CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting

Action Summary

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: COG Ash Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Present:

Donna Silva, Public-at-Large
David Martin, Public-at-Large
Jenn Guerra, Cultural Arts Rotary Club
Louis Herrera, Public-at-Large
Luisa Medina, League of Women Voters
Shannon Avilla, First Steps Recovery

Members Absent:

Ali Nekumanesh, Public-at-Large
Eddie Hunsaker, Public-at-Large
Gail Miller, WTS

Others Attending:

Denise DiBenedetto, FCTA
Moses Stites, FCTA
Jake Martinez, Fresno COG
Julie Saldivar, Fresno COG

Shannon Avilla called the meeting to order at 5:05 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 March 5, 2026 Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting

A motion was made by David Martin and seconded by Luisa Medina to approve, with edits, the March 5, 2026, Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee minutes. A vote was called and the motion carried.

III. Election of Measure C Chair and Vice Chair

Jake Martinez reported on this item. As the current terms of Chair Shannon Avilla and Vice Chair Luis Herrera have expired, the Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee conducted an election to select officers for the next term.

The responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair include, but are not limited to, presiding over Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee meetings, coordinating and preparing the annual letter for the Measure C Annual Report, and performing other duties as necessary. The terms of the Chair and Vice Chair are one (1) year.

The Committee voted to re-elect Shannon Avilla as Chair and Luis Herrera as Vice Chair for an additional one-year term, through June 3, 2027.

IV. Measure C Extension Local Agency Audits

Denise DiBenedetto reported on this item. Price Paige & Company Certified Public Accountants was retained by the Authority to perform the audit of finances on all local agencies receiving Measure C Extension revenue as required in the 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan.

In summary the firm stated that overall, local agencies continue to adhere to the record keeping and reporting requirements, as well as proper expenditure of Measure C funds in accordance with provisions of the Measure C Transportation Sales Tax Extension. The remaining FY22 and FY23 agencies are all in process of their audits and are expected to be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

Additionally, the committee continues to express significant concern over ongoing delays by several cities in submitting required audit information, noting that the issue has persisted across multiple fiscal years and is no longer isolated. Members acknowledged challenges such as staff turnover, limited capacity in smaller cities, and delays in completing citywide audits, which in turn prevent timely completion of Measure C audits. However, the continued lateness was seen as undermining transparency, public confidence, and the committee’s ability to provide effective oversight. The lack of consistent consequences for noncompliance raised questions about accountability, prompting discussion of enforcing recently adopted policies, including withholding future funding, increasing communication with city leadership, and documenting these concerns in the annual report to ensure the public record reflects the seriousness of the issue.

Action: Review and provide comments. No action was taken by the Oversight Committee.

V. FY26-27 Resolution of Allocation 2026-01 Adopting the Annual Apportionment of Measure C Extension Funds for Local Transportation Pass-Through Projects and Programs

Denise DiBenedetto reported on this item. California Public Utilities Code Section 142257 provides that the 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan shall specify the amount and the formula by which the retail transactions and use tax shall be allocated to each participating jurisdiction for Local Transportation Purposes. The 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan created several transportation programs to be implemented by participating jurisdictions with Measure C funds passed through from the Authority to the jurisdictions.

Consistent with adopted policy for administration of the funds, the Authority requested and received the annual estimate of Measure C funds from the Fresno County Auditor-Controller/ Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Based upon the annual estimate of total street miles from the California Department of Transportation, the annual estimate of population from the California Department of Finance, and the Measure C allocation formula as dictated by the 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan, the attached estimate of available funds and the annual apportionments has been calculated and included in Resolution 2026-01.

Action: This is informational only. No action is needed from the Oversight Committee.

VI. Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee letter to the Measure C Annual Report

Shannon Avilla reported on this item. The Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee is responsible for creating an annual letter that will be included in the Measure C Annual Report. This letter includes a review of projects presented to the Oversight Committee that used Measure C funds to ensure that expenditures relating to Measure C are spent within Measure C’s allowable expenses. Staff from Fresno Council of Governments and Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) are not involved in creating the report to maintain an unbiased perspective.

It was also noted that the board has decided to return to a printed format after feedback indicated a preference for hard copies over the previous digital version. The board's report is expected to be completed in October.

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

VII. FY26/27 Proposed Original Measure C Budget (1987-2007)

Denise DiBenedetto reported on this item. The Original Measure C is outside the COC’s authority but is included for reference. For FY 2026–27, it will generate no sales tax revenue (the tax expired in 2007) but is expected to earn $1.95 million in interest to fund remaining projects. Administrative costs will be covered using reserves accumulated during the original 20-year measure, which is consistent with their intended purpose and approved by legal and financial oversight.

The budget is largely unchanged from last year, with no new initiatives. Administrative costs total $268,860, covering 50% of a Program Manager's salary (shared with the Extension program) and split service costs (30% Original / 70% Extension). Salary estimates include a potential 5% increase. Detailed explanations are provided for each budget line item.

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

VIII. FY26/27 Proposed Extension Measure C Budget (2007-2027)

Denise DiBenedetto reported on this item. The proposed 2026–27 Measure C Extension budget totals $125.26 million in projected sales tax and interest revenue, reflecting a modest 1% increase due to economic uncertainty. Interest income is estimated at $11.3 million, with projections developed collaboratively by the County Auditor-Controller and the Authority's financial advisor.

Administrative salary and benefits are budgeted at $598,510, covering two full-time positions and half of a Program Manager's cost, with a potential 5% salary increase. The total administrative budget is $1,130,247, including shared office and support costs split 70% Extension and 30% Original, while remaining allowable funds are reserved for future transition or closeout needs.

Services and Supplies are budgeted at $932,200 to support program delivery, including professional services, outreach, and memberships, with costs prorated where applicable. The remainder of the budget largely continues prior-year allocations, primarily consisting of pass-through funding to local jurisdictions and reserves held for projects not yet ready to proceed.

Action: Review and provide comments. No action was taken by the Oversight Committee.

IX. FY26/27 Propose RTMF Measure C Budget (2015-2027)

Denise DiBenedetto reported on this item. The FY 2026–27 RTMF revenue projection is based on estimated development activity in Fresno County and applies the Board-approved 2020 fee schedule. No administrative salary or support costs are included, as these are handled separately by the RTMF Agency through its own fees.

The budget continues the repayment of past loans from Measure C funds, which were used to advance projects when RTMF revenues lagged. The current uncommitted balance of $6.2 million will be applied toward this repayment, contributing to reducing the outstanding loan balance of $75.8 million.

Projected revenues include $5.2 million in fee collections and $162,708 in interest, with additional Measure C loan funding available for ongoing project costs, bringing total available resources to $19.4 million. Expenditures include $13.2 million for project construction, minimal service costs, and $6.19 million for loan repayment. To date, nearly $71 million in RTMF funds have been collected to support transportation infrastructure projects.

Action: Review and provide comments. No action was taken by the Oversight Committee.

X. Items from Members

XI. Items from Staff

A. Measure C Update

Moses Stites summarized two scenarios pertaining to the Measure C initiative. He noted that the only transportation initiative currently seeking placement on the November ballot is “Better Roads, Safer Streets.” Petition organizers submitted approximately 33,000 signatures to meet the required threshold of about 22,000 valid signatures; however, an initial sample indicated a high number of invalid or duplicate signatures. The County Clerk’s Office is continuing the verification process following completion of current election-related responsibilities. If the initiative qualifies, it would require a simple majority (50% + 1) to pass under existing rules, though a separate statewide initiative could impose a two-thirds voter approval requirement, potentially creating legal uncertainty. If no transportation measure advances, a two-year gap in local transportation funding could occur before another measure could be considered in 2028. During that period, no new Measure C-funded projects would begin, although existing projects would continue toward completion. Committee members concluded by noting that many residents may not fully recognize the benefits of past transportation investments, including improved travel times, reduced congestion, and enhanced regional infrastructure.

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

- August 5
- September 2
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2

C. Items for the next agenda

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

- **Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee** – Friday, July 10, at 8:30 AM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room
- **Fresno COG Policy Advisory Committee** – Friday, July 10, at 10:00 AM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room
- **Fresno COG Policy Board** – Wednesday, July 29, at 5:30 PM in-person at Fresno Council of Governments Sequoia Conference Room

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.