

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, September 10, 2021
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

Luke Serpa, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Wilma Quan, City of Fowler
Thomas Esqueda, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Cristian Gonzalez, City of Mendota
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Elizabeth Nunez, City of San Joaquin
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Ms. Quan (Fowler), Vice Chair. With eight members present via Zoom, there was a quorum to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of July 9, 2021 [APPROVE]
- B. City of Parlier 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
- C. City of Mendota 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
- D. City of Orange Cove 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
- E. City of Sanger 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
- F. City of Clovis 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACCEPT]
- G. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Update (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- H. Fresno COG CMAQ and STBG Programs Application Deadline (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2 (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

Mr. Beshears (FCOG) reported that Fresno Council of Governments' 2021-22 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2 decreases the budget \$217,497 to reconcile amounts carried over from the last fiscal year. FHWA Planning funds decreased \$108,406 and FTA 5303 Planning funds decreased \$33,984. Staff transferred local funds in place of the reduced federal funds to keep programmed projects intact across several work elements. In addition, staff also adjusted work elements funded with State Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA-SB 1) funds and FTA 5304. As a result, net local funds programmed in the budget increased \$117,857.

Work Element 120 Public Transportation – Staff shifted local funds totaling \$124,584 to the Human Services Plan update.

Work Element 170 Regional Transportation Plan – Staff adjusted and transferred various federal funds to other work elements, netting out to a change of \$806. Projects programmed in the work element remain unchanged.

Work Element 172 Congestion Management Program – Approximately \$20,000 in local funds were shifted to the Congestion Management Plan Update.

Work Element 148 Regional Safety Study Phase I – The balance of the Kittleson contract was \$103,980, reducing RMRA and local match funds programmed by \$26,061.

Work Element 160 Better Blackstone Design Phase II – The balance of the Fresno Metro Ministries contract was \$83,013, reducing FTA 5304 and local match funds by \$141,575.

Work Element 161 Fresno/Madera Sustainable Corridor Study – The balance of the IBI contract was \$52,332, reducing RMRA and local match funds programmed by \$3,226.

Work Element 162 Regional Safety Study Phase III – The balance of the Kittleson contract was \$225,097, reducing RMRA and local match funds programmed by \$46,565.

Work Element 167 Sustainable Communities Grant Program 2021-22 – The work element was eliminated to transfer \$233,382 in RMRA and local match funds to Work Element 173.

Work Element 173 – Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Program – Approximately \$220,000 is programmed for a consultant to perform the VMT study and \$13,382 for grant administration.

Action: Adopt Resolution 2021-44, approving Fresno COG's 2021-22 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Serpa (Clovis) motioned and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to recommend the Policy Board adopt Resolution 2021-44, approving Fresno COG's 2021-22 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2.

B. Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Program Study (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that SB 743 (2013) requires that level-of-service (LOS), used in measuring transportation impacts in the California Environmental Quality Act, be replaced with another metric that will “promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multi-modal transportation systems and a diversity of land use development.” The state's Office of Planning and Research has selected vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as that metric to replace LOS.

In partnership with multiple stakeholders, Fresno COG developed the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines in 2020, which provides tools for local governments to use in instituting SB 743, should they decide to endorse recommendations in the guidelines. Since July 1, 2020, when SB 743 took effect, many jurisdictions in Fresno County have approved policies regarding SB 743 implementation. Fresno COG has received many requests to conduct VMT analysis based on the procedures recommended in the Regional Guidelines and has run the activity-based model (ABM) to produce VMT results for development projects. However, due to limited mitigation measures with quantifiable VMT reduction credits, it is hard for projects to move forward if the project is found to have a VMT impact that is higher than the established threshold.

A regional VMT mitigation program may be the most effective means of addressing VMT requirements on future development. The proposed VMT mitigation study will explore options such as: a VMT mitigation bank, a VMT mitigation exchange, regional VMT impact fees, etc., and to identify pros and cons for the

various techniques. The study may also establish some framework for instituting such a program. It will serve to reconvene stakeholders and begin the conversation about VMT mitigation, which is a mystery to a many of those in the development realm.

Fresno COG will use SB 1 formula planning funding for the study. It is anticipated that a request for proposals will be distributed in early fall and the study will be completed in a year.

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

C. Sixth Cycle Housing Elements (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) provided a brief update regarding Fresno COG's support for the development of the sixth cycle housing elements.

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

D. State Route 41 South Expressway Funding Strategy (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) provided an update on the funding strategies under discussion for the State Route 41 South Expressway Elkhorn to Excelsior gap closure project.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Triennial Performance Audit Consultant Selection (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- B. Regional Clearinghouse (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]
- C. Amendment to and Restatement of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Memorandum of Understanding -- San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
- D. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Legislative Advocacy Contracts (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]
- E. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Contract with HDR/Calthorpe (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jansons (Kerman) motioned and Ms. Nunez (San Joaquin) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There are no Administrative Action/Discussion items.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Ms. Cai (FCOG) Introduced new staff member Shichen Fan.

B. Items from Members

- Mr. Jansons (Kerman) thanked COG staff for the RTP Outreach workshop.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations –

There were no public presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24am

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Boren

Public:

Karla Martinez, LCJA

Staff:

Kai Han, Braden Duran, Trai Her-Cole, Les Beshears, Kristine Cai, Robert Phipps, Brenda Veenendaal, Jen Soliz, Meg Prince, Peggy Arnest, Santosh Bhattarai, Pankaj Joshi, Shichen Fan, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Jeaneen Cervantes