



**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, February 14, 2025
10:00 AM**

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

Andrew Haussler, City of Clovis
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Thomas Gaffery, City of Fowler
Nicholas Mascia, City of Fresno
Virginia Penaloza, City of Huron
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Dario Dominguez, City of Orange Cove
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Jerome Keene, City of Selma
David Deel, 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 11 members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

David Deel reported on the following:

- The draft OWP for review on February 28th.
- Planning grant review. Awarding in June/July.
- FTA priority Survey Feb. 18-25th.
- Engagement Portal <https://engage.dot.ca.gov/portal/e6654>

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of January 17, 2025 [APPROVE]**
- B. City of Clovis FY 2024-2025 TDA Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- C. Fiscal Year 2024 Productivity Evaluation (Jeff Long) [ACTION]**
- D. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- E. Fiscal Year 2025-26 State Transit Assistance (STA) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- F. Fiscal Year 2025-26 State of Good Repair (SGR) Preliminary Estimates (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- G. Chairman, New Member Appointment, Re-Appointments to the FCOG Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]**
- H. Regional Transportation Plan Project Suggestions Community Summary (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]**
- I. 2025-2026 FCOG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Kick-Off (Harold Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**

- Mr. Jansons called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- Robert Phipps (FCOG) pulled item D from the consent list to inform the committee that the attachment was incorrect. A copy of the correct attachment was handed out.

Item D is an informational item, no action needed.

- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned, and Mr. Keene (Selma) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-I excluding D as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2025 Regional Active Transportation Program Recommendations (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

Summary: Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds are separated into three main components: the statewide competitive program, the small, urban- and rural-area competitive program (managed by the State), and the large, urbanized area competitive program [managed by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)] – also known as the Regional Competitive ATP. The program encourages active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Large MPOs such as Fresno COG have the option of developing their own policies, procedures and project selection criteria that differ from those the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted, provided the CTC approves them. The Fresno COG Policy Board approved the revised regional ATP guidelines on Sept. 26, 2024, which included the augmentation of Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) funding.

The state initiated its seventh cycle ATP call-for-projects from March 21 through June 17, 2024. The Fresno region submitted 10 applications with a total project cost of \$50.47 million. All applications were also eligible for the regional program. Agencies were encouraged to apply to the state competitive program but had the option to submit applications to the region. Staff received one application not submitted to the statewide program and two applications submitted to the statewide program, that were not submitted to the region. Supplemental applications were due to Fresno COG on Nov. 20, 2024. The supplemental application allows agencies to phase or segment a project for the regional ATP consideration.

No projects from Fresno County were awarded through the statewide competitive program.

ATP Cycle 7 will cover four years of funding – FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29. Fresno COG’s share provides \$1.87 million; however, due to the allocation shortfall, the Policy Board approved supplementing ATP with \$4.45 million of CMAQ funds. At least 25 percent of program funds must benefit projects in disadvantaged communities.

The regional program received 10 applications with a total project cost of \$24,040,834. The regional scoring committee convened on Jan. 14 to score and deliberate the project applications. The scoring committee comprised representatives from: the City of Fresno, Fresno County, eastside city, westside city, Caltrans, Fresno COG, and a bicycle stakeholder.

The recommended program of projects for the ATP Cycle 7 is attached and can also be found on Fresno COG’s ATP website: Active Transportation Program (ATP) – Fresno Council of Governments (fresnocog.org).

Please note that the programming years can vary based on funding capacity for each year.

Please see below the projects recommended for funding. A comprehensive list may be accessed here: [RESULTS](#)

To summarize the proposed recommendations:

- The jurisdictions submitted 10 applications with a total project cost of \$24 million.
- The scoring committee recommended that \$1.87 million in ATP funds be programmed to fully to one project and partially to another.

- Five projects will be awarded \$4.45 million in CMAQ, including one with partial funds.
- All of the recommended projects are located within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities, well exceeding the 25 percent minimum.

Below is the schedule for adopting the Cycle 7 program of projects:

- Fresno COG Policy Board adopts recommendations: February 2025
- Deadline to submit the DRAFT program of projects to CTC staff: Feb. 21
- Deadline to submit the FINAL program of projects to CTC staff: April 21.
- Fresno COG 2025 FTIP amendment to incorporate the approved Cycle 7 ATP & CMAQ projects: Fall 2025

Action: Staff and the ATP scoring committee request that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Cycle 7 Regional Competitive Active Transportation program of projects by adopting resolution 2025-03 and approve the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program projects through the ATP augmentation by adopting resolution 2025-04.

- Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) reported on the ATP recommendations.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Haussler (Clovis) motioned, and Mr. Gaffery (Fowler) seconded to approve the item as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

B. 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: The fiscal year (FY) 2024-26 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$35.1 million is submitted for Board and public review. A summary memorandum is attached to this annotated report. In short, the proposed budget decreased \$11.2 million from last year. Operational revenues remain intact and reserves are adequate.

The largest part of the decrease, \$4,054,228, is attributed to completion of the planning phase of Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) funds provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, California Air Resources Board, Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Strategic Growth Council.

A \$1,306,913 decrease in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Planning (PL) revenues reflects progress completed on the Regional Pavement Management system.

A \$3,743,953 decrease reflected phase II construction progress on Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's (FCRTA's) Selma maintenance facility.

There was also a significant \$2,545,913 decrease in in-kind revenues from transit operators that provided a local match for vehicles purchased through the FTA 5310 program, as well as the match requirement on the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) 5339 grant.

Federal revenues decreased a net of 42 percent or \$6,107,607, reflective of the above-mentioned transit facility construction and vehicle procurements.

State revenues decreased 21 percent, \$4,193,680, primarily due to the above-mentioned REAP grant.

Local revenues decreased 8 percent, \$942,385, resulting from the cash match from transit vehicle procurement.

Staff salaries and benefits increased 4% and 5% respectively as staffing levels remain unchanged from last year. Contingencies are carried for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases.

The overall consulting budget is \$20.2 million, which decreased \$1.5 million from last year.

The OWP and budget will return for final approval in April.

Action: Staff and the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board release Fresno COG's draft 2025-26 Overall Work Program and budget for public review, with final approval scheduled for the April Board meeting.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported on the Overall Work Program and Budget.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Brewer (Coalinga) motioned, and Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh) seconded to approve the motion as presented.

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

C. Measure C Safe Routes to Schools (Paul Herman) [INFORMATION]

Summary: In July 2023, Fresno COG staff began holding a series of meetings with school district and local jurisdictional staff across the county to discuss safety concerns of school children getting to their school sites safely.

In these discussions COG staff received specific project suggestions that would address particular safety concerns. This dialog helped staff produce a new list of projects that could be incorporated into future grant applications and potentially into a future Measure C renewal expenditure plan, to be approved by voters in 2026. This project list was also incorporated into Fresno COG's Regional Active Transportation Plan Update as an appendix, which was adopted by the Policy Board at its May 2024 meeting.

COG staff first briefed the Policy Board of these Safe Routes to Schools activities at the November 2023 Board meeting. In January 2024, the Policy Board formed a Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Subcommittee, comprising several Policy Board members.

On Sept. 26, the Fresno COG SRTS Subcommittee convened to discuss goals for SRTS funding and safety improvements. Following the Subcommittee's direction, staff has explored amending the Measure C Expenditure Plan to potentially reallocate funding for SRTS projects.

Staff met with the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) to discuss potential funding opportunities in the existing expenditure plan. FCTA and Fresno COG identified four potential programs in the expenditure plan that are forecast to not be fully expended by the 2027 sunset of the current Measure. These programs are 1) Senior Scrip, 2) Ag/Farmworker Vanpools, 3) Car/Vanpools, and 4) New Technology Reserve carryover funds from the recently completed FY 24-25 cycle.

At the November 20, 2024 Policy Board meeting the Board approved, in conceptual form, a reallocation of existing Measure C funds from the Senior Scrip, Ag/Farmworker Vanpools, and Car/Vanpools programs for a total of \$6 million to be allocated on a population-based formula distribution for SRTS projects.

With all Measure C amendments needing approval by both the Policy Board and FCTA Board, the item was brought up at FCTA's December 2024 Board Meeting, at which the mayors of Fresno and Clovis recommended staff look at an alternative concept of the SRTS Measure C program being a competitively based program with eligible projects coming from the region outside of the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area within Fresno County. This concept would allow all jurisdictions of the Policy Board except the cities of Fresno and Clovis the opportunity to submit projects to a competitive SRTS program with defined guidelines and scoring criteria, which would be developed by staff.

With both the TTC and PAC having given their recommendation on this program back in November 2024, no further action is being asked of the committees. This item will be presented as an Action item to the Policy Board. If the Policy Board directs staff to develop guidelines and scoring criteria for this program, we will bring the guidelines and scoring criteria to TTC/PAC for a recommendation.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional directions at its discretion.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported on the Safe Route to Schools.

This is an informational item, no action needed.

D. 2026 Measure C Renewal Effort Update (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Summary: In January, Fresno COG’s Policy Board approved four contracts totaling nearly \$1.75 million for the 2026 Measure C expenditure plan development and renewal effort, including \$199,629 for a steering committee facilitator. This contract, along with the overall program manager’s contract, was awarded to DKS, with a variety of subconsultants in various supporting roles.

On Feb. 5, Fresno COG and Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) staff held its kick-off meeting with facilitator and program manager Kendall Flint to review expectations and approaches to forming the renewal committee and how it will operate. To date, Fresno COG has received more than a dozen “expression of interest” forms from different stakeholders and stakeholder groups to serve on the committee.

While no selections have been made, the applications cover a wide range of interest groups, including the Fresno Cycling Club, the Sequoia Safety Council, Tree Fresno, the Central Valley Community Foundation, Center for Community Voices at Fresno State, Tranquility Resource Conservation District, Central Labor Council and several others.

Kendall Flint is a transportation sales tax measure veteran who has produced or helped produce six prior expenditure plans, from as nearby as Madera County in 2024 to Placer County in the north, along with measures in Merced and Stanislaus counties also in the San Joaquin Valley.

Ms. Flint has already begun connecting with a wide variety of stakeholder groups throughout the region to supplement Fresno COG’s solicitation for committee members and will continue to conduct research and interviews throughout February and into March, with a goal of the first renewal committee meeting occurring in March or April.

The process will work toward early consensus on those issues that are considered non-controversial for the overall regional good. Reports from the committee’s progress will follow Fresno COG’s regular agenda process, coming through the TTC/PAC and Board on a monthly or semi-monthly basis.

Action: Information. The Committee may provide additional directions at its discretion.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) gave a Measure C Renewal update and introduced Kendall Flint who gave a presentation.

This is an informational item, no action needed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- NONE

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS - NONE

A. Fresno COG's One Voice D.C. Priorities Selection (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG staff received the following list of 13 regional priority submissions for the 2025 One Voice D.C. Advocacy Trip, scheduled for April 27 – May 1. A regional priorities summary spreadsheet and submittal forms for each of the topics is attached to the agenda for review. The summary spreadsheet identifies the specific Federal request for each project.

The submitted priorities include the following:

Airport Priorities

Coalinga Municipal Airport Capital Improvements
Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT) New Air Traffic Control Tower Facility Project
Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT) East Terminal Expansion Project
Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT) Runway Reconstruction Project

BUILD Grant Support Priorities

Shaw Avenue/State Route 99 Freeway Interchange Improvement Project
South Fresno SR-99 Corridor Project (Cedar/North and American Avenue interchanges)

Parlier to Reedley Education Trail
Millerton Road Widening and Safety Improvements

Rail Priorities

High-Speed Rail Funding
Cross Valley Rail in Huron

Other Priorities

Easton Complete Streets
Funding for Electrification of Refuse and Recycling Collection Trucks
Raising Pine Flat Dam Resiliency Project

Staff will provide a brief presentation on the priorities and discussions with our Washington DC legislative advocate.

Action: Staff requests that the PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Fresno COG's 2025 One Voice regional priorities list.

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) reported on the priorities.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Brewer (Coalinga) motioned, and Mr. Gaffery (Fowler) seconded to approve the motion as presented.

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

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- None.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

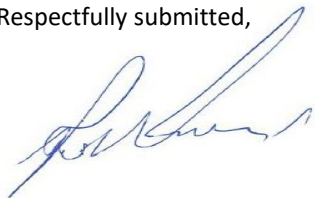
A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Public:

Terry Ogle

Staff:

Denise Flores, Robert Phipps, Brenda Thomas, Janelle Del Campo, Ofelia Abundez, Matthew Shimizu, Moses Stites.