



**Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, August 28, 2024
2:00 PM**

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Michelle Roman)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roman at 2:02 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL (Denise Flores)

Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
Soo Ho Park, City of Fowler
Jill Gormley, City of Fresno
Virgina Penaloza, City of Huron
Jesus Gonzalez, City of Kerman
Michael Osborn, City of Mendota
Dario Dominguez, City of Orange Cove
Gelasio Rodriguez, City of Parlier
Marilu Morales, City of Reedley
Derek Sylvester, City of Sanger
Jerome Keene, City of Selma
Erin Haagenson, County of Fresno
Eric McLaughlin, SJV Air Pollution District
Brian Spaunhurst, Fresno LAFCo
Christopher Xiong, Caltrans
Greg Barfield, City of Fresno FAX
Amy Hance, City of Clovis Transit
Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA
Babeeta Nagra, PG & E
Laura Gromis, US Green Building Council
Adam Livingston, Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Matthew Gillian, Inspiration Transportation
Nick Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Anthony Molina, Public Health Advocate
Jose Gutierrez, Westlands Water District
Darren Cousineau, State Center Community College District
Samuel Molina, Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee
Terri Figgs, League of Women Voters of Fresno
Michelle Roman, Public-at-Large
Paul Marquez, Public-at-Large
Michelle Lopez, Public-at-Large

31 members were present. Simple majority is 16.5.

II. NEW INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Approve Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2024 [ACTION]

After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Barfield (FAX) motioned, and Mr. Paladino (Fresno Cycling Club) seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

Vote: All in Favor, no opposed. The motion passed.

B. Project Evaluation Criteria Approval (Ofelia Abundez) [ACTION]

Summary: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Programming Technical Working Group developed an RTP Project Evaluation Criteria Focus Group to discuss in-depth revisions and updates to the 2026 RTP Project Evaluation Criteria. The 2026 Project Evaluation Criteria will be used to score the priority of projects submitted during the RTP Call for Projects process that will begin on October 1st, 2024 in terms of forecasted funding available through the sunset year of the RTP (2049). The RTP Programming Technical Working group met on three separate occasions, July 23rd, August 1st and August 13th.

The RTP Programming Technical Working Group consisted of representatives from Fresno, Clovis, Fresno County, a rural westside representative, a rural eastside representative, a transit representative, Caltrans, as well as a few representatives from various non-governmental organizations with interest in bike/ped, air quality, health, and transportation equity. The RTP Programming Technical Working Group collaborated on the revisions made and are in agreement with the totality of the revised document.

Highlights of the revisions made include:

Revisions to the project topic score weight

Updated the Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity question based on feedback from the Programming Technical Working Group

Removed Climate Adaptation question 9 from the Road-Capacity Increasing category

The rephrased several questions in several categories

The remaining revisions were mostly grammatical in nature; word choice, sentence structure, clarifications, etc.

It is important to note that this criteria will be used solely to determine a project's ranking in the RTP in terms of projected funding; not actual funding available during a program Call-for-Projects. The criteria will be used to create the RTP's constrained and unconstrained list of projects.

The RTP Programming Technical Working Group recommended approval of the 2026 RTP project evaluation criteria.

Action: Staff recommends that the RTP Roundtable recommend approval of the final draft of the 2026 RTP Project Evaluation Criteria to the TTC/PAC and COG Policy Board.

- Ofelia Abundez (FCOG) gave a PowerPoint presentation.
- Discussion ensued.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Burnett (Clovis) motioned, and Ms. Morales (Reedley) seconded to approve the motion to include "innovation concepts and new technology considered".

Vote: All others in Favor, Laura Gromis (US Green Building Council) and Dr. Anthony Molina (Public Health Advocate) opposed. The motion passed.

C. Review Vision Statement, Goals and Policies (Simran Jhutti) [INFORMATION]

Summary: California Government Code Section 65080 requires each RTP to include a Policy Element that describes the transportation issues in the region, regional needs, and is consistent with the Financial Element. The Policy Element is one of the first components of the RTP to be developed, and its purpose is to identify legislative, planning, financial and institutional issues and requirements, as well as any areas of regional consensus. Staff will present Fresno COG's Vision Statement, Goals, and Policies that form the Policy Element for the RTP/SCS and will ask for input on any possible changes that Roundtable members may have.

Action: Information Only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Roundtable.

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) reported on the Vision Statement, Goals, and Policies.
- Ms. Roman, Chair, called for questions.

This item is informational only, no action is needed.

D. RTP Community Survey Results (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) contracted with Rea & Parker, a qualified consultant with substantial experience in designing and conducting opinion surveys to conduct research within the Fresno County region. They were direct to enlist survey participants reflective of the county's demographics, including the non-English speaking populations, from urban and rural areas of the region. They asked participants to rank defined values and transportation funding priorities and develop the findings report.

The survey data collected informs the Fresno COG Regional Transportation Plan by identifying and ranking Fresno County residents' transportation spending priorities and their community values. The survey findings will be presented at the meeting by Rea & Parker associates.

Action: Information Only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Roundtable.

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) introduced Lou Rea & Richard Parker with Rea & Parker who gave a PowerPoint presentation.
- Ms. Roman, Chair, called for questions.

This item is informational only, no action is needed.

E. Fall 2024 RTP Community Outreach Overview (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]

Summary: This outreach effort is designed to gather transportation project suggestions from our region's residents via hard copy or online survey. It will be conducted from September 13 through October 31 to assist member agencies with community outreach prior to responding to the RTP call-for-projects December 1 deadline, and to provide an opportunity for community members to participate early in the RTP planning process.

For this community engagement effort, the four mini-grants, under the guidance of Fresno COG's public outreach consultant, Southwest Strategies, will assist Fresno COG using several strategies:

- Online community survey available in English, Spanish, Punjabi and Hmong
- E-newsletters
- Social media posts and ad purchases in English and Spanish, Punjabi and Hmong as needed
- Flyers and fact sheets that include QR code links to the surveys in all languages
- Requests to members agencies, transit agencies, the RTP Roundtable membership and other government and community agencies to share social posts, emails, flyers with their contacts
- Booths at community events across the county
- Virtual and in-person meetings and workshop to present the RTP Update and the survey opportunity

COG will forward all project suggestions to corresponding local agencies for review and consideration prior to their RTP project submittal's due date. The list of projects and location mapping will be available to the public on Fresno COG's PlanFresno.com website on or before November 15.

Action: Informational Only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Roundtable.

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) introduced Rachel Audino who gave a PowerPoint presentation.
- Ms. Roman, Chair, called for questions.

This item is informational only, no action is needed.

III. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Paul Herman (FCOG) noted the upcoming Meeting Dates:
 - September 25, 2024
 - October 23, 2024
 - November 20, 2024
 - **Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings:**
 - Environmental Justice Subcommittee – September 18th, 2024, at 1:30pm

B. Items from Members

There were no items from members.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Proxys and Members of the Public:

Kamara Biawogi, City of Selma
Jeffrey Martin, County of Fresno
Edgar Hernandez, Caltrans
Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Patrick Turner, Inspiration Transportation
Kacey Auston-Tibbetts, Public-at-large

FCOG Staff:

Paul Herman, Robert Phipps, Denise Flores, Brenda Thomas, Simran Jhutti, Shichen Fan, Ofelia Abundez.