



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

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

Andrew Haussler, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Nicolas Mascia, City of Fresno
Virginia Penaloza, City of Huron
John Janson, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Sam Escobar, City of Orange Cove
Nicole Zieba, City of Reedley
Nathan Olson, City of Sanger
Elizabeth Cabrera, City of San Joaquin
Jason Rogers, City of Selma
Paul Nerland, Fresno County
Braden Duran, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG

Members Absent: City of Coalinga, City of Fowler, City of Mendota, and City of Parlier

Members Present (arrived after roll call): Sam Escobar (Orange Cove), Virginia Penaloza (Huron), Alexander Henderson (Kingsburg), and Paul Nerland (Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair John Janson (City of Kerman). With nine members present, a quorum was established to conduct business.

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

Braden Duran (Caltrans) provided the Caltrans report. Philip Vallejo has been appointed Deputy Director for Planning effective April 1, succeeding Shane Gunn, who had been serving in an acting capacity. The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program was highlighted as a funding opportunity with nearly \$1 billion available for planning and implementation of road safety projects. He also noted that Caltrans District 6 will hold a Walk Assessment in Kerman on April 15.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of March 13, 2026 [APPROVE]

B. 2026 Regional Transit Targets (Santosh Bhattarai) [ACTION]

C. Federal Grant Opportunities (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

D. Census Block Boundary Suggestion Program (BBSP) - Local Coordination (Shichen Fan) [INFORMATION]

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

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure C Transit Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program Cycle 14 Project Recommendations (Rachel Hellett) [ACTION]

Summary: The Measure C Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program was created as part of the 2006 Measure C Extension Plan. It was designed to boost transit ridership through transit-supportive land uses and infrastructure improvement 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 \$17 million for its 20-year lifespan. The 14th funding cycle, with roll-over money from previous cycles, has approximately \$2.1 million available for programming.

Fresno COG issued the call-for-projects on Jan. 9, with applications due on March 3. Staff received four applications from three jurisdictions, including the City of Firebaugh, City of Fresno, and County of Fresno.

Action: Staff and the TOD scoring committee request that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Scoring Committee's recommendations for the Measure C TOD Program's 14th funding cycle.

Rachel Hellett (FCOG) presented the Measure C Transit-Oriented Infrastructure for Infill Development (TOD) Program Cycle 14 project recommendations. The program funds projects that improve connectivity and access to transit.

Ms. Zieba (City of Reedley) moved and Mr. Olson (City of Sanger) seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

B. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Funding Reallocation Recommendation (Matthew Shimizu) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno Council of Governments was awarded \$12.8 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 funding to suballocate to local jurisdictions for projects that accelerate infill housing development, affirmatively further fair housing, and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The City of Fresno has recently confirmed that it will not use its full \$10.3 million allocation and instead anticipates expending \$8,152,666.58. This results in a remaining balance of \$2,147,333.42 in available REAP 2.0 funds.

With the REAP 2.0 expenditure deadline extended to Dec. 31, 2026, Fresno COG staff recommends reallocating the remaining funds to support the other two ongoing projects within the region. Specifically, it is recommended that an additional \$1 million be allocated to the City of San Joaquin and \$1,147,333.42 be allocated to the City of Firebaugh to further advance their projects with additional funding.

The City of Firebaugh intends to use the additional funding to purchase downtown properties for future infill development, while the City of San Joaquin will extend and connect water infrastructure to complete a critical water system loop serving the original project area, improving system connectivity, reliability, and service capacity. Both jurisdictions have committed to spending the funds before the Dec. 31 deadline.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize reallocating remaining REAP 2.0 funds to the City of San Joaquin and the City of Firebaugh to support additional funding for their projects.

Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) presented the REAP 2.0 funding reallocation recommendation. Staff recommended reallocating approximately \$2.15 million in unused funds from the City of Fresno to the City of San Joaquin and the City of Firebaugh.

Mr. Mascia (City of Fresno) moved and Ms. Cabrera (City of San Joaquin) seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

C. Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 8 Guidelines (Matthew Shimizu) [APPROVE]

Summary: The Active Transportation Program (ATP), established by the State in 2013, provides funding to support projects that increase safe and accessible walking, biking, and other non-motorized transportation options. The program aims to improve public health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance mobility for all Californians, especially underserved communities. Eligible projects include infrastructure improvements, education and encouragement programs, and plans that promote active transportation networks and connectivity. The program encourages projects that demonstrate safety, accessibility, and the potential to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Fresno COG will conduct supplemental regional call-for-projects using the Regional ATP scoring criteria and a designated regional scoring committee. To be eligible for the regional competition, all projects must first be submitted to the Statewide ATP competitive program. Only projects that applied at the statewide level but were not selected for funding will be considered in the regional call for projects.

The statewide call for projects is open, with applications due to Caltrans on June 22. Following the California Transportation Commission's approval of the Regional ATP Guidelines (June 27–28, 2026), the regional call for projects will open, with applications due Nov. 18. Regional ATP documents are included for review and approval and will be posted to fresnocog.org.

Action: Staff and the MAG request that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2026-12 adopting the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program Cycle 8 Guidelines.

Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) presented the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 8 Guidelines. He summarized the program updates, including statewide guideline changes and the upcoming call for regional ATP projects following CTC approval of the regional guidelines.

Ms. Cabrera (City of San Joaquin) moved and Mr. Henderson (City of Kingsburg) seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

D. Fresno COG Final 2026-27 Overall Work Program and Budget (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: The final, fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 Overall Work Program (OWP), totaling \$17,899,508, is submitted for committee and Board consideration. The proposed budget decreased \$20,592,948 from last year's budget. The decrease is mainly attributable to completion of large, one-time 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 Federal Highway Administration Planning revenues reflects progress completed on the regional pavement management system. Other significant decreases were a \$1,422,678 decrease for vehicle purchases 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 for merit-based salary increases as well as for anticipated health insurance increases.

The final 2026-27 OWP and Resolution 2026-12 are attached to this report.

Action: Staff requests the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2026-12, adopting Fresno COG's final 2026-27 Overall Work Program and budget.

Paul Herman (FCOG) presented the Final FY 2026–27 Overall Work Program and Budget totaling \$17.8 million. Staff reported no major changes from the draft version and requested that the committee recommend Policy Board approval of Resolution 2026-12 adopting the final OWP and budget.

Ms. Cabrera (City of San Joaquin) moved and Mr. Gallegos (City of Firebaugh) seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. PublicInput.com Plan Renewal (Brenda Thomas) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG uses PublicInput.com — a government-focused community engagement platform — to create customized project engagement websites, conduct surveys in multiple languages, track participation, identify gaps in reach, and build a complete engagement history with accurate, searchable data.

COGs play a critical role in regional planning, but managing engagement across multiple communities and agencies can quickly become fragmented. PublicInput.com simplifies coordination with a single platform that centralizes outreach, unifies feedback, and transforms raw data into clear, defensible insights. It enables seamless collaboration across consultant and partner governments while maintaining a regional view.

It also equips local partners with tools tailored to their needs and shares insights across agencies to build long-term engagement capacity. AI-powered analysis and GIS-based tools visualize participation through real-time dashboards and story maps. PublicInput also streamlines compliance by logging engagement activity, tracking demographics, and generating export-ready reports to meet Title VI, NEPA, and funding requirements.

In the last fiscal year alone, Fresno COG hosted nine project-focused community engagement hubs (websites) using PublicInput.com and conducted 11 surveys using the PublicInput engagement platform.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the executive director to sign a three-year service agreement with PublicInput.com totaling \$43,774.88.

Mr. Olson (City of Sanger) moved and Mr. Janson (City of Kerman) seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Legislative Update - California Department of Insurance (Robert Phipps/John Janson) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The California Department of Insurance (CDI) has been actively engaged in legislative efforts that intersect with local governance, including consumer protection initiatives, disaster preparedness and recovery, as well as emerging issues, such as the evolving homeowners' insurance market. Familiarity with these efforts may provide valuable context for Fresno COG member agencies on how state-level insurance policies impact local communities, land use planning, and regional resilience.

Richie M. Sayavong, associate governmental program analyst, will offer a short presentation on the CDI's legislative efforts related to issues affecting local governance.

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

Richie M. Sayavong (California Department of Insurance) provided a legislative update on the state insurance market, highlighting challenges related to wildfire risk and rising insurance costs, along with the Department's Sustainable Insurance Strategy and proposed legislation to improve recovery and update the California FAIR Plan.

Committee members discussed concerns regarding insurance availability and rising costs, particularly for residents in wildfire-prone areas and those currently relying on the California FAIR Plan.

This was informational only and no action was taken.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported that staff previously addressed an urgent CalVans-related JPA matter directly with the Board, which has since been resolved and CalVans notified. He also advised that FCTA directed staff to bring forward an urgent funding request from the Fresno State Transportation Institute, which has exhausted prior New Technology funding, and noted a potential \$1.5 million carve-out to be considered in the upcoming program cycle.

B. Items from Members

Virginia Penalosa (City of Huron) announced that the City of Huron will celebrate its 75th anniversary on May 3, including a community event featuring designer Willy Chavarria. Further details will be shared once the formal invitation is available.

Chair John Janson (City of Kerman) requested that late arrivals be reflected in the roll call record and provided informational updates regarding a Fresno State Transportation Institute student project and ongoing Measure C replacement discussions, with no formal action taken.

Nathan Olson (City of Sanger) announced a community "Spring Fling" event at the Sanger Senior Center, open to the public and scheduled from 5:00–9:00 p.m. with a fee for admission.

Paul Nerland (Fresno County) announced a community tree-planting event in Courthouse Park scheduled for April 21 at approximately 1:00 p.m., commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Phipps', written in a cursive style.

Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Public:

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Paul Herman, Rachel Hellett, Matthew Shimizu, Mykia Byrd.