

February 2, 2021

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Technical Committee
Policy Advisory Committee
Fresno COG Policy Board

FROM: Tony Boren, Executive Director
Robert Phipps, Deputy Director
Les Beshears, Finance Director

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021-22 Overall Work Program Recommendations

The Draft FY 2021-22 Overall Work Program, totaling \$35,013,893 is available for Board and public review.

Summary:

The fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$35,013,893, is submitted for Board and public review. The proposed budget increased \$7,229,449 from last year. Operational revenues remain intact, reserves are adequate, and the agency continues to operate within the bounds of prudent management.

The largest part of the increase is attributed to a \$5 million FTA 5339 grant awarded to FCRTA for its maintenance facility. Another significant factor affecting this increase is that the budget contains fully funded multi-year projects, and as these “one-time” funds are spent they are not reflected in subsequent years’ budgets. Generally, operating expenses are not affected this way.

Federal revenues increased 19% percent (\$2 million), mostly associated with the previously mentioned FTA 5339 grant. However, an additional \$1.1 million in FTA 5310 apportionments will also be distributed to transit operators for bus procurement. Kings County Association of Governments, (KCAG) agreed to transfer \$325,000 in FHWA planning funds to perform a Valleywide household travel survey.

State revenues decreased 257 percent (\$4,588,834). The largest portion of this decrease centers around the State Regional Early Action Planning grant (REAP), which this year provided \$10 million to Fresno and Central Valley MPOs to assist local governments with housing plans and produce Valleywide activities for housing as well. Staff anticipates spending approximately \$3 million of that and carrying over the balance into next year’s budget. Staff is submitting an application for an additional \$8 million that hasn’t been reflected in the budget yet. In addition, staff is budgeting for an additional \$350,000 in state RMRA funds contributed by the Valley COGs for the household travel survey.

Local revenues increased 34 percent (\$3,602,406), reflecting draw downs on Measure C funded projects, such as significant progress in the design phase of the Golden State corridor, Fresno State Transportation Institute, and FCRTA electric vehicle purchases.

Staffing & Benefits:

There are no new Fresno COG planning positions included in this year's proposed budget. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases. The overall proposed budget for salaries increased by 4 percent and benefits by 3 percent.

Expense Account Format:

Expense items are broken into two categories. General indirect overhead expenses are items attributable to overall agency administration and not identifiable specifically to grant programs, such as telephones, insurance, copier leases, and rent. These indirect expenses are combined into a Caltrans approved Indirect Cost Allocation Plan and distributed equally among all funding sources. Expenses charged directly to specific grants and programs are identified as other direct costs. In some instances, there may appear to be duplication of costs, such as in the indirect account for printing and the other direct cost account for supplies/printing; however, the difference in how they are administered is in the general nature of overhead expenses, as opposed to the project-specific nature of other direct costs. Detail is provided for other direct costs (*Other Project Detail*) showing the work element, activity, and funding sources.

Overhead Accounts:

Overhead accounts increased by 2 percent (\$9,779 total) reflecting increases in telephone (\$1,000) printing supplies (\$6,000), building maintenance (\$1,000), and leased equipment (\$1,000).

Direct Cost Expenses:

Consulting

The overall consulting budget is \$10.7 million, which is a decrease of \$107,450, corresponding to projects associated with revenue reductions discussed above regarding multi-year projects. New consulting projects are discussed below under the Work Element discussion.

Supplies & Printing

The proposed budget for program-specific printing costs increased \$6,000 associated with our Senior Taxi Scrip program.

Software Support and Maintenance

The software account decreased \$12,844 reflecting upgrades made last year.

Workshops

The workshops budget remains unchanged at \$25,000.

Promotion / Public Outreach

The public outreach budget increased by \$5,000, reflecting specific costs associated with the RTP.

Measure C Carpool Subsidy

The carpool budget remains unchanged.

Prizes & Awards

The budget remains unchanged.

Measure C Commuter Vanpool Subsidy

The budget reduced \$228,000 reflecting reduced activity from the lockdown.

Measure C Senior Scrip

The budget remains unchanged.

Measure C Farm Worker Vanpool Subsidy

The budget decreased \$175,000, reflecting reduced activity from the lockdown.

Employee Education, Training, and Travel

The budget decreased \$500.

FTA Section 5339

This is a new \$10.2 million budget for FCRTA's maintenance facility infrastructure. FCRTA will match the federal funds with \$5.1 million.

FTA Section 5317 New Freedom (NF)

The Jobs Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom grants are all closed out and the program discontinued.

FTA Section 5310 (Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities)

A schedule of Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities projects is included. Completed projects are removed. The account increased \$1.1 million for this year's apportionment that will be awarded to transit agencies for bus procurement.

Translation Services

The budget remains unchanged.

County Counsel

The budget remains unchanged.

Program Audits

The budget increased \$1,168 reflecting contractual provisions.

County Auditor Controller

The budget is unchanged from last year.

Membership Dues

Dues for CALCOG are unchanged.

Board Remuneration

The account reflects the stipend paid for Policy Board members to attend the monthly meeting and various Board travel expenses. The budget for FCOG board remuneration remains unchanged; however, \$12,000 is budgeted to reimburse the Valleywide REAP Committee, which oversees the Valleywide

distribution of \$10 million in REAP housing planning funds.

Temporary Help

The budget remains unchanged.

Other Misc. Expenses

The budget increased \$3,000 for the Senior Taxi Scrip program.

Freeway Service Patrol

The budget remains unchanged.

Equipment

The budget remains unchanged.

Agency Pass Through

This account decreased by \$3.2 million related to the State REAP funds paid to Valley COGs.

Grant Administration

This account carries a provision for grants that have multi-year line items for administration.
The account decreased \$156,826.

New, Combined and Eliminated Work Elements:

New Work Elements

- (WE 164) Inland Port Study
- (WE 165) SJV Household Travel Survey
- (WE 166) Transit On-Board Survey
- (WE 167) Sustainable Communities Grant Program 2021-22

Eliminated Work Elements

- (WE 142) FCRTA Operation Plan
- (WE 143) Reverse Triangle Industrial Plan
- (WE 144) Electric Vehicle
- (WE 146) Better Blackstone Phase I
- (WE 147) County Trail Master Plan
- (WE 149) SB 743 Transp. Impact Analysis

The six primary components of the OWP are as follows:

1. Regional Transportation Planning
2. Transportation Program Development
3. Services and General Coordination Activities
4. Regional Coordination of Transportation, Land Use & Housing
5. Valleywide Coordinated Activities
6. Administrative Activities

Highlights for each of the six OWP components are listed below:

I. Regional Transportation Planning

The work elements contained within this section primarily carry out the long-range regional transportation planning program, for which Fresno COG is statutorily responsible.

Work Element 110 Regional Streets and Highways Planning – This \$24,330 program provides for general street planning but has no major projects this year.

Work Element 111 Regional Transportation Modeling – This \$582,000 program continues the regional modeling effort, including \$160,000 for software and technical modeling support.

Work Element 112 Regional Traffic Monitoring – This \$324,000 budget includes \$237,000 for Fresno County, Fresno, and Clovis to provide traffic counts for the regional program and \$50,000 for traffic counting equipment to accommodate increased traffic counts required for congestion management.

Work Element 114 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – No major update to the ITS Plan is required; however, \$13,000 is budgeted for plan maintenance and continued coordination.

Work Element 115 Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) – This \$111,000 program implements RTMF collection for the Fresno County Transportation Authority, including \$50,000 for on-call technical support.

Work Element 116 National Park Transit Service – This \$760,000 budget provides seasonal public transit service to Yosemite.

Work Element 117 Golden State Corridor – The \$411,000 includes the balance of the Mark Thomas contract to complete the design phase of the Golden State Corridor project. The project is anticipated to be ready to list in 2021.

Work Element 120 Public Transportation – Primarily funded with the City of Fresno's FTA Section 5307 grant, this \$399,000 program coordinates activities between Federal Transit Administration and the four regional transit operators and includes \$122,000 to update the Human Social Services Plan.

Work Element 121 FTA Section 5339, and 5310 – \$12.4 million in Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 and Section 5310 grant programs provide funds for FCRTA maintenance facility and bus procurement for transit operators.

Work Element 140 Regional Safety Plan Phase II – This SB 1 program carries over \$35,000 to complete phase II of the safety plan.

Work Element 148 Regional Safety Plan Phase II – This SB1 program carries over \$101,000 to complete phase I of the safety plan.

Work Element 150 Other Modal Elements – This \$52,000 program coordinates activities related to aviation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Work Element 152 High Speed Rail – About \$3,000 is programmed for staff planning activities related to high-speed rail.

Work Element 153 Airport Land Use Commission – Approximately \$37,000 is programmed for staff as well as a \$10,000 on-call contract to support the Commission.

Work Element 160 Better Blackstone Phase II – About \$234,000 is programmed to complete the Better Blackstone Phase II study.

Work Element 161 Fresno/Madera Sustainable Corridor – Approximately \$60,000 is programmed to complete the Fresno/Madera Rt. 41 study.

Work Element 162 Regional Safety Plan Phase III – This SB1 program carries over \$271,000 to complete phase III of the safety plan.

Work Element 163 Freight Planning – This \$6,000 work element was suggested by CALGRANS during the review period to study regional freight networks.

Work Element 164 Inland Port Study – This \$254,000 work element was proposed by California Forward to identify appropriate locations for inland port distribution centers.

Work Element 165 SJV Household Travel Survey – This \$1.5 million work element coordinates a household travel survey among the Valleywide COGS.

Work Element 166 Transit On-Board Survey – This SB1 program provides \$227,000 for a transit on-board survey.

Work Element 167 Sustainable Communities Planning Grants – This \$233,000 work element reserves State RMRA funding for the 2021-22 Sustainable Communities Planning Grants program. The work element will be updated when projects are selected.

Work Element 170 Regional Transportation Plan – About \$958,000 is budgeted to continue the ongoing RTP process. This includes \$175,000 for an RTP EIR, \$50,000 for legal advice and \$35,000 for workshops, outreach and surveys.

Work Element 171 Transportation Performance Management – Transportation performance management is a federal emphasis area. Approximately \$38,000 is budgeted to develop performance management criteria.

Work Element 172 Congestion Management Program – This \$47,000 budget goes to maintain the Congestion Management Program.

Work Element 180 Air Quality - \$178,000 is programmed for activities associated with air quality conformity, including \$65,000 to San Joaquin COG for interagency coordination of air quality conformity issues.

II. Transportation Program Development

Work Element 210 Measure “C” Extension – This work element programs \$3,509,000 for Measure C activities and to update the Capital Projects Strategic Plan, including New Technologies; a \$900,000 grant to FCRTA for electric vehicles; and \$2,234,000 to Fresno State for the Transportation Institute.

Work Element 211 Measure “C” Citizen Oversight Committee – Approximately \$23,000 is programmed to support the committee.

Work Element 212 Measure “C” Carpool/Vanpool – The \$593,000 budget provides for Carpool Incentives and Commuter Vanpool Subsidies.

Work Element 214 Measure “C” ADA/Seniors – This \$811,000 budget provides for the Senior Scrip program.

Work Element 215 Farmworker Vanpool – This \$529,000 program provides subsidies to agricultural workers for vanpool transportation provided by Cal Vans.

Work Element 220 Transportation Program Development – This work element budgets \$451,000 to coordinate modeling, air quality conformity, congestion management and financial constraint for millions of dollars in member agency projects programmed with federal aid and state-funded grants through the web-based programming software, Fresno Trak.

III. Services and General Coordination

Work Element 310 Intergovernmental Coordination – This \$139,000 budget allows for coordination with member agencies and other governmental units.

Work Element 311 Public Participation – This \$232,000 budget is programmed to solicit public involvement in the Fresno COG planning process.

Work Element 313 Environmental Justice – Approximately \$24,000 is programmed to provide environmental justice analysis for disadvantaged communities and stakeholder groups.

Work Element 320 Technical Assistance – About \$276,000 is budgeted to assist member agencies in planning and project implementation, including continuing the circuit planner and circuit engineer programs, as well as \$50,000 for technical studies.

Work Element 350 Fresno Regional Data Center – Approximately \$35,000 is programmed to maintain census- and population-related statistics vital to the planning process.

Work Element 360 One Voice Advocacy – This budget includes \$133,000 for the “One Voice” trip to Washington DC and “Valley Voice” trips to Sacramento and Washington DC. Advocacy programs at both the local and regional levels are ineligible for state and federal participation and must be funded by local assessments.

IV. Regional Coordination of Transportation, Land Use & Housing

Work Element 420 Regional Housing Needs – Approximately \$77,000 is budgeted to assist local agencies develop their Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements.

Work Element 421 Regional Early Action Plan – Another \$7,117,000 is budgeted to assist Valley agencies meet their RHNA requirements and administer the San Joaquin Valley REAP program.

V. Valleywide Coordinated Activities

Work Element 820 Valley RTPA Coordination – General activities associated with this \$222,000 budget include a \$135,000 consultant contract to coordinate the Valleywide planning effort and interagency coordination.

VI. Administrative Activities

Work Element 910 COG Administration – About \$224,000 is programmed to cover non-federal/state general administration.

Work Element 911 Overall Work Program – Approximately \$69,000 is programmed to develop and monitor the Overall Work Program.

Work Element 912 Transportation Funds Admin – Approximately \$174,000 is programmed to administer Transportation Development Act trust funds, distributing \$60 million in transportation funding to member agencies.

Work Element 920 – 930 Local Agency Administration – About \$641,000 is budgeted to provide administrative support to the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency and Fresno County Transportation Authority.

Work Element 940 Freeway Service Patrol – \$493,000 is budgeted to provide assistance to motorists on the state highway system in Fresno.