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**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, September 11, 2026
10:00 AM**

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

Andrew Haussler, City of Clovis
Nicolas Mascia, City of Fresno
Virginia Penaloza, City of Huron
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Elizabeth Cabrera, City of San Joaquin
Jason Rogers, City of Selma
Joseph Harrell, County of Fresno
Braden Duran, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Chair John Jansons (City of Kerman). With eight members present, a quorum was established to conduct business.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of July 10, 2026 [ACTION]**
- B. Fourth Quarter FY 25-26 Work Element and Financial Report (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**
- C. Fiscal Year 2026-27 City of Clovis Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- D. Fiscal Year 2026-27 City of Huron Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- E. Fiscal Year 2026-27 City of Mendota Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- F. Fiscal Year 2026-27 City of Firebaugh Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- G. Section 5310 Program Contract Agreements (Matthew Shimizu) [APPROVE]**
- H. Access for All Allocation of Funds for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 (Jake Martinez) [APPROVE]**
- I. Transportation Development Act 2025-26 Surplus (Les Beshears) [INFORMATION]**
- J. 2026-27 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 1 (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- K. Airport Land Use Commission Membership - Reappointment (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]**
- L. SB 922: Street Maintenance Recovery Costs (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]**

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

All in favor, none opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Fowler, Firebaugh, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger
Motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Final Draft Approval: 2026 Regional Transportation Program/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS), Environmental Impact Report (EIR), 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and Corresponding Final Conformity Analysis (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG is both federally and State-mandated to prepare and maintain the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), the accompanying environmental impact report (EIR), Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and the corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

The RTP/SCS is a 23-year blueprint for the Fresno County region's transportation network that addresses all proposed modes and projects that may require Federal funding over a long-term period.

The FTIP's shorter-term, four-year program of projects that includes a listing of all transportation-related projects requiring Federal funding or other approval by Federal transportation agencies. The FTIP also lists non-federal, regionally significant projects for information and air quality modeling purposes. Projects included in the FTIP are consistent with Fresno COG's RTP and are part of the area's overall strategy for providing mobility, congestion relief, and reduction of transportation-related air pollution to attain federal air quality standards set for the region.

Fresno COG is federally required to update the FTIP every two years. The most recent update was the 2025 FTIP, which was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on July 25, 2024. Fresno COG is due to update the FTIP again and is proposing approval of the final draft 2027 FTIP, alongside the Final 2026 RTP/SCS, EIR, and the corresponding final draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis. A resolution is enclosed and the most recent FTIP documents are available for review on the Fresno COG website at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/federal-transportation-improvement-program-ftip/>

The Final 2026 RTP/SCS and EIR are available for review on the Fresno COG website at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/regional-transportation-plan/>

Fresno COG held a 30-day public review and comment period for the Draft 2027 FTIP and corresponding draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis; a 45-day public review period for the draft environmental impact report (EIR), and a 55-day public review comment period for the draft 2026 RTP/SCS. All review periods for each of the draft documents closed concurrently on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026. Staff also held a public hearing to receive in-person comments on the draft 2027 FTIP, draft 2026 RTP/SCS, and accompanying documents on July 29, 2026, at Fresno COG's office.

Additionally, on Aug. 5, 2026, Fresno COG hosted a virtual public workshop to receive comments from those who could not attend the first hearing. Verbal comments received at the public hearing and other comments received during the 30-day public review period are summarized and responded to in Appendix J (Formal Comments and Responses) of the final draft 2027 FTIP. Any changes made to the Draft 2027 FTIP based on comments received are noted within the responses to such comments. Comments received on the Draft Conformity Analysis and the 2026 RTP/SCS and EIR have also been addressed and are included in each of the final draft submittals.

The final 2027 FTIP, final 2026 RTP/SCS, EIR, and corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis meet all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450, 40 CFR Part 93, and conform to the applicable State Implementation Plans.

Action: Staff recommends that the Policy Board approve the Final 2027 FTIP, 2026 RTP/SCS, EIR and the corresponding Final Conformity Analysis via Resolution No. 2026-27.

Paul Herman (FCOG) presented the final 2026 Regional Transportation Program Sustainable Communities Strategy Environmental Impact Report (RTPSCS EIR), 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and corresponding final air quality conformity analysis. Staff reviewed the purpose and requirements of the documents, the public review and comment process, and updates made to the final documents.

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

All in favor, none opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger

Motion carried.

B. Impacts of No Measure 'C' on 14 Cities (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]

Summary: At its July 2026 meeting, the Policy Board requested a scenario analysis that envisions impacts to smaller jurisdictions in particular if no local sales tax measure revenues are available after June 30, 2027. The attached report evaluates the recurring fiscal position of the 14 incorporated Fresno County cities, other than the City of Fresno. The County is not included because it has conducted a separate analysis.

The analysis evaluates five scenarios, ranging from a baseline with Measure and TDA Article 8 revenues to a more demanding scenario in which Measure and TDA Article 8 are unavailable, Federal revenues are increased to reflect projects programmed in the FTIP, and cities must provide the associated local match.

Key findings of the report include:

1. The loss of Measure revenues does not affect all cities equally.
2. The potential loss of TDA Article 8 materially increases fiscal pressure for cities that receive those funds.
3. Federal funding opportunities do not eliminate the local fiscal problem because cities must provide a local match.
4. The greatest relative pressure occurs where the FTIP program is large compared with the city's recurring local and State transportation resources.
5. This analysis does not determine whether each city can maintain its entire existing roadway system because detailed expenditures, pavement conditions, staffing, maintenance standards, and fund balances were outside the scope, but could be presented in a further analysis, if detailed information was provided by each city.

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

Erin Haagenson (FCOG) presented an analysis of the potential fiscal impacts to the 14 incorporated cities in Fresno County, excluding the City of Fresno and Fresno County, if replacement Measure C revenues are not available after June 30, 2027. The analysis considered the loss of Measure C and TDA Article 8 revenues, increased federal funding, and associated local match requirements.

This item was for information only.

C. Project Funding for Measure C New Technology Reserve Program 2026 (Simran Jhutti Sangha) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG staff released the Measure C 2026 application for New Technology funding on May 8, 2026. The Measure C New Technology Program includes \$9.5 million available for the fiscal year 26/27 award cycle. Fresno COG releases an application for New Technology projects/proposals on a biennial basis.

The New Technology Reserve subprogram sets aside Measure “C” funding to finance new transit technologies that may be developed in the future. To further its Measure C New Technology Program goals, Fresno COG is focusing on technological advances in public systems, safety features, fuel efficiencies and alternatives, intelligent transportation system (ITS) applications, and information dissemination. These are priority focus areas that help promote passenger safety and satisfaction, attract customers, improve capital and operating efficiencies, reduce environmental pollution, and ease dependence on fossil fuels.

This cycle, Fresno COG received eight applications requesting approximately \$12.6 million against an available \$9.5 million, per the accruals through June 30. The scoring committee comprised a representative from each: the County of Fresno, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, east side city, west side city, Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee, transit agency, Fresno COG, and Fresno County Transportation Authority. On Aug. 18, the scoring committee met to interview the applicants and discuss the applications. The scoring committee emphasized projects that provided continuity in the New Technology reserve program and elevated technological advances.

The scoring committee unanimously recommended six of the eight applications, with two of the six for partial funding. They are:

Clovis Transit Dispatch Optimization Project (City of Clovis): Clovis Transit will implement artificial intelligence in addition to existing dispatch to manage real-time service coordination, after-hour calls, and other operational challenges. The cloud-based deployment can be replicated by other transit providers. Performance data will document AI handling, time savings, and no-show outcomes for future regional decisions.

New Tech Recommended Funds: **\$466,142**

Aviation Fuel Farm Replacement Project (City of Reedley): The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently accepted unleaded fuel for use in planes, an important step in cleaning the Valley’s air. The City of Reedley is building on its clean aviation all-electric plane program in 2016, and this project installs three 12,000-gallon aboveground fuel tanks by July 2028, leading into a fully operational, unleaded, aviation-fuel facility.

New Tech Recommended Funds: **\$1,496,476**

Firebaugh Off-Grid EV Charging Hub (Fresno County Rural Transit Agency): The project includes a 50 kW solar carport, 407 kWh battery system, and a 150 kW DC fast charger to enable off-grid fast charging for Fresno County Rural Transit Agency’s EV fleet. The off-grid solar-powered EV charging hub includes transitioning to a 100% electric fleet and using resilient, grid-independent charging technology.

New Tech Recommended Funds: **\$1,361,006**

Next Generation ITS Adaptive System Development & Deployment for City Traffic Signals at Freeway Crossings (City of Fresno): This project includes a new software module and construction at two pilot locations (Friant Road/SR41 and Shaw Avenue/SR168). It will expand the City’s Cubic ITS Inc. SynchroGreen Adaptive System by developing a new adaptive module that integrates City’s and Caltrans’ Traffic Management Center-to-Center (C2C) data (Traffic Management Data Directory) and ITERIS Connected Vehicles (V2X) Detection Systems to optimize the City’s adaptively synchronized corridors with Caltrans’ signalized intersections.

New Tech Recommended Funds: **\$4,000,000**

Requested: \$5,000,000

School Route ITS Safety Enhancement Project (City of Firebaugh): The agency will deploy Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) safety technologies at approximately six Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) locations and six radar feedback sign locations throughout the community. Improvements may include up to 16 RRFB installations and 12 radar feedback signs, with final quantities and locations refined during project design. The project will improve pedestrian safety, increase driver awareness, and support safer routes to school.

New Tech Recommended Funds: **\$598,136**

2027–2029: Sustaining and Expanding Fresno County’s Advanced Transportation Think Tank and Innovation Hub (Fresno State/Fresno County Transportation Authority): The Fresno State Transportation Institute (FSTI) provides a countywide advanced transit and multimodal transportation program covering research, workforce development, technical assistance, technology demonstration, and public outreach. This continues and expands the eight-year-old Institute (est. 2018) across its four established mission areas: Professional Development & Education, Research & Innovation, Technical & Community Service, K-12 & Public Outreach. It continues the focus on advanced transit and multimodal transportation, new advanced-technology research capacity, and expanded community-input tools.

New Tech Recommended Funds: \$1,578,240

Requested: \$2,433,536

For more information please click here: [Measure C New Technology Reserve Fund – Fresno Council of Governments](#)

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the New Technology scoring committee recommendations for funding and forward to the Fresno County Transportation Authority to enter into contracts with the applicants in the amounts recommended.

Simran Sangha (FCOG) provided an overview of the Measure C New Technology Reserve Program and the 2026 Call for Projects. Staff reported that approximately \$9.5 million was available for the program and that eight applications totaling approximately \$12.6 million were received. Following review by the scoring committee, six projects were recommended for funding.

Mr. Harrell (Fresno County) moved, and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded the motion.

All in favor, Kerman opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger

Motion carried.

D. Fresno County Extreme Heat and Shade Adaptation Plan (Matthew Shimizu) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG has been working with planning consultant Dudek to develop the Fresno County Extreme Heat Analysis and Shade Adaptation Plan. The Plan identifies transportation corridors and areas throughout Fresno County that are vulnerable to extreme heat and provides strategies to increase shade and vegetative cover to improve comfort, safety, and resiliency for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

The Plan includes an analysis of heat vulnerability, an evaluation of potential shade projects, planning-level cost estimates, and recommendations for implementing shade and heat adaptation strategies. Five priority template projects have been identified for further consideration across Fresno County.

Dudek will provide an overview of the Fresno County Extreme Heat Analysis and Shade Adaptation Plan, including key findings, recommended strategies, and the five priority template projects. Staff will also provide an update on the next steps toward completion and public review of the Plan and accompanying Shade Adaptation Guidebook.

Action: Staff requests TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board approve the Fresno County Extreme Heat and Shade Adaptation Plan.

Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) and Rose Newberry (DUDEK) provided an update on the Fresno County Extreme Heat and Shade Adaptation Plan, developed by Fresno COG with consultant Dudek. The plan identifies areas and transportation corridors throughout Fresno County that are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat and provides strategies for increasing shade and vegetative cover.

The consultant provided an overview of the community engagement, heat vulnerability and transportation analyses, and five transportation corridor typologies evaluated through the project. More than 100 potential projects were identified and evaluated, with five priority template projects selected for further development. The plan includes project concepts, planning-level cost estimates, shade strategies, case studies, and a planting palette intended to assist jurisdictions with future transportation planning, grant applications, and project implementation.

Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) moved, and Mr. Jansons (Kerman) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger

Motion carried.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. 2026 RTP/SCS Legal Services Contract Amendment with Best, Best & Krieger (Paul Herman) [ACTION]

Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) moved, and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger

Motion carried.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno Council of Governments Legal Representation (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Chapter 6, section 6.2 of Fresno COG's joint powers agreement among the 15 incorporated cities and the County of Fresno states: "The Fresno County Counsel's Office shall provide all legal service to the Fresno County of Governments, the Council and the committees, provided however, the Council may elect to retain independent Counsel when deemed necessary." This same statement is repeated in Fresno COG's bylaws under section 19.

The County Counsel's office has opined previously that this statement allows for Fresno COG's Board (or Council), to replace its own services for general legal counsel as deemed necessary.

Following Measure C-related developments, several Board members have questioned whether the County Counsel's office remains best-suited to represent Fresno COG's collective interests, and have called for COG to retain private counsel for its general legal services.

In early 2026, Fresno COG staff briefly retained Nicholas Ghirelli with the Orange County-based firm of Richards, Watson and Gershon (RWG) to represent the agency regarding Measure C-related issues and the eventual abandonment of the government-sponsored Measure C renewal effort. RWG has extensive experience in municipal law and local sales tax measures, including through its Sacramento office, but does not represent any Fresno County jurisdiction. Mr Ghirelli has indicated his willingness to resume the lead counsel role for Fresno COG.

A cost comparison using the last three months' worth of legal services billings from County Counsel is attached to this agenda item. At an hourly rate of \$350, the anticipated expense delta is roughly twice what Fresno COG is paying for County Counsel. The comparison does not include the potential for RWG to use paralegal or other, lower-cost alternatives that may be employed.

There are multiple options the Board could choose to pursue should it provide direction to replace County Counsel, including: issuing an RFP/RFQ, partnering with another local agency or a neighboring COG to share attorney expenses, retaining in-house services, and others.

Action: Information and discussion.

Robert Phipps requested that Item IV.A, Legal Representation, be continued to a date uncertain. It was clarified that the item was informational and was not being forwarded to the Board at this time. The item may be brought back for consideration at a future meeting.

Mr. Haussler (Clovis) moved, and Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) seconded to table the item.

All in favor, none opposed.

Absent: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger

Motion carried.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

Robert Phipps provided updates on the RTP/SCS, recent transportation legislation, and the rescheduled September Policy Board meeting. Erin Haagenson provided an update on potential regional coordination of truck route planning, including funding and upcoming statutory requirements. Committee members discussed the benefits of a regional approach and expressed interest in continued coordination. Staff also recognized the Committee, Fresno COG staff, and Caltrans District 6 for their work on the RTP/SCS.

B. Items from Members

Caltrans Report: Braden Duran provided updates on Caltrans District 6 staffing, including the retirement of Jim Peralt and the addition of David Padilla and Gabriel Simano. He highlighted the State Route 41 Excelsior Expressway groundbreaking and the City of Fresno McKinley Peace Garden ribbon cutting. He also reminded agencies of upcoming Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant and HSIP Cycle 13 funding deadlines and announced that the October CTC meeting will be held in Hanford. A potential State Route 41 corridor coalition was also discussed.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Herman, Interim Executive Director

Public: None.

Staff:

Robert Phipps, Paul Herman, Simran Sangha, Erin Haagenson, Matthew Shimizu and Mykia Byrd.