

Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, April 12, 2024
10:00 AM

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

John Holt, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Wilma Tucker, City of Fowler
Michael Rogers, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, Kingsburg
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Fernando Santillan, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG
Moses Stites, FCRTA

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Mr. Jansons (Kerman), Chair. With 8 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:

- Call for projects due by 2pm on May 30th.
- Community Days April 19-22nd.
- Fresno mural projects SR 41 enhancement to begin in the next week.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of March 8, 2023 [APPROVE]

B. Golden State Boulevard Cooperative Agreement and Engineering Contract (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

C. Federal and State Grant Funding Opportunities (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

D. Fresno County Mobility Hub Feasibility Hub Study Consultant Selection (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

E. Fresno County Climate Resiliency Plan Consultant Selection (Jennifer Rodriguez) [ACTION]

F. Regional Transportation Plan Public Opinion Survey Consultant Selection (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

G. TNC/WAV Contracts with FCRTA and the City of Clovis (Jake Martinez) [ACTION]

- Mr. Jansons called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned, and Mr. Santillan (Selma) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-G as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Measure C Transit-Oriented Development Program Cycle 12 (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 nearly \$850,000 annually with \$17 million over its 20-year lifespan. The 12th funding cycle, with roll-over money from previous cycles and returned funding from an undelivered project, has a total of \$1.5 million available for programming.

Fresno COG received six applications from four cities, including: Fresno, Fowler, Selma and Kingsburg. The scoring committee met in March and made the following funding recommendations:

1. City of Fresno: Blackstone Avenue Smart Mobility Project between State Route 180 & Pine Avenue (south of McKinley Avenue)

City of Fresno requested \$170,000 to fund a complete design for transformative changes to Blackstone Avenue from State Route 180 to Pine Avenue. The transition will encourage transit, walking, bicycling and other multimodal uses. This shift is expected to increase non-motorized travel, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and emissions and improving air quality. The project is near Susan B. Anthony Elementary, J.E. Young Academic Center and The Link, a high-density affordable mixed-use housing development. The scoring committee recommends funding \$170,000.

2. City of Selma: Selma Downtown and Civic Center Transit Oriented Improvements

The City of Selma requested \$263,000 to relocate the City Hall transit stop from Tucker Street to a location on 3rd Street adjacent to either the Fire Department or new police station, as well as provide sidewalk, ramp and crossing improvements at various locations to enable increased transit ridership by residents and visitors. The project is a strategic step towards augmenting transit ridership while enhancing connectivity for both residents and visitors. The scoring committee recommends funding \$263,000.

3. City of Fresno: Street Incentive along Venture Avenue (Cesar Chavez Boulevard) between Seventh and Eighth Streets

The City of Fresno requested \$1,153,514 for what was originally submitted as a housing infill project along Ventura Avenue (Cesar Chavez Boulevard) between Seventh and Eighth Streets, located on the east, south and west sides of the future site of a planned affordable housing development. The Project was scored as capital project due to components for housing not being included. The project will construct complete streets along Seventh and Eighth Streets, including concrete curb ramps and gutters, widened sidewalks, tree well installation, irrigation and tree planting, and pedestrian scale lighting. The scoring committee recommends funding \$619,297.

4. City of Fowler: Downtown Streetscape Plan and Merced Street Implementation (Phase 1)

City of Fowler requested \$1,605,198 for construction of a portion of its Downtown Streetscape Plan – specifically, its flush street design of Merced Street from 7th Street to 5th Street. The flush street design will remove curbs and create a more accessible roadway that opens space for community events during street closures. Flush street designs are also able to provide additional safety features for pedestrians and bicyclists. As such, this would encourage activity in Fowler's downtown and promote walking and biking. The scoring committee recommends funding \$450,000.

Action: Staff request the TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the scoring committee's funding recommendations for the Measure C TOD Program 12th funding cycle.

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) provided an update on the Measure C TOD Program.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Rogers (Fresno City) motioned, and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to approve the item as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

B. Final 2024-25 Fresno COG Overall Work Program and Budget (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: The final, fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$45.5 million is submitted for committee and Board consideration. The proposed budget increased \$256,150 from the draft submitted in February to add an operations manager and fleet services coordinator to FCRTA's operation. A summary memorandum is attached to this annotated report. In short, the proposed budget decreased \$12.4 million from last year. Operational revenues remain intact and reserves are adequate.

The largest part of the decrease is attributed to \$9.6 million in one-time 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. Another \$3.7 million decrease reflected a draw down of cash match from Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) as it constructed its Selma maintenance facility. These were one time grants that are largely spent down and have no effect on normal operating expenses.

Federal revenues increased a net of 7 percent or \$938,161; however the largest increase of \$1.7 million resulting from another round of bus procurements through the FTA 5310 program offset several decreases from revenue sources that were drawn down from one time projects.

State revenues decreased 34 percent, (\$9.7 million) primarily due to the REAP 2 grant.

Local revenues decreased 23 percent (\$3.6 million), resulting from the FCRTA drawdown.

Fresno COG added an accounting position last year which is jointly shared 70/30 percent with FCRTA. In addition, FCRTA is adding an operations manager and a fleet services coordinator. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases, as well as for anticipated health insurance increases. The overall proposed budget for salaries increased by 2 percent and benefits by 1 percent.

The overall consulting budget is \$22.1 million, which decreased \$5.7 million.

The OWP and budget will return for final approval in April.

Action: Staff requests the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Fresno COG's final 2024-25 Overall Work Program and budget.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) gave an update on the OWP & Budget.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned, and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to approve the item as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

C. Active Transportation Program Cycle 7 Regional Guidelines (Matthew Shimizu) [ACTION]

Summary: The State established the Active Transportation Program (ATP) in September 2013. ATP funding is distributed as follows:

- Fifty percent to the State for a statewide competitive program ("Statewide Competitive ATP");
- Ten percent to the small urban and rural area competitive program, managed by the State; and
- Forty percent to the large urbanized area competitive program, with funding distributed by population and managed by metropolitan planning organizations ("Regional ATP").

Fresno COG is responsible for developing guidelines for the regional ATP and for recommending projects to the California Transportation Commission. The Regional ATP Guidelines substantially follow those of the CTC but include some differences based on the region's priorities.

Fresno COG developed the guidelines in consultation with Fresno COG's ATP Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG), which includes other government agencies, active transportation stakeholder organizations with expertise in public health and pedestrian and bicycle issues, and representation from disadvantaged communities. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is scheduled to approve the guidelines at its June meeting.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted final 2025 ATP Guidelines on March 22. There were relatively minor changes at the statewide level from cycle 6 to cycle 7, consisting of new and revised language in various program categories. Considerable program changes include:

- A new online ATP application portal
- New performance metrics
- Disciplinary consequences for insufficient performance metric data
- Six application types

A few minor differences remain between the statewide guidelines and Fresno COG's regional guidelines. These differences include:

- No minimum funding requirement
- Quick Build projects are not eligible
- Eliminate scoring criteria for medium- and large-sized infrastructure projects and score all projects using the small infrastructure criteria
- Allow applicants to submit scalability plans for medium or large infrastructure projects submitted to the state.

Fresno COG will hold a supplemental call-for-projects using the Regional ATP scoring criteria and have a regional scoring committee. Applicants may apply for either the State ATP program or Regional ATP program, or both. Fresno COG encourages all ATP projects to be submitted to the State ATP competitive program, although it is not required. Projects not selected for programming in the statewide competition must be considered in the regional competition.

The statewide competitive call for projects is now open, and applications will be due to Caltrans on June 17. Once CTC approves the Regional ATP Guidelines (June 27-28), the regional call for projects will open, with applications due Nov. 20. Regional ATP documents are included for review and approval and will be posted to fresnocog.org. Enclosures for this item include:

- Resolution 2024-09
- Final Draft Regional ATP Guidelines & Fund Estimate
- Supplemental application

The electronic ATP Cycle 7 applications and other guidance documents can be found at: Active Transportation Program (ATP) | CTC (ca.gov). Please contact Matthew Shimizu via email at mshimizu@fresnocog.org or via phone at 559-233-4148 ext. 240 with any questions.

Action: Staff and the MAG request that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2024-09 adopting the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program Guidelines.

- Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) reported on the ATP Cycle 7 Guidelines.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned, and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to approve the item as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

D. Fresno COG Regional Microtransit Feasibility Study (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: In late 2022, Fresno Council of Governments commissioned a countywide study to evaluate potential microtransit service. Many Fresno County residents live and work beyond walking distance of a bus stop and fixed-route transit service. Low densities and car-oriented development patterns pose major challenges for expanding cost-effective and sustainable transit using traditional fixed-route bus service, or paratransit.

Microtransit potentially addresses the "first-mile-last-mile" transit challenge by providing a ridesharing alternative to the closest transit stop for those who might otherwise not have access to a mainline transit service. Given the COG's strategic planning and advisory role, it has a strong interest in coordinating efforts among the county's transit agencies to expand transit services throughout the region with alternative modes.

The Regional Microtransit Feasibility Study explores microtransit throughout the county with four key objectives:

- 1) Assess the current public transit and demographic landscape in Fresno County to determine new opportunities to provide additional transit services.
- 2) Explore the potential for implementing microtransit in Fresno County, with particular emphasis in areas with potential for expanded transit services.
- 3) Engage community members to increase understanding of microtransit and gather input on potential solutions.
- 4) Enable Fresno COG and Fresno County transit agencies to evaluate and consider potential opportunities regarding microtransit services.

Via Mobility, (consulting firm) that conducted the Regional Microtransit Feasibility Study, will be providing a brief presentation to the TTC/PAC. The final report is attached in this agenda.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board accept the Fresno COG Regional Microtransit Feasibility Study Final Report.

- Paul Herman (FCOG) gave a summary and introduced David Perlmutter and Nicky Althoff from VIA who gave a presentation.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned, and Mr. Santillan (Selma) seconded to approve the item as presented.

**All in Favor, no opposed.
Motion passed.**

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- None.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- None.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Phipps". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director

Public:

None

Staff:

Denise Flores, Robert Phipps, Jeff Long, Kai Han, Paul Herman, Matthew Shimizu, Simrin Jhutti, Jake Martinez, Jennifer Rodriguez, Janelle Del Campo.