

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

Members Present

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Jeannie Davis, City of Fowler
Jim Schaad, City of Fresno
John Kunkel, City of Kerman (via phone)
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Teresa Gallavan, City of Selma
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Ms. Gallavan (Selma), Vice Chair. With seven members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of June 14, 2019 [APPROVE]
- B. 2019-20 Measure C Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- C. Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Urban Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- D. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency & Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Rural Transportation Development Act Claims (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. Urban & Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Monty Cox) [APPROVE]
- F. 2019 FTA Section 5310 Program of Projects (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]
- G. Countywide Homelessness Priorities For Calendar Year 2019 (Jean Rousseau/Tony Boren) [APPROVE]
- H. Survey for the Fresno County Regional Transportation Network Vulnerability Assessment (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- I. Notice of Release - Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Grants Application and Guidelines (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- J. Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee Vacant Positions (Brenda Veenendaal) [INFORMATION]

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Consultant Selection for Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Meg Prince) [APPROVE]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG released a request for proposals (RFP) in May for a combined 2019-20 Circuit Planner and Engineer Program with a contract amount of \$100,000. The Circuit Planner and Engineer Program is intended to provide technical assistance to the small cities in Fresno County. Such assistance could include planning studies, project deliveries, grant applications, environmental documents, engineering services, etc.

Fresno COG received two proposals from planning and engineering firms. The consultant selection committee comprising representatives from the Cities of Kingsburg, Reedley, San Joaquin, and Fresno COG reviewed both proposals and interviewed both teams of consultants on June 19. Although both teams were highly qualified, the committee chose the Rincon Consultants Inc., which includes Collins & Schoettler and VSCE as sub-consultants, as the preferred contractor. The

Rincon team's areas of expertise and its extensive history working with small cities in Fresno County will provide a good foundation for understanding and addressing the cities' needs.

The Rincon team will begin reaching out to each of the small cities in August to solicit projects for this program year.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Kunkle (Kerman) motioned and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded to approve Rincon Consultants, Inc. as the consultant for the Fresno COG Circuit Planner and Engineer Program, and authorize Fresno COG's executive director to enter into a contract with Rincon Consultants Inc. for \$100,000.

B. Work Element 160 - Better Blackstone Design Challenge Strategic Partnership Grant (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG, in partnership with the Fresno Metro Ministries, was awarded \$543,950 through Caltrans' Fiscal Year 2019-20 Strategic Partnership Grant for the Better Blackstone Design Challenge.

The Better Blackstone Design Challenge (BBDC) is a strategic partnership aimed at increasing investment in sustainable transportation projects by developing tools for transit supportive land uses; objectives and policies for complete streets; multi-modal systems, and; protecting regional facility capacities. The project will produce alternative, feasible transit-oriented development design scenarios for more than 200 mixed-use designated parcels. It includes gap-financing-related economic, real estate and urban footprint analyses translated into useful web-based tools and ongoing technical assistance for property owners, developers and funders.

This grant award leverages Fresno COG Overall Work Program (OWP) work element 146, which is funded with Senate Bill 1 formula funds. Work elements 146 and 160 will be closely coordinated; both will be completed concurrently and without duplicating tasks or deliverables.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Schaad (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Serpa (Clovis) seconded to authorize Fresno COG's executive director to enter into a contract with Fresno Metro Ministries for the Better Blackstone Design Challenge Strategic Partnership Grant for an amount not to exceed \$ 519,948.

C. Measure C Agricultural Worker Outreach Contract Extensions (Esperanza Velasco) [APPROVE]

Ms. Velasco (FCOG) reported that During 2018-2019, Fresno COG contracted with multiple community-based organizations to conduct diverse and extensive grassroots outreach among people who may qualify for subsidies under Measure C's Ag Worker Vanpool (AVP) program. The goal was to double annual participation and ridership from an average of 45 vanpools to more than 100.

The outreach contracts expired on June 30, 2019. However, the contracted agencies have agreed to a contract extension through June 30, 2020, to continue the outreach with a renewed focus. The two agencies are:

- **Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities (CBDIO)**
- **Office of Community and Economic Development- Fresno State (OCED)**

Program background:

Approximately 0.6 percent of Measure C funds are applied to AVP (formerly known as the Farmworker Vanpool Program), as subsidies to help farm laborers pay for their transportation to job sites when they ride in an approved vanpool. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis until exhausted. All participating groups are required to use an authorized vanpool provider or form an employer-sponsored vanpool. Owner-operator vanpools are not eligible.

Measure C funds subsidize ag worker vanpools that originate within Fresno County. These funds are designed to spark new vanpools. A weekly lease subsidy pays \$30 for each day of operation (not to exceed \$150 in one week) for up to one year. This subsidy may be renewed on an annual basis.

Work accomplished in the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

During the contract year, CBDIO (Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueno) (Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities) conducted an extensive and direct outreach from June–December 2018. The strategy consisted of community and targeted-area outreach events. Such events included: several dates at the Mexican Consulate's "Ventanilla de Salud" (Window of Health) and "Sabatino Health Fair" (Saturday Health Fair) days; community events in Kerman, Parlier, and several workshops in Fresno elementary schools. CBDIO staff dedicated eight

days toward door-to-door contacts in six targeted zip codes. CBDIO referred ten interested people to CalVans to get vetted as CalVans drivers. Two completed all requirements specified by CalVans. Neither driver, however, picked up the two vans that were set aside for them.

CSUF Fresno Foundation through the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) contacted several labor contractors from April-June, 2018. Ten identified labor contractors showed interest in learning more about the Measure C program. Follow-up workshops were to be conducted by OCED to go over the information and sign up contractors. The proposed schedule was September 11 in Mendota; September 13 in Huron; October 16 in Parlier, and October 18 in Fowler. The ten contractors were also referred to CalVans as well to learn about the pros and cons of using vans provided by CalVans in place of their own ag-labor transportation vehicles. OCED suffered staff turnovers after June 2018 and was unable to complete its proposed objectives within the grant period.

Debrief discussions with the outreach agency staff revealed that grantees understood that CalVans was the only vanpool provider qualified to receive the Measure C ag worker subsidies. Lack of available vans from the assumed provider (CalVans) during the last six months of 2018 and the first months of 2019 also dampened the grantees' outreach progress. A large percentage of newly-acquired CalVans vans are already committed even before they are delivered, with about 50 percent of them being used to transport H2A workers through the various counties where CalVans operates.

Therefore, Fresno COG staff and representatives from the two outreach agencies would like to continue working together to correct misunderstandings about the availability of program dollars and continue outreaching to ag workers and farm labor contractors using grant dollars previously approved. Outreach would continue through the end of the fiscal year 2019-20.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Ms. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to authorize the executive director to extend two \$25,000 contracts for the community-based organizations listed above, through June 30, 2020, on behalf of the Measure C Agricultural Vanpool program's public outreach services.

D. Senate Bill 743 Regional Guidelines Consultant Selection (Kristine Cai) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Senate Bill 743 (SB 743, 2013), requires that the traffic congestion metric level of service (LOS) be replaced in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process with a metric that would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), develop a multi-modal transportation system and increase land use diversity. The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommended vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the most appropriate metric to measure the transportation impacts for developments, considering it is more aligned with the state's goals of reducing GHG emissions through infill development, active transportation and other sustainable land use and transportation projects.

The California Natural Resources Agency approved the CEQA update implementing SB 743 in December 2018. The new CEQA guideline sections created under SB 743 will take full effect statewide on July 1, 2020, although lead agencies may choose to opt-in earlier. SB 743 will have profound impacts on how local governments and other lead agencies approve land use and transportation projects.

Fresno COG has developed an SB 743 Local Assistance Program to assist member agencies. Approximately \$270,000 has been set aside to develop regional guidelines for local governments to update their traffic impact study policies. The guidelines will be advisory, and the local governments can endorse the entire document or some components of it based on their individual needs. The guidelines will take into consideration large and small cities, as well as urban and (county) rural areas.

Staff issued an RFP in May and received two proposals. A scoring committee comprising representatives from COG, Fresno, Clovis, County of Fresno, eastside cities and westside cities interviewed the consultant teams. The committee recommended LSA be selected to develop the regional guidelines. LSA is an established environmental firm with expertise in CEQA and SB 743. As a recognized leader on SB 743, LSA has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the regulatory environment and has been closely following SB 743 implementation throughout the State. The scope for the SB 743 regional guidelines development project was provided.

After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned and Mr. Schaad (Fresno City) seconded to authorize the executive director to enter into a contract with LSA for an amount not to exceed \$ 269,605.58.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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

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

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local Government Planning support Grants Program (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that On June 13, 2019, the California Legislature approved the 2019-20 state budget, which included \$900 million in housing incentive funds. On June 27, trailer bill language addressing the incentive funds was simultaneously placed into SB 102 and AB 101. Both companion bills designate \$250 million for cities, counties and COGs to use toward preparing for the sixth cycle of Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

The \$250 million in housing planning funds is further divided in half, with \$125 million intended for COGs and regional agencies to use and/or distribute on a grant basis to local jurisdictions. Eligible expenditures include education and outreach strategies, developing improved methodologies for RHNA funding distribution, technical assistance, and establishing regional or jurisdictional housing trust funds, among other uses.

Overseeing the entire process is a working group that is required to include at least one large city representative, one small city representative and one county supervisor from each participating county. The city representatives are to be appointed through the county's city selection committee. Fresno COG is requesting the County's City Selection Committee meet in July to appoint Fresno's regional representatives. The San Joaquin Valley is receiving an additional \$6 million to offset costs associated with convening this working group. The SJV's share of funds is anticipated to be somewhere between \$18.5 and \$20.5 million.

Regional entities have approximately five months (November 30, 2019) to seat the working group. After that, funding allocations may be requested. Staff is recommending an assertive timeline for determining: a) how to best complete the initial application for funding and working group administration (staff or consultant); b) how much, if any, funding will be held regionally or passed down to jurisdictions, and; c) how funding will be allocated among the eight SJV COGs.

In June, the SJV COG Directors were briefed on this issue and the associated critical timelines, with particular regard to working group assignments. The Directors approved Fresno COG as the fiscal agent for this grant funding, following the bill's requirements. Over the last month, Fresno COG staff and coordinator Michael Sigala have brainstormed options and recommendations for the three immediate questions presented above.

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

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Her-Cole reported that a save the date for the Electric Vehicle Workshop was provided. The focus of the workshop is for public agencies. It will be held Wednesday, September 25th at Fresno COG.
- Ms. Martinez reported a Type 5 amendment to the FTIP will be done and encouraged member agencies to let Fresno COG staff know about and projects to be included.
- Mr. Boren reported that in September staff will bring to the Committee information on the reauthorization of Measure C.
- Mr. Stites reported on the new FCRTA Electric Bus.

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Tony Boren

Public

Scott Spencer, UCPC

Roger Slingerman, UCPC

Keith Berghold, Metro Ministries

Staff:

Kristine Cai

Robert Phipps

Brenda Veenendaal

Esperanza Velazco

Peggy Arnest

Suzanne Martinez

Trai Her-Cole

Meg Prince

Braden Duran

Todd Sobrado

Moses Stites

Janelle Del Campo

Jeanee Cervantes