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**Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, February 27, 2025
5:30 PM**

The meeting was held at the Fresno COG Sequoia Room

Members Attending:

Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua, City of Clovis
Mayor Nathan Vosburg, City of Coalinga
Mayor Freddy Valdez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Juan Mejia, City of Fowler
Councilmember Annalisa Perea, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman
Councilmember Laura North, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota
Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert Garcia, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Matthew Tuttle, City of Reedley
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Adam F. Cornejo, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Nathan Magsig, County of Fresno
Michael Navarro, Caltrans
Robert Phipps, Executive Director
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel

Absent: None

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 16 members representing 100.00% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno City, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma, Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of January 30, 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. **2025-2026 FCOG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Kick-Off (Harold Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**
 - Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull any items.
 - After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Martinez (Mendota) moved, and Supervisor Nathan Magsig (Fresno County) seconded to approve consent items A-H.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: None.

Motion passed by acclamation.

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, the ATP scoring committee and the 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.

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) presented on the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Supervisor Nathan Magsig (Fresno County) moved, and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: None.

Motion passed by acclamation.

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.

- Paul Herman (FCOG) reported on the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Supervisor Nathan Magsig (Fresno County) moved, and Mayor Tuttle (Reedley) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: None.

Motion passed by acclamation.

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

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.

Action: Staff recommend the Policy Board approve of the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Measure C Program concept of a competitively-based, rural-only program for SRTS projects, and to develop the Measure C Amendment and SRTS Guidelines for future approval by the Policy Board.

- Paul Herman (FCOG) reported on the Measure C Safe Route to Schools.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Supervisor Magsig (Fresno County) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: None.

Motion passed by acclamation.

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 Policy Board may provide additional directions at its discretion.

- Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported on Measure C the Measure C Renewal efforts.

This item is informational. No action is required.

E. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

- Machael Navarro (Caltrans) reported the following:
 - 35.5 Million awarded in projects (Fresno County awarded 13 million)
 - Clean California ribbon cutting on March 7th for the Community Garden Project.
 - Excelsior express way project ready to list in May with construction in November.
 - SR 33 Firebaugh rehab project.
 - Mendota Roundabout.

This item is informational. No action is required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- NONE

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

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 and the PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Fresno COG's 2025 One Voice regional priorities list.

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) reported on the One Voice Priorities.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Supervisor Magsig (Fresno County) moved to approve and allow for later submissions, and Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: None.

Motion passed by acclamation.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG) – reminded the board of the following:

- COG Elections in March
- FCOG completed the Certification Review.
- Complete 700 forms.
- If you are parked in the garage, make sure you are parked between the lines to avoid getting a ticket.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Public:

Terry Ogle

Staff:

Denise Flores; Robert Phipps; Moses Stites; Janelle Del Campo; Brenda Thomas; Les Beshears; Paul Herman, Simran Jhutti, Santosh Bhattarai.