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Fresno COG Policy Board
MINUTES
Thursday, October 29, 2026
5:30 PM

The meeting was held in the Fresno COG Sequoia Room.

Members Attending:
Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua, City of Clovis
Nathan Vosburg, City of Coalinga
Mayor Freddy Valdez, City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Annalisa Perea, City of Fresno
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Pro-Tem 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 Adam Cornejo, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Phillip Vallejo, Caltrans
Paul Herman, Interim Executive Director
Doug Sloan, County Counsel

Quorum: At the start of the meeting, eleven voting members were present, representing 78.25% of the population. A quorum was established to conduct business**.** Present cities/agencies included Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, City of Fresno, Huron, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Reedley, San Joaquin, Selma. Absent: Fowler, Kerman, Parlier, Sanger, Fresno County

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chair Mayor Martinez (Mendota).

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- **A. Executive Minutes of September 28, 2026 [ACTION]**
- **B. Fiscal Year 2026-27 City of Coalinga Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- **C. Fiscal Year 2026-27 City of Kerman Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- **D. Fiscal Year 2026-27 San Joaquin Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- **E. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Selma Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
- **F. Fiscal Year 2026-27 First Quarter Report (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**

Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) moved, and Mayor Pro Tem Garcia (Orange Cove) seconded the motion to approve the consent calendar.

All in favor, none opposed.
Motion carried.
Absent: Fowler, Kerman, Parlier, Sanger, Fresno County

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **A. Final Approval of the 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 Council of Governments (Fresno COG), as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Fresno County, is responsible for preparing and maintaining the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and the associated transportation conformity determinations. The RTP/SCS is also subject to applicable state planning requirements, and the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) addresses the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The 2026 RTP/SCS establishes the region's long-range transportation vision and investment strategy, including roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and other transportation improvements, within a planning horizon extending at least 20 years. The RTP/SCS considers projected transportation needs, land use, population growth, and regional mobility and air quality objectives.

The 2027 FTIP identifies transportation projects and programs proposed for implementation over a four-year period that require federal funding or approval, along with other regionally significant projects included for planning and air quality analysis purposes. Projects in the FTIP must be consistent with the applicable RTP/SCS and satisfy applicable fiscal constraint, programming, and transportation conformity requirements.

Federal regulations require metropolitan planning organizations to update their transportation improvement programs at least every two years. The previous FTIP was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on July 25, 2024. Fresno COG is now proposing adoption of the 2027 FTIP in conjunction with the 2026 RTP/SCS, the associated PEIR, and the corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

Public Review and Environmental Documentation

Fresno COG conducted public review and comment periods for the draft documents, including a 30-day review period for the 2027 FTIP and draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, a 45-day review period for the PEIR, and a 55-day review period for the 2026 RTP/SCS. The review periods closed on August 17, 2026.

Staff held a public hearing on July 29, 2026, at the Fresno COG office to receive comments on the 2027 FTIP, 2026 RTP/SCS, PEIR, and associated documents. A virtual public workshop was also held on August 5, 2026, to provide an additional opportunity for public participation.

Comments received during the public review process have been addressed in the final documents. Comments on the FTIP and the corresponding responses are provided in Appendix J, Formal Comments and Responses, of the final FTIP. Responses to comments on the RTP/SCS, PEIR, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis are included in the respective final documents. Revisions resulting from public comments are documented in the applicable responses and final materials.

The final documents have been prepared to address applicable federal metropolitan transportation planning and transportation conformity requirements, including 23 CFR Part 450 and 40 CFR Part 93, as well as applicable state planning and environmental requirements.

The final 2027 FTIP is available on the Fresno COG FTIP webpage. The final 2026 RTP/SCS and PEIR are available on the Fresno COG RTP webpage.

Action: Staff recommends that the Policy Board take the following actions, consistent with the accompanying resolutions:

1. Approve the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).
2. Certify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2026 RTP/SCS; adopt the CEQA findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.
3. Adopt the 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).
4. Approve the corresponding Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP, consistent with the accompanying conformity resolution.

Paul Herman (FCOG) explained that the final documents had been presented to the Policy Board the previous month but could not be approved pending federal action. On October 14, 2026, the Environmental Protection Agency approved the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin budget, allowing the approval process to move forward. He noted that legal counsel (BBK) had reviewed the resolutions and confirmed that they met applicable state and federal requirements.

Mayor Leon (Huron) moved, and Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) seconded the motion to approve the Regional Transportation Program/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS), Environmental Impact Report (EIR), 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and Corresponding Final Conformity Analysis.

All in favor, none opposed.
Motion carried.
Absent: Fowler, Kerman, Parlier, Sanger, Fresno County

B. 2027 Active Transportation Program Cycle 8 - Quick-Build Projects and Regional Application Process (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG develops regional Active Transportation Program (ATP) guidelines and recommends projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). For the 2027 ATP Cycle 8, staff developed a supplemental Quick-Build application and scoring rubric to identify and prioritize eligible Quick-Build projects that provide interim pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements through low-cost, scalable, and expedited project delivery.

Quick-Build projects are interim capital improvements that use durable, low-to-moderate-cost materials and typically remain in place for one to five years. They allow communities to address safety needs quickly, test improvements, and incorporate community feedback before permanent improvements are constructed. Quick-Build Projects must be submitted directly to Fresno COG and are due December 11, 2026, along with the supplemental project applications.

The scoring rubric evaluates projects based on need, safety, community engagement, interagency support, project flexibility, performance metrics, potential for a permanent project, funding and maintenance strategies, and project readiness. The process aligns with statewide ATP requirements while incorporating regional priorities.

In addition, we are seeking representatives for the ATP scoring committee, to be held in January, with the applications distributed by the end of November.

Active Transportation Program (ATP) – Fresno Council of Governments

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

Erin Haagenson (FCOG) presented the supplemental Quick-Build application process, including eligible project examples, scoring criteria, and the regional application process. The application deadline was extended to December 11, 2026.

This item was for information only. No action was taken.

C. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Updates (Erin Haagenson) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Caltrans is implementing changes to its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in response to revisions to federal DBE requirements under 49 CFR Part 26. Caltrans has issued Office Bulletins 26-02 and 26-03 outlining changes that affect local agencies administering federally funded transportation projects. Beginning October 1, 2026, local agencies are required to use the new Exhibit 9-L, Bidder's/Proposer's List, for applicable federal-aid contracts advertised on or after that date. Caltrans is also preparing to resume DBE contract goal-setting following completion of the DBE certification reevaluation process and required federal approvals. Caltrans has proposed a new statewide Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) DBE goal of 11.80 percent for Federal Fiscal Years 2027–2028, compared to the previous statewide goal of 21.35 percent. Contract-level DBE goals remain suspended until the revised DBE Program is approved and authorized for implementation.

Caltrans accepted comments on the proposed goal and methodology between September 16 and September 30 and will conduct additional DBE training on November 18th, to provide local agencies with information regarding the revised requirements, goal-setting methodology, and implementation of the updated DBE Program. In addition, Caltrans has indicated that when the DBE program returns, retention can non longer be held on a Federal-aid contract. FCOG staff encourages member agencies involved in the development, procurement, and administration of federally funded transportation projects to participate in the training and become familiar with the new requirements. FCOG staff will continue to monitor Caltrans and FHWA guidance and provide updates to member agencies as additional information becomes available.

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

Erin Haagenson (FCOG) provided updates on the return of the DBE program, including revised eligibility requirements, proposed lower participation goals, and new bidder reporting requirements. She also highlighted a potential change prohibiting retention on federally funded projects. Additional Caltrans training is scheduled for November 18, 2026.

The item was informational only. No action was taken.

III. CALTRANS REPORT [INFORMATION]

Phillip Vallejo provided updates on the encampment program, transportation grants, highway safety initiatives, and ongoing construction projects throughout Fresno County. A member suggested making project updates more accessible to residents. Caltrans agreed to explore options for sharing the information, with a follow-up report expected next month.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. <u>One Voice D.C. Advocacy Trip Call for Priorities form (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]</u>

Mayor Valdez (Firebaugh) moved, and Councilmember Perea (City of Fresno) seconded the motion to approve the One Voice D.C. Advocacy Trip Call for Priorities.

All in favor, none opposed.
Motion carried.
Absent: Fowler, Kerman, Parlier, Sanger, Fresno County

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS- NONE

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. <u>Items from Staff</u>

Paul Herman previewed upcoming November agenda items, including El Niño emergency relief resources, formal action on Fresno COG's withdrawal from the CalVANS JPA, the 2027 meeting calendar and preliminary advocacy trip dates, and potential actions related to the upcoming election, depending on its outcome.

B. <u>Items from Members</u>

Mayor Mouanoutoua addressed public statements regarding Measure S, clarifying that every city would receive a minimum of $400,000, with additional funding distributed based on an 80% population and 20% road-mile formula. He also addressed concerns regarding the New Technology Program, explaining that applications from nonprofits and private entities must be submitted in partnership with a government agency and are subject to oversight.

Mayor Martinez announced an invitation to the November 7 Mendota Raceway Park event and shared information about an upcoming cancer fundraiser scheduled for November 14, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at PM Lounge.

Mayor Leon expressed interest in revisiting discussions with Caltrans regarding the Cross Valley Light Passenger

Rail project and coordinating with Tulare COG and Kings COG to obtain updates.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

VIII. CLOSED SESSION -- Public Employee Appointment - Gov. Code § 54957(b): consider public employee appointment; title: Executive Director/Interim Executive Director; Gov. Code § 54957.6: conference with labor negotiator concerning salary and terms of employment; FCOG negotiator: Chair/Vice Chair; unrepresented employee: Executive Director/Interim Executive Director.

The closed session was held.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Herman, Interim Executive Director

Public:

Staff:
Paul Herman, Erin Haagenson, Mykia Byrd