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**Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, July 29, 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 Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Pro-Tem 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 Pro Tem Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Adam Cornejo, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Supervisor Garry Bredefeld, County of Fresno
Philip Vallejo, Caltrans
Robert Phipps, Executive Director
Katie Doerr, Assistant Legal Counsel

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, fifteen voting members were present, representing 99.34% of the population. A quorum was established to conduct business. Present cities/agencies included Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma, and the County of Fresno. Absent: Huron was absent when the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:56 p.m. by Chair Mayor Martinez (Mendota).

Attendance Changes During the Meeting:

Mayor Rey Leon (Huron) arrived at 6:26 p.m.

Mayor Frank Gonzalez (Sanger) left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of June 25, 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. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Kingsburg Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- F. Fiscal Year 2026-27 FCRTA Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- G. State and Federal Grant Opportunities (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]**

- H. Return of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]**
I. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Obligational Authority Quarterly Report (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]

Robert R. Phipps (FCOG) noted a correction to the minutes for Item A to reflect that Katie Doerr attended the previous meeting on behalf of Doug Sloan and had been inadvertently omitted.

Mayor Alma Beltran (Parlier) moved to approve the Consent Calendar (Items A–I), as amended. Mayor Jerry Dyer (Fresno) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

Absent: Huron

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Summary: Fresno COG has released 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) was 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 2022 RTP/SCS was released on July 17 for a 30-day public review period ending on Aug. 17.

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: Open the public hearing. Receive comments. Close the public hearing.

Paul Herman (FCOG) reported on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategies Document and Public Hearing.

Chair Martinez (Mendota) opened the public hearing at 5:58 p.m.

Public comments: Comments were received regarding Measure C and related transportation funding concerns.

Chair Martinez (Mendota) closed the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

The public hearing was closed. No action was taken.

- 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 and TTC/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.

Simran Jhutti Sangha (FCOG) presented the staff report and recommended approval of a consultant agreement with Alta Planning + Design to prepare the Fresno County Safe Routes to School Safety Action Plan.

Mayor Mouanoutoua (Clovis) requested that future consultant awardees attend Board meetings when their agreements are considered.

Mayor Beltran (Parlier) moved to 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. Mayor Pro Tem Garcia (Orange Cove) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

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

Summary: In response to President Trump's 2025 Executive Order, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking," the federal Office of Management and Budget has proposed major changes to the rules that govern federal grants that could affect how local agencies administer federally funded transportation projects.

- Key provisions include:
 - The proposed rule would reclassify 2 CFR Subtitle A from OMB guidance to binding federal regulation, meaning future amendments would take effect government-wide without separate notice-and-comment rulemaking by individual agencies.
 - Greater federal authority to suspend or terminate discretionary grant awards mid-stream
 - 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
 - Extending Buy America-style provisions beyond infrastructure to all federal awards regardless of domestic production capacity
- Requiring states to run pre-payment checks through Treasury's Do Not Pay (DNP) system before disbursing pass-through funds, which may delay access to funds for both local governments and residents.
- Discouraging cost-reimbursement contracts between grant recipients and their vendors or contractors (e.g. engineering firm, contractor). Local governments must submit a written justification if they want to use a cost-reimbursement contract.
- 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 were encouraged to identify specific concerns or examples of potential impacts to project delivery before the comment deadline. Nearly 500,000 comments were submitted. The OMB is expected to review the comments and issue the final rule by October 1. However, it is not clear whether OMB has the authority to issue binding regulation, and the matter may be litigated. In addition, opponents of the changes are urging Congress to block the changes through appropriations bills or other legislation.

The proposed rule is posted here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>

Erin Haagenson (FCOG) presented an informational report on proposed updates to the Uniform Federal Guidance for Grants, including potential impacts on federal transportation funding, grant administration, and project delivery.

Staff responded to questions regarding potential reimbursement delays and increased administrative requirements associated with the proposed changes.

No action was taken.

III. CALTRANS REPORT [INFORMATION]

Philip Vallejo provided updates on Caltrans initiatives, including State Route 99 being identified as a priority congestion corridor, upcoming grant opportunities, the October California Transportation Commission meeting in Hanford, and progress on several local projects, including Clean California, the Dickinson Roundabout, and the Excelsior Expressway Gap Closure Project.

No action was taken.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley State Advocacy Contract - Gus Khouri/Actum (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]

Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) moved to approve the San Joaquin Valley State Advocacy Contract with Actum. Mayor Beltran (Parlier) seconded the motion.

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

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS

A. Fresno COG's 2027 One Voice D.C. Advocacy Trip - Seeking Direction (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]

Mayor Leon (Huron) moved to postpone the item pending further information regarding Measure C matters. Mayor Pro Tem Pursell (Kingsburg) seconded the motion.

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

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps (FCOG) reported there would be no Board meeting in August. He noted that Paul Herman would serve in his absence while he was out of the country.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Beltran (Parlier) expressed concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest related to the consultant

conducting the Measure C study. Assistant County Counsel Katie Doerr stated the matter had been reviewed and that no legal conflict of interest existed. Mayor Beltran requested her comments be entered into the record.

Mayor Dyer (Fresno) reported that the City of Fresno is considering a temporary local sales tax measure related to potential Measure C funding impacts.

Mayor Mouanoutoua (Clovis) reported that the City of Clovis is evaluating potential impacts associated with the expiration of Measure C, including impacts to street maintenance, transit services, and staffing.

Mayor Vosburg (Coalinga) requested that Fresno COG prepare and distribute information outlining the potential impacts of Measure C expiration on individual rural communities. Executive Director Robert Phipps confirmed that staff could provide the requested analysis.

Mayor Pacheco (Kerman) and Chair Martinez (Mendota) discussed the potential impacts of Measure C expiration on rural transit services.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

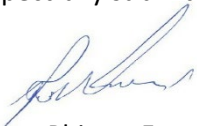
Public Comment: James Meiser, representing the local Marine Corps League, thanked Mayor Dyer and Supervisor Bredefeld for their support of the organization's community fundraising efforts. No other public comments were received.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION -- Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Cal. Gov. Code, § 54957) - Executive Director

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Executive Director

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Paul Herman, Les Beshears, Brenda Thomas, Simran Jhutti Sangha, Erin Haagenson, Julie Saldivar, Mykia Byrd