



CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting

Action Summary

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room

2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Present:

Donna Silva, Public-at-Large

Gail Miller, WTS

Luisa Medina, League of Women Voters

Ali Nekumanesh, Public-at-Large

Eddie Hunsaker, Public-at-Large

David Martin, Public-at-Large

Members Absent:

Shannon Avilla, First Steps Recovery

Louis Herrera, Public-at-Large

Others Attending:

Denise DiBenedetto, FCTA

Julie P. Saldivar, Fresno COG

Robert Phipps, Fresno COG

Brenda Thomas, Fresno COG

Jake Martinez, Fresno COG

Jake Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

I. Presentations

About Presentations:

This portion of the meeting was reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.

II. Minutes for September 4, 2025, Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting

A motion was made by Ali Nekumanesh and seconded by David Martin to approve the September 4, 2025, Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee minutes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. Presentation from Dr. Aly Tawfik, Professor at California State University, Fresno and Fresno State Transportation Institute

Dr. Ali Taufik, a professor of Transportation Systems Engineering and director of the Fresno State Transportation Institute (FSTI), introduced three students—Kritika (Computer Science), Alexis Perez (Civil Engineering), and Alexander Cook (Mechanical Engineering). FSTI, founded in 2018 after groundwork in 2017, is a collaboration among Fresno State’s colleges of engineering, business, and social science, Fresno COG, Fresno County, and its 15 cities. The institute focuses on four missions: professional development, research, technical service, and outreach, funded by \$3 million from Measure C for five years, later extended due to COVID delays. Dr. Taufik has 24 years of experience, including five years in practice, advanced degrees, and 13 years in academia (12 at Fresno State). His expertise lies in modeling human travel behavior and transportation systems, and he has worked on global projects with organizations such as the UN, EU, and U.S. agencies, serving on numerous national and international committees.

When establishing the Fresno State Transportation Institute (FESTI), the team identified unique regional challenges, including a mix of urban and rural areas, poor air quality, and heavy freight traffic. Unlike other institutes focused on urban congestion, FESTI aims to address these local issues and serve the entire community, especially underrepresented and disadvantaged groups—through professional development, research, technical service, and outreach. The institute operates as a multidisciplinary platform with an advisory board of about twenty-five members and collaborates with community partners, graduate, and undergraduate fellows. Founded in 2018 with Measure C funding, FESTI also benefits from California’s SB1 gas tax initiative, partnering with three other CSU campuses to form the CSU Transportation Consortium. Fresno State receives about \$150,000 annually from SB1, allocated to research, innovative projects, and student conference participation, reinforcing FESTI’s role as a sustainable enabler for multimodal transportation innovation.

Action: This is an information item. No action is needed from the Oversight Committee.

IV. A Local Transportation Pass-Through Projects and Programs and Short-Term Regional Transportation Program Annual Reporting Requirements and Submittals for Measure C Extension FY24/25 Funds

Denise DiBenedetto reported on this item. Pursuant to the adopted Fresno County Transportation Authority procedures for administration of Measure C Extension Funds for Local Transportation Pass-Through Projects and Programs, and Short-Term Regional Transportation Program projects, local agencies are required to submit their Measure C Extension Expenditure Report(s) for the fiscal year 2024-25:

- Fresno Airports
- Fresno FAX
- FCOG

The Fresno County Transportation Authority requires local agencies to submit annual Measure C extension expenditure reports for fiscal year 2024–2025, detailing how funds were spent in the previous year. These reports differ from budget or claim forms and include project listings. The review process checks beginning fund balances against prior year reports, verifies revenue allocations, and ensures interest income is reported.

A motion was made by David Martin and seconded by Donna Silva to approve the Regional Transportation Program Annual Reporting. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. Measure C Renewal Update from Staff and sitting member(s)

Robert Phipps, Executive Director of Fresno COG, reported significant progress on Measure C despite delays from the original timeline. Since December 2024, Fresno COG has worked to consolidate efforts with “Transportation for All,” a coalition of thirty community-based organizations, to avoid competing measures and align public outreach. Data from workshops and surveys, while not statistically valid, consistently showed strong public interest in multimodal transportation, with road maintenance remaining the top priority. The steering committee has established guiding principles, expenditure categories, and subcategories, and recommended a 30-year measure instead of 20 years to support bonding and long-term projects. The approach aims to balance maintaining existing infrastructure with aspirational goals, despite opposition and diverse stakeholder interests. Initial votes on category allocations have occurred, and the next steps involve finalizing remaining funding allocations and detailed implementation guidelines. Additionally, the committee has been actively considering future technologies, including the potential impact of AI on transportation decision-making and market dynamics. Anticipating these changes has been a major focus to ensure the measure remains adaptable and forward-looking. Currently, the goal is to present a recommendation to the board sometime in November, though all dates remain tentative.

Gail Miller, a steering committee member, noted a major shift when twelve representatives from Transportation for All joined, which initially raised concerns. The departure of the previous consultant, seen as a mutual decision, and the addition of Mark Keppler brought positive changes, fostering respectful and productive discussions despite strong opinions. Ms. Miller highlighted that members can speak directly and passionately as long as respect is maintained, and Mr. Keppler ensures this dynamic. She appreciated the opportunity to engage with different perspectives at each meeting. Surprisingly, the trial allocation exercise went smoothly, with category percentages aligning better than expected, even though she anticipated more emphasis on pavement. Overall, the committee is very cohesive, and things are going well.

Action: This is an information item. No action is needed from the Oversight Committee.

VI. Items from Members

VII. Items from Staff

A. Upcoming 2025 COC meeting dates – please reserve these dates from 5-7:00 pm

- November 6
- December 4

B. Upcoming 2026 COC meeting dates – please reserve these dates from 5-7:00 pm

- January 1
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- July 2
- August 6
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

A motion was made by Luisa Medina and seconded by Donna Silva to approve the upcoming 2026 COC meeting dates. A vote was called for and the motion carried with corrections.

C. Items for the next agenda

D. Upcoming Meetings/Events of other related Boards/Committees

October

- **Measure C Renewal Steering Committee Meeting** — Thursday, October 9 at 3 pm via webinar. Visit www.measurec2026.com for meeting link or recordings
- **Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee** – Friday, October 10, at 8:30 AM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room
- **Fresno COG Policy Advisory Committee** – Friday, October 10, at 10:00 AM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room
- **Fresno COG Policy Board** – Thursday, October 30, at 5:30 PM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room

November

- **Measure C Renewal Steering Committee Meeting** — Thursday, November 13 at 3 pm via webinar. Visit www.measurec2026.com for meeting link or recordings
- **Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee** – Friday, November 14, at 8:30 AM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room
- **Fresno COG Policy Advisory Committee** – Friday, November 14, at 10:00 AM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room
- **Fresno COG Policy Board** – Thursday, November 20, at 5:30 PM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.