

**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, February 11, 2022
10:00 AM**

Meeting held via Zoom.

John Holt, City of Clovis
Wilma Quan, City of Fowler
Greg Barfield, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Fernando Santillan, City of Selma
Bernard Jimenez, County of Fresno
David Padilla, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

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

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of January 14, 2021 [APPROVE]
- B. Second Quarterly Financial and Work Element Report (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- C. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- D. Fiscal Year 2022-23 State Transit Assistance (STA) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- E. Fiscal Year 2022-23 State of Good Repair (SGR) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]
- F. Fiscal Year 2021 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report (Jeff Long) [ACTION]
- G. Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Update (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]
- H. Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for Fiscal Year 2022 (Todd Sobrado) [INFORMATION]
- I. New Member Appointment and Re-Appointments for the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]
- J. 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Notice of Funding Availability (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Proposed Methodology (Meg Prince) [DIRECTION]

Ms. Prince (FCOG) reported that Fresno COG, as the council of governments for the Fresno County region, is responsible for developing a methodology to allocate the overall housing need by income tier, as determined by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), to each jurisdiction in the region, in accordance with Government Code Section 65580.

HCD issued Fresno COG its final Regional Determination in December 2021. The Fresno County region's housing need for the planning period of June 2023 to December 2031 totals 58,298 housing units. The final determination was reduced by 7,911 units compared to Fresno COG's draft housing need determination of 66,209 units.

The public comment period for the proposed methodology opened on Feb. 1 and will close March 2. Written comments should be submitted to Meg Prince at mprince@fresnocog.org. A public hearing will be held at the Feb. 24 Fresno COG Policy Board meeting to receive comments.

Fresno COG will solicit input from its committees, which -- along with any public comments received -- will inform any revisions before the draft methodology is submitted to HCD for a comprehensive, 60-day review. The final methodology will return to the TTC, PAC, and Policy Board for approval in spring 2022.

David Early (Placeworks) presented the proposed allocation methodology. The proposed methodology document was provided.

At the TTC meeting the City of Fresno expressed concerns of the proposed methodology. Under the proposed methodology with the cap on the County's units the City of Fresno would receive approximately 64% of the regions housing units. At this time the City did not have specific changes to the methodology.

Discussion by the Committee of the proposed RHNA methodology, with input from the City of Clovis, City of Fresno and County of Fresno. No action taken.

B. 2022 Safety Performance Targets - PM1 (Santosh Bhattarai) [ACTION]

Mr. Bhattarai (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: 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 and Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

MPOs can either choose to support the statewide target or set a separate regional target. In the previous target-setting iterations, Fresno COG set its own targets for 2018 while supporting the statewide targets for 2019 through 2021. This year also, Caltrans set the statewide safety targets using an evidence-based (trendline) approach consistent with the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). There is a 3.61% annual reduction in fatalities and a 1.66% annual increase in serious injuries. The white paper for Caltrans' PM1 2022 Safety Performance Management Target-Setting is attached.

Each year, Fresno COG analyzes the historical datasets and recommends with different target setting options to discuss with the safety committee, which comprises technical staff and safety planners from multiple jurisdictions in Fresno County. The committee convened on Jan. 26 to discuss the appropriate methodology/option, and there was a consensus for supporting the statewide targets for this year.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Barfield (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to recommend the Policy Board support the statewide targets for all five safety performance measures for 2022.

C. Regional VMT Mitigation Program Study Consultant Selection Recommendation (Kristine Cai/Braden Duran) [APPROVE]

Ms. Cai (FCOG) reported that SB 743 requires that level-of-service (LOS), used in measuring transportation impacts in CEQA, be replaced with another metric that will "promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multi-modal transportation system and a diversity of land use development." The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommended VMT as the new metric. Fresno COG developed SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines in 2020, which provides tools for local governments to implement SB 743 should they decide to endorse the recommendations in the guidelines. The SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines document is available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/sb743-regional-guidelines-development/>. Since July 1, 2020, when SB 743 took effect, many jurisdictions in Fresno County have taken action to approve policies regarding SB 743 implementation.

Owing to a lack of clear guidance, VMT mitigation remains an outstanding issue within SB 743 implementation. Projects with significant VMT impacts can't move forward due to a lack of defined, quantifiable and feasible mitigation measures. A regional-level VMT mitigation program may be the most effective means of providing pathways for VMT mitigation. This study will review literatures and best practices regarding VMT mitigation, and explore options such as a VMT mitigation bank, VMT mitigation exchange, regional VMT impact fees, etc. The study

will identify pros and cons for the various techniques, and establish a framework for a potential regional VMT mitigation program in the Fresno region.

Fresno COG released an RFP for the study in December 2021 and received three proposals. An interview panel that comprised Fresno COG, City of Clovis, City of Fresno, Fresno County, and representatives from the eastside cities (Reedley) and the westside cities (Kerman) conducted interviews for the consultant teams on Jan. 31. The interview panel unanimously recommended that Kimley-Horn be selected. Kimley-Horn has extensive experience and knowledge in SB 743. The firm has prepared SB 743 policies, guidelines and VMT mitigation solutions for over 20 jurisdictions in the state and have a history of successfully implementing complex fee programs.

The study scope was provide. The project is expected to kick off in early March, and be completed in early 2023.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter into a contract with Kimley-Horn for an amount not to exceed \$219,905.61 to conduct the Regional VMT Mitigation Program Study.

D. Golden State Boulevard Project Contract and Cooperative Agreement Amendment (Jennifer Soliz) [APPROVE]

Ms. Soliz (FCOG) reported that in April 2016, Fresno COG contracted with Mark Thomas for design engineering services on the Golden State Boulevard (GSB) project as approved in the Measure C expenditure plan. The GSB project has progressed to the 100% design phase.

After design reviews with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), additional work not included in the original scope was required. This included: new irrigation controllers, new lighting to address safety, signal warrant memos for multiple intersections, traffic signal designs, adding sidewalks and acceleration lanes, geometric designs and revisions for various intersections, separate plans for the Class 1 bicycle trail, and additional coordination with UPRR.

This additional work will result in a \$240,132 increase to the Mark Thomas contract for a total contract cost of \$4.6 million. Fresno COG will also need to increase its funding cooperative agreement with Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) by the same amount to a new total of \$5.9 million.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Barfield (Fresno City) motioned and Mr. Santillan(Selma) seconded to recommend the following actions: 1) The Policy Board approve a \$240,132 increase to the Mark Thomas contract for design engineering of tasks that were not included in the original scope of the Golden State Boulevard contract. 2) The Policy Board approve the \$240,132 increase to the cooperative funding agreement with FCTA.

E. 2022-23 Draft Overall Work Program and Budget (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Mr. Phipps (FCOG) reported that the fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$46.1 million, is submitted for public review.

The proposed budget increased \$10.4 million from last year, primarily from \$7.8 million in anticipated funding from the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program. In addition, Fresno COG member agencies agreed to contribute \$2 million to fund a multijurisdictional housing element. The budget contains fully funded, multi-year projects, and as these “one-time” funds are spent they are not reflected in subsequent years’ budgets.

Federal revenues decreased less than 1 percent (\$55,000). The budget also includes a new \$1 million federal Accelerator Grant to provide for phase three of the California Inland Port. Meanwhile, FTA 5310 apportionments decreased \$771,000, reflecting buses that were procured and distributed to transit operators last year.

State revenues increased 80 percent, primarily due to the REAP grant.

Local revenues increased 17 percent (\$2.4 million), largely due to financial commitments for the multijurisdictional housing element.

Staffing & Benefits – There are no new Fresno COG planning positions included in this year’s proposed budget however, a number of positions turned over last year reflecting younger employees at lower salary and benefit

rates. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases. The overall proposed budget for salaries increased by 3 percent and benefits by 1 percent.

Consulting – The overall consulting budget is \$14.5 million, an increase of \$3.4 million. New consulting projects are discussed in detail in the full summary attached to the agenda.

Staff will accept comments on the OWP and budget in March/April and return for approval of the final document in May.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jimenez (Fresno County) motioned and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to recommend the Policy Board release the draft 2022-23 Overall Work Program and budget for public review.

F. Measure C Renewal Update (Tony Boren) [INFORMATION]

Mr. Boren (FCOG) reported that the TWG adopted a basic framework of the expenditure plan. The Executive Committee continues to deal with policy issues. Mr. Boren emphasized that the need for member agencies attend and participate in the meetings.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

There were no Administrative Consent Items

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Administrative Action/Discussion Items

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

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 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren

Public:

David Early, Placeworks
Andrea Howard
Cynthia Baruch, NASL

Staff:

Kai Han, Braden Duran, Les Beshears, Kristine Cai, Robert Phipps, Brenda Veenendaal, Jennifer Soliz, Meg Prince, Santosh Bhattarai, Pankaj Joshi, Shichen Fan, Moses Stites, Janelle Del Campo, Todd Sobrado, Jeaneen Cervantes