

Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, April 27, 2023
5:30 PM

Members Attending:

Mayor Pro Tem Vong Mouanoutoua, City of Clovis
Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga
Mayor Felipe Perez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Daniel Parra, City of Fowler
Councilmember Mike Karbassi, City of Fresno
Mayor Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Pro Tem Libertad Lopez, City of Mendota
Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert Garcia, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Matthew Tuttle, City of Reedley
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Executive Director
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel

Absent:

Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 15 members representing 99.39% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno City, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Fresno County, Selma). Member Huron absent.

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of March 30, 2023 [APPROVE]

B. Transportation Development Act TDA Claims (Les Beshears)

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

Action: Approve Resolution 2023-05 adopting the 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claims for the County of Fresno in the amount of \$8,588,713.

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

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

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

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2023-07 for Fresno COG to participate in the AHSC Technical Assistance Program.

E. FCOG \ FCRTA Conflict Waiver (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

Action: Staff recommends the Policy Board authorize the adoption of a FCOG \ FCRTA Conflict Waiver.

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

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

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull any items.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) moved, and Mayor Pursell (Kingsburg) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Huron.

Motion passed by acclamation.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2023 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment (Harold Sobrado) [PUBLIC HEARING]

Summary: The Policy Board will hold a public hearing to take comments regarding Unmet Transit Needs public transportation needs within the Fresno County region that are reasonable to meet during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Staff will return to the Board in June with the final Unmet Transit Needs Report, following approvals from the Social Services Technical Advisory Committee (SSTAC), TTC and PAC.

Action: Staff, the SSTAC, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board open the public hearing, receive comments, and close the public hearing. The Policy Board may provide additional direction at its discretion.

- Mr. Stites (FCRTA) gave a brief presentation of the Unmet Transit Needs.
- Comments from the public:
 - Jameece Mclara – the bus stops have no benches or shelters, and it makes it difficult to stand for long periods at a time. Bus 1 has ½ mile between every stop. Paratransit is short of drivers; buses arrive 3-4 hours late at times. Arrive late to Dr. appointments.
 - Bonnie Sabrina Dunn-Nasr – Handy ride flyers don't have enough information on them. Can't get to destinations because the buses have boundaries making it hard to get to Clovis Hospital.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Stites stated that comments will be considered.
- The public hearing was closed by Mayor Beltran (Chair).

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

Summary: The final, fiscal year 2023-24 Overall Work Program, 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, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Final 2023-24 Overall Work Program.

- Mr. Phipps (FCOG) presented the OWP and Budget.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Martinez (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Robertson (Selma) seconded to approve the action as recommended.

Votes: All in favor. No opposed.

Absent: Huron.

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

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

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

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

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

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, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Scoring Committee's funding recommendations for the Measure C TOD Program 11th funding cycle.

- Kristine Cai (FCOG) reported on the TOD program.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Martinez (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Parra (Fowler) seconded to approve the action as recommended.

Votes: All in favor. No opposed.

Absent: Huron.

Motion passed.

D. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

- Michael Navarro (Caltrans) gave the following updates:
 - The deadline for Clean California applications is due tomorrow. A 100-million-dollar grant program.
 - This week is Caltrans Safety awareness week. The department has lost 191 employees in the line of duty. Today there was a state capital memorial. On May 10th there will be a memorial to honor employees lost.
 - 43/Floral will be closed in the first week of May.
 - SB/99 manning, and second street will be completed by August this year.
 - 99 Rehab project starts 2024.
- This item is informational only. No action is required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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

Summary: This month's Clearinghouse Calendar contains "project notification and review reports" for grant proposals.

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW REPORT	
Regional Clearinghouse Number:	RCH #04-281-2023
Project Title:	HOME Investment Partnership Program
Applicant Agency:	Fresno County
Contact Person:	Jennifer Kirkpatrick
Address:	2220 Tulare Street 6 th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Phone:	559-600-4292
Federal Catalog#:	14.239
Status:	Continuation
Area of Impact:	Cities of Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Reedley, Sanger, Selma
Federal Funding Agency:	Department of Housing and Urban Development

FUNDING:	
\$4,953,304.00	Federal
\$0.00	Applicant
\$0.00	State
\$0.00	Local
\$0.00	Other
\$4,953,304.00	TOTAL

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW REPORT	
Regional Clearinghouse Number:	RCH # 282-04-2023
Project Title:	Economic Development Administration for Program Funds
Applicant Agency:	County of Fresno
Contact Person:	Yvette Quiroga
Address:	2220 Tulare St, 6 th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Phone:	559-600-4292
Federal Catalog#:	11.307
Status:	New
Area of Impact:	SF-424-14-Areas .docx
Federal Funding Agency:	Economic Adjustment Administration

FUNDING:	
\$150,000.00	Federal
\$150,000.00	Applicant
\$0.00	State
\$0.00	Local
\$0.00	Other
\$300,000.00	TOTAL

The Regional Clearinghouse is a process of informing local agencies of federal grant requests, providing an opportunity to comment, and potentially avoid duplication of effort. Clearinghouse items are brought before the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and, if appropriate, the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) for review and comment. Any resulting TTC/PAC comments, and any comments received from other agencies as a result of the Clearinghouse notification process, are noted on a monthly report brought forward to the Fresno COG Policy Board.

COG Policy Board action would be to authorize staff to forward any comments received or any Board comments to the State Clearinghouse and other appropriate agencies. The applicants have been notified of this meeting. While participation by the agency is optional, they have been personally requested to attend the Policy Board meeting in case there should be any questions. It should be noted that if in the event any of these items should be pulled from the consent calendar, that discussion and comment by the Committee/Board members and the public will be taken. Project notification and review reports describing these projects are attached.

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.

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Parra (Fowler) moved, and Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Huron.

Motion passed by acclamation.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- None.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Hernandez (San Joaquin) invited all out to tomorrow groundbreaking for the new water treatment plant at 11:00am at the sports park.
- Mayor Pro Tem Mouanoutoua (Clovis) announced the Clovis Rodeo over the weekend and invited everyone to attend.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Jameece Mclara

Bonnie Sabrina Dunn-Nasr

Staff:

Denise Flores; Kai Han; Kristine Cai; Moses Stites; Janelle Del Campo; Juan Ramirez, Christina White.