

Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, June 29, 2023
5:30 PM

The meeting was held at the Fresno COG Sequoia Room

Members Attending:

Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua, City of Clovis
Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga
Mayor Felipe Perez, City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Mike Karbassi, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Councilmember Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Councilmember Bianca Mendoza-Navarro, City of Selma
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Executive Director
Lindsey Beavers, Legal Counsel

Absent:

Mayor Daniel Parra, City of Fowler
Mayor Diana Guerra-Silva, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 11 members representing 79.33% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, City of Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Selma). Members Fowler, Orange Cove, Sanger, County of Fresno absent.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

I. AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, CENTRAL SECTION – CALIFORNIA CHAPTER PLANNING AWARDS PRESENTATION (ERIC VONBERG) [ACTION]

Summary: Eric VonBerg with the Central Section -- California Chapter of the American Planning Association will present two 2023 Planning Awards to the Policy Board for the following projects:

- Transportation Planning Award: for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)
- Planning -- Innovation in Resilience and Sustainability: for Fresno COG's SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines

Action: Receive awards

- Eric VonBerg presented FCOG with two awards.

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of May 25, 2023 [APPROVE]

B. Transportation Development Act TDA Claims (Les Beshears)

1. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
2. City of Reedley TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
3. City of Kingsburg TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
4. City of Coalinga TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

C. Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission Compatibility Plan Amendment No. 2 (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]

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

D. Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area Short-Range Transit Plan 2024-2028, Resolution 2023-14 (Jeff Long) [ACTION]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board adopt Resolution 2023-14, approving the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area Short-Range Transit Plan.

E. Reappointments to SSTAC Membership (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board reappoint SSTAC members Thomas Dulin and Darlene Christiansen to another two-year term.

F. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agencies (CTSA) Operations, Program, and Budget (OPB), FY 2023-2024 (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve resolution 2023-13, adopting the Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's 2023-24 Operations, Program, and Budget.

G. FAX and FCRTA Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations, Program, and Budget (OPB) (Janelle Del Campo) [ACTION]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2023-12 for the urban CTSA, and Resolution 2023-18 for the rural CTSA, adopting the 2023-24 Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency's Operations, Program, and Budget.

H. Fresno County Rural Transit (FCRTA) Agency Short-Range Transit Plans (SRTP) (Janelle Del Campo) [ACTION]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board adopt Resolution No. 2023-05, approving the 2024-2028 FCRTA Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area.

I. FY 2023-2024 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Findings Report (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board adopt Resolution 2023-15, approving Fresno COG's FY 2023-2024 Unmet Needs Report and to find that there are 22 unmet transit needs, none of which are reasonable to meet.

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull any items.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Martinez (Mendoza) moved, and Councilmember Karbassi (Fresno City) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Fowler, Huron, Orange Cove, Sanger, Fresno County.

Motion passed by acclamation.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure C Renewal Post Election Survey Results (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Dr. Richard Bernard with survey firm FM3 will offer a post-election survey presentation regarding the Measure C renewal effort and findings regarding voter sentiments.

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

- Dr. Richard Bernard with FMS presented on the Measure C post-election survey results.
- This item is informational only. No action is required.

- **Mayor Leon (Huron) joined the meeting at 5:55pm.**

B. 2023-24 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program/Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Guidelines, Application Packet and Call-for-Projects Initiation (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement, and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) programs -- as well as the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) -- are each authorized in the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). These programs serve as the cornerstones for Federal transportation funds distributed to our region.

Fresno COG, in its role as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO), is responsible for programming future federal transportation revenues for the Fresno region in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). CRP, CMAQ and STBG funds are reimbursable federal-aid funds, subject to the requirements of Title 23, United States Code.

Program guidelines describe the policies, standards, criteria, and procedures for developing, managing, and adopting Fresno COG's CRP, CMAQ and STBG programs. The 2023/2024 CMAQ and STBG programs will cover four years of programming, 2024/25 through 2027/28. All three funds are now distributed through a competitive, regional bid program based on scoring criteria and evaluated by a scoring committee. Together, the three programs are expected to distribute over \$59.3 million during this two-year cycle.

The Fresno COG Programming Subcommittee met three times in May to update and finalize guidelines, application packets, and scoring criteria for the upcoming 2023-24 CRP, CMAQ and STBG calls-for-projects. New guidelines for CRP and updates for CMAQ/STBG include funding distribution policies, changes to the scoring system, language regarding programming construction funds, changes to address project contingencies and minor changes to the applications. The programming subcommittee approved the guidelines and scoring criteria for each program.

The CRP, CMAQ and STBG program guidelines and application packets can be found on Fresno COG's website. Upon Board approval of the application packets, the call-for-projects will be initiated.

Action: Staff, the programming subcommittee and the TTC/PAC recommend the Board approve the CRP/CMAQ/STBG guidelines and application packets and initiate the call-for-projects.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported on the CRP/CMAQ/STBG guidelines and application packets.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Fowler, Orange Cove, Sanger, Fresno County.

Motion passed by acclamation.

C. REAP 2.0 Application Process Update (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG has released a request for proposals for consultant assistance in designing the REAP 2.0 program/project application and advertising the program to housing stakeholders. The intent is to provide \$13 million within the region for "transformational" housing infrastructure that helps meet the program's three pillars of success: accelerating infill housing development, reducing vehicle miles traveled and affirmatively furthering fair housing.

Fresno COG received the 5 percent advance requested through the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for assistance in designing the REAP 2.0 program locally. Of the \$600,000 requested in the initial application, \$100,000 will be used for the consultant contract. Staff will reserve the remaining \$500,000 for administrative and program management expenses over the next three years, as well as for any contract contingencies.

REAP 2.0 seeks to accelerate progress towards state housing goals and climate commitments through a strengthened partnership among the state, its regions, and local entities. The broad intent is to accelerate infill increase housing supply at all affordability levels and help with implementing adopted regional and local plans to achieve these goals. The program was established as part of the 2021 California Comeback Plan under AB 140 and builds on the success of REAP 2019 but expands the program focus by integrating housing and climate goals, and allowing for broader planning and implementation investments, including infrastructure investments that support infill development that improves housing supply, choice, and affordability.

HCD, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the California Air Resources Board and the Strategic Growth Council all jointly administer REAP 2.0, with HCD serving as the lead agency. Fresno COG has submitted a "final" application that details its proposed methodology and scoring criteria, which is attached. The consultant's scope of work will include developing a project application based on the methodology and scoring rubric proposed in the application. The final application has yet to be approved; however, Fresno COG has responded to two sets of minor comments received.

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

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) gave an update on the REAP 2.0 application process.
- This item is informational only. No action is required.

D. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

- Michael Navarro (Caltrans) gave the following updates:
 - Clean California Applications for district 6 reached 2nd highest with 29 applications in District 10 in the region.
 - Congratulations to FCRTA Grant Award.
 - Selma/Fowler project is still underway. Next Second street and SR 43 on ramp to Floral will be closed.
 - An update on the Rehab project in Coalinga will be given at their next meeting.
 - SR 41 NB Traffic is shifted, project to be completed FA 2024.
- This item is informational only. No action is required.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Contracts/Extensions (Fresno COG Staff)

1. Fresno COG Website and Agenda Builder Reconstruction (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]
2. Renew PublicInput.com Service Agreement (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

3. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 1) Program: Local Grant Awards -- Agreement Extensions (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
4. Golden State Boulevard Project Contract Extension (Pankaj Joshi) [ACTION]
5. Measure C Rideshare and Senior Programs Outreach Contract Extension (Jake Martinez) [ACTION]
6. Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Valleywide Coordinator (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
7. San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Technical Assistance Contracts (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
8. Multi-jurisdictional Housing Element Contract Extension (Kristine Cai) [ACTION]
9. Contract Extension for the Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Program Study (Kristine Cai) [ACTION]
10. Financial and Compliance Audits Contract – FY 2022-23 through 2026-27 (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
11. Contract Extension for On-Call Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Services (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
12. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Contract Renewal (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

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

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

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW REPORT	
Regional Clearinghouse Number:	RCH # 283-06-2023
Project Title:	Community Development Block Grant
Applicant Agency:	County of Fresno
Contact Person:	Jennifer Kirkpatrick
Address:	2220 Tulare Street 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Phone:	559-600-4292
Federal Catalog#:	14.218

Status:		New	
Area of Impact:		Unincorporated Portion of Fresno County and Participating Cities: Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Reedley, Sanger and Selma.	
Federal Funding Agency:		U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	
Applicant	Federal Funds	Program Income	Total Funds
County of Fresno	\$3,104,456	\$250,000	\$3,354,456

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW REPORT			
Regional Clearinghouse Number:		RCH #284-06-2023	
Project Title:		HOME Investment Partnerships Program	
Applicant Agency:		County of Fresno	
Contact Person:		Jennifer Kirkpatrick	
Address:		2220 Tulare Street 6 th Floor Fresno, CA 93721	
Phone:		559-600-4292	
Federal Catalog#:		14.239	
Status:		New	
Area of Impact:		Unincorporated portion of Fresno County and participating Cities of Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Reedley, Sanger and Selma	
Federal Funding Agency:		U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments	
Applicant	Federal Funds	Program Income	Total Funds
County of Fresno	\$1,426,657	\$500,000	\$1,926,657

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW REPORT	
Regional Clearinghouse Number:	RCH #285-06-2023
Project Title:	Emergency Solutions Grant
Applicant Agency:	County of Fresno
Contact Person:	Laura Moreno
Address:	205 W. Pontiac Way Clovis, CA 93612
Phone:	559-600-2335
Federal Catalog#:	14.231
Status:	New
Area of Impact:	Fresno County and all incorporated cities within Fresno County. Clovis, Coalinga Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger San Joaquin and Selma
Federal Funding Agency:	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Applicant	Federal Funds	Program Income	Total Funds
County of Fresno	\$3,104,456	\$250,000	\$3,354,456

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

C. Safe Street and Roads for All Grant Program (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the fiscal year 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, which supports planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational efforts to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving roadway users.

Approximately \$1.17 billion in total program funding is available for planning/demonstration grants and implementation grants, each of which requires a 20 percent nonfederal cost share requirement. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. EDT, July 10.

DOT encourages applicants to coordinate with state agencies, as appropriate, and for MPOs, transit agencies, and multijurisdictional groups of entities with regional scope to support local government applications. Please

note that implementation grant applicants must have ownership or be responsible for maintenance over a roadway network, be responsible for roadway safety, or have an agreement with the entity having ownership or responsible for maintenance of the roadway. DOT will accept one application per applicant for either the planning and demonstration grant or implementation grant.

For more information and the NOFO, go to <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/fy23-nofo>.

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

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Martinez (Mendota) moved, and Councilmember Fast (Reedley) seconded to approve consent items IV. A-C.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Fowler, Orange Cove, Sanger, Fresno County.

Motion passed by acclamation.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Tony Boren (FCOG) announced to the board that Deputy Director Kristine Cai would be leaving FCOG in July and thanked her for her services to FCOG.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- Lisa Gutierrez (Fowler resident) expressed concerns regarding the road and a curve where she lives that is also near an elementary school. She has been following the project for a year and would like an FCOG member of staff to contact her for more information.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

Veronica Garibay

Mary Ann Cast

Eric VonBerg

Staff:

Denise Flores; Robert Phipps; Todd Sobrado; Jeff Long; Moses Stites; Janelle Del Campo; Simran Jhutti; Jake Martinez; Brenda Thomas.