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**Fresno COG Policy Board  
MINUTES  
Thursday, April 25, 2024  
5:30 PM**

**The meeting was held at the Fresno COG Sequoia Room**

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Lynne Ashbeck, City of Clovis  
Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor Daniel Parra, City of Fowler  
Councilmember Mike Karbassi, City of Fresno  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman  
Mayor Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota  
Mayor Diana Guerra-Silva, City of Orange Cove  
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  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director  
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel

**Absent:**

Supervisor Sal Quintero, County of Fresno

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 15 members representing 84.17% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business.

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

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

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

**Summary:** Luisa Medina, a representative with the League of Women Voters, has filed an application to fill a seat on the Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee previously held by Bill Jordan, who also represented the League.

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 four 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.)

Two public-at-large positions representing the following:

Unincorporated rural Area West of State Route 99 (Supervisorial District 1)

Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (Supervisorial District 4)

Ms Medina's application covers one of the two community organization representatives.

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/](http://fresnocog.org/citizen-oversight-committee/)

**Action:** Staff recommends the Mayors Select Committee appoint Luisa Medina to the Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee.

- Jake Martinez (FCOG) introduced the applicant.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Parra (Fowler) motioned, Mayor Martinez (Mendota) seconded to approve Luisa Medina to serve as representatives on the committee.

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**

**Absent: Fresno County.**

**Motion passed by acclamation.**

## **SITTING AS THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

### **I. OFFICER ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

#### **A. Chairman**

- Mayor Robertson (Selma) motioned to elect Mayor Alma Beltran (Parlier), seconded by Mayor Martinez (Mendota).

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**

**Absent: Fresno County.**

**Motion passed by acclamation.**

#### **B. Vice Chairman**

- Mayor Martinez (Mendota) motioned to elect Mayor Scott Robertson (Selma), seconded by Mayor Horn (Coalinga).

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**  
**Absent: Fresno County.**  
**Motion passed by acclamation.**

## **II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of March 28, 2024 [APPROVE]**
- B. Golden State Boulevard Cooperative Agreement and Engineering Contract (Pankaj Joshi) [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. Access-For-All Vehicle Contracts with FCRTA and the City of Clovis (Jake Martinez) [ACTION]**

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

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**  
**Absent: Fresno County**  
**Motion passed by acclamation.**

## **III. 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, 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) reported on the TOD program Cycle.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Parra (Fowler) seconded to approve the motion.

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**

**Absent: Fresno County**

**Motion passed by acclamation.**

**Mayor Martinez (Mendota) left the meeting at 6:07pm. Quorum of 14 members representing 82.94%.**

## **B. 2024 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment (Harold Sobrado) [PUBLIC HEARING]**

**Summary:** The Policy Board will hold a public hearing to take comments regarding unmet public transportation needs that are reasonable to meet within the Fresno County region during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Staff will return to the Board in June with the final Unmet Transit Needs Report, following approvals from the Social Services Technical Advisory Committee (SSTAC), TTC and PAC.

**Action:** Staff, the SSTAC, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board open the public hearing, receive comments, and close the public hearing. The Policy Board may provide additional direction at its discretion.

- Harold Sobrado reported on the Unmet Transit needs Assessment.
- Mayor Beltran – Chair opened the public hearing at 6:11pm.
- Emmanuel Torres, Leadership Counsel – urged FCOG to complete sidewalks and paving projects.
- Mayor Beltran – Chair closed the public hearing at 6:13pm.
- Final action will return to the board in June.

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

**Summary:** Following the Policy Board's direction in March, staff has returned with revisions to the proposed guidelines for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) that include a separate scoring category for disadvantaged communities, more clearly highlighting the "three pillars" of the CRP, and specifying that the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency will serve as the permanent transit operator on the CRP scoring committee going forward.

These changes were largely in response to comments received during the March Policy Board meeting from representatives with the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, who also provided a subsequent comment letter. Fresno COG staff provided a formal response to that letter, which is attached to this annotated report.

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 also include funding distribution policies, changes to the local match requirement, language regarding programming construction funds, changes to address project contingencies, adjustments to the program timeline (necessitated by the revisions) and other minor changes to the application.

The CRP 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 Board approve the CRP guidelines and application packet and initiate the call-for-projects.

- Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) gave an update on the Mid-cycle Carbon Reduction program Guidelines.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) moved, and Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) seconded to approve the motion.

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**

**Absent: Fresno County, Mendota**

**Motion passed by acclamation.**

**D. 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 and 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 and Budget.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Fast (Reedley) moved, and Mayor Guerra-Silva (Orange Cove) seconded to approve the motion.

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**

**Absent: Fresno County, Mendota**

**Motion passed by acclamation.**

**E. 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](http://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](http://ca.gov)). Please contact Matthew Shimizu via email at [mshimizu@fresnocog.org](mailto:mshimizu@fresnocog.org) or via phone at 559-233-4148 ext. 240 with any questions.

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

- Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) gave an update on the Active Transportation Program Guidelines.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) seconded to approve the motion.

**Vote: All in favor, no opposed.**

**Absent: Fresno County, Mendota**

**Motion passed by acclamation.**

**F. 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 Policy Board. The final report is attached in this agenda.

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

- Paul Herman (FCOG) gave a brief report and introduced David Perlmutter with Via who gave a presentation.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) moved, and Mayor Horn (Coalinga) seconded to approve the motion.

**Vote: 13 Yes, 1 Opposed**

**Absent: Fresno County, Mendota**

**Motion passed.**

**G. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]**

- Michael Navarro (Caltrans) gave the following updates:
  - FCRTA awarded 200K for Clean California.
  - Selma/Fowler project opening ramps May 20.
  - Excelsior Express way designs expected to be completed in October.

**This item is informational. No action is required.**



**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

- **NONE**

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **NONE**

**VI. OTHER ITEMS**

**A. Items from Staff**

Robert Phipps – returned from March One Voice trip in DC and wanted to express appreciation for participation.

Paul Herman – the RTP process will be kicking off and membership will form next month.

**B. Items from Members**

- **None**

**VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Public Presentations**

- **None**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps

Public:

Luisa Medina

Nicola Steelnack

Staff:

Denise Flores; Robert Phipps; Moses Stites; Janelle Del Campo; Brenda Thomas; Paul Herman; Jake Martinez; Simran Jhutti; Matthew Shimizu; Les Beshears; Jennifer Rodriguez; Pankaj Joshi.