

**Fresno COG Policy Board  
MINUTES  
Thursday, January 30, 2020  
5:30 PM**

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis  
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga  
Mayor Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Mayor Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Rolando Castro, City of Mendota  
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove  
Mayor Pro Tem Trinidad Pimentel, City of Parlier  
Councilmember Robert Beck, City of Reedley  
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin  
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger  
Mayor Louis Franco, City of Selma  
Supervisor Buddy Mendes, County of Fresno  
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

**Absent:**

Mayor Lee Brand, City of Fresno

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, there were 14 members representing 45.03% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma, Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler), Chair.

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of October 30, 2019 [APPROVE]
- B. Executive Minutes of December 11, 2019 [APPROVE]
- C. 2020 Annual Fresno COG Meeting Calendar [APPROVE]
- D. First Quarterly Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]
- E. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program – Update on Current Tasks (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- F. Transportation Network Vulnerability Assessment – Adaptation Strategies Summary Memo (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]
- H. Extension of Fresno COG's 2019-20 CMAQ Call-for-Projects (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]
- I. 2021 Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Leon (Huron) pulled Item I-G for discussion.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Castro (Mendota) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve the balance of the consent agenda. The motion passed.

**Quorum:** City of Orange Cove entered. 15 members present representing 46.56% of the population.

- G. Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Technical Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]

Ms. Her-Cole (FCOG) reported that The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has announced recipients of the Round 5 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Technical Assistance Program. Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. and San Joaquin COG are the leads for the San Joaquin Valley Technical Assistance Team to provide technical assistance for Valley AHSC applicants.

As the lead agency, San Joaquin COG is requesting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) be established for this collaborative effort. Attached is Resolution 2020-01, intended to allow Fresno COG to bill for its portion of program activities.

Questions regarding AHSC Technical Assistance can be directed to Meg Prince at [mprince@fresnocog.org](mailto:mprince@fresnocog.org) or Trai Her-Cole at [traih@fresnocog.org](mailto:traih@fresnocog.org).

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pimentel (Parlier) seconded approve entering into an MOU with San Joaquin COG by signing Resolution 2020-01, allowing Fresno COG to participate in the AHSC Technical Assistance Program. The motion passed.

## II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Point-in-Time Count 2020 (Sonia De La Rosa, Fresno County) [APPROVE]

**Sonia De La Rosa (Fresno County) reported that** the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care conducts an annual Point in Time (PIT) Count of the populations experiencing homelessness. It is a snapshot of homelessness in our communities on one night in January. The 2020 PIT Count took place this week with one night dedicated to a visual tally count of observed homelessness and the following two days spend surveying those experiencing homelessness to collect demographic information. Each year the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) dispatches approximately 200 volunteers to do the count.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) motioned and Mayor Lander (Coalinga) seconded to recommend the Policy Board adopt Resolution 2020-04 supporting of the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care in their efforts in the annual Point-in-Time Count in Fresno County. The motion passed.

### B. 2020 Safety Performance Targets (Lang Yu) [APPROVE]

Mr. Yu (FCOG) reported that the moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) require metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to set annual targets for five safety performance measures as follows.

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

MPOs can choose to support the statewide target or set a separate regional target. In the previous target-setting iterations, Fresno COG set evidence-based targets for 2018 and supported the statewide targets for 2019.

Fresno COG organized a safety target subcommittee to discuss the recent crash statistics and the target options. The committee recommended supporting the statewide targets for 2020 for all five safety performance measures. The statewide target is an aspirational goal aiming at reaching zero fatalities by 2050, which is equivalent to a ~3.03 percent reduction for fatalities and 1.5 percent reduction for serious injuries for year 2020.

After an opportunity for public comment, Councilmember Beck (Reedley) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to recommend the Policy Board to adopt the statewide targets for all five safety performance measures for 2020. The motion passed.

**C. Demographic Forecast Update Sole Source Contract (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]**

Mr. Scott (FCOG) reported that the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) relies upon demographic forecast studies to assist in its various planning functions, such as determining the impact of various planning strategies on the sustainability of its cities and county, identifying the potential demand for certain types of housing and employment in the Fresno County region, and providing planning insights to its jurisdictions from a regional perspective.

Demographic forecast studies are especially vital to Fresno COG's development of its traffic model, the results of which are used extensively in Fresno COG's various planning endeavors, such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) mandated by federal law, the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) required under SB375, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) also required under state law, and traffic impact studies. As Fresno COG prepares to begin work on the 2022 RTP/SCS, in conjunction with RHNA, it is necessary to update the forecasts used to guide these planning efforts.

In 2017, Applied Development Economics (ADE) published demographic forecasts for the Fresno County region, by jurisdiction, for every year from 2015 to 2050. In conjunction with that effort, ADE also developed a tool that made it possible to easily incorporate new data and planning assumptions into the study to create updated forecasts.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Lander (Coalinga) seconded to recommend the Policy Board to approve a sole source contract with ADE for support in using this tool to bring the forecasts up to date with the latest available information, as well as generate additional forecasts to aid Fresno COG in its RHNA efforts. The amount of this contract shall not exceed \$20,000. The motion passed.

**D. Eastside Transportation Corridor Improvement Study Consultant Selection (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]**

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG is conducting an Eastside Transportation Corridor Improvement Study that will focus on the major north-south/east-west transportation corridors Academy and Manning avenues, on the east side of Fresno County.

Staff identified the two corridors through a working group comprising eastside city representatives, Fresno County and Caltrans. Issues to be addressed include: mobility, access, safety, and connectivity for all modes of travel, including transit, walking, and bicycling. The study will also provide recommendations for specific transportation improvements that will meet the area's long-term mobility needs. The study will examine land uses along those corridors and provide recommendations on what accommodations local jurisdictions could consider to improve mobility and other transportation purposes. Ultimately, those transportation projects the study identifies could potentially serve as candidate projects in the soon-to-be-developed expenditure plan for Measure C III.

Fresno COG released a request for proposals on Oct. 28, 2019, for consultant services and received two proposals. A consultant selection committee comprising representatives from both eastside cities and Fresno County interviewed both consultants and unanimously chose GHD as the preferred consultant. The GHD team will bring combined expertise in performance-based corridor planning, engineering, outreach and economic development.

After an opportunity for public comment, Supervisor Mendes (Fresno County) motioned and Mayor Franco (Selma) seconded to recommend the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with GHD for an amount not to exceed \$300,000. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that each year the Fresno region must meet obligation authority (OA) delivery targets for federal funding streams and comply with AB 1012's "use it or lose it" provisions, which gives local jurisdictions three years to obligate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds.

At the end of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018/19, the Fresno region delivered \$19,328,536 or 82.7 percent of its budgeted capacity. Because the region did not exceed its delivery target for FFY 18/19, we were unable to take advantage of additional August redistribution funding. An additional \$4,048,325 will be added to the FFY 2019/20 OA target.

As of Oct. 31, 2019, \$160,740 of CMAQ and STBG was deobligated, which increased the region's FFY 2019/20 OA target balance to **\$27,225,482**. This is the second year local jurisdictions have missed the OA target for the region. Consequently, the OA target is the highest it has ever been. Moving forward, quarterly reports will be provided to TTC/PAC and the Policy

Board with updates on projects programmed in FFY 2019/20 highlighting any changes. It is important for the region to meet its OA targets to avoid losing federal funds.

In preparation for the 2019/20 OA delivery plan that is due to Caltrans on April 1, COG staff met with all member agencies in November and December, and will meet again in March to discuss the current delivery plan for the region. Fresno COG staff will continue working with each of our member agencies to ensure that projects planned for obligation in 2019/20 are obligated on time.

Please keep Fresno COG staff updated on any changes to programmed projects that could possibly impact the region's project delivery plan. Please contact Jennifer Soliz at 559-233-4148 ext. 223 or [jsoliz@fresnocog.org](mailto:jsoliz@fresnocog.org) with any questions regarding fiscal year deadlines or the process of obligating project funds.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

#### **F. Measure C TOD Program Cycle VIII Call for Projects (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that Measure C's Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program was created to boost transit ridership and incentivize transit-supportive land uses such as high-density residential and mixed uses near transit. The program strives to encourage livable, sustainable and healthy communities that promote walking, biking, transit uses and reduce dependence on private automobiles. The projects that have been funded by this program serve as models to reduce vehicle miles traveled, improve air quality and provide transportation options.

The program is estimated to generate about \$17 million in its 20-year life span and accrues approximately \$850,000 per year. The eighth cycle has approximately \$990,000 available. The TOD program has provided close to \$9 million for projects and programs since 2011.

The TOD program provides funding for three types of programs/projects: 1) infrastructure projects that provide accessibility to transit facilities, 2) planning projects that focus on creating transit-oriented communities, and 3) housing in-fill programs that help offset housing impact fees. As the TOD Policies and Guidelines require, projects must score an average of 70 points to receive funding.

The application package for the eighth funding cycle is attached to the agenda. The TOD Program Policies and Guidelines document are available at <https://www.fresnocog.org/measure-c-transit-oriented-development/>.

The 2020 call-for-projects opens on January 10, 2020, and applications are due on February 28, 2020. The Scoring Committee is expected to meet in March, and the final recommendation for funding will go to COG Policy Board for approval in April and the FCTA Board in June.

A workshop is tentatively scheduled on February 12 to provide opportunities for questions and answers for this program. Questions regarding the TOD program should be directed to Kristine Cai at [kcai@fresnocog.org](mailto:kcai@fresnocog.org) or Trai Her Cole at [traih@fresnocog.org](mailto:traih@fresnocog.org).

This item was informational only; no further action was required

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

Ms. Gordon (Caltrans) reported:

- Kings Canyon Expressway SR 180 Segment 3; Traffic is getting ready to shift onto the new concrete pavement in mid-February. The rain has put the project behind slightly. SR180 should have traffic by late spring and project complete by the end of the year.
- State Route 269 Bridge – Thank the City of Huron. The project is complete.
- Shaver to Huntington – Cap end is complete.
- City of Firebaugh new ADA is scheduled to begin in February and should be completed by mid-March, weather pending.
- City of Kingsburg SR 99 rehabilitation - Lanes will be reduced from three lanes to two lanes for the duration of the project. This will reduce the project to a total of 240 days as opposed to 5 years if all lanes stayed open.
- Fresno viaduct project completed. The project was originally supposed to be 171 night closures. This would have taken two seasons, because of the material type. The work was done and completed in eight, 55 hour full closures for each direction.

- Coalinga Avenue Rest Area – Waste Water upgrade. Project will update the waste water systems to current standards. Rest areas will be closed during project work. Project to be complete by July.
- Zero Emission Charging Station – to be installed at the district office in Fresno. It is available to the public and will be free until a way to charge is put into place.

This item was informational only; no further action was required

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Monthly Legislative Report (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- B. DRAFT 2020 Fresno Council of Governments Legislative Platform (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]
- C. 2020-21 Draft Overall Work Program (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) motioned and Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. 2020 Fresno COG One Voice initiative (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG staff began soliciting priority issue white papers in December 2019 for its 2020 One Voice-Washington, D.C. initiative after the U.S. Senate published its calendar late in the year. By the January 17 deadline, Fresno COG received three formal priority issues:

- 1) Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District: Re-Operation of Big Dry Creek Reservoir
- 2) Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC): Community Services Block Grant
- 3) Fresno EOC: Reconsider Poverty Guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services

In addition, the City of Clovis has expressed interest in pursuing federal funding through the Veterans Administration for a new hospital during the One Voice trip.

To date, staff is unaware of any major transportation-related grant applications or projects seeking federal support. Previously, Fresno COG's Board has insisted on including transportation-related projects as the fundamental basis for the agency administering One Voice, considering staff time and expenses are at least partially funded with transportation dollars.

The trip is tentatively scheduled for April 25-30, 2020; however, given the dearth of transportation-related priorities, staff has yet to secure a hotel contract that could commit the agency to upwards of \$25,000 if the trip fails to materialize.

In addition, to date, Fresno COG has received no sponsorship offers, despite two calls for such awards. Finally, presidential election years have in the past proven to be problematic for both trip scheduling and Congressional prioritization.

These conditions lead staff to recommend that the Fresno COG Board cancel the 2020 One Voice program. A call for new priorities would be issued in the November-December 2021 timeframe.

Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) suggested it would be in the best interest to cancel the trip. Mr. Boren (FCOG) stated that our Lobbyist, Simon and Co., is available to help the member agencies at any time.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) motioned and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to cancel the 2020 One Voice trip. The motion passed.

## V. OTHER ITEMS

### A. Items from Staff

- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that a joint presentation will be given to the Policy Board by FCTA and FCOG on the process for the upcoming Measure C renewal. The Policy Board will be asked to appoint an east side and a west side representative to sit on a steering committee.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported about the Homeless impacts at and around the Fresno COG offices and garage which are becoming a public health issue. Fresno COG will be sending a letter to the City of Fresno with regard to the issues.
- Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that former Director Barbara Steck's husband Lou passed away today.
- Ms. Cervantes (FCOG) reported that Form 700s are due to the County Clerk by April.

### B. Items from Members

- Mayor Bessinger (Clovis) reported that a Veterans facility will be built in Clovis for outpatient services. Mayor Bessinger asked if Fresno COG Policy Board would provide a letter of support.
- Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) reported that San Joaquin will be celebrating its centennial with a gala on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

## VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

### A. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned to FCRTA at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

### Public

Sonia De La Rosa, Fresno County  
Michael Navarro, Caltrans  
Monte Cox, Fresno EOC  
Julia Jauregui, Stantec

### Staff:

Robert Phipps  
Kristine Cai  
Seth Scott  
Lang Yu  
Trai Her-Cole  
Jennifer Soliz  
Braden Duran  
Moses Stites  
Janelle Del Campo  
Jeaneen Cervantes