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

**The meeting was held in 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  
Mayor Juan Mejia, City of Fowler  
Mayor Jerry Dyer, City of Fresno  
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron  
Mayor Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota  
Mayor Pro-Tem Gilbert Garcia, City of Orange Cove  
Mayor Matthew Tuttle, City of Reedley  
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger  
Mayor Adam Cornejo, City of San Joaquin  
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma  
Brandon Duran, Caltrans  
Robert Phipps, Executive Director  
Doug Sloan, Legal Counsel

**Absent:**

Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman  
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier  
Supervisor Garry Bredefeld, County of Fresno

**Quorum:** At the start of the meeting, fourteen members were present, representing 81.45% of the population. A quorum was established to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma). **Absent:** Kerman, Parlier, and County of Fresno.

The meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m. by the Chair Martinez (Mendota).

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Executive Minutes of March 26, 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]**

Mayor Dyer (Fresno) moved, and Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) seconded to approve consent items A-D.

**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. The scoring committee met on March 19 and is issuing the following funding recommendations:

#### 1. City of Firebaugh: Implementation of the Community Connectivity and Downtown Revitalization Study – Code Updates

The City of Firebaugh requested \$29,000 to fund zoning code updates and associated environmental clearance to implement the Community Connectivity and Downtown Revitalization Study. The project includes amendments to allow increased densities, reduced parking requirements, shared parking strategies, and a Downtown Overlay Zone to support mixed-use and pedestrian-oriented development. These updates are intended to improve connectivity, enhance walkability, and support transit-oriented development within the downtown area. Overall, the project demonstrates strong alignment with TOD program goals by promoting higher-density, mixed-use development and improving pedestrian connectivity in the downtown area. The scoring committee recommends funding \$29,000.

#### 2. City of Firebaugh: Del Rio Bus Stop and Sidewalk Project

The City of Firebaugh requested \$120,000 to fund design and environmental clearance for the Del Rio Bus Stop and Sidewalk Project. The project includes five-foot concrete sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, and a new regional transit bus stop within a medium-density residential neighborhood that lacks pedestrian infrastructure. These improvements are intended to remove existing barriers to transit access, improve connectivity to regional transit services, and enhance overall pedestrian safety and mobility in the area. Completion of this phase will position the project to pursue additional funding for construction and advance it toward implementation. Overall, the project supports TOD program goals by improving first- and last-mile connectivity, enhancing pedestrian infrastructure, and increasing access to regional transit services. The scoring committee recommends funding \$120,000.

#### 3. City of Fresno: Broadway Street Grid Reconnection Project

The City of Fresno requested \$918,500 to fund the Broadway Street Grid Reconnection Project, which will reestablish a missing segment of Broadway Street between Merced Street and Tuolumne Street, restoring connectivity within the downtown street grid. Improvements will include a complete-streets design with enhanced pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access, as well as roadway reconstruction, intersection improvements, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and lighting. The project is intended to improve safety, circulation, and accessibility while supporting infill development, economic activity, and transit-oriented development in the downtown area. Overall, the project supports TOD program goals by restoring critical network connectivity, enhancing multimodal access, and improving safety within the downtown area. The scoring committee recommends funding \$918,500.

#### 4. County of Fresno: Pedestrian/Bike Improvements on Chestnut Avenue (Shields Ave to Clinton Ave)

County of Fresno requested \$990,530 to fund the Pedestrian/Bike Improvements on Chestnut Avenue (Shields Avenue to Clinton Avenue) Project. The project will construct new sidewalks, Class II bike lanes, and ADA-compliant curb ramps along a half-mile, County-maintained segment of Chestnut Avenue that lacks pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, creating a gap between adjacent City-maintained sections that already include these facilities. Improvements will also include upgrades to six existing transit stops to improve accessibility and safety for transit riders. The project is intended to enhance safety and connectivity for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users, particularly for nearby schools, residential areas, and local businesses, while supporting multi-modal access and transit use in the corridor. Overall, the project supports TOD program goals by closing critical infrastructure

gaps, enhancing multimodal connectivity, and improving safe access to transit. The scoring committee recommends funding \$990,530.

**Action:** Staff and 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 Cycle 14 Measure C TOD recommendations supporting walkability, bikeability, and transit access. Four projects were recommended for full funding, including two in Firebaugh, one in Fresno (Broadway Street grid reconnection), and County of Fresno improvements along Chestnut Avenue, totaling approximately \$2.06 million.

Mayor Dyer (Fresno) moved, and Mayor Cornejo (San Joaquin) seconded the motion.

**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 original allocation of funds is shown below:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Name/Description</b>	<b>Award (original)</b>
City of Fresno	Blackstone Betterment: Live, Walk, Work, Ride, Complete Streets	\$10,300,000
City of Firebaugh	Firebaugh Downtown Infill Initiative	\$1,500,000
City of San Joaquin	TPM 18-01	\$800,000
Grant Administration/Southwest Strategies	Consultants, Outreach, and Project Scope	\$163,924.59
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,831,198.17</b>

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 and TTC/PAC recommend 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) reported a \$2.15 million balance in REAP 2.0 funds due to reduced City of Fresno expenditures. Staff recommended reallocating \$1 million to the City of San Joaquin and \$1.15 million to the City of Firebaugh for eligible infrastructure and infill development projects. All funds must be expended by December 31,

and both jurisdictions have committed to the deadline.

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

**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. ATP funding is distributed as follows:

Fifty percent to the State for a statewide competitive program (“Statewide Competitive ATP”).

Ten percent to the small urban and rural area competitive program, managed by the State; and

Forty percent to the large, urbanized area competitive program, with funding distributed by population and managed by metropolitan planning organizations (“Regional ATP”).

Fresno COG develops Regional ATP Guidelines and recommends projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Guidelines align with statewide rules with some regional adjustments, reflecting local priorities. Development included input from Fresno COG’s ATP Multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MAG), which represents government agencies, public health and active transportation stakeholders, and disadvantaged communities. The CTC adopted final 2027 Statewide ATP Cycle 8 Guidelines on March 19. There were relatively minor changes at the statewide level from cycle 7 to cycle 8, consisting of new and revised language in various program categories. Considerable program changes include:

All projects must first apply to the statewide component; projects not selected may submit a down-scaled application to the regional component.

Removed Justice 40, Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and USDOT Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer.

ATP will not fund:

Class III bikeways (except per Streets & Highways Code §2384(b))

A project that proposes installing new sharrows on a roadway that has a posted speed limit greater than 30 MPH

Projects proposing to use ATP funds to supplant other committed funds

Ongoing or existing non-infrastructure projects and related operations.

Cost increases, UNLESS, the agency is able to cover the overruns w/o additional ATP funding and only cost increases for Caltrans-nominated on-system projects.

A few minor differences remain between the statewide guidelines and Fresno COG’s regional guidelines. These differences include:

No minimum funding requirement

Quick-build projects are eligible (MPO component only)

Leveraging points available

All projects scored using the small infrastructure criteria

Fresno COG will conduct a 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](http://fresnocog.org). Enclosures for this item include:

Resolution 2026-12

Final draft regional ATP guidelines

Fund estimate

The electronic ATP Cycle 8 applications and other guidance documents can be found at: Active Transportation Program (ATP) | CTC ([ca.gov](http://ca.gov)). Please contact Matthew Shimizu via email at [mshimizu@fresnocog.org](mailto:mshimizu@fresnocog.org) or via phone at 559-233-4148 ext. 240 with any questions.

**Action:** Staff, the ATP Multidisciplinary Advisory Group, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2026-12 adopting Fresno COG's Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program Cycle 8 Guidelines.

Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) provided an update on ATP Cycle 8 guidelines, which fund projects that improve active transportation, safety, and mobility while reducing emissions. All projects must first apply at the statewide level under revised eligibility and scoring criteria. Fresno COG will then issue a regional call for eligible unfunded projects, with regional applications due November 18.

Mayor Cornejo (San Joaquin) moved, and Mayor Dyer (Fresno) seconded the motion.

**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 2026-13 are attached to this report.

**Action:** Staff and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2026-13, adopting Fresno COG's final 2026-27 Overall Work Program and budget.

Paul Herman (FCOG) presented the final FY 2026–27 Fresno COG Overall Work Program and Budget totaling \$17.89 million, a decrease of \$28.5 million from the prior year due to completion of one-time grants. He noted operational revenues and reserves remain stable and adequate.

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

**All in favor, none opposed.**

**Motion carried.**

### **III. CALTRANS REPORT (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]**

Braden Duran, Office Chief for Transportation Planning at Caltrans District 6, provided updates on Caltrans walk assessment efforts, Earth Day activities, the Active Transportation Program application deadline, the District 6 Workers Memorial, the Excelsior Expressway project, and recent tree plantings along SR-41 at Divisadero Street.

**This item was informational. No action was required.**

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

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

Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) moved, and Mayor Leon (Huron) seconded the motion.

**All in favor, none opposed.**

**Motion carried.**

### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Fresno State Transportation Institute Emergency Request for Measure C Funding (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** During the April 8 Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Board meeting, Dr. Aly Tawfik with the Fresno State Transportation Institute (FSTI) provided the Board with a description and update of FSTI's activities, projects and community engagement, funded primarily through Measure C. At the end of his presentation, Dr. Tawfik appealed for an emergency infusion of Measure C funding to avoid mass, student intern layoffs, and other program disruptions. The FCTA Board responded with direction to Fresno COG and FCTA staff to provide FSTI with \$1.5 million from the New Technology program to cover a two-year period.

FSTI is a partnership among Fresno State, Fresno COG and FCTA, supported by a Measure C New Technology grant of approximately \$3 million awarded in 2017. Dr. Tawfik, an assistant professor of civil engineering, leads the Institute. It seeks to address Fresno County's transportation problems through education, research, technical services, and outreach to the public. In addition to Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering, the Craig School of Business and College of Social Sciences also participate. In 2024-25, FSTI reached an apex of approximately 24 student interns employed for a variety of studies commissioned by Caltrans and other entities. The Institute also funds multiple research projects, such as an AI-powered survey tool capable of dialing thousands of residents simultaneously, and a prototype robotic crossing guard for elementary school children, among several others. Furthermore, FSTI sponsors an annual model train competition for school children interested in engineering and other transportation-related professions.

As a result of the funding shortfall, the number of student interns in the program has dropped to eight. Staff is reviewing invoicing from the last three years and understands the problem to be centered on an unexpected, \$300,000 charge from Fresno State to cover 30 percent of Dr. Tawfik's salary from 2022 to 2025, which was withdrawn directly from the Institute's accounts in December 2025.

Fresno COG will release the next New Technology Grant call-for-projects on May 8. FSTI is expected to compete with the region's 16 jurisdictions for an anticipated \$7.5-\$8 million round of funding.

Following FCTA's direction, Fresno COG and FCTA staff are working with Dr. Tawfik on a solution to the immediate funding shortfall that will at least carry FSTI through the end of its contract term — Dec. 31, 2026. Staff anticipates returning to the Policy Board in May with a proposed contract amendment.

Robert Phipps (FCOG) provided an informational update regarding an emergency Measure C New Technology funding request for the Fresno State Transportation Institute (FSTI). Staff reported an estimated shortfall of

approximately \$300,000 to \$375,000 related to delayed university billing, while the larger \$1.5 million request reflects anticipated operational needs over the next two years. Staff noted FSTI will also compete in the upcoming New Technology funding cycle.

Moses Stites (FCTA) reported that FCOG identified a funding discrepancy in the Fresno State Transportation Institute (FSTI) due to delayed internal billing, including an unbilled \$300,000 salary allocation. Staff are reconciling expenditures and coordinating with FCTA and Fresno State to address short-term funding needs while maintaining eligibility for the upcoming New Technology funding cycle.

Board members discussed the importance of fiscal oversight, program deliverables, and understanding the circumstances surrounding the funding shortfall. Staff indicated they are continuing their review and will return with additional information and recommendations at a future meeting.

**Action:** Information. The Policy Board may provide additional direction at its discretion.

## **VI. OTHER ITEMS**

### **A. Items from Staff**

None.

### **B. Items from Members**

Mayor Mouanoutoua (Clovis) thanked attendees of the rodeo and highlighted several upcoming events, including the Mayor's Breakfast and participation opportunities for cities in regional initiatives.

Mayor Leon (Huron) requested letters of support for a proposed 3,000-acre nature conservancy in the western region, noting its potential as a first-of-its-kind project near a farmworker community. An announcement was made regarding a planned Westside Bike Ride (San Joaquin to Huron via Five Points), intended to highlight active transportation infrastructure and community connectivity.

Mayor Dyer (Fresno) reported a \$3.6 million state award to complete a downtown plaza project, with construction expected to begin this year. Additional announcements included national 250th anniversary celebrations featuring flag displays, ceremonies, and community events across Fresno.

Mayor Martinez (Mendota) announced May 15 at 10:00 a.m. groundbreaking ceremony for a new \$12 million community center and noted that formal invitations will be sent out by the City.

## **VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Richie Siavon, California Department of Insurance, requested support for state legislation on wildfire recovery insurance reform aimed at improving recovery, reducing coverage gaps, increasing accountability, and strengthening resilience in wildfire-impacted communities. He offered to provide additional information and present updates to local governing bodies.

## **VIII. CLOSED SESSION (Conference with Real Property Negotiations (§ 54956.8))**

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Les Beshears, Paul Herman, Rachel Hellett, Matthew Shimizu, Mykia Byrd