



# Fresno Council of Governments

## 2023 Legislative Platform

**City of Clovis**  
**City of Coalinga**  
**City of Firebaugh**  
**City of Fowler**  
**City of Fresno**  
**City of Huron**  
**City of Kerman**  
**City of Kingsburg**

**City of Mendota**  
**City of Orange Cove**  
**City of Parlier**  
**City of Reedley**  
**City of Sanger**  
**City of San Joaquin**  
**City of Selma**  
**County of Fresno**

## PURPOSE OF THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Fresno COG, in coordination with its member agencies, developed a 2023 Legislative Platform that reflects the agency's priorities in state and federal legislative matters. The Platform represents a unified voice on regional issues when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal legislators, as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to Fresno COG staff and lobbying partners when advocating on the Policy Board's behalf. The document outlines regional legislative priorities while directing advocacy efforts for improvements in areas such as air quality, transportation mobility, and adequate funding for existing infrastructure systems that will ultimately contribute to prosperity and improved quality of life throughout the Fresno County region.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### PROTECT AND ENHANCE CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS FOR TRANSPORTATION-RELATED PROGRAMS

- Advocate for core state and federal transportation funding for maintenance, operation, rehabilitation and other improvements to existing transportation infrastructure.
- Advocate in state and federal legislation for transportation improvements supporting sustainable communities and economic development
- Advocate for transportation improvements and programs that ensure adequate intermodal capacity and systems for safely and efficiently moving freight and commodities
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with local and regional partners to identify, develop consensus, and advance common goals and shared interests that contribute to an improved quality of life for Fresno County residents
- Support efforts that advance alternative fuels infrastructure
- Support funding for innovative transit and shared mobility programs
- Support funding allocations distributed by population, air quality status and disadvantaged community status by maintaining CalEnviroScreen criteria to determine disadvantaged communities.

#### INTERCITY RAIL

- Continue to provide regional leadership in implementing AB 1779, which enabled the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority for regional governance/management of the existing San Joaquin Intercity passenger rail service among Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-Oakland

#### HIGH-SPEED RAIL

- Support federal and state funding for California's high-speed rail system development.

#### GOODS MOVEMENT - Surface Highway System

- Advocate for sufficient state and federal funding to maintain and improve goods movement corridors, recognizing that the majority of goods movement takes

place on surface highways, and that State Route 99 and Interstate 5 are major national goods movement corridors

- Support distributing California ports' air quality impact fees within the San Joaquin Valley.
- Advocate for State Route 99 to be completed as a six-lane freeway from Kern County to Sacramento
- Support integrating goods movement as a critical element in statewide economic and transportation planning efforts
- Support the California TradePort Project, which aims to reduce truck congestion and pollutants in the San Joaquin Valley by establishing a network of electric vehicle charging systems at freight hubs also served by rail.

#### GOODS MOVEMENT - Rail and Air Freight Rail

- Seek additional state and federal funding for highway-railroad grade separations to improve surface highway safety and efficiency and better enable freight rail.
- Support passenger rail funding for improving freight rail capacity where freight and passenger rail (Amtrak) jointly use facilities
- Support siting intermodal facilities to make freight movement more cost-effective, create more economic opportunities, and reduce pollutant emissions in, out, and through the San Joaquin Valley
- Support inland port projects, such as the California TradePort, which aims to reduce truck congestion and pollutants in the San Joaquin Valley by establishing a network of electric vehicle charging systems at freight hubs also served by rail.

#### Short-Haul Rail

- Support research for short-haul rail, short-seas shipping and other programs that lead to new options for intermodal shipping
- Support the Central California Rail Authority's efforts to prevent additional short-haul rail abandonments or service disruptions
- Pursue regulations requiring short-line rail operators to notify transportation agencies of their intent to abandon a segment of rail line.

#### Air Freight

- Advocate for air freight transportation improvements to ensure adequate intermodal capacity
- Seek proportionate funding to maintain, rehabilitate, and improve air freight infrastructure at Fresno Yosemite International Airport
- Support funding and programs that advance electrified aviation

## LOCAL & REGIONAL PLANNING

### PROCESS STREAMLINING

- Support legislation and administrative reforms to streamline federal and state governments' project delivery process, and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Advocate for funding proposals that assist regional transportation planning agencies and local governments in implementing AB 32, SB 375, SB 743 and other State legislation to reduce climate change impacts on the Fresno region.
- Advocate for directing revenues to transit, active transportation, road operations, maintenance and complete street infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions

### INTEGRATED PLANNING

- Promote sustainable land use development practices that maintain or increase local land use control
- Support climate change adaptation funding and resources to help local jurisdictions comply with SB 379 requirements to address climate adaptation.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing funding for programs and projects mandated under AB 32 and SB 375. Planning and implementation initiatives include the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), and general plan housing element updates
- Encourage jobs near housing to improve the jobs/housing balance and reduce travel
- Support funding for housing production
- Support regional energy planning, and continue to work with state, federal and local partners to institute sustainable energy projects.
- Support efforts/legislation that support healthy communities and advance public health
- Support

### AIR QUALITY

- Seek a new San Joaquin Valley designation as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level
- Advocate for state and federal incentives to reduce emissions from business and transportation sectors
- Advocate for clean-air assistance rather than penalties. Ask regulatory agencies to recognize distinct regional conditions, such as: meteorology; topography; heavy through-freight traffic and associated diesel emissions, which contribute to delay in meeting air quality goals, and; high proportion of low-income residents and disadvantaged communities without resources to achieve clean air standards

### WATER

- Support partnerships among state and federal legislators, water management and infrastructure agencies to work through complex issues surrounding water supply, reliability, and quality

- Support state and federal planning and funding for a long-term solution to Delta water and delivery issues
- Support Integrated Regional Water Management planning processes for coordinating water resources and water project funding
- Support funding to assist disadvantaged rural communities with securing and maintaining safe, affordable, and reliable community water supplies
- Support opportunities to investigate and fund increased surface and groundwater storage to increase water supply, reliability, and flexibility.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote transportation and other types of infrastructure funding in any state or federal economic stimulus package
- Support economic development incentives and expand federal opportunity zones

## FUNDING

- Support legislative efforts to direct investment towards transportation infrastructure, not only for roads and highways, but for transit, goods movement, and non-motorized transportation

### FEDERAL

- Work collaboratively with state and federal government agencies to implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

### STATE

- Maximize Fresno County's regional share of state funding for State Route 99 improvements, local match programs, and Cap-and-Trade programs

### LOCAL

- Support efforts to reward self-help counties in funding programs and policies
- Support legislation that includes design/build, public/private partnerships, and other innovative financing for transportation infrastructure projects

## LOCAL & REGIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program and appropriation requests for Fresno COG **One Voice** projects and priorities.
- Continue to pursue state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the Fresno COG **One Voice** efforts.
- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program authorizations and Federal appropriation requests for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's **Valley Voice** projects and priorities.
- Continue to pursue state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's **Valley Voice** efforts.

# ABOUT FRESNO COG

## OUR ROLE:

Fresno Council of Governments brings together mayors, city council members and county supervisors to work on regional transportation and related issues for Fresno County. Since its inception in 1969, Fresno COG has primarily acted as the regional transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for Fresno County.

## ORGANIZATION:

A 16-member Policy Board gives Fresno COG policy direction. The Board comprises mayors from each of the 15 incorporated cities in Fresno County and the Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

## REGIONAL PROFILE:

Fresno County is classified as an urban county (despite many rural characteristics) and is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley within the state of California. Fresno County is the most populous county and second largest county in the San Joaquin Valley, encompassing approximately 6,000 square miles.

As the nation's highest-grossing agricultural county, Fresno County's agricultural products gross value was \$7.7 billion in 2019. The 2019 American Community Survey five-year population estimate is 984,521, placing Fresno as the 10th most populated county in California. There are 15 incorporated cities, and the County contains a federally recognized urbanized area, known as the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA), with a population of 699,023. The City of Fresno is now the fifth largest city in the state, with a population of 542,107.

### **Tony Boren - Executive Director**

Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, California 93721  
(559)-233-4148 (Phone)  
(559)-233-9645 (FAX)  
Website: [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org)