**Measure C Extension - Citizen Oversight Committee**

**Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

**Purpose and Composition**

The Measure C Expenditure Plan allocates proceeds from the half-cent sales tax, approved by Fresno County voters, to a range of transportation programs. Currently, Measure C is in its second twenty-year cycle of transportation development for Fresno County, known as the “Measure C Extension.” Fresno County residents can be assured that these funds continue to support the construction and maintenance of highways, streets, and roads in Fresno County and its 15 incorporated cities. In addition to these projects, Measure C provides funding for local and regional public transportation needs through specified programs.

To ensure public transparency, Measure C mandates a committee of thirteen Fresno County residents to annually evaluate the actual and planned expenditures of the agencies that receive Measure C funding. This Citizen Oversight Committee represents our county population as follows:

* One member from each of the five supervisorial districts
* One member from the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area (4 appointments / 1 vacancy)
* Seven members who represent community organizations (5 appointments / 1 vacancy)

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) appoints committee members to four-year terms, with no member serving more than eight years. Staggered terms ensure continuity of experience and knowledge among the committee members.

The Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) meets the second Thursday of the month from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Fresno COG office complex. Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes can be found at <http://agendas.fresnocog.org/agenda/search/0/2>**.**

**Committee Scope for 2023-2024**

The Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) is responsible for reviewing and approving the use of local Measure C pass-through funds by cities, the County, the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), and the Fresno Council of Governments (COG). These funds are designated for specific program categories:

* Regional Public Transit Program
* Local Transportation Program
* Regional Transportation Program

However, the COC does not review or approve Measure C funds related to the following categories:

* Alternative Transportation Program
* Environmental Enhancement Program
* Administration/Planning Program

These additional program areas are reviewed and approved directly by the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) and/or the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA).

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Performance**

The COC met 7 times during fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, to carry out the following tasks: accept, review, evaluate, recommend, receive, and monitor Measure C plans and expenditures:

* Measure C Extension's operating budget for 2023-2024
* Measure C Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee budget for 2023-2024
* Actual expenditures made by agencies receiving Measure C Extension funds
* Projects proposed by the agencies receiving Measure C Extension funds, reviewed for fiscal compliance
* Informational updates
* Investment of Measure C Extension funds
* Action on unanticipated items of voter interest

**Measure C Original Operating Budget 2023-2024**

The Original Measure C budget had no estimated sales tax revenue during the fiscal year due to the Original Measure's expiration in 2007. However, it was estimated to gain $1,100,000 in interest revenue, which will be used to fund the remaining Measure C Urban and Rural Regional projects. This reserve, accumulated over 20 years of the Original Measure C, will fund a transition to the Extension Measure or cover FCTA close-out costs if a subsequent Extension Measure is not accepted by voters.

The use of these funds to cover the administrative costs of ongoing Measure C projects aligns with their intended purpose.

**Measure C Extension Operating Budget 2023-2024**

The California Department of Finance annually estimates the anticipated proceeds of the Measure C Extension sales tax. Together with investment interest, the estimated proceeds define the Measure C Extension fiscal year operating budget. The Department of Finance estimated total proceeds at $112,421,541 for fiscal year 2023-2024. An added interest amount of $6,500,000 resulted in a total estimated operating budget of $118,921,541. This revenue estimate reflects a conservative 3% increase from 2022-2023 actual revenues**.**

**Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Operating Budget 2023-2024**

The Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) is part of the Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan. It requires that new development pay its fair share for road improvements. Mitigation fee amounts are based on the traffic impacts of these new developments. The COC received the 2022-2023 RTMF budget information in July 2023.

The proposed RTMF operating budget for 2023-2024 was estimated at $50,576,253, which includes the following sources:

* Uncommitted RTMF Fund Balance: $11,012,253
* Estimated RTMF Fee Revenue: $6,300,000
* Estimated RTMF Interest Revenue: $62,370
* Measure C - RTMF Loan Program: $33,381,630

Total: $50,576,253

These funds are available to pay costs as they come due for ongoing contracts.

**Measure C Extension Environmental Enhancement Program - School Bus Replacement Subprogram Round 7**

The Committee reported that Measure C SBRP had available funding of $7,543,831.55. This balance was sufficient to fund another round of school bus replacements.

The round 7 included 19 buses for a total Measure C commitment of $4,739,642.96.

Additional funding was approved on August 16, 2023, in the amount of $3,297,395.13 for round 7A, which will replace an additional 13 buses.

**FCTA Budget and Expenditure Reports for Fiscal 2022-2023**

Budget recommendations and expenditure reports from all cities within the county and associated agencies were reviewed and accepted by the Measure C COC.

**Measure C New Technology Reserve Grant Program – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Grant Applications**

Fresno COG receives annual Measure C applications for new technology funding initiatives. The grant scoring committee, Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG), meets to interview applicants and discuss applications. The committee recommends funding projects to Fresno COG. A Measure C committee member was elected to sit on the MAG.

The COC received status reports from the following grant program participants:

* Fresno County Rural Transit Agency

**Fresno State New Technology**

This program aims to provide professional development in new transportation technologies for undergraduates and graduates. These courses partner with local agencies with technical expertise to assist in securing grants, establishing innovative research, increasing public awareness and expectations for advanced multimodal and transit systems throughout Fresno County.

**Regional Transportation Planning (RTP)**

A Measure C COC representative was elected to sit on the Fresno COG’s RTP roundtable, with projects feeding into the Measure C Expenditure Plan. The committee was kept updated by regular reports on the outcomes of the RTP meetings. The citizen oversight committee has one representative and one alternate to keep the committee informed.

**Measure C Finance & Audits**

The FCTA retained the accounting firm Price Paige and Company to perform audits for the fiscal year. The COC was informed by Denise DiBenedetto of the Fresno County Transportation Authority of the audit results. Many questions were asked and answered, and the firm found no material weaknesses concerning internal control over financial reporting and no instances of non-compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements.

**Traditional Transportation**

Fiscal year 2023-2024 was an exciting year. Measure C continues to exceed its original transportation goals set forth in 2007, with significant progress made in these key areas:

* Widening of Willow Ave. (Completed)
* BNSF Grade Separation (Design and ROW Phase)
* Veterans Boulevard (Completed)
* Route 41 Elkhorn to Excelsior (Expected completion date Spring 2026)
* Goldens State Blvd Corridor Project (Phase 1 Design is estimated to be completed 12/2024 and the Construction Phase has begun.)

**Transit Programs**

It was another successful year for programs supported through Measure C funding. The Commuter Vanpool Program provided subsidies for 22 new vanpools, along with supporting the existing 37 vanpools.

The Ag Vanpool Program also saw significant use. This program continuously helps the agricultural community in Fresno County with the cost of ride sharing and worker Vanpools.

The Senior Scrip Program delivered reliable and affordable transportation to Fresno County residents aged 70 and older, reducing their transportation costs by up to 75%.

**Strategic Foresight by Fresno County**

Thanks to the visionary support of Fresno County voters, funds are designated for critical transportation needs, ensuring that Fresno County maintains a robust and competitive transportation infrastructure. Measure C provides additional revenue to leverage federal and state projects, allowing the county to participate in many initiatives that might otherwise be scaled back due to insufficient funding.

The Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee is made up of dedicated Fresno County citizen volunteers. Our members continue to strongly support the Measure C Extension Plan's guiding principle: “Promises Made, Promises Kept.” The COC is dedicated to serving the residents of Fresno County by ensuring transparency in all Measure C activities. We welcome constructive comments, feedback, and questions.

Please join us as we move forward to a safer, more efficient transportation future.

**Sincerely,**

Shannon Avilla, MS
Chair of the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee

Honorable Mentions in the preparation of this annual report.

Mr. Louis Herrera

Mr. Dave Martin

People interested in being part of the Measure C Extension's Citizen Oversight Committee should contact Fresno Council of Governments at:

Fresno Council of Governments

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