



2035 Tulare St., Ste. 201 tel 559-233-4148
Fresno, California 93721 fax 559-233-9645
www.fresnocog.org

**Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, April 24, 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
Councilmember Annalisa Perea, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Mayor Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota
Mayor Diana Guerra-Silva, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Matthew Tuttle, City of Reedley
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno
Shane, Caltrans
Robert Phipps, Executive Director
Bryan Rome, Legal Counsel

Absent:

Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Adam F. Cornejo, City of San Joaquin
Supervisor Brian Pacheco, County of Fresno

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, there were 13 members representing 96.43% of the population. There was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno City, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Selma, Fresno County). Absent: Huron, Sanger, San Joaquin.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of March 27, 2025 [APPROVE]**
- B. FY 24-25 Obligational Authority Quarterly Report (Blake Rincon) [INFORMATION]**
- C. Title VI Program with Limited English Proficiency Plan (Matthew Shimizu) [ACTION]**

- D. **2025 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment (Harold Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**
E. **Safe Streets for All Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]**
F. **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment No. 1 - State Route 99/Cedar/North Interchange (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]**

- Chair Beltran asked if any member wished to pull any items.
- Robert Phipps (FCOG) pulled item D. to table until the May agenda.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Tuttle (Reedley) moved, and Mayor Diana Guerra-Silva (Orange Cove) seconded to approve consent item D.
- Mayor Robertson (Selma) moved, and Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) seconded to approve items A-C, & E,F.

Vote: All in favor, no opposed.

Absent: Sanger, San Joaquin.

Motion passed by acclamation.

Mayor Rey Leon (Huron) joined the meeting. Quorum 14 @ 97.04%

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure C Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program Project Recommendations (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

Summary: The Measure C Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program was established as part of the 2006 Measure C Extension Plan to boost transit ridership through transit-supportive land uses and infrastructure improvements, as well as planning activities. It serves as seed money to promote walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly communities that are healthy, livable and vibrant. It is estimated to accrue nearly \$850,000 annually with a total of \$17 million for the entire 20-year lifespan. The 13th funding cycle, with roll-over money from previous cycles and returned funding from an undelivered project, has approximately \$1.5 million available for programming.

Fresno COG received three applications from three jurisdictions including the cities of Fresno and Clovis, and County of Fresno. The scoring committee comprised a member from a west side city, east side city, Clovis Transit, FAX, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, County of Fresno, Fresno County Transportation Authority, and the public. The committee met on March 18 and offers the following funding recommendations:

City of Clovis: 135 Osmun Senior Apartments Pedestrian Sidewalk Connection

The City of Clovis requested \$427,714 to fund pedestrian connectivity to ensure direct access to the amenities in the project neighborhood. This project also involves design and civil engineering improvements for off-site infrastructure along Osmun Avenue and Baron Avenue. The work will include site preparation, roadway enhancements, sidewalk and curb installation, traffic control measures, and other necessary civil improvements. The goal is to improve accessibility, pedestrian safety, and overall roadway functionality. The scoring committee recommends funding \$427,714.

City of Fresno: Blackstone Smart Mobility Project Shields to Dakota

The City of Fresno requested \$1 million to complete funding for the design and construction of this segment. Transportation infrastructure elements include a road diet on Blackstone from Shields to Dakota, converting the six-lane roadway to a four-lane facility; Class IV bicycle facilities on Blackstone between Shields and Dakota, connecting with similar funded improvements south of Shields Avenue; a HAWK pedestrian beacon at the intersection of Blackstone and Garland Avenues; and sidewalks to fill gaps on Blackstone and Dakota Avenues. To date, approximately 65 percent of the project design and construction costs have been funded through the State's Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. The scoring committee recommends funding \$855,329.

County of Fresno: Pedestrian/Bike Improvements on Chestnut from Shields Ave to Clinton Ave

The County of Fresno requested \$1,227,487 build sidewalks and bike lanes on a half-mile County-maintained section of the street to complement adjacent, city-maintained segments which already have both filling a gap in safety infrastructure. There are also six transit stops within this stretch, some of which are in unsafe locations and must be made ADA compliant. The scoring committee recommends funding \$236,957. This would fund engineering, environmental, and right of way, allowing the project to be “shovel ready.”

Action: Staff and the Measure C TOD Scoring Committee request the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve funding recommendations for the Measure C TOD Program’s 13th funding cycle.

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) presented on the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Robertson (Selma) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in Favor

Absent: Sanger, San Joaquin.

Motion passed by acclamation.

B. Fresno COG Final 2025-26 Overall Work Program (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: The final, fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$35.2 million is submitted for committee and Board consideration. The proposed budget increased \$90,994 from the draft submitted in February to add additional funding for Fresno COG’s formula contribution in support of the Valleywide V-TRANSFORM effort, which is a freight mobility study throughout the San Joaquin Valley. In short, the proposed budget decreased \$11.1 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 1) funds provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

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.

An expanded executive summary, the final 2025-26 OWP and Resolution 2025-09 are attached to this report.

Action: Staff requests the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2025-09, adopting Fresno COG's final 2025-26 Overall Work Program and budget.

- Paul Herman (FCOG) reported on the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) moved, and Mayor Pro Tem Yep (Kerman) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in Favor

Absent: Sanger, San Joaquin.

Motion passed by acclamation.

C. Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study Consultant Selection (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG received a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grant in FY 2024-25 to conduct the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study. By identifying regional rail corridors with the greatest potential, this study will provide transit operators and local governments with the analysis necessary to evaluate whether a regional rail network is feasible in Fresno County.

The study will analyze the potential for a zero-emission regional rail system in Fresno County, primarily connecting the cities of Fresno, Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, Reedley, San Joaquin, Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg and Sanger along the existing and underused San Joaquin Valley Railroad. The potential regional rail network would have a connection to the future California High-Speed Rail system in downtown Fresno, as well as other regionally significant activity centers, including the Fresno County Fairgrounds and the Chaffee Zoo at Roeding Park. The study will include an analysis of zero-emission vehicle technology, existing rail infrastructure conditions, capital and operational cost estimation, and an implementation and phasing strategy, as well as a robust public engagement plan.

In February 2025, Fresno COG issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking consultants, and formed a scoring committee to review and score the proposals. Staff received four proposals. The scoring committee, comprising representatives from: the City of Kerman, County of Fresno, FCRTA and Fresno COG, selected DB E.C.O. North America Inc. DB E.C.O. is a part of the national German rail operator Deutsche Bahn, operating and maintaining Europe's largest rail network. DB E.C.O. has extensive experience in developing and operating regional rail networks across the world, including in California. DB E.C.O. is the Early Train Operator for the California High-Speed Rail project, and has worked extensively with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority in our region.

This study is expected to be concluded by fall 2026.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter a contract with DB E.C.O. North America Inc. for the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study for an amount of \$326,188.

- Paul Herman (FCOG) reported on the item.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Mouanoutoua (Clovis) seconded to approve the action.

Vote: All in Favor

Opposed: Kingsburg

Absent: Sanger, San Joaquin.

Motion passed by acclamation.

D. Caltrans "Look Ahead" Pilot Project with Fresno COG (Ofelia Abundez) [INFORMATION]

Summary: In early November 2024, Caltrans Headquarters' Division of Local Assistance (HQ DLA) presented Fresno COG staff with the pilot 'Look Ahead' Proposal-Pilot Project," which requires Fresno COG staff, Caltrans District Local Assistance District 6, and Caltrans HQ DLA to communicate more frequently and share project status information for future federal fiscal years (FFYs) outside the current federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024/2025. The pilot project aims to develop strategies to improve obligation authority and then implement those successful strategies statewide.

Fresno COG staff scheduled and administered obligation authority meetings with all member agencies and transit agencies with projects currently programmed in the 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The project status information gathered was then included in the pilot project OA plan (attached to this agenda) and submitted to Caltrans HQ DLA and Caltrans Local Assistance District 6 on Feb. 27.

Fresno COG will continue to work closely with Caltrans HQ DLA, Caltrans Local Assistance District 6, our member agencies, and transit agencies to continue to exceed our Obligation Authority target.

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

- Simran Jhutti (FCOG) reported on the Caltrans Pilot Project.

This item is informational. No action is required.

E. Measure C 2026 Technical Committee Appointments (Paul Herman) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG, as part of the Measure C 2026 Expenditure Plan development, invites local jurisdictions, transit agencies, and Caltrans to participate in the Measure C 2026 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This Committee will advise the citizens-led Measure C 2026 Renewal Committee, which is responsible for developing a draft and a final expenditure plan for the proposed 2026 Measure C sales tax extension. TAC members will engage in a collaborative, participatory process, contributing their expertise and perspectives as representatives of their agencies. The TAC's work will help ensure that the expenditure plan reflects the needs and priorities for improvements throughout the region.

Committee members may expect to meet every other month for up to two hours. The first TAC meeting is anticipated to occur from 2-4 p.m. Wed., May 14. All meetings will be held virtually on Zoom, and a recording of each meeting will be available to watch on Fresno COG's YouTube channel.

Fresno COG staff requests that each jurisdiction, transit agency, and Caltrans District 6 submit a primary and alternate member to the TAC by April 25. Please email Deputy Director Paul Herman (pherman@fresnocog.org) or Brenda Thomas, Communications & Planning Services Manager (bthomas@fresnocog.org) with the name, title, and email address of the primary and alternate members for the Committee. Both the primary and alternate members are encouraged to participate in every meeting to stay informed throughout the Measure C 2026 Expenditure Plan's development.

Measure C 2026 Program Manager and Facilitation Kendall Flint with DKS will also provide a brief update on the renewal effort and developments.

- Paul Herman (FCOG) reported on the Measure C Technical Committee.
- Kendall Flint presented a PowerPoint presentation.
- Discussion ensued.

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

This item is informational. No action is required.

The directive to staff is to work together and report back to the board next month.

F. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

- Shane Gunn (Caltrans) reported the following:
 - Caltrans Director Tony Tavares is retiring next month.
 - NB 99 in City of Fresno closed between Clinton and Shaw.
 - Notice of funding opportunity. \$982 million available this year. Applications accepted through June 6th, be aware of notice of funding opportunity terms.

This item is informational. No action is required.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

- **None.**

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **None.**

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG):

- Attended SJV Policy Conference April 9-11th in Merced. Big focus on AI.
- Thank you to Brenda Thomas and member representatives for their participation in the upcoming Once Voice trip to DC.

B. Items from Members

None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

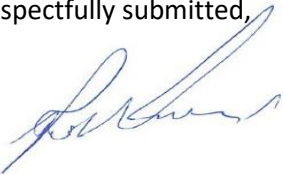
A. Public Presentations

- **None.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Public:

Terry Ogle

Kendall Flint

Staff:

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