

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

The meeting was held at the Fresno COG Sequoia Room

Members Attending:

Mayor Lynne Asbeck, City of Clovis
Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga
Mayor Pro Tem Juan Mejia, City of Fowler
Councilmember Mike Karbassi, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
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 Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Executive Director
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel

Absent:

Mayor Felipe Perez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Diana Guerra-Silva, City of Orange Cove

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 13 members representing 96.58% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, City of Fresno, Huron, Kingsburg, Mendota, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma, County of Fresno). Members Firebaugh, Kerman, Orange Cove absent.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of June 29, 2023 [APPROVE]

B. Transportation Development Act TDA Claims (Les Beshears)

1. City of San Joaquin FY 2023-24 TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

C. 2023-24 Overall Work Program and Budget Amendment No. 1 (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

Action: Fresno COG staff and the TTC/PAC recommends the Policy Board approve FY 2023-2024 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 1

D. Upcoming Grant Opportunities (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

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

E. Third Quarter Obligational Authority Update (Christina White) [INFORMATION]

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

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull any items.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) moved, and Mayor Martinez (Mendota) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Firebaugh, Kerman, Orange Cove.

Motion passed by acclamation.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Central California Travel Survey Final Report (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: With \$1.5 million funding from the Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD), Caltrans, and Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG), the eight Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) initiated the Central California Travel Survey (CCTS) in late 2021. Led by Fresno COG, the CCTS collected demographic and travel behavior data from 7,406 households (19,084 persons) across the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley in 2022/23. Here are some of the key findings from the Survey:

The overall trip rate for the Valley is 4.0 trips/person/day; 3.9 trips/person/day in Fresno County.

90% of all the trips in the Valley are made by individual vehicles; 90.6% in Fresno County.

Transit trips account for 0.7% of all trips in the Valley; 0.6% in Fresno County.

About 28.7% workers telecommute at least one day a week; 30.1% in Fresno County.

The CCTS also included a supplemental housing survey. The key findings from the housing survey are:

About 75.5% households in the Valley live in single-family detached homes; 71.7% in Fresno County.

42.9% of people surveyed think the best neighborhood attributes of a home is to be conveniently located near school, work, or shopping; 42.9% in Fresno County.

Of those who don't own a home, 31.9% believe they lack the financial resources for a mortgage payment; 30.4% in Fresno County.

The final draft report is attached to the agenda and can be found at www.fresnocog.org.

The data collected from the CCTS will be used to update the traffic models maintained by each of the eight Valley MPOs. The model is a key tool in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) development, SB 743 VMT analysis, roadway design, corridor studies, EIR of local general plans and specific plans, etc.

RSG, the consulting firm that conducted the survey, will be offering a brief presentation to the Board.

Action: Staff and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board accept the Central California Travel Survey Final Report.

- Melanie Munroe with RSG gave a presentation with survey results.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Pursell (Kingsburg) moved, and Mayor Martinez (Mendota) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Firebaugh, Kerman, Orange Cove.

Motion passed by acclamation.

B. Authorization for Sole-Source Contract: Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) Component of the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to LSA Associates (Tony Boren) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno Council of Governments is serving as the grant administrator for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's \$1 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) awarded to the Fresno Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Although EPA originally identified the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD) and the City of Fresno EPA as logical grant administrators, there was a consensus decision among the three agencies that because almost 50% of greenhouse gases are produced from the transportation sector, it would make sense that Fresno COG serve as administrator.

The challenge from a planning perspective is that the EPA timeline for grant completion is incredibly compressed and leaves very little time to complete the mandated regional planning process. As illustrated in the attached CPRG Fresno MSA Workplan, a Preliminary Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is due March 1, 2024, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) is due Sept. 1, 2025.

The first work task within the PCAP is an inventory of GHG emissions by various sectors. The sectors to be inventoried include: transportation, industrial, commercial, agriculture and timber, commercial, residential and electricity generation. Fresno COG staff has the technical ability and tools to handle the transportation sector inventory; however, all the other sectors will require a consulting firm that specializes in developing GHG inventories at a macro level.

Traditionally, Fresno COG would issue a request for proposals (RFP), however; the RFP process generally takes three to four months and there is only six months available to conduct the work necessary to have a PCAP ready by March 1, 2024. These deadlines are of critical importance because without a federally approved PCAP/CPAP, Fresno COG's member agencies will not have access to the \$4.6 billion in federal funding that will become available to implement GHG mitigation measures.

Due to the extenuating circumstances, in combination with the significant fiscal importance to our member agencies as highlighted above, Fresno COG staff is recommending that a contract for the PCAP element of the CPRG be sole-sourced to LSA Associates. After due diligence by Fresno COG management, LSA Associates was chosen as the best option for this work because the firm has strong professional experience in developing PCAPs, Fresno COG's professional experience with LSA Associates on other planning studies/projects has been excellent and it recently served as the prime consultant on the City of Fresno's 2020 Climate Action Plan.

Action: Staff and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize Fresno COG's executive director to enter a sole-source contract with LSA Associates for \$150,000 to prepare the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) element of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

- Tony Boren (FCOG) gave the members of the Board an update on the grant.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Karbassi (City of Fresno) moved, and Mayor Martinez (Mendota) seconded to approve consent items.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Firebaugh, Kerman, Orange Cove.

Motion passed by acclamation.

C. Regional Safe Routes to Schools/Active Transportation Program Regional Planning Process (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Per the direction of the Fresno COG Policy Board, Fresno COG staff will be working with urban and rural school districts to initiate a regional planning process to identify and inventory Safe Routes to Schools needs within Fresno County. The intent is that the school district's Safe Routes to Schools planning process work in tandem with our member agencies' Active Transportation Planning (ATP) process to develop a cohesive

comprehensive long-range vision and implementation strategy for pedestrian/bicycle travel within our communities.

The need for this type of cross jurisdictional (transportation-education) regional planning process became clear during the Measure C renewal process where we saw that there was no “connectivity” between what the education establishment was doing with its Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) planning and the Active Transportation (ATP) planning being conducted by local agencies. This disconnect hurt us with voters as opponents to the Measure C renewal framed the issue as Measure C has “not kept its promises” because we still have unsafe routes to schools in our communities. For the record, the original (1986) Measure C had no allocations for SRS or ATP, the Measure C reauthorization (2006) added a bicycle and pedestrian trails programs element to the Local Program, and the 2022 Measure C renewal effort did include a Safe Routes to Schools component.

FY 2022-23 K-12 Public Schools in Fresno County

- 1. Total K-12 public schools in Fresno County
346
- 2. Schools in Fresno & Clovis SOI
197
- 3. Schools in 13 small, incorporated cities SOI
91
- 4. Schools in rest of unincorporated County
58

City SOI	# of Public K-12 schools
Fresno	167
Clovis	30
Sanger	13
Kingsburg	10
Reedley	9
Selma	9
Coalinga	8
Kerman	7
Mendota	7
Parlier	7
Firebaugh	6
Fowler	6
Orange Cove	5
Huron	3
San Joaquin	1
Rest of County (unincorporated)	58

In terms of the regional planning process, COG staff will initiate individual outreach to each of the 15 city managers and the Fresno County CAO explaining the SRS/ATP planning process and why there is the need for it. This process will be replicated with the administrators of the various urban and rural school districts to explain the planning rationale behind “blending” our local agencies ATP planning process with the school district’s SRS planning process. The final product of this planning effort would be an inventory of the SRS needs in each school district along with the ATP plan/projects currently identified by the local agency. This list of identified projects will then be scored for prioritization purposes by a steering committee consisting of transportation and education sector stakeholders. The identified priority projects would also have identified potential funding sources from either the education sector or the transportation sector to deliver the project.

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

- Tony Boren (FCOG) gave an update on the Regional Safe Routes to Schools process and the future meetings with the superintendents of school districts.
- This item is informational only. No action is required.

D. Caltrans Report (Michael Navarro) [INFORMATION]

- Michael Navarro (Caltrans) gave the following updates:
 - Clean California Cycle 2 applications for district 6 received 29 applications. 10 of the 29 were from Fresno region.
 - Selma/Fowler project is still underway. Floral Ave and Second Street on ramps are closed.
 - SR 180 roundabout is estimated to be a 6-month project.

- This item is informational only. No action is required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Amendment No. 2 to San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Memorandum of Understanding (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: In October 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) deposited approximately \$10.2 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funds into Fresno COG’s accounts. Following direction from the San Joaquin Valley REAP Committee, with Fresno COG acting as fiscal agent, approximately \$3.62 million was distributed to the seven other Valley regional planning agencies (RPAs) through memorandums of understanding (MOU).

As a reminder, the 2019-20 Budget Act allocated \$125 million in REAP funding to regions statewide. REAP provides one-time grant funding to regional governments for planning activities to accelerate housing production and assist with implementing RHNA, which was expected to include a considerably larger share of housing units than previous cycles. Amendment No. 1 to the San Joaquin Valley REAP MOU allotted an additional \$125,000 to each RPA to assist with RHNA planning.

In April 2022, Fresno COG filed an application with HCD for the remaining \$8.75 million in REAP funds and approved a new master agreement in December 2022. HCD approved an invoice for half that amount, \$4.38 million, in late June. Fresno COG’s most recent share of funds totals \$1,028,830, which will be used to relieve the member jurisdictions of any further expenses related to the multi-jurisdictional housing element.

In addition, as part of the 2022 State budget process, the REAP program was extended by one year, with deliverables now due in summer 2024 and final program scheduled in December 2024. Accordingly, Fresno COG will update its MOU with the seven other Valley RPAs to reflect the new suballocations and expenditure deadlines.

The schedule of exact amounts by RPA is listed below.

REAP PLANNING GRANT -- THIRD ALLOCATIONS			RPA	
				DISTRIBUTION
RPA Share by Population*				
Fresno Council of Governments	1,032,227	23.50%		\$1,028,830
Kern Council of Governments	927,251	21.11%		\$924,200
Kings County Association of Governments	156,444	3.56%		\$155,929
Madera County Transportation Commission	160,089	3.64%		\$159,562
Merced County Association of Governments	287,420	6.54%		\$286,474
San Joaquin Council of Governments	782,545	17.81%		\$779,970
Stanislaus Council of Governments	562,303	12.80%		\$560,453
Tulare County Association of Governments	484,423	11.03%		\$482,829
Total	4,392,702	100.00%		

Action: Staff and the PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to sign Amendment No. 2 to the San Joaquin Valley REAP MOU, authorizing the new suballocations listed below and extending the deadline for expenditures through June 30, 2024.

B. Valleywide Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program -- Urban Footprint Software Licenses (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: As one of the Valleywide Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program deliverables, Fresno COG contracted with HDR/Calthorpe and Urban Footprint to develop a geographic information systems (GIS)-based land-use model for San Joaquin Valley jurisdictions to help meet their Regional Housing Needs Assessment requirements. This model provided three potential housing growth "scenarios" based on planned land-use data or other data layers provided by each jurisdiction and/or publicly available to the software developers.

Fresno COG's contract with HDR/Calthorpe included eight licenses for Urban Footprint (UF), the Web-based modeling software in which the scenarios were designed -- one for each of the eight Valley regional planning agencies. These licenses could be used to run the three pre-designed scenarios on behalf of a member jurisdiction, or to develop new ones.

Since unveiling the tool in spring 2023, Fresno COG has received interest from as many as nine Valley cities to receive a license of their own so as to run the tool without having to go through the COG. Funding for these licenses, as well as renewing one license for San Joaquin COG, would come out of the Valleywide REAP technical assistance program and is estimated at \$90,000 for a one-time purchase of a two-year license.

Action: Staff and the PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the executive director to approve a contract with Urban Footprint for an amount not to exceed \$90,000 for up to 10 software licenses under the San Joaquin Valley REAP program.

C. REAP 2.0 Consultant Contract Approval (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG released a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant assistance in designing the REAP 2.0 program/project application and to advertise the program to housing stakeholders. It was distributed widely to Fresno COG's full consultant database twice via email, the Coming Up at Fresno COG e-newsletter and Fresno COG's four social media accounts. The consultant will work with a diverse group of regional stakeholders and the community to guide application development, scoring, and approval of planning and implementation project applications that accelerate infill housing and reductions in per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

REAP 2.0 provides \$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 a 5 percent advance requested from 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.

Fresno COG received questions from multiple consultants regarding the RFP, but ultimately received only one proposal from Southwest Strategies, a public affairs firm with experience working on REAP 2.0 and housing affordability issues in the Fresno region and beyond. The firm proposes to coordinate translation services with Lazar Translating and Interpreting for multiple languages as a subcontractor. Southwest's proposed overall project total is \$98,597, coming in just under the unexpressed budget limit for this service.

The consultant's work would begin on Aug. 1, following the Policy Board's proposed contract approval. Work would continue through February 2024 or until recommended REAP 2.0 applications are approved by the COG Board.

Action: Staff and PAC recommend that the Fresno COG Policy Board authorize Fresno COG's executive director to enter into a contract with Southwest Strategies for a cost not to exceed \$98,597.

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Karbassi (City of Fresno) moved, and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve consent items A-C.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

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

Motion passed by acclamation.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. County of Fresno Rural Mobile Health Services (Robert Phipps) [Information]

Summary: Staff with the University of San Francisco Extension Mobile Heal Program and St. Agnes/California State University, Fresno Nursing Program will present information on the Fresno County Public Health Department's Rural Mobile Health Services initiative. The program targets farmworkers and agriculture businesses and includes "urgent care"-type services by medical providers and community-based organizations onsite providing patient navigation to find medical services and address social determinants affecting health, such as transportation, housing and social services.

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

- Joe Prado Fresno County Assistant Director of Public Health gave a presentation on the mobile health program.
- This item is informational only. No action is required.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Tony Boren (FCOG) reminded board members that there are no meetings in the month of August.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Martinez (Mendota) asked that the board members attend the DACA meeting in support.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.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:

Joe Prado Fresno County Department of Public Health
Jordan Jackson Central Valley Urban Institute
Ivanka Saunders Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Staff:

Denise Flores; Robert Phipps; Todd Sobrado; Jeff Long; Moses Stites; Janelle Del Campo; Brenda Thomas; Ofelia Abundez; Christina White.