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**Transportation Technical Committee
MINUTES
Friday, July 10, 2026
8:30 a.m.**

The meeting was held in the Fresno COG Sequoia Conference Room.

Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
Jill Gormley, City of Fresno
Jennifer Clark, City of Fresno
Joseph Harrell, County of Fresno
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno
Daniel Galvez, City of Kingsburg
Stan Bulla, City of San Joaquin
Soo Ho Pak, City of Selma
Mohammad Alimi, City of Selma
Tina Sumner, Fresno Cycling Club
Braden Duran, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG
Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Mr. Burnett (City of Clovis), Chair

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of June 12, 2026 [APPROVE]**
- B. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Reedley Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- C. 2026-27 Measure C Claims (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- D. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Sanger Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- E. State and Federal Grant Opportunities (Erin Haagenon) [INFORMATION]**
- F. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Kingsburg Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- G. Fiscal Year 2026-27 FCRTA Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**

Mr. Khorsand (County of Fresno) moved, and Ms. Clark (City of Fresno) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Documents and Public Hearing (Paul Herman) (INFORMATION)**

Summary: Fresno COG has or will be releasing the following draft documents for the 2026 RTP/SCS for public review:

- The 2026 Draft RTP/SCS was released on June 23 for a 55-day public review period ending on Aug. 17.
- The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released on July 2 for a 45-day public review period ending on Aug. 17.

- The 2027 Draft Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) will be released on July 17 for a 30-day public review period ending on Aug.17.
- The Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2027 FTIP and 2026 RTP/SCS will be released on July 17 for a 30-day public review period ending on Aug. 17.

The Policy Board will hold a public hearing for these documents during its regional meeting at 5:30 p.m. on July 29. Staff will host an additional virtual public workshop to receive comments at 6 p.m. Aug. 5 via Zoom. A Zoom link for the virtual public workshop will be available on FresnoCOG.org and PlanFresno.com.

Public comments are welcomed at the hearings or may be submitted in writing by 5 p.m., Aug. 17 to Paul Herman at pherman@fresnocog.org.

After public comments are incorporated, the Policy Board is scheduled to adopt all four documents on Sept. 24.

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

B. Fresno County Safe Routes to School Safety Action Plan Consultant Selection (Rachel Hellett) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG was awarded the fiscal year 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning and Demonstration Grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop the Fresno County Safe Routes to School Safety Action Plan.

The plan will evaluate the most critical transportation safety issues affecting students throughout Fresno County and identify improvements to support safer travel to and from school. The plan will include targeted analysis at up to 35 selected school sites and will incorporate data analysis, walk audits, and community engagement.

In May 2026, Fresno COG released a request for proposals for consultants to develop the plan. Fresno COG received four proposals for this project by the June 16, 2026, deadline.

The selection process was highly competitive. The scoring committee, with representation from Fresno COG, Fresno County, Caltrans, a community-based organization, Fresno Unified School District, and FCRTA, conducted interviews and selected Alta Planning + Design due to its Safe Routes to School experience, detailed work plan, understanding of the region, and emphasis on public outreach, walk audits, data analysis, and implementation.

Work is anticipated to begin in August 2026, with completion expected in February 2028. Alta's proposed project schedule is attached.

Action: Staff recommends the TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Alta Planning + Design for the Fresno County Safe Routes to School Safety Action Plan for an amount not to exceed \$478,917.

Rachel Hellett (FCOG) presented the recommended consultant selection for the Fresno County Safe Routes to School Safety Action Plan. Staff recommended approval of a contract with Alta Planning + Design for an amount not to exceed \$478,917. The committee discussed project site selection criteria and coordination with previous studies.

Mr. Khorsand (County of Fresno) moved, and Mr. Alimi (City of Selma) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

C. Return of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Caltrans is close to completing its recertification of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms, which now only considers economic disadvantage rather than race or sex.

Under Caltrans' revised methodology, goals will be returning to Federal-aid projects, Future goal-setting will place greater emphasis on bidder lists, rather than just the list of certified firms. To set accurate goals, Caltrans is developing a format that will allow local agencies to report all bidder lists, including those that bid on other types of projects (non-Federal aid and non-transportation).

Caltrans' staff expect that once the recertification process is complete, only about 1,200 firms will remain certified statewide, from a previous level of 3,600. Caltrans plans to give local agencies at least two months' advance notice before DBE contract goals become mandatory again.

Erin Haagenon (FCOG) provided an informational update on the return of DBE goals. Caltrans is recertifying firms based solely on economic disadvantage, resulting in a smaller pool of certified firms. Future DBE goals will be based on actual bidder data, and agencies will be asked to submit bidder lists for all projects to improve goal-setting accuracy. Staff noted additional training and data collection are expected before the program resume.

The committee discussed the potential for lower DBE goals due to the reduced number of certified firms and clarified that the program framework will remain largely unchanged.

Action: This item was for information only.

D. Updates to the Uniform Federal Guidance for Grants (Erin Haagenon) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The federal government is proposing major changes to the rules that govern federal grants. Comments on the proposal are due July 13, 2026, and the changes could affect how local agencies administer federally funded transportation projects.

Key provisions include:

- Greater federal authority to suspend or terminate discretionary grant awards
- Additional requirements for procurement, contracting, and grant administration
- New documentation and reporting requirements that could increase staff workload and slow reimbursement processing
- E-Verify requirements for agencies, contractors, and consultants performing federally funded work
- Restrictions on using federal funds for conference attendance, training, memberships, and subscriptions without prior approval.

Some provisions are intended to simplify competitive grant applications, including streamlined application processes and expanded use of multi-year grant awards.

The proposed changes could increase administrative costs and compliance responsibilities for local agencies receiving federal transportation funding. Member agencies are encouraged to identify specific concerns or examples of potential impacts to project delivery before the July 13, 2026, comment deadline.

The proposed rule, along with a method for submitting comments is here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>

ERIN Haagenon (FCOG) provided an update on proposed changes to the Uniform Federal Guidance, highlighting potential impacts to federal grant administration, including E-Verify requirements and the possibility of grants being rescinded during project delivery. The committee discussed concerns regarding the financial risks to local agencies.

Action: This item was for information only.

III. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG) announced the July Board meeting was moved to July 29, 2026, due to delays with the federal air quality conformity process. He also provided an update on the Better Roads Safe Streets measure, noting it met signature requirements and will be considered by the Board of Supervisors. Discussion included ballot timing, potential fiscal analysis impacts, and the proposed oversight committee structure, which would be administered through Fresno COG if approved.

B. Items from Members

Caltrans Report - Braden Duran provided updates on upcoming Caltrans grant programs, including the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program, with applications expected in October, and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 13, with applications due November 2. He also reported that ATP Cycle 8 received strong regional participation, with \$70 million in requests submitted locally, though funding remains highly competitive. The State Route 41 Excelsior Expressway groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for August 14.

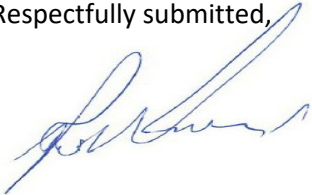
IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Phipps', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Public: None

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Paul Herman, Rachel Hellett, Erin Haagenon, and Mykia Byrd