



**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, February 13, 2026
10:00 AM**

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

Andrew Haussler, City of Clovis
Jill Gormley, City of Fresno
John Janson, City of Kerman
Elizabeth Cabrera, City of San Joaquin
Paul Nerland, Fresno County
Braden Duran, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Mr. Janson (Kerman) Chair. With 5 members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Braden Duran announced Calls for Projects for several state transportation programs, including those under Senate Bill 1, as well as TIRCP and Active Transportation Program Cycle 8. Application guidelines and timelines will be released throughout the year.

Caltrans also shared details about the 5th Annual DBE Small Business Summit in Fresno on March 4, a free networking and resource event for small businesses and contractors.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of January 9, 2025 [APPROVE]**
- B. New Member Appointment to the FCOG Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]**
- C. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- D. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Reedley Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- E. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Parlier Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- F. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Sanger Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- G. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Kerman Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- H. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Clovis Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- I. Fiscal Year 2025-26 County of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- J. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Preliminary Estimate (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- K. Fiscal Year 2026-27 State Transit Assistance (STA) Preliminary Estimate (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- L. Fiscal Year 2026-27 State of Good Repair (SGR) Preliminary Estimate (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- M. Fiscal Year 2026-27 FCOG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Kick-Off (Harold Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**
- N. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Obligational Authority Quarterly Report (Blake Rincon) [INFORMATION]**
- O. Regional Pavement Management System Update Contract Extension with NCE (Paul Herman) [ACTION]**
- P. Fresno COG GIS Open Data Hub Release (Shichen Fan) [INFORMATION]**
- Q. Fresno County Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Analysis (CCAP-A) Assistance (Simran Jhutti) [INFORMATION]**

R. 2026 PM1 Safety Performance Targets (Santosh Bhattarai) [ACTION]

Mr. Janson (Kerman) asked about recusal on ITEM-G (City of Kerman claim); Robert Phipps (FCOG) confirmed it was not necessary as TDA claims are ministerial.

Mr. Janson (Kerman) highlighted ITEM-M regarding upcoming unmet transit needs assessment kickoffs.

Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) moved, and Mr. Nerland (Fresno County) seconded.

**All in Favor, none opposed.
Motion passed.**

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2026-27 Draft Overall Work Program and Budget (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: The fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$17,899,508, is submitted for Board and public review. A summary memorandum is attached to this annotated report. The proposed budget decreased \$20,592,948 from last year's budget. The decrease is mainly attributable to completion of one-time large grants. Operational revenues remain intact, reserves are adequate, and the agency continues to operate within the bounds of prudent management.

The largest part of the decrease, \$13,210,406, is attributed to anticipated project completion from the Regional Early Action Planning Grants Program of 2021 (REAP 2.0) funds provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. A \$2,059,638 decrease in FHWA PL revenues reflects progress completed on the regional pavement management system. Other significant decreases were a \$1,422,678 decrease for purchases of vehicles under the FTA 5310 program and a \$1,152,086 decrease for work completed under the FHWA RIA Grant.

Federal revenues decreased a net of 30 percent or \$3,155,147, reflective of the above-mentioned progress on the regional pavement management system, vehicle procurements, and progress on the FHWA RIA Grant.

State revenues decreased 81 percent, \$13,500,310, primarily due to the above-mentioned REAP 2.0 grant.

Local revenues decreased 35 percent, \$3,937,491, resulting from the cash match from transit vehicle procurement.

Staff salaries and benefits decreased 4% and 1% respectively as staffing levels remain unchanged from last year. Contingencies are carried out for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases.

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

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board release Fresno COG's draft 2026-27 Overall Work Program and budget for public review, with final approval scheduled for the April Board meeting.

Paul Herman (FCOG) presented the Draft 2026-27 Overall Work Program and Budget total \$17.89M, reflecting a \$20.5M decrease from one-time grant completions.

Robert Phipps (FCOG) announced the closure of the REAP 2.0 grant and reminded members to submit invoices in a timely manner.

Mr. Haussler (Clovis) moved, and Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) seconded.

**All in Favor, none opposed.
Motion passed.**

B. FTA Section 5310 Recommended Projects for Funding Approval (Matthew Shimizu) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG is the designated recipient of FTA Section 5310 program funds for Fresno County, which provides capital and operating assistance grants for projects that meet the transportation needs for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The funds may be used for projects where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate; that exceed the requirements of the ADA; that improve access to fixed-route service and that provide alternatives to public transportation.

In fall 2025, Fresno COG issued a formal call-for-projects totaling \$1,741,617 in Fresno County Large Urban Area FTA Section 5310 funding. Staff received six applications requesting a total of \$3,188,081 to support vehicle purchases and operating expenses. Of this amount, \$3,014,081 was requested for capital expenditure and \$174,000 for operating expenses. Additional details are provided in the attached FY 2024/25 FTA Section 5310 recommended funding spreadsheet.

A scoring committee comprising staff from Fresno COG, Clovis Transit, and Fresno Area Express evaluated the applications and developed the attached funding recommendations. Of the six applications received, three were recommended for full funding and two were recommended for partial funding.

Action: Fresno COG staff, the Section 5310 Scoring Committee and the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee request that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board award \$1,741,617 in FTA Section 5310 program funds for vehicle purchases and operating expenses, as outlined in the attached FY 2024/25 FTA Section 5310 recommended funding spreadsheet.

Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) presented the FTA Section 5310 Funding item. Fresno COG recommended awarding \$1.74M to five of six projects supporting seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) moved, and Mr. Nerland (Fresno County) seconded.

All in Favor, none opposed.

Motion passed.

C. Fresno COG 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Draft Scenario Selection Process (Paul Herman/Santosh Bhattarai) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG originally envisioned five potential land use scenarios for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). After receiving more than 2,800 transportation project requests from member agencies through the quadrennial call-for-projects, Fresno COG developed land use and transportation files unique to the five scenarios.

Each scenario was modeled and computed for 2035, consistent with the guidelines set by California Air Resource Board (CARB). Fresno COG worked with the SCS Subcommittee to finalize the 12 performance indicators (land use and transportation measures) for this round of the SCS. Staff will be presenting the scenarios' modeling results, along with the performance indicators, and recommending a preferred scenario to the SCS subcommittee in February.

Staff will also conduct a public survey and host formal workshops to present the modeling results and performance indicators to the public. The scenario the SCS Subcommittee selects will go through the RTP/SCS Roundtable in March. Staff will then present the scenarios and recommend the preferred scenario to the TTC/PAC and the Policy Board in March for the final selection. The selected SCS scenario will then be modeled for the environmental impact report and RTP/SCS horizon year 2049.

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

Paul Herman/Santosh Bhattarai (FCOG) provided an overview of five draft scenarios (A–E) under consideration for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Scenarios range from road-capacity-focused investments to higher transit investment options, including potential light and regional rail. Road maintenance remains the top priority across all scenarios.

Twelve performance indicators will guide evaluation, including VMT, public health, agricultural land consumption, compact development, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. The 2035 GHG reduction target (13% below 2005 levels) is set by the California Air Resources Board.

Public outreach is underway, and a preferred scenario will be presented in March.

This item was informational. No action was required.

D. Fresno Metropolitan Light Rail Feasibility Study Consultant Selection (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG, in partnership with the City of Fresno/Fresno Area Express, received a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grant in FY 2025-26 to conduct the Fresno Metropolitan Light-Rail Feasibility Study. The study will

analyze the potential for a light-rail system in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA), primarily connecting major activity centers and neighborhoods within the FCMA such as the future California High-Speed Rail station, downtown Fresno, colleges, universities and K-12 schools, commercial and retail corridors, offices and industrial districts, and the Fresno Yosemite International Airport. The study will include an analysis of prior studies, existing transit networks, capital and operational cost estimation, as well as a robust public engagement plan.

In October 2025, Fresno COG issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking consultants for the study and formed a scoring committee to review and score the proposals. Staff received four proposals. The scoring committee, comprising representatives from the City of Fresno, Fresno Area Express (FAX), and Fresno COG, selected AECOM as the highest scoring proposer. AECOM is a leading global infrastructure consulting firm that provides professional services for planning, design, engineering, and construction management for major transportation projects and programs.

This study is expected to be concluded by January 2028.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter a contract with AECOM for the Fresno Metropolitan Light Rail Feasibility Study for \$758,297.

Mr. Janson (Kerman) moved, and Mr. Haussler (Clovis) seconded.

All in Favor, none opposed.

Motion passed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Appointment

Summary: Fresno COG's Policy Board, acting as the Fresno County Mayors' Select Committee, along with the chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, is tasked with appointing members to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) consistent with the November 2006 voter-approved Measure C Expenditure Plan.

The COC informs the public and ensures that Measure C program revenues are spent as promised.

The Measure C Expenditure Plan specifies that the COC comprises 13 members, including six at-large public members who respectively reside in each of the five Fresno County Supervisorial districts. Three of the six must reside in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area and two must reside in the unincorporated rural area of the county (east and west). The remaining seven members must be representatives drawn from a diverse mix of interested community organizations.

Members serve four-year terms, with a maximum limit of eight years on the committee. Appendix G of the Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan (attached) states the Committee's duties and responsibilities. Currently, there are five vacancies on the Oversight Committee:

Four positions for community organization representatives (organization/agency/service clubs/chambers of commerce, etc. (must provide an applicant with a letter of recommendation.)

One public-at-large position representing the following:

Unincorporated rural area west of State Route 99 (Supervisorial district 1)

After advertising the vacancies recently, Jenn Guerra is applying to serve as one of the community organization representatives and her term would begin on Feb. 27, 2026.

Fresno COG and Transportation Authority staff will continue recruiting new members until all the positions are filled.

Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee webpage: fresnocog.org/citizen-oversight-committee/

Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) moved, and Mr. Nerland (Fresno County) seconded.

All in Favor, none opposed.

Motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno COG's 2026 One Voice D.C. Advocacy Trip Draft Priorities List (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG staff received the following list of 15 regional priority submissions for the 2026 One Voice D.C. Advocacy Trip, scheduled for March 22 – 26. A regional priorities summary matrix and the priority submittal forms are attached for review. The summary matrix identifies specific Federal “asks” for each priority. However, some priorities are being evaluated for funding sources available to their project type. The narrative will be updated when information is available.

The submitted priorities include the following:

Airport Priorities

- 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

Road Priorities

- Orange Cove Street Widening and Sidewalk Improvements Project
- East Side Cities Regional Corridor Improvements Project
- Manning Avenue Active Traffic Management Safety Enhancement Project

BUILD Grant Support Priorities

- Shaw Avenue/State Route 99 Freeway Interchange Improvement Project
- Easton Complete Streets Project
- Millerton Road Widening and Safety Improvements
- South Fresno SR-99 Corridor Project (Cedar/North and American Avenue interchanges)
- Other Priorities

Other Priorities

- Principles for the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill
- Firebaugh Multi-Benefit Flood Management Project
- Dinuba Avenue Sewer Trunk Line – Unlocking Housing and Economic Development in South Fresno County
- Virtual One-Stop as the Primary Front Door (with a compliant physical comprehensive site retained)

Action: Staff requests that the PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Fresno COG’s 2026 One Voice regional priorities list.

Brenda Thomas (FCOG) presented the draft 2026 One Voice priorities on behalf of the Fresno Council of Governments. Fifteen projects were submitted: the Orange Cove project and Virtual One-Stop priorities were withdrawn, leaving 14 recommended priorities.

Staff emphasized that funding requests should be tied to active federal grant applications or congressionally directed spending submissions to strengthen advocacy efforts. Surface transportation reauthorization principles were recommended as a key regional policy priority. Coordination with congressional offices and Caltrans was discussed.

Mr. Nerland (Fresno County) moved, and Mr. Haussler (Clovis) seconded.

All in Favor, none opposed.

Motion passed.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG) provided an update regarding parking. The City of Fresno now manages the garages, parking codes will be provided.

B. Items from Members

None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

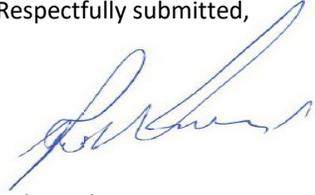
A. Public Presentations

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Phipps", is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Public:

Staff:

Mykia Byrd, Robert Phipps, Paul Herman, Simran Jhutti, Santosh Bhattarai, Matthew Shimizu, Blake Rincon.