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**Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, March 26, 2026
5:30 PM**

The meeting was held in the Fresno COG Sequoia Room

Members Attending:

Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua, City of Clovis
Mayor Pro-Tem Roger Schindler, City of Coalinga
Mayor Freddy Valdez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Juan Mejia, City of Fowler
Mayor Jerry Dyer, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Brandon Pursell, 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 Adam Cornejo, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Garry Bredefeld, County of Fresno
Shane Gunn, Caltrans
Robert Phipps, Executive Director
Doug Sloan, Legal Counsel

Absent:

City of Sanger

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, fourteen members were present, representing 98.49% of the population. A quorum was established to conduct business. (Clovis, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Selma, Fresno County). **Absent:** Sanger.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roger Schindler (Coalinga) arrived and took his seat at the dais at 6:11 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:44 p.m. by Mayor Beltran (Parlier), Chair.

I. OFFICER ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Action: ELECT THE FOLLOWING FOR THE 2026-2027 TERM:

A. FRESNO COG POLICY BOARD- CHAIR

Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) nominated Victor Martinez (Mendota) for Chair.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

B. FRESNO COG POLICY BOARD VICE CHAIR

Mayor Robertson (Selma) nominated Brandon Pursell (Kingsburg) for Vice Chair.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of February 26, 2026 [APPROVE]
- B. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of Selma Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- C. Fiscal Year 2025-26 City of San Joaquin Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- D. 2025-26 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 5 (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- E. New Member Appointment to Fresno COG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) (Sobrado) [ACTION]
- F. Fiscal Year 2025 Transit Productivity Evaluation (Jeff Long) [ACTION]
- G. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Obligation Plan for Project Delivery (Blake Rincon) [INFORMATION]

Chair Martinez (Mendota) asked if any member wished to pull any items.

After an opportunity for public comment, Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Dyer (Fresno) seconded to approve consent items A-G.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Sanger

Motion carried.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno County Mobility Hub Feasibility Study (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

Summary: The Fresno County Mobility Hub Feasibility Study focused on exploring mobility hubs and identifying key opportunities for and challenges to develop and operate them. The study produced the concepts for the four selected focus sites: Clovis, Fresno, Parlier, and San Joaquin. This process demonstrated that each of the four sites has a credible path to enabling better mobility by: 1) supporting new or modified transportation options, and 2) linking together two or more modes of transportation, both for expanding local and regional travel choices and providing people with better access to nearby destinations.

The study included a robust public outreach campaign, with an emphasis on underserved communities within Fresno County. Despite the challenges for implementation, mobility hubs offer great potential to improve transportation options in Fresno County. Fresno COG, Clovis Transit, FAX, and FCRTA firmly support continuing to explore the four feasibility study sites and envisioning a larger network of hubs throughout the County. Mobility hubs in Fresno County check the box on one of the most important feasibility factors: having strong regional partners. In this case, key partners are transit agencies that are committed to making ongoing service improvements and seeking ways to make multimodal trips more accessible. The final draft can be accessed here: Fresno County Mobility Hub Feasibility Study.

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend that the Policy Board accept the Fresno County Mobility Hub Feasibility Study.

Simran Jhutti (FCOG) presented the Fresno County Mobility Hub Feasibility Study, which looked at locations for mobility hubs to improve transit connections.

Mayor Leon (Huron) moved and Mayor Dyer (Fresno) seconded the motion.

**All in favor, none opposed.
Motion carried.**

B. Fresno COG 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Preferred Scenario Selection (Paul Herman/Santosh Bhattarai) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG has developed five transportation and 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 California Air Resources Board (CARB) guidelines. Fresno COG worked with the SCS Subcommittee to finalize the twelve performance indicators (land use and transportation measures). Staff has presented the scenarios' modeling results, along with the performance indicators, to the SCS Subcommittee and they have approved staff's recommendation of Scenario C to move forward in the SCS process.

A public survey released on Feb. 17 is collecting community comments and feedback on the five scenarios. Staff presented modeling results and performance indicators at public workshops in Reedley on Feb. 19, and in Kerman on Feb. 24, to receive community input. A presentation to the RTP Roundtable served as the third public meeting and virtual meeting to receive public comments. The selected SCS scenario will then be modeled for the environmental impact report and RTP/SCS horizon year 2049.

Action: Staff, the SCS Subcommittee, the RTP Roundtable, TTC and PAC recommend Scenario C to the Fresno COG Policy Board as the preferred scenario for the 2026 RTP/SCS.

Paul Herman and Santosh Bhattarai (FCOG) presented a review of the performance of RTP/SCS scenarios based on VMT, GHG reduction, compact development, investment in disadvantaged communities, and protection of environmental resources. Scenario C performed best overall, with the lowest VMT per capita and highest GHG reduction.

Board members discussed the scenarios and potential impacts. Staff clarified the Board was selecting a preferred scenario for environmental analysis, with the final plan returning later for approval.

Supervisor Bredefeld (Fresno County) moved, and Mayor Dyer (Fresno) seconded the motion.

**All in favor, one opposed Mayor Mouanoutoua (Clovis).
Motion carried.**

C. CalVans Joint Powers Agreement (Les Beshears) [ACTION]

Summary: During its March 12 Board meeting, new CalVans Executive Director Sidd Nag delivered a stark financial assessment to the membership indicating that the agency is approximately 60 to 90 days away from insolvency without immediate intervention from member agencies or State assistance. CalVans is the main provider for the Fresno region's agriculture vanpool program through Measure C. Fresno COG participates as a member of the joint powers agreement that empowers CalVans, and is potentially exposed for administrative expenses, including pension costs, should the agency default.

In September 2025, Fresno COG staff provided the Policy Board a summary of CalVans' financial condition subsequent to a "going concern" finding on the CalVans June 30, 2024, financial audit. That report is again provided in the agenda for the benefit of new members. Also attached to this annotated report is a broader memo fully detailing CalVans financial condition as of March 2026.

In summary, CalVans' solvency crisis is real and not totally unexpected. The problem is structurally built into CalVans' business model and can be explained simply. Fully 92.4% of CalVans operations' cost are covered with service fare revenue. This business model leaves little room for replacing vans as they age out or even for administrative expenses. That point cannot be overemphasized.

Using Measure C funds, Fresno COG is one of the few member agencies that subsidizes farmworker vanpools. Through February, Fresno COG has reimbursed CalVans \$103,000. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, Fresno COG reimbursed CalVans \$185,000. The trend appears to be tapering down. These transactions represent reimbursement for actual costs incurred, so there is no question of the money being diverted to solve cash flow problems.

Membership in the CalVans joint powers agreement (JPA) is not a condition of making these reimbursements. Fresno COG could continue the program even if it were not a member of the JPA. However, Measure C is set to sunset in June of 2027 and continuation of Measure C beyond that date cannot be guaranteed.

The CalVans JPA provides that a member may withdraw with a 180-day notice. Withdrawal will not discharge, impair, or modify any voluntary obligation the withdrawing member has agreed to nor affect the remaining members. A withdrawing member shall not be entitled to the return of any funds or assets belonging to the Transit Authority.

ACTION: Staff recommends the Policy Board authorize the executive director to notify CalVans in writing of Fresno COG's intent to withdraw from its joint powers agreement within 180 days.

Les Beshears (FCOG) reported on CalVans' financial condition, highlighting ongoing deficits due to unfunded depreciation, interest expenses, and reliance on state grants.

Board members discussed withdrawing from CalVans JPA within 180 days due to financial instability, while exploring sustainable alternatives for farmworker transportation.

Mayor Dyer (Fresno) moved and Mayor Mejia (Fowler) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

IV. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Shane Gunn (Caltrans) provided updates: Effective April 1, Philip Vallejo will serve as the new Planning Deputy. Key updates: Walk Assessment Program in Kerman on April 15; Sustainable Transportation and ATP Cycle 8 grant programs underway; SB1 Cycle 5 guidelines coming this summer. Project highlights include Clean California (41 & Tulare), SR 33 Coalinga, Dickinson Roundabout, Excelsior Expressway, Shaver Lake Viaduct, and South Fresno 99 projects. Routine maintenance along Highway 99 was also noted. Shane Gunn thanked the board and staff for their collaboration over the past year as he transitions.

This item was informational. No action was required.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. TradePort California Site Feasibility Study Contract Extension (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

B. Measure C New Technology Contract Extension (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]

Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) moved and Supervisor Bredefeld (Fresno County) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS

None.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG) introduced Erin Haagenson as the newest Fresno COG staff member.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Mouanoutoua (Clovis) highlighted America's 250th-year celebrations.

Mayor Leon (Huron) highlighted upcoming events in the City of Huron, including the May 3 bike ride celebrating the city's 75th anniversary and the development of a Class IV bike lane along the state route.

VIII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Brenda Thomas, Les Beshears, Simran Jhutti, Paul Herman, Santosh Bhattarai, Matthew Shimizu, Mykia Byrd