

Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, March 28, 2024
5:30 PM

The meeting was held at the Fresno COG Sequoia Room

Members Attending:

Mayor Lynne Ashbeck, City of Clovis
Mayor Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Daniel Parra, City of Fowler
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Diana Guerra-Silva, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Tuttle, 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
Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel

Absent:

Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga
Councilmember Mike Karbassi, City of Fresno
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 12 members representing 41.87% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Robertson (Selma), Co-Chair.

SITTING AS THE FRESNO COUNTY MAYORS SELECTION COMMITTEE (Includes the County)

A. Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Appointment (Jake Martinez) [APPOINT]

Summary: Fresno Council of Governments' Policy Board, acting as the Fresno County Mayors' Select Committee, along with the chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, is tasked with appointing members to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) consistent with the November 2006 voter-approved Measure C Expenditure Plan.

The COC informs the public and ensures that Measure C program revenues are spent as promised.

The Measure C Expenditure Plan specifies that the COC shall comprise 13 members, including six at-large public members who respectively reside in each of the five Fresno County Supervisorial Districts. Three of the six must reside in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area and two must reside in the unincorporated rural area of the county (east and west). The remaining seven members must be representatives drawn from a diverse mix of interested community organizations.

Members serve four-year terms, with a maximum limit of eight years on the committee. Appendix G of the Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan (attached) states the Committee's duties and responsibilities. Currently, there are five vacancies on the Oversight Committee:

- Two positions for community organization representatives (organization/agency/service clubs/chambers of commerce, etc. must provide an applicant with a letter of recommendation.)
- Three public-at-large positions representing the following:

Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (Supervisorial District 4)
Unincorporated rural area east of State Route 99 (Supervisorial district 5)
Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (Any Supervisorial District)

After advertising the vacancies recently, one application has been received from a resident who wishes to be appointed to the Oversight Committee and their term would begin on March 29, 2024. David Martin's application is for the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (any Supervisorial district).

Gail Miller, current Community Based Organization representative for Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) of the Central California chapter, is applying for her 2nd-term as a Community Based Organization representative. Her term originally began in February 2020 and attached is her original application.

Fresno COG and Fresno County Transportation Authority staff will continue recruiting new members until all the positions are filled.

Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee webpage: fresnocog.org/citizen-oversight-committee/

Action: Appoint David Martin as the public-at-large member for Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (Any Supervisorial District) and approve Gail Miller for a second term as a Community Based Organization representative for WTS to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee.

- Jake Martinez (FCOG) introduced the applicants.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) motioned, Supervisor Quintero (Fresno County) seconded to approve David Martin and Gail Miller to serve as representatives on the committee.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, City of Fresno, Mendota, Parlier.

Motion passed by acclamation.

SITTING AS THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- Executive Minutes of February 29, 2023 [APPROVE]**
- Fiscal Year 2023 Productivity Evaluation (Moses Stites) [ACTION]**
- Upcoming Federal Grant Opportunities (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]**

- D. **Fresno COG's 2020 Public Participation Plan Update (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]**
- E. **2023/24 Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Matthew Shimizu) [INFORMATION]**
- F. **Reappointment to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]**

- Co-Chair Robertson asked if any member wished to pull any items.
- Mayor Leon (Huron) pulled Item D and Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) pulled item C.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) moved, and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve consent items A, B, E & F excluding Item C & D.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, City of Fresno, Mendota, Parlier.

Motion passed by acclamation.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) alerted the board of the upcoming Federal Grant Opportunities.
- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) reported on the Fresno COG's 2020 Public Participation Plan.

Items C & D are informational only, no action is needed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **2023-24 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Guidelines, Application Packet, and Call-for-Projects Initiation (Matthew Shimizu) [ACTION]**

Summary: The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is authorized in the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This program provides Fresno County with Federal transportation funds to be distributed to the Fresno County region through a performance-driven process. Fresno COG, in its role as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO), is responsible for programming future federal transportation revenues in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). CRP 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 program. These funds are distributed through a competitive, regional bid program based on scoring criteria and evaluated by a scoring committee. Fresno COG estimates that a total of \$5,494,620 will be available funding for the FFY 23/24 mid-cycle CRP.

The updated guidelines for CRP includes funding distribution policies, changes to the local match requirement, language regarding programming construction funds, changes to address project contingencies, and minor changes to the application.

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

Action: Staff and the programming subcommittee request the TTC/PAC recommend the Board approve the CRP guidelines and application packet and initiate the call-for-projects.

- Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) reported on the CRP Guidelines.
- Nicola Steelnack – Leadership Counsel, stated that the guidelines are missing information and there are problems with the scoring criteria.
- Veronica Garibay – Leadership Counsel, stated that the representation on the committee should be changed.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) motioned to table the item for 30 days to adjust the guidelines and return to the next board agenda, Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve the motion.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, City of Fresno, Mendota, Parlier.

Motion passed by acclamation.

B. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program (Simran Jhutti) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG offers a Circuit Planner and Engineer Program, which provides technical assistance to small cities in Fresno County for efforts that further Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy goals. Such assistance includes but is not limited to: planning studies, project deliveries, grant applications, environmental documents, engineering services (i.e., conceptual design or preliminary engineering), permitting needs assessment, and quality (QA/QC) reviews as needed.

Rincon Consultants Inc. has completed projects nearly all jurisdictions. Projects include zoning code reviews and revisions, assistance with the adoption of CEQA VMT thresholds and EV charging ordinances, updates to general plans, vesting of maps, and preparation of documents for board hearings.

Fresno COG member agencies may use these services, typically funded annually at about \$100,000, especially the rural cities with less resources for compliance with State and Federal mandates. Fresno COG encourages the member agencies to solicit support for planning and engineering projects.

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

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) gave an update on the Circuit Planner program.

This item is informational. No action is required.

C. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update (Simran Jhutti) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Following on Fresno COG's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), approved in February, staff – with assistance from circuit planner consultant Rincon – are working quickly to develop a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) that will meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements on a tight timeline (April 1) while capturing as many eligible projects as possible.

Acting as the lead applicant for transportation measures under the PCAP for the region, Fresno COG has solicited projects from member agencies and others in an attempt to build a broad coalition of partners with greenhouse gas-reducing projects that are effectively shovel-ready and able to be constructed within a three- to five-year timeframe.

This approach has led COG back to its list of unfunded ATP and CMAQ projects from the most recent 2023 cycle that could meet eligibility requirements. Staff is also awaiting word from the City of Fresno on a potential hydrogen fuel generation project that is still being scoped, which may be added to the list of projects for submission.

Through a series of stakeholder steering committee meetings held during the PCAP development, and with representation from all 16 jurisdictions, Fresno COG staff have moved very fast to build an inventory of projects across multiple economic sectors, develop consensus on a strategy and approach for project development and to find a list eligible projects.

The list includes ATP projects from the cities of Fowler and Fresno, as well as CMAQ projects from Clovis, the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, Firebaugh, Fresno, Mendota, and Parlier.

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

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) gave a brief update on the CPRG.

This item is informational. No action is required.

D. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

- Michael Navarro (Caltrans) gave the following updates:
 - Gearing up for Clean California, April 19-22nd. A tree planning event will be held on April 20th.
 - MPDG funding opportunity.
 - Selma exit closures, detour is Manning.

This item is informational. No action is required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- NONE

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Executive Director Search - Consultant Firm Selection (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

Summary: At the Policy Board's direction a subcommittee was formed and met on March 12, 2024 to review the seven proposals that were received to conduct a nationwide recruitment for the Fresno Council of Governments Executive Director's position. After interviews were conducted on March 25, the Ad Hoc committee chose to recommend CPS HR Consulting as the executive recruiting firm to represent Fresno COG in the search for executive director candidates.

Action: Authorize Fresno COG's Finance Director to enter into contract with CPS HR Consulting for executive director recruitment at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) reported on the consultant firm selection.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) moved, and Mayor Hernandez (San Joaquin) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, City of Fresno, Mendota, Parlier.

Motion passed by acclamation.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps – Community Project funding deadlines are April 15th.

B. Items from Members

- Mayor Robertson (Selma) – A fundraiser was held for the family of the two children who died in a house fire in Kingsburg. The City of Selma raised \$9,000.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps

Public:

Dave Martin

Nicola Steelnack

Staff:

Denise Flores; Robert Phipps; Moses Stites; Janelle Del Campo; Brenda Thomas; Paul Herman; Jake Martinez; Simran Jhutti; Matthew Shimizu; Santosh Bhattarai.