

Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, May 12, 2023
10:00 AM

Meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

John Holt, City of Clovis
Thomas Gaffery, City of Fowler
Greg Barfield, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Matthew Flood, City of San Joaquin
Bernard Jimenez, County of Fresno
David Padilla, Caltrans District 6
Tony Boren, FCOG
Moses Stites, FCRTA

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mr. Barfield (Fresno City), Chair. With 7 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.
- Reconnecting Communities call for projects May 30th.
- The deadline for Safe Streets for all levels of support is due by May 19th.
- Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant. Expecting announcements in late August.
- Worker's memorial was held on Wednesday recognizing individuals who lost their lives in the line of work.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of April 14, 2023 [APPROVE]

B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims (Les Beshears)- NONE

C. Third Quarter Work Element Report 2022-23 (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]

D. Formal Amendment No. 2 (Type 5) to the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, 2022 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 1 and Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

E. FY 2022-23 Draft Federal Transit Administration 5310 Program Application and Scoring Criteria (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

F. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

G. Fiscal Year 2023-24 State Transit Assistance (STA) Final Estimates (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

H. Fiscal Year 2023-24 State of Good Repair (SGR) Final Estimates (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

- Mr. Barfield called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned, and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-H as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Formula Grant for Planning (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: The federal Inflation Reduction Act appropriated \$5 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions nationwide. There are two distinctive but related phases for the CPRG program:

Phase 1. Planning grants: EPA will award \$250 million in non-competitive grants to states, municipalities, air pollution control districts, tribes and territories via formula. The planning grants will be used to develop climate action plans at various levels.

\$3 million will be awarded to each of the states for a total of \$156 million
\$1 million to each of the 67 most populous metropolitan areas, for a total of \$67 million
\$25 million to tribes and tribal consortia and \$2 million to U.S. territories
The Fresno Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which covers the entire Fresno County region, is eligible for a \$1 million over-the-counter planning grant.

Phase 2. Implementation grants: EPA will award \$4.6 billion in competitive grants to implement measures identified in the climate action plans developed under the planning grants. Entities covered by the plans developed under the planning grants will be eligible to apply. The implementation grants can be used to fund projects that reduce GHG and GHG co-pollutants (criteria pollutants and other toxic air pollutants). EPA will issue guidance on the implementation grants in the summer. Presumably, active transportation, transit and other projects that are eligible under the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality or Active Transportation Programs should be eligible to compete as well. Projects from other industries, electricity generation, commercial/residential construction, agriculture, waste management, municipal fleets, etc. are also eligible under the implementation grants.

Successfully completing phase I will unlock access to the \$4.6 billion competitive grants for eligible entities.

In consultation with local partners, Fresno COG has provided EPA with a letter of intent to serve as the lead agency for the planning grant and develop a regional climate action plan. Fresno COG staff is working on developing a workplan, which is due to EPA by May 31. Funding is expected in summer 2023. Fresno COG will be convening regional partners, such as local governments, transit agencies, the Air District and other stakeholders during the plan development process. There will be robust public outreach as well as interagency coordination throughout the process. There are three main deliverables that are required for the planning grants:

1. Priority Climate Action Plan (Due March 1, 2024)
2. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (Due summer-fall, 2025)
3. Status report (Due summer-fall, 2027)

Further information about the CPRG program is available at EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants#CPRGProgramGuidance>.

Staff will bring the Committee periodic project updates as needed. Please reach out to the lead staff Kristine Cai at kcai@fresnocog.org if there are any questions regarding this grant.

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

- Ms. Cai (FCOG) provided a summary of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Formula Grant and its two phases.
- This item is informational only. No action is needed.

B. **FY 2023-2024 Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Update (Todd Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: On May 2, the Social Service Transit Advisory Committee (SSTAC) approved Fresno COG's Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment for fiscal year 2023-24.

On April 27, Fresno COG's Policy Board held its public hearing on the matter, drawing additional comments from two different people, one of whom has voiced her concerns earlier in the public feedback process. Their comments have been added to the draft unmet transit needs report, included herein.

Public outreach is an essential part of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment process. This year's public outreach consisted of six in-person public meetings: three in the urban area, three in rural areas (Huron, Mendota, and Sanger), and two virtual events, each of which were broadcast on Facebook or YouTube. Like last year, one of the urban in-person meetings took place on a Saturday to enable transit riders who could not attend an event during the week to participate.

Public outreach included flyers sent to the UTN mailing list and an online survey. The survey ran for most of February and all of March to receive comments from transit riders who could not attend any of the public meetings. The result was an extensive and meaningful public outreach process that incorporated both urban and rural communities.

The public outreach process -- largely driven by the online survey -- generated 110 comments, 22 of which were determined to be unmet transit needs, none of which were found to be reasonable to meet. A summary of comments received includes:

Several comments about service between outlying rural communities and the Fresno metropolitan area.

Feedback about FAX, Clovis, and FCRTA routes and service,

Questions about FAX, Clovis, and FCRTA routes and service,

Comments about transportation-related issues.

The comments received, transit agency response, and the determination of unmet transit need are contained within the draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for fiscal year 2023-24 included within this agenda item. This item will be returned for final determination in June.

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

- Mr. Sobrado (FCOG) gave an update on the Unmet Transit Needs.
- This item is informational only. No action is needed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. EcoInteractive (FresnoTrak) Contract Amendment No. 12 (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

B. Federal/State Grant Opportunities (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

- Mr. Barfield called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Flood (San Joaquin) motioned, and Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-B as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Tony Boren (FCOG) announced that FCTA will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 8:30am to discuss the Measure C results.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Boren

Public:

None.

Staff:

Denise Flores, Kristine Cai, Janelle Del Campo, Simran Jhutti, Juan Ramirez, Christina White, Les Beshears, Todd Sobrado.