

Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, April 14, 2023
10:00 AM

Meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
Thomas Gaffery, City of Fowler
Greg Barfield, City of Fresno
Elizabeth Nunes, City of San Joaquin
Fernando Santillan, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans District 6
Tony Boren, FCOG
Moses Stites, FCRTA

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Barfield (Fresno City), Chair. With 5 members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

David Padilla reported the following:

- Clean California: Cycle 2 call for projects due April 28th.
- Received 16 applications for Stable Planning grant. The district scored them and is expecting feedback.
- The second round for climate change call for projects sometime in the Fall.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of March 10, 2023 [APPROVE]

B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims (Les Beshears)

1. County of Fresno Fiscal Year 2021-22 TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

C. 2022/23 Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

D. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Resolution (Juan Ramirez) [Action]

- Mr. Barfield called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) motioned, and Mr. Gaffery (Fowler) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-D as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FINAL FY 2023/24 Overall Work Program & Budget (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: The final, fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$53.2 million is submitted for Board approval following a 30-day public review and comment period. The full document is also attached to this report. The proposed budget increased \$5.9 million 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 \$13.6 million in anticipated funding from the Regional Early Action Plan (REAP 2.0) funds provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, California Air Resources Board, Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Strategic Growth Council. This increase was partially offset by

decreases in a variety of multi-year “one-time” project funds that are spent and not reflected in subsequent years’ budgets. Generally, operating expenses are not affected this way.

Federal revenues decreased 14 percent (\$1.6 million). Included in this are decreases in multiple one-time projects where significant work occurred during the current budget year, such as the Inland Port Study and Regional Valleywide Travel Survey.

State revenues increased 63 percent, (\$10.9 million) primarily due to the REAP 2.0 grant.

Local revenues decreased 19 percent (\$3.4 million), resulting from elimination of in-kind revenues associated with the TradePort California and drawdowns from Measure C New Tech grants to Fresno State Institute and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA).

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 decreased by less than a percent and benefits by 1 percent.

The overall consulting budget is \$22.7 million, which increased \$7.1 million. New consulting projects are discussed in detail under work elements in the executive summary(attached).

Comments received and responses are also attached separately to this report.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Final 2023-24 Overall Work Program.

- Mr. Phipps (FCOG) provided a summary of the OWP.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Burnett (Clovis) motioned and Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) seconded to approve as presented.

All in favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

B. FCRTA FTA 5310 Paratransit Bus Procurement (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG conducts an annual Unmet Transit Needs process as a requirement for allocating Transportation Development Act Funding. In response to an unmet transit needs finding in 2019-20, Fresno Area Express and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) jointly agreed to start a demonstration paratransit service in south Fresno, Westpark and Biola under the auspices of their Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) designations. FCRTA selected non-profit organization Inspiration Transportation to provide the service, with FCRTA providing dispatch, a bus, insurance and maintenance facility. The demonstration paratransit service ran for two and a half years. Unfortunately, the service never developed the ridership required to justify its cost and was recently canceled.

FCOG allocates FTA 5310 to local transit agencies for the purposes of buying buses. FCOG is procuring buses from the last grant cycle. FCRTA initially recommended Inspiration Transportation to receive an electric paratransit bus to provide the demonstration service; however, now that the demonstration program has been canceled, FCRTA will acquire the bus for its normal CTSA paratransit-related activities.

Action: Authorize the executive director to enter into a contract with FCRTA to procure an electric paratransit vehicle for \$185,645.

- Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported on the Paratransit Bus Procurement.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) motioned and Mr. Santillan (Selma) seconded to approve action as presented.

All in favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

C. Measure C TOD Program 11th Cycle Funding Recommendation (Kristine Cai/Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

Summary: The Measure C Transit Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program was created as part of the 2006 Measure C Extension Plan. It was designed to boost transit ridership through transit supportive land uses and infrastructure improvement as well as planning activities. It serves as seed money to promote walkable, bikeable and transit friendly communities that are healthy, livable and vibrant. It is estimated to accrue around \$850,000 annually with a total of \$17 million for the entire 20 years of lifespan. The 11th funding cycle, with roll-over money from previous cycles and returned funding from an undelivered project, has a total of \$2.73 million available for programming.

Fresno COG received 5 applications from two cities including City of Fresno and City of Fowler. The Scoring Committee met in March and made the following funding recommendations:

1. City of Fresno: Senior Activity Center and Housing Street Improvement

The city of Fresno requested \$ 1,739,394 in 4 years to conduct a full traffic signal and crosswalks as well as streetscape improvements at Holland and Blackstone Avenue. The project will improve the accessibility and safety for access to a new City of Fresno Senior Activity Center and planned senior housing development. \$1,382,945 was recommended for this project by the Scoring Committee.

2. City of Fresno: Ventura Avenue Affordable Housing Street Improvement Project

The city of Fresno requested \$342,923 in 4 years to construct a complete street along Venture Avenue to support a planned affordable housing development. The proposed project will enhance walking, biking and the use of public transit along the Venture/Kings Canyon Corridor and connect the communities to affordable housing, and many businesses along the corridor. \$342,923 was recommended for the project by the Scoring Committee.

3. City of Fresno: West Shaw TOD Corridor and Town Center Planning Grant

The city of Fresno requested \$400,000 to develop a strategy to transform West Shaw Avenue into a transit-oriented community corridor and create concept renderings to show the development potential for Town Center and mixed-use corridor. \$400,000 was recommended for the project by the Scoring Committee.

4. City of Fowler: Downtown Streetscape Plan

The city of Fowler requested \$77,078 to complete a remaining component of Fowler's Downtown Streetscapes Plan. The plan will create a design that leads to a lively, community-oriented human-scale downtown. \$77,078 was recommended for this project by the Scoring Committee.

5. City of Fowler: Merced Street Improvement

The city of Fowler requested \$ 1,059,278 to implement a flush street design along Merced Street in Downtown Fowler. The improvement will span from Merced Street's intersection with 7th Street to Panzak at 3rd Street. \$529,639 was recommended for this project by the Scoring Committee.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the funding recommendations by the Scoring Committee for the Measure C TOD Program 11th funding cycle.

- Kristine Cai (FCOG) gave a detailed report on the TOD Program.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) motioned, and Mr. Santillan (Selma) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

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

Summary: Staff will provide an update on the most recent Measure C surveys conducted after the 2022 election and discuss potential next steps for a renewal effort.

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

- Tony Boren (FCOG) stated that he plans to provide an update on the recent Measure C surveys that will be presented at the April 27th FCOG board meeting, after it is presented at the FCTA Board.

Informational only. No action is required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Regional Clearinghouse Calendar (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Action: Per Board procedure, unless an item is pulled from the Consent Calendar, tacit authorization is given for staff to forward any comment(s) received, or any Committee/Board comment(s) generated as a result of this informational item, to the appropriate agency. It is understood that if in the event any item should be pulled from the consent calendar, discussion and comment by the Committee members and the public will be taken.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported on the Regional Clearinghouse Calendar.

Informational only. No action is required.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Tony Boren (FCOG) introduced new planners to FCOG, Juan Ramirez and Christina White.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

None.

Staff:

Denise Flores, Kristine Cai, Pankaj Joshi, Robert Phipps, Shichen Fan, Janelle Del Campo, Simran Jhutti, Santosh Bhattarai, Juan Ramirez, Christina White.