

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, April 12, 2019
10:00 AM**

Members Present

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler
Wilma Quan-Schechter, City of Fresno
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Tim Chapa, City of Sanger
Jean Rousseau, County of Fresno
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Chapa (Sanger), Chair. With seven members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of March 8, 2019 [APPROVE]
- B. County of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. 2019 Unmet Transit Needs Process April Update (Todd Sobrado) [INFORMATION]
- D. 2019-20 Local Streets and Roads Project Lists Due to CTC May 1, 2019 (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]
- E. Notice of Funding Availability - SB 2 Planning Grants Program (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- F. 2019 FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Application Released for the Fresno/Clovis Urbanized Area (Peggy Arnest) [INFORMATION]
- G. Easement and Planning Grant Application (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- H. Fiscal Year 2019 Low-No Emission Notice of Funding (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- I. AARP Community Challenge Grant (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- J. Fiscal Year 2019 Innovations in Transit Public Safety Notice of Funding Opportunity (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. GoGo Grandparent Update - (Donna Blocker) [APPROVE]

Ms. Blocker (FCOG) reported that in November 2018, Fresno COG's Taxi Scrip program began a six-month pilot program with GoGo Grandparent to provide telephone-based access to mobile application services Uber and Lyft. During the first four months of the pilot program, staff received overwhelmingly positive feedback with the help of 50+ volunteers who received 945 rides as of April 1, 2019. Staff proposes to extend the pilot program through June 30, 2019, and to launch a rebranded GoGo Grandparent/Measure C Senior Scrip partnership service as of July 1, 2019. No additional funding is required for the pilot extension because the original budget approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board envisioned 90+ volunteers. This new service option would complement the already existing Senior Scrip taxi partnership service.

Taxi Scrip Survey Response - This survey was originally sent in August 2018 to 5,526 seniors to assess overall satisfaction with the current Taxi Scrip Program and the willingness to try a TNC service provider such as Lyft and Uber.

GoGo Grandparent Pilot Volunteer Response - This survey assesses the pilot program's functions and overall satisfaction using service providers Lyft and Uber via GoGo Grandparent. Note: Pilot volunteers were chosen from the original Taxi Scrip survey respondents.

COG Staff is confident that the pilot program has provided seniors a workable electronic service option as requested by the Board. GoGo Grandparent makes it possible to provide service for urban and rural area seniors without requiring a smartphone or credit card.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded to recommend the Board approve extending the GoGo Grandparent pilot program through June 30, 2019, with an official launch of the full-time GoGo Grandparent Senior Scrip service option on July 1, 2019.

B. Housing Legislation Update (Trai Her-Cole/Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Governor Newsom's office released draft language for a budget trailer bill on March 11 that proposes to engage local and regional agencies in a three-year process to revamp the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process and provide \$250 million for local housing planning and \$500 million in "free money" to local government that meet housing goals.

In his draft budget trailer language, Newsom made the following proposals:

- The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will create new, short-term goals for new housing production across all regions and jurisdictions. Targets will be based on the sum of three years of a county's annualized regional housing needs allocation, to be achieved in calendar years 2020 and 2021.
- \$250 million in housing planning money will go to regions and local governments.
- \$125 million will go to regions (presumably councils of governments) to develop regional action plans to assist jurisdictions in meeting short- and long-term housing goals. HCD will make these funds available by August 2019, and action plans are due no later than December 31, 2020.
- \$125 million will be available directly for jurisdictions to assist in activities related to meeting short- and long-term housing goals.
- An additional \$500 million will be available through the "Production and Process Improvement Reward Program" for regions or counties that have demonstrated progress towards increased housing production. These funds may be used for general purposes.
- By December 31, 2022, HCD and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research will propose an improved RHNA process and methodology that promotes and streamlines housing development.
- Most controversially, by December 31, 2022, HCD, OPR, and the California State Transportation Agency will propose a way to link housing element compliance and production goals to transportation funds. Beginning July 1, 2023, Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program funds may be withheld from a jurisdiction that does not have a compliant housing element and has not zoned or entitled for its annual housing goals.

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported on AB 1568 (McCarty) Housing law compliance: withholding of transportation funds. This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to notify the Controller of any city or county out of compliance with housing element laws (state law). This bill would, commencing in 2022–23, prohibit cities and counties from being found in violation of state law to remain eligible for Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program (RMRA) apportionments. For each city and county in violation, RMRA funds would be withheld.

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

C. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that the Fresno COG Circuit Planner and Circuit Engineer programs are intended to provide technical assistance to Fresno COG member agencies. Such assistance could include, but is not limited to, planning studies, project deliveries, grant applications, environmental documents, engineering services, etc.

The Circuit Planner program has been available since 2012, initially funded with Proposition 84 funds, and the Circuit Engineer program was instated in 2015. Since 2015, VRPA Technologies has served as the Circuit Planner and Willdan Engineering as the Circuit Engineer.

Fresno COG is proposing to release a request for proposals (RFP) in May for a combined Circuit Planner and Engineer program for Fiscal Year 2019-20 with a total contract amount of \$100,000. Teams of planning and engineering firms, or firms that provide both types of services, will be encouraged to submit proposals. Combining the programs could provide flexibility in funding, depending on the needs of the member agencies.

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

D. Fresno County Regional Long-Range Transit Plan (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG has been working with transit operators and concerned stakeholders on developing the first regional Long-Range Transit Plan (LRTP) in Fresno County in the last two years. Funded by Caltrans' Sustainable Communities Planning grant, the LRTP aims to develop a long-range vision for public transportation in the region and guide future investment in the public transit system.

The plan envisions "A responsive, integrated and welcoming public transportation system that is safe, affordable, uses innovative technologies, provides equitable access, enhances regional and local mobility, and provides sustainable transportation options." Through a collaborative process, the plan identified strategies and potential projects that will address the region's transit needs and help move it toward achieving the vision. Although fiscally unconstrained, the plan will provide critical input into the future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS) process.

A Steering Committee -- which comprised representatives from the three major transit operators, local governments, community organizations and other stakeholders -- provided guidance throughout the process. A public review process was conducted for the draft report, and comments were received from Caltrans and California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). Responses to those comments are included as part of the appendix of the draft final report, available at <https://www.fresnocog.org/regional-long-range-transit-plan/>.

The governing boards of the three major transit agencies, Fresno Area Express (FAX), Clovis Transit, and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) have endorsed/accepted the draft final LRTP report.

Georgiena Vivian, VRPA, gave a short presentation to the Committee.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Ms. Zieba (Reedley) seconded to recommend the Policy Board approve the Fresno County Regional Long Range Transit Plan.

E. Obligation Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that on April 1, 2019, Fresno COG submitted the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018/19 Obligation Plan to Caltrans Local Assistance. This plan documents Fresno COG's estimated schedule for project and fund delivery for FFY 18/19. The overall total obligational authority (OA) for all federal funding sources in FFY 18/19 was \$23,244,125.

As of February 28, 2019, \$4,198,620 or 17.9 percent of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding has been obligated, leaving our region with an estimated OA balance of \$19,228,356. The obligation plan submitted by the local agencies outlines \$18,123,301 in combined CMAQ and STBG, which is \$1,105,055 short to our target OA.

Agencies with projects scheduled in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program's (FTIP) later years can take advantage of the expedited project selection procedures (EPSP) to deliver their projects early. Post programming adjustments will also count towards our region's OA delivery, and agencies may use unused CMAQ and STBG discretionary (lifeline) balances if available. If our region is successful at delivering more than its OA target, we might be eligible to capture additional funds during the statewide open obligation period. Toll credits may be applicable

for project phases that have not been obligated at 100 percent federal reimbursement if residual federal funds are available. Furthermore, if funds need to be reprogrammed and financial capacity is not available, it is possible that projects can become substantially delayed if moved to the outer years of the FTIP.

Member agencies are asked to please keep Fresno COG staff updated on any changes to programmed projects that could possibly impact the region's project delivery plan.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- B. Monthly Legislative Report (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

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

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DICUSSION ITEMS

There were no administrative action/discussion items.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Cai (FCOG) briefed the Committee of the possible outcomes if the proposed federal SAFE Vehicle waiver is approved. Potential impacts could include a lapse in Fresno COG conformity, delays to regionally significant projects, and an inability to process new RTPs and TIPs.

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 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public

Ron Alexander, Fresno County
Elizabeth Jonasson, Fresno EOC
Gabrielle Rivas, Fresno EOC
Raymundo Z., Fresno County
George Hostetter, San Joaquin Valley Sun
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA
Carolina Ilic, Fresno Area Express

Staff - Kristine Cai, Les Beshears, Robert Phipps, Braden Duran, Peggy Arnest, Meg Prince, Jennifer Soliz, Trai Her-Cole, Donna Blocker, Kai Han, Jeff Long, Brenda Veenendaal, Jeaneen Cervantes