SB 743 vehicle miles traveled analysis, corridor studies and others. The project is a partnership among the eight Valley MPOs and is funded by HCD, Caltrans and planning dollars from the state's Housing and Community Development Department. Fresno COG serves as the project manager.

This spring, the consultant team, led by RSG, mailed out around 400,000 invitations to participate in the survey. Unfortunately, due to the size of the hard-to-reach disadvantaged population in the Valley, responses from the spring mailout were lower than expected. To maintain data integrity, which depends on the sample size, the eight Valley MPO directors voted in June to contribute an additional \$80,000 to the project for another round of outreach in January 2023. The cost is expected be covered by carried over planning funds from Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG). If KCAG's planning funds falls through, the eight COGs are committed to split the \$80,000 on pro rata basis.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board amend the contract with RSG for the Valleywide Household Travel Survey to add \$80,000, for a new contract total of \$1,573,969.87.

- Mr. Stites called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) motioned, and Ms. Sumner (Fresno Cycling Club)

seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- All in favor, no opposed, no abstained. **The motion passed.**

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Measure C New Technology Funding Recommendation (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]**

Summary: The Measure C New Technology Program aims to fund technological advances in safety, fuel efficiencies and alternatives, intelligent transportation system (ITS), information dissemination and other areas in the transportation sector. The program can fund projects of regional significance in research, development, demonstration, and deployment that will advance technology in public transit, as well as other transportation areas. The biennial call for application for New Tech funding was released on April 08, 2022. There is \$4.465 million available for the Fiscal Year 22/23 award cycle.

Fresno COG received seven applications requesting approximately \$6.5 million. The scoring committee comprised one representative each from: the County of Fresno, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, eastside cities, westside cities, Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee, transit, Fresno COG, FCTA, as well as two members of the public. On Aug. 29, the scoring committee met to interview the applicants and discuss the applications. The following applications were recommended for funding:

1. FCRTA - Selma Maintenance Facility Inductive Charging Station. FCRTA plans to install a wireless inductive charging station at its new maintenance facility in Selma. The inductive charging station will provide a fast-charging option that will help FCRTA continue to transition to a zero-emission vehicle fleet.

- Requested funds: \$469,250
- Recommended funds: \$422,325

2. FCRTA - Kingsburg Resiliency Hub. FCRTA plans to construct a resiliency hub in the City of Kingsburg. The project consists of a solar carport, 15 solar-powered, Level II charging stations, and energy storage. The resiliency hub will help FCRTA transition to a zero-emission vehicle fleet and provide EV charging to the public.

- Requested funds: \$568,000
- Recommended funds: \$538,200

3. City of Clovis - Transit Intelligent Technology Project. Clovis proposes to install intelligent technology for fixed-route operations, including a CAD/AVL system that will deliver real-time passenger data via smart phone app and website with bus arrival time, trip planning, alternative routes/buses, and vehicle capacity data. It will provide benefits to all passengers and those with vision and hearing disabilities by increased accessibility with interior signage annunciators.

- Requested funds: \$425,000
- Recommended funds: \$425,000

A fourth application from the City of Fresno for Next Generation Intelligent Transportation Systems -- to include communications with City/Caltrans Advanced Transportation Management Systems (ATMS) and synchronization of corridors at/near congested freeway ramps, as well as safety upgrades along the Friant Road corridor at Audubon Drive -- is still being negotiated and will return for consideration by the January 2023 meeting.

For any questions regarding the New Tech Program, please reach out to staff lead Simran Jhutti at sjhutti@fresnocog.org.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve funding the FY 22/23 cycle New Technology applications as recommended by the New Tech Scoring Committee.

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) provided a brief overview of the three applications recommended for funding.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Prandini (Fresno Building Assoc.) motioned and Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) seconded to approve as presented.

- All in favor, no opposed, no abstained. **The motion passed.**

**B. Final Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program Guidelines
(Robert Phipps) [ACTION]**

Summary: In June 2021, as part of its routine federal and state certification process, FHWA and FTA issued Fresno COG a corrective action to remove suballocations of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) programs from its project programming and selection procedures. A similar corrective action was issued for the Caltrans Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program in accordance with 23 CFR 450.324(j).

Historically, Fresno COG split the CMAQ and STBG distributions into two programs. The regional competitive bid program was based on scoring criteria developed by a programming subcommittee, evaluated by a scoring committee, and approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

The Targeted Performance Program (TPP) -- formerly known as Lifeline -- was directly suballocated to member agencies based on population. While TPP funds were used at an agency's discretion, they were required to be placed on projects also based on criteria the programming subcommittee developed and Fresno COG staff evaluated to ensure they adhered to regional program guidelines and met regional performance planning goals.

Under the corrective action, Fresno COG is mandated to remove the suballocation procedure from the CMAQ and STBG guidelines. Accordingly, staff convened the Fresno COG Programming Subcommittee from January through May to review, develop, and approve new guidelines for both programs. Additionally, staff developed a project delivery policies and procedures document to streamline obligational activities and strengthen coordination across agencies. The Programming Subcommittee approved all three documents, which are included in the agenda packet.

The updated CMAQ guidelines also reflect funding distribution changes the Programming Subcommittee prefers. This new policy directs staff to allocate at least 95% of CMAQ apportionment to fund the regional bid competitive program, with the remainder to be reserved for: projects on the contingency list, post-programming adjustment requests, EPSP requests, or for retainment for future programming cycles.

Additionally, the CMAQ guidelines reflect changes to the scoring process and funding distribution within the regional bid program. Specifically, the Programming Subcommittee and staff are recommending new project category targets as a way to ensure a diverse set of projects is funded each cycle. Staff's proposed targets are indicated in the guidelines but may be subject to change (more on that below).

The updated STBG guidelines also reflect the subcommittee's changes to funding distribution, calling for staff to allocate at least 85% of STBG apportionment to fund the regional bid competitive program, with the remaining apportionment to be reserved for: post-programming adjustments, EPSP requests, pavement management system (PMS) updates, current contingency list projects, or for future programming cycles.

Fresno COG will manage the remaining apportionment of both programs based on fiscal year project delivery to ensure funds are obligated in a timely manner, and will follow Fresno COG's proposed Project Delivery Policies and Procedures.

Guideline updates reflect only the changes needed to specifically address the corrective action. Topics such as: scoring rubrics, applications, STBG scoring process, CMAQ category targets, and others, will be discussed during the normally scheduled CMAQ and STBG call-for-projects cycle, scheduled for summer 2023.

If approved, Fresno COG will circulate the updated guidelines and resolution to Caltrans and FHWA to resolve the corrective action. Staff also notes that Caltrans and FHWA have been patiently and continuously involved in the guidelines update process.

Action: Staff and the Programming Subcommittee request the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2022-41 adopting the updated CMAQ and STBG guidelines.

- Mr. Phipps (FCOG) informed the committee of the guidelines.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Prandini (Fresno Building Assoc.) seconded to approve as presented.

- All in favor, no opposed, no abstained. **The motion passed.**

C. Post-COVID economic and demographic snapshot & 2020 Census results update (Shichen Fan) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The U.S. Census Bureau released 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates on September 15, 2022. ACS is a nationwide ongoing survey that provides vital social, economic, housing, and demographic statistics on a yearly basis. Staff will provide a summary report focusing on difference between 2019 and 2021 to compare pre- and post-pandemic conditions. The report will cover topics including employment, income, housing value, and commute mode across Fresno County, California, and the United States.

The ACS data shows that in Fresno County from 2019 to 2021: (1) Unemployment rate increased from 8.3% to 9.1% (2) Inflation-adjusted median household income increased 4.4% (3) Inflation-adjusted median home values rise 8.6%; Inflation-adjusted median rent rise 6.2% (4) Percentage of workers worked from home doubled.

Staff will also provide a brief demographic data summary from 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data. Over the last decade, population in California increased 6.1%, which is the slowest growth rate since the 1910s. 11 of 58 counties in CA experienced population decrease in last decade. Fresno County had 8.4% population growth in last decade to 1,008,654 and remained the 10th most-populous county in California.

For questions or more information, please contact Shichen Fan at sfan@fresnocog.org.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

- Mr. Fan (FCOG) gave a presentation of the post-Covid census.
- Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) enjoyed the presentation and requested a copy of the PowerPoint.
- This item is informational only, no further direction was given by the committee.

D. Measure C Rideshare and Senior Programs Outreach Contract (Brenda Veenendaal/Jake Martinez) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno Council of Governments administers three rideshare and one Senior Scrip Measure C programs:

- Carpool Incentive
- Ag Worker Vanpool Subsidy
- Commuter Vanpool Subsidy
- Senior Scrip

Prior to the pandemic, staff had budgeted and planned to allocate some of the programs' reserve funding to outreach and advertise the programs to the Fresno County area, with an emphasis on communities of color. Participation was growing through Fresno COG's fiscally conservative, grass-root outreach efforts. However, a large segment of Fresno County residents remained unaware of the programs. Advertising efforts were paused in March 2020 since incentivizing carpools and vanpools and offering low cost transportation service to seniors (70+) was contrary to pandemic messaging. Participation reduced significantly through the pandemic but is now back on the rise. Since 2020, some of the programs have changed, adding additional public participation benefits. Consequently, staff has revisited plans to use budgeted funds to advertise all four programs, again with added emphasis on reaching communities of color and rural area residents. In July 2022 staff release a request for proposals to market and advertise the four aforementioned programs. Three reputable, local firms responded with proposals. Staff reviewed each proposal and interviewed each agency. Southwest Strategies was selected for award of the \$300,000 budget to market all four programs between November 2022 and July 2023.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to sign a contract with Southwest Strategies to at a cost not to exceed \$300,000 to provide marketing and advertising services to the Measure C Carpool, Vanpool and Senior Scrip programs.

- Mr. Martinez (FCOG) discussed the 4 programs administered by Fresno COG all under Measure C Program. Marketing outreach was put on hold due to COVID and participation declined. Interviews have been conducted to begin marketing again.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Burnett (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Khorsand (Fresno County) seconded to approve as presented.
- All in favor, no opposed, no abstained. **The motion passed.**

E. Environmental Protection Agency Pending Disapproval of San Joaquin Valley 2018 Particulate Matter 2.5 Plan (Juan Ramirez) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed disapproval of the 2012 particulate matter (PM) 2.5 Standard elements of the San Joaquin Valley 2018 PM 2.5 (SJV PM 2.5) Plan. The proposed disapproval is published in the Federal Register, which is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/fr> and on Regulations.gov in Docket number EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0884. EPA is accepting comments on this proposed rule.

The proposed rule is expected to be finalized in late January to March 2023. The decision will impact the State Improvement Plan (SIP) for the San Joaquin Valley and affect the project delivery timeline in the Valley. Once the rule is finalized, the Valley will enter a conformity freeze where Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) amendments types 4 and 5 (formal) will not be able to be processed. However, this action is not expected to impact federal adoption of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2023 FTIP, which is expected in mid-December. During the conformity freeze, EPA and the Air District will work together to correct the issues and identify solutions. It is anticipated that the freeze may last six months or longer.

COG staff has reached out to the member agencies to see whether there are any type 4/5 amendments needed at this moment. It is not clear whether such amendments can be processed at this time.

Action: Information and discussion. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

- Mr. Ramirez (FCOG) reported that the disapproval is not yet finalized and expected to be finalized between Jan-March 2023. There are options available.
- Ms. Sumner (Fresno Cycling Club) asked what options FCOG leaning towards.
- Mr. Mozier (Fresno City) wanted clarification on if we have a capacity enhancing project that's already in the previously approved FTIP and an agency is simply moving forward to obligate right away construction funds and deliver the project, that were okay on that. As far as the amendment, what if the only change on the capacity enhancing project was adjusting the year of delivery in the FTIP.
- This item is informational only, no further direction was given by the committee.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) alerted all to watch calendars in the next two months. Meeting dates for November have been move up with no meeting dates in December due to the holidays.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

None

Staff:

Brenda Veenendaal, Denise Flores, Kai Han, Kristine Cai, Pankaj Joshi, Robert Phipps, Shichen Fan, Simran Jhutti, Jake Martinez, Juan Ramirez.