



**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, October 11, 2024
10:00 AM**

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

Andy Haussler, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Thomas Gaffery, City of Fowler
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Matthew Flood, City of San Joaquin
Fernando Santillan, City of Selma
Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG
Moses Stites, FCRTA

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Jansons (Kerman), Chair. With 7 members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Lorena Mendibles reported on the following:

- Clean California projects:
 - SR 41 Tulare/Divisadero
 - Tree planting on October 19th at 10am.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of September 13, 2024 [APPROVE]**
- B. Transportation Development Act 2023-24 Surplus (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- C. Master Fund Transfer Agreement with Caltrans (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- D. FTA Award - FYs 2022 and 2023 5310 Vehicle Purchases and Transit Operating Service (Matthew Shimizu) [APPROVE]**
- E. FTA Award - FY23 5339(b) Selma Maintenance Facility Phase II Electric Charging Infrastructure (Matthew Shimizu) [APPROVE]**
- F. Final Quarter Obligational Authority Update (Jennifer Rodriguez) [INFORMATION]**
- G. FCOG 2025 Meeting Calendar (Denise Flores) [ACTION]**

- Mr. Jansons called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned, and Mr. Haussler (Clovis) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-G as presented.

**All in Favor, no opposed.
Motion passed.**

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Measure C Expenditure Plan Update – Rural Project List (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**

Summary: The Measure C 2007 ballot created urban and rural capital projects funds for major regional street and highway infrastructure projects. The Rural Tier I list included a project to connect Interstate 5 to State Route 180. Several alignments were investigated in a planning study conducted by FCOG and a 23-mile corridor was designated between Mendota and Interstate 5. The designated corridor includes an environmentally sensitive area where 14.5 miles of proposed roadway presently does not exist. A 2006 cost estimate of \$305 million has been carried in the Expenditure Plan since 2009, however anticipated revenues have never been enough to cover the estimated cost, so the project was programed in the last year of the measure resulting in a deficit that has averaged between \$200 – \$220 million. More recently a Project Study Report completed by Caltrans in 2023 indicates the project could cost \$316 million. The current measure expires in 2027 and while efforts are underway to extend it into the future there are no guarantees, therefore the project is clearly undeliverable within the existing life of the Measure without a significant contribution from some yet to be identified source. It is therefore appropriate to consider substituting \$75 – \$100 million in deliverable projects against the Rural residual balance. The enabling legislation allows FCOG to amend the Expenditure Plan to include new projects with an affirmative vote by both the FCOG and Transportation Authority boards, however it stipulates priority should be given to the intent of the projects promised to the voters in 2007, therefore the projects should;

- Be on or related to projects on the Tier I and Tier II list approved by the voters in 2007
- Facilitate regional connectivity to Interstate 5

Staff has conferred with Caltrans to identify four projects meeting these criteria.

- Passing Lane on State Route 33 between Mendota and Firebaugh - \$16 million
- Passing Lane on State Route 180 between Kerman and Mendota – \$16 million
- Passing Lane on State Route 198 between Kings County Line and Interstate 5 – \$9 million
- Widen State Route 145 North of Whitesbridge connecting to State Route 180 – \$5 million

FCOG staff met with the Transportation Authority staff, Caltrans, and the rural Westside Mayors to discuss the appropriateness of swapping these projects out with the State Route 180/Interstate 5 project. Various alternatives were discussed including:

- Improvements to Manning Avenue and State Route 145 between San Joaquin and Kerman.
- A Round-bout to address a safety issue at State Route 33 and Manning Avenue
- A Safety Issue on State Route 33 near the high school in Mendota
- A bike/pedestrian trail proposal to connect Westside cities

There has been no preliminary engineering or cost estimates for any of these additional projects. Caltrans agreed to explore the safety issues related to State Route 33/Manning Avenue and State Route 33 in Mendota and if appropriate initiate projects that may be eligible for state funding.

The current estimated cost of the four recommended projects is \$46 million, which does not fully program the Rural residual balance however these cost estimates could increase and the Transportation Authority presently has three major priority projects totaling \$218 million in various phases of project development and design and approaching construction in the next two years that could also experience cost increase. Those priority projects are Golden State Boulevard Corridor, the State Route/American Avenue Interchange, and State Route 41 Excelsior Expressway. In light of recent inflationary pressures, Staff recommends leaving a prudent reserve to cover unexpected cost increases until these projects are bid and substantially complete.

however, the meeting with the Rural Westside Mayors, they expressed a request to develop a list of additional priority project to be discussed in the future that could also be appropriate for discussions regarding the proposed extension of Measure C, however there was unanimous support for moving forward with the four recommended projects.

Action: Staff recommends the board adopt Resolution 2024-36 authorizing an amendment to the Measure C Regional Transportation Program Expenditure Plan and recommend the Transportation Authority add the following projects to the Rural Tier I list.

- Passing Lane on State Route 33 between Mendota and Firebaugh -\$16 million
 - Passing Lane on State Route 180 between Kerman and Mendota – \$16 million
 - Passing Lane on State Route 198 between Kings County Line and I5 – \$9 million
 - Widen State Route 145 North of Whitesbridge connecting to State Route 180 – \$5 million
- Les Beshears (FCOG) gave an update on the Measure C Expenditure Plan.
 - After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) motioned, and Mr. Jansons (Kerman) seconded to approve the item as presented.

**All in Favor, no opposed.
Motion passed.**

B. Cooperative Agreement with Fresno County Transportation Authority for the 2026 Measure C Expenditure Plan (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG and the Fresno County Transportation Authority have a long history of working cooperatively in all things related to Measure C, whose enabling legislation provides that the regional transportation planning agency (Fresno COG) shall develop the expenditure plan for the ballot measure.

To that end, FCTA has requested that Fresno COG hire a project manager, a survey firm, public outreach firm and a facilitator to convene the executive committee overseeing the expenditure plan.

These contracts will be funded pursuant to a cooperative agreement for \$1.75 million between the FCTA and Fresno COG. FCTA will propose approving the same cooperative agreement in December; however, to avoid losing additional time, staff will begin issuing requests for proposals for these activities. Two actions are required:

Action: Recommend the Board authorize the executive director to sign a cooperative agreement for \$1.75 million with FCTA.

Action: Recommend the Board authorize and amendment to the 2023-24 Overall Work Program and budget to increase Work Element 210 – Measure C Planning by \$1.75 million.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported on the plan.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Zieba (Reedley) motioned to move forward, and Mr. Flood (San Joaquin) seconded to approve the motion as presented.

**All in Favor, no opposed.
Motion passed.**

C. 2026 Regional Transportation Plan Call-for-Projects (Ofelia Abundez) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) call-for-projects started on Oct. 1 and will end on Dec. 1. Fresno COG staff held a workshop on Sept. 25, to guide member agencies on submitting new projects and modifying existing, carried-over projects through FresnoTrak. Members also received instructions on the scoring process. Instructions and the workshop recording were emailed to all member agencies. Fresno COG staff will send friendly reminders about the deadline and encourage member agencies to reach out with any questions.

Action: Information and discussion. The Committee may provide additional direction at its discretion.

- Ofelia Abundez (FCOG) reported on the call for projects for the 2026 RTP plan.

Information item only. No action needed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Regional Clearinghouse Calendar (Ofelia Abundez) [Information]

Summary: Your agenda package includes this month’s Clearinghouse Calendar containing “Project Notification and Review Reports” for grant proposal.

1. **USDA Rural Development**

Project Subject to Review:

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW REPORT

Regional Clearinghouse Number: #10-2024-288
Project Title: USDA Rural Development
Applicant Agency: City of San Joaquin
Contact Person: Nancy Banda
Address: P.O. Box 758 San Joaquin, CA 93660
Phone: 559-693-4311
Federal Catalog#: 10.766
Status: New
Area of Impact: San Joaquin, CA
Federal Funding Agency: USDA Rural Development

Applicant	Federal Funds	State	Total Funds
City of San Joaquin	\$692,389.69	\$230,796.56	\$923,186.25

The Regional Clearinghouse is a process of informing local agencies of Federal grant requests, providing an opportunity to comment, and potentially avoid duplication of effort. Clearinghouse items are brought before the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and, if appropriate, the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) for review and comment. Any resulting TTC/PAC comments, and any comments received from other agencies as a result of the Clearinghouse notification process, are noted on a monthly report brought forward to the Fresno COG Policy Board.

COG Policy Board action authorizes staff to forward any comments received to the State Clearinghouse and other appropriate agencies. The applicants have been notified of this meeting. While participation by the agency is optional, they have been personally requested to attend the Policy Board meeting in case there should be any questions. Project notification and review reports describing these projects are attached.

Action: Per Board procedure, unless an item is pulled from the Consent Calendar, tacit authorization is given for staff to forward any comment(s) received, or any Committee/Board comment(s) generated as a result of this informational item, to the appropriate agency.

B. San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program -- Objective Design Standards Study Contract Award (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG serves as the fiscal agent for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Committee, which is responsible for distributing nearly \$19 million in state housing planning funds. Those funds are intended to assist member jurisdictions and regional planning agencies prepare for the sixth-cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and housing element update process.

To date, approximately \$5.5 million has been reserved for tasks, activities and deliverables intended of a Valleywide scope and benefit among all eight counties.

Phase two of Valleywide activities, tasks and deliverables involves technical assistance work with several consultant firms to assist San Joaquin Valley jurisdictions with different components of their housing element updates. Fresno COG is proposing a San Joaquin Valley Objective Design Standards Study and Guidebook as the last major deliverable in the Valleywide program.

Fresno COG and REAP program manager Sigala, Inc. issued a request for proposals for the study from the remaining consultants already contracted to offer technical assistance under the program. Staff and consultant Michael Sigala selected Raimi Associates from the three proposals received, which also included Mintier-Harnish and Precision

Engineering. Raimi's \$89,270 proposal demonstrated the architectural elements and understanding that Fresno COG was seeking, as well as the tight timeline restrictions.

Action: Staff requests the PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the interim executive director to sign a contract with Raimi Associates for the San Joaquin Valley Objective Design Standards Study for an amount not to exceed \$89,270 through Dec. 31, 2024.

C. San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program -- Multijurisdictional Housing Element Budget Augmentation and Amendment (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG serves as the fiscal agent for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Committee, which is responsible for distributing nearly \$19 million in state housing planning funds. Those funds are intended to assist member jurisdictions and regional planning agencies prepare for the sixth-cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and housing element update process.

The Valleywide Objective Design Standards Study contract proposed in the agenda item above represents the final deliverable in the scope of Valleywide products under the SJV REAP program. REAP funding has a Dec. 31, 2024 deadline for expenditure.

With nearly \$2.9 million remaining available to SJV jurisdictions, Fresno COG is proposing to use the remainder of Valleywide REAP funding to offset local jurisdictions' expenses to date for costs related to housing element updates throughout the Valley. Fresno COG estimates its share of those funds at approximately \$900,000.

Following its memorandum of understanding with Fresno COG for the regional multi-jurisdictional housing element (MJHE), the City of Fresno used Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) funds at the outset to cover early MJHE-related expenses until Fresno COG began covering MJHE invoices fully in July 2023.

Because LEAP funds are ineligible for reimbursement, the City of Fresno is requesting an amendment to PlaceWorks' contract totaling \$49,554 to prepare the errata document, address additional rounds of review from the Department of Housing and Community Development, and to include a small contingency.

This approach will ensure — to the extent possible — that all housing element-related costs for all jurisdictions are 100% covered by State funds.

Action: Staff request the PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the interim executive director to amend PlaceWorks' MJHE contract, increasing the total by \$49,554 to \$2,218,892.

- Mr. Jansons called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Haussler (Clovis) motioned, and Mr. Santillan (Selma) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-C as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2025 Fresno COG One Voice Advocacy Trip to Washington D.C. (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG's One Voice effort brings together multiple agencies, jurisdictions and transportation stakeholders to rally around an approved list of policy issues and/or funding requests. After a five-year hiatus, the One Voice effort was revived earlier this year with a public-private delegation visiting Congressional and federal departmental representatives in Washington, D.C. to pursue funding, grant opportunities and policy changes. One Voice delegates agreed that the advocacy trip was successful and should be scheduled annually, once again.

Some of Fresno COG's partnering agencies, including the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Workforce Development Board and Westlands Water District, have expressed an interest in participating in a 2025 One Voice effort. However, staff seeks the Policy Advisory Committee's assistance in identifying regional transportation related issues or

projects that could be carried to D.C. next spring. Staff also seeks the PAC's recommendation to the Policy Board that they approve staff's request to move forward with One Voice D.C. Advocacy trip planning.

With anticipation, staff is developing a Regional Priority Submittal Form, which could be released to the public this month. Any public or private entity is welcome to submit a priority for consideration by the One Voice Steering Committee and the Fresno COG Policy Board. Submitting entities must commit to sending or assigning a representative to Washington D.C. with the delegation to speak on the priorities' behalf. The trip will tentatively be set for late Spring 2025.

The 2024 Priorities Summary and additional trip information is available here: [Fresno COG's One Voice Webpage](#).

Action: Staff requests that the PAC recommend the Policy Board approve staff's request to move forward with One Voice 2025 Advocacy Trip planning.

- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Jansons (Kerman) motioned, and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to approve the item as presented.

**All in Favor, no opposed.
Motion passed.**

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) – the October meeting will be moved to October 24th.

B. Items from Members

- Nicole Zieba (Reedley) announced that the Disaster Counsel meets every quarter. The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2024, in Reedley.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director

Public:

Terry Ogle

Staff:

Denise Flores, Robert Phipps, Jennifer Rodriguez, Brenda Thomas, Janelle Del Campo, Ofelia Abundez, Les Beshears, Matthew Shimizu, Moses Stites, Harold Sobrado, Jeff Long, Kai Han, Pankaj Joshi.