

**Policy Advisory Committee  
MINUTES  
Friday, February 8, 2019  
1:00 PM**

**Members Present**

Renee Mathis, City of Clovis  
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh  
Jim Schaad, City of Fresno  
Warne Richard, City of Huron  
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg  
Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota  
Antonio Gastelum, City of Parlier (via phone)  
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley  
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger  
Elizabeth Nunez, City of San Joaquin  
Teresa Gallavan, City of Selma  
Jean Rousseau, County of Fresno  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Chapa (Sanger), Chair. With nine members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

**PRESENTATION**

**1. State Workforce Investment Board Presentation on SB 1 Workforce Training Program**

Mr. Blake Konzal, Workforce Development Board presented to the Committee via phone.

City of Selma, Firebaugh and Clovis enter.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of January 11, 2018 [APPROVE]
- B. Second Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]
- C. Fresno COG Fiscal Year 2017-18 Audits (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
- D. Preliminary Estimates (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
  - 1. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Preliminary Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Estimates (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
  - 2. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Preliminary State Transit Assistance Fund (STA) Estimates (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
  - 3. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Preliminary State of Good Repair Fund Estimates (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
  - 4. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Preliminary Low Carbon Transit Operations (LCTOP) Estimates (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
- E. Appointments to the Fresno COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) (Jeff Long) [APPROVE]
- F. Fresno COG Transit Productivity Evaluation for Fiscal Year 2018 (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]
- G. Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program Cycle 2 Contract Award (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- H. Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Final Guidelines (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- I. Call for Nominations - 2019 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]
- J. Save the Date - San Joaquin Valley 14th Annual Policy Conference (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned and Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

## II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Housing Element Annual Progress Report New Form and Instructions (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released its new Housing Element [Annual Progress Report \(APR\) form](#) and [instructions](#). Cities and counties must use the new APR form when submitting their 2018 reports, **which are due April 1, 2019**.

The new APR form and instructions include feedback from stakeholders who attended HCD's 2018 open house forums or sent comments during the public comment period. The data in the new APR form will allow for a more complete understanding of California's housing production. SB 35 and AB 879 (2017) added new data requirements to the Housing Element APRs.

Cities and counties with a compliant housing element and up-to-date APR submissions gain access to SB 2 Building Homes and Jobs Act funds and SB 1 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants.

HCD recorded a webinar on January 29, 2019, for those who want to learn more about the new APR form and provide input on tools for completing reports. The recording should be available on HCD's website soon. For more information, please visit HCD's [Housing Elements webpage](#) or email questions to [APR@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:APR@hcd.ca.gov).

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

### B. Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Programs Call for Projects (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG has active contracts with VRPA Technologies, Inc. (VRPA) and Willdan Associates (Willdan) to provide planning and engineering services through Fresno COG's Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer Programs. The Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer teams provide mechanisms for agencies to identify and help eliminate obstacles in project funding or delivery and possibly complete smaller transportation-related projects that support the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). This way, an agency's own staff/consultant teams can remain focused on larger or higher-profile projects as identified by their respective agency.

To initiate a new round of projects, VRPA (Circuit Planner) and Willdan (Circuit Engineer) are available to meet with each city's administration, planning, and public works/engineering staff to discuss potential services. They will also discuss previous year projects, potential funding sources, and the project evaluation process.

A handout with additional information and example project types was provided. To learn more or propose a potential project, please contact Meg Prince at [mprince@fresnocog.org](mailto:mprince@fresnocog.org) or 559-233-4148 x203.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

### C. 2019 Active Transportation Program Regional Project and Funding Recommendations (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds are separated into three main components: the statewide competitive program, the small urban- and rural-area competitive program (managed by the state), and the large, urbanized area competitive program [managed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – also known as the Regional Competitive ATP]. Large MPOs such as Fresno COG have the option of developing their own policies, procedures and project selection criteria that differ from those the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted, provided the CTC approves them. The Policy Board approved the regional guidelines and the Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) on June 28, 2018.

The Cycle 4 Fresno COG Regional Competitive ATP will cover four years of funding -- FY 19-20 through FY 22-23. Fresno COG's share provides about \$4.77 million over four years. At least 25 percent of program funds must benefit projects in disadvantaged communities.

The State initiated its ATP call for projects from May 16, 2018 through July 31, 2018. ALL applications must be submitted to the state competition in order to be eligible for the regional competitive program. The Fresno region submitted 18 applications with a total project cost of \$13,098,000. The statewide evaluations took place from July 31, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Supplemental regional applications were submitted to Fresno COG by October 31, 2018.

The regional scoring committee convened on January 22, 2019 to score and deliberate on the recommended program of projects. The scoring committee comprised representatives from: City of Fresno, County, east side, west side, Caltrans, FCOG, a bike expert and a non-government organization. The non-government organization representative was originally a member from Leadership Counsel however, that person resigned and was replaced by a member from California Rural Legal Justice, Inc. The west side city representative was unable to attend the committee at the last minute and the scoring committee decided to move forward without the west side representative's scores. The recommended program of projects is attached to this item and can also be found on Fresno COG's ATP website: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/active-transportation-program-atp/>. Please note that the programming years can vary based on funding capacity for each year.

To summarize the proposed recommendations:

- The scoring committee recommended that a total of \$4,772,000 in ATP funds be programmed for nine projects in Fresno County valued at \$6,142,000.
- All nine of the recommended projects are located within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities, well exceeding the 25 percent minimum.
- There are three bike and pedestrian projects proposed, totaling \$1,547,000. The six remaining projects are Safe Routes to School projects, totaling \$3,225,000.
- The City of Fresno relinquished \$350,000 to fund additional projects.
- The City of Coalinga will reduce the scope of its project based on funds awarded but will still include the fully disadvantaged segments of the project.

Below are the proposed schedule for adoption of the Cycle 4 Program of Projects:

- Draft project list to TTC/PAC for recommended approval: February 8, 2019
- Draft project list to Fresno COG Policy Board for recommended adoption: February 28, 2019
- Deadline to submit the DRAFT program of projects to CTC staff: February 15, 2019
- Deadline to submit the program of projects to CTC staff: April 30, 2019
- CTC adoption of the various MPO program of projects: June 2019 meeting
- Fresno COG 2019 FTIP amendment to incorporate the approved Cycle 4 ATP projects: Fall 2019

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) motioned and Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota) seconded to recommend approval to the Policy Board for the Cycle 4 Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program of Projects as recommended by the ATP Scoring Committee.

#### **D. Reverse Triangle Study Consultant Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG, in partnership with City of Fresno and Fresno County, received a Caltrans' grant to conduct a study and develop a plan for the Industrial Triangle (commonly known as the Reverse Triangle) area bounded by State Route (SR) 41 to the west, SR 99 to the east, Church Avenue at the north and American Avenue to the south. This is an industrial area that is home to the Amazon and Ulta distribution centers. It is also the potential location for the California High-Speed Rail heavy maintenance facility.

The project's primary goal is to study and mitigate the impacts from the growing industrial centers.

Fresno COG issued an RFP on October 2018 and received a proposal from GHD. A scoring committee comprising representatives from COG, City of Fresno, County of Fresno, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and Malaga Water District interviewed the consultant team. The GHD team will bring combined expertise in engineering, transportation planning, outreach and economic development. GHD has an office in Fresno, and the project manager is also based in Fresno.

The scope of work for the study was provided as an attachment. The scoring committee unanimously recommended that GHD be selected as the consultant to conduct the Reverse Triangle Study.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) motioned and Ms. Zieba (Reedley) seconded to recommend approval to the Policy Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with GHD for an amount not to exceed \$295,935.18.

**E. DRAFT 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis (Braden Duran) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Duran (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is proposing a Draft 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 3 (2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3) a Draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 1 (2018 RTP Amendment No. 1), and a Draft 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis. See the enclosed memo and draft resolution for details. Referenced documents are available on Fresno COG's website at [fresnocog.org](http://fresnocog.org).

A 30-day public review and comment period began January 14 and will end on February 13, 2019. Comments are due by 4:30 p.m. on February 13, 2019. Fresno COG staff held a public hearing on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 5 p.m. No comments were received. The 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis are scheduled for adoption at the February 28, 2019, Fresno COG Policy Board meeting.

The Draft 2019 FTIP Amendment No. 3, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 1, and 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis meet all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450, 40 CFR Part 93, and conform to the applicable SIPs. Please contact Suzanne Martinez at 559-233-4148 x240 or [smartinez@fresnocog.org](mailto:smartinez@fresnocog.org) with any questions.

This item was informational only; no further action was required.

**F. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Draft Overall Work Program 45 Day Review (Tony Boren) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that for fiscal year 2019-20 Fresno COG's budget 19.3 million, which is a three percent decrease in expenditures from the previous year. The budget reflects a decrease in federal revenue by twelve percent and state revenue decrease of one percent. There are no new positions and \$6,000 decrease in salaries.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Rousseau (Fresno County) motioned and Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) seconded to recommend approval to the Policy Board to authorize Fresno COG staff to release the draft Fresno Council of Governments fiscal year 2019-20 Overall Work Program and budget for a 45-day review and comment period.

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

Mr. Navarro (Caltrans) reported:

- State Route (SR) 99 realignment to accommodate High Speed Rail – Scheduled completion is anticipated for the end of March a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019, at 10:00am.
- Kings Canyon Expressway SR 180 Segment 3; structure work is nearing completion at four locations, China Slew, Kings River, Cameron Slew and Bird Slew. Grating work is progressing west of the Kings River. The project is on schedule. SR 180 concrete base and paving is scheduled January. A detour is in place and is working well.
- San Joaquin River Bridge seismic retrofit. All work is complete except for final restriping. The end of construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.
- Caltrans is working with the City of Fresno and the County of Madera on the relinquishment of the bridge. To relinquish it to the City and County of Fresno.
- Interstate 5 – Pavement preservation from Tuolumne Avenue crossing to north of the State Route 33 and Interstate 5 separation. This is a SHOPP project. The project will begin then go into winter suspension and will continue in the spring. Completion is anticipated for summer 2019.
- 2. State Route 269 Bridge – Construction began mid-January. There is temporary detour that is planned to be constructed in February.
- Shaver to Huntington – Asphalt overlay on 168. Project is winter suspension and will begin when weather is better. Anticipated completion is summer 2019.
- Shepherd/168 – Rumble strips. Project was awarded and construction will begin when the weather is better.

This item is informational only, no further action was required.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. 2019 Legislative Platform (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]
- B. Monthly Legislative Report (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Ms. Gallavan (Selma) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DICUSSION ITEMS

#### A. 2019 One Voice Priorities (Robert Phipps) [APPROVE]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG's One Voice Steering Committee has recommended 13 regional priorities for the 2019 One Voice D.C. trip, scheduled for May 4-9. A summary table and white papers exploring each of the topics is attached to the agenda.

In a change of strategy, staff has divided the priorities under three major headings: grant requests, appropriations requests and policy requests. This will allow for the contingent to more nimbly spend less time on issues that recur annually and more time on those priorities that are more complex in nature. The priorities are:

#### Transportation/Infrastructure

- Veterans Boulevard funding (City of Fresno)
- Funding interchanges critical to economic prosperity in Fresno (City of Fresno)
- Millerton Road funding (County of Fresno)
- Cross-Valley rail station in Huron (Fresno COG)
- U.S. DOT: Categorical exclusions for C-listed projects (Fresno COG)

#### Workforce Development

- Regional Fire Training Center (City of Fresno)
- Establishing a Central Valley Forestry Corps (Fresno Workforce Development Board)
- U.S. DOT: Transportation training facility/workforce (Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission & Fresno County Economic Development Department)
- U.S. DOT: Consistent policies for targeted hiring programs and related workforce training funds (Fresno Workforce Development Board)
- Connecting People with Jobs (Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission)

#### Economic Development

- Updating FEMA HMA funding guidelines (Fresno Workforce Development Board)
- Modernizing the federally authorized (airport) passenger facility charge (PFC) (City of Fresno)
- Community Services Block Grant/Community Economic Opportunity Act (Fresno EOC)

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Schaad (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Gonzalez (Mendota) seconded to recommend approval to the Policy Board to approve Fresno COG's 2019 One Voice regional priorities.

### V. OTHER ITEMS

#### A. Items from Staff

1. Ms. Prince (FCOG) updated the Committee on the Fresno County Regional Transportation Network Vulnerability Assessment Scope of work. At the last TTC/PAC meeting, TTC suggested to change the scope of work of the grant to limit participation to public agencies. Caltrans has since responded to this request and has asked that the scope not be changed to limit participation.

#### B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

## VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

### A. Public Presentations –

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 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

No one from public present

### Staff

Robert Phipps

Kristine Cai

Meg Prince

Jennifer Soliz

Trai Her-Cole

Donna Blocker - PAC

Lang Yu

Braden Duran

Peggy Arnest

Moses Stites

Janelle Del Campo

Jeff Long

Todd Sobrado – PAC

Brenda Veenendaal

Santosh Bhattarai - TTC

Jeanee Cervantes