



**Policy Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, June 14, 2024
10:00 AM**

The meeting was held at FCOG Sequoia Conference Room.

John Holt, City of Clovis
Ben Gallegos, City of Firebaugh
Wilma Tucker, City of Fowler
Nicholas Mascia, City of Fresno
John Jansons, City of Kerman
Alexander Henderson, City of Kingsburg
Dario Dominguez, City of Orange Cove
Elizabeth Cabrera, City of San Joaquin
Jerome Keene, City of Selma
David Padilla, Caltrans District 6
Robert Phipps, FCOG
Moses Stites, FCRTA

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Mr. Jansons (Kerman), Chair. With 9 members present, there was a quorum to conduct business.

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. Officer Elections

Action: Elect Chair and Vice Chair

1. Chair

Ms. Tucker (Fowler) nominated John Jansons (Kerman), seconded by Mr. Holt (Clovis).

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

2. Vice Chair

Mr. Jansons (Kerman) nominated Elizabeth Cabrera (San Joaquin), seconded by Mr. Gallegos (Firebaugh).

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

B. Caltrans Report (Caltrans) [INFORMATION]

David Padilla reported the following:

- Kerman roundabout completed.
- SR 41 infrastructure Tulare/Divisadero open this week.
- Planning Grant due June 25th.
- Cycle 12 applications deadline September 9th.
- Safe speeds for all due August 29th.

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Executive Minutes of May 10, 2024 [APPROVE]
- B. City of Kerman TDA Claim FY 2023-24 (Les Beshears) [ACTION]
- C. Formal Amendment No. 17 (Type 5) to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program; 2022 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 3 and; Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis (Ofelia Abundez) [ACTION]
- D. Fresno Area Express (FAX) and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations, Program, and Budget (OPB), FY 2024-2025 (Janelle Del Campo) [ACTION]
- E. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) FY2024-2025 Operations, Program and Budget (OPB) (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]
- F. Federal and State Grant Opportunities (Robert Phipps) [INFORMATION]

- Mr. Jansons called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Tucker (Fresno) motioned, and Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) seconded to approve the consent agenda items A-F as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Project-Level Air Quality Conformity (Hot-Spot Analysis) Process (Matthew Shimizu) [INFORMATION]

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) have been working with interagency consultation (IAC) partners to improve the project-level conformity (or particulate-matter hot-spot process) to clearly meet and document public participation requirements in 40 CFR 93.105(e). Trinity Consultants has been leading this effort by drafting Valley-specific hot-spot guidelines that describe the new procedures step by step, highlighting enhanced coordination between the MPOs and the project sponsor. The main change involves scheduling a simultaneous interagency conference call and public meeting to review each non-exempt project and PowerPoint associated with each project sponsor. This new process will allow the public and IAC partners, including Caltrans, FHWA and EPA, to ask project sponsor questions directly to make conformity determinations "live" during the conference. The new process will include posting project information on each individual COG website for a seven-day public comment period, responding to public comments, and scheduling an IAC call that can also be attended by the public.

The first hot-spot determinations for the cities of Fowler and Sanger were successfully conducted last month. Both received "live" concurrence from IAC partners. For future hot-spot assessments, Fresno COG staff will work closely with Trinity Consultants and IAC partners to ensure that project sponsors provide complete information to ensure a smooth and transparent project-level conformity process.

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

- Matthew Shimizu (FCOG) presented on the Air Quality Conformity Process.

Information only, no action needed.

- B. Draft 2025 FTIP, Draft 2022 RTP Amendment No. 4, and Draft Corresponding Conformity Analysis -- Public Review Period (Ofelia Abundez) [INFORMATION]

Summary: On May 31, Fresno COG submitted the Draft 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment No. 4, and Draft Corresponding Conformity Analysis for interagency consultation and public review. Associated documentation is attached.

2025 FTIP: The 2025 FTIP is a near-term listing of capital improvement and operational expenditures using Federal and State monies for transportation projects in Fresno County during the next four years.

2022 RTP Amendment No. 4: Includes a summary of programming changes to the 2022 RTP and corresponding financial table updates. Draft Amendment No. 4 reflects funding, open-to-traffic date, and scope changes to regionally significant,

capacity-increasing projects. The amendment changes are consistent with the design concept and scope or schedule of existing regionally significant projects, and does not change the timeframe of the transportation plan.

Conformity Requirements: The Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis supports a finding that the 2025 FTIP and 2022 RTP meet air quality conformity requirements for ozone and particulate matter. The Conformity Analysis Documentation Checklist is included as Appendix A of the document.

Public Involvement: Includes the Draft Public Notice and Adoption Resolution.

The public review and comment period is open for 30 days commencing May 31 through June 30. Staff held a public hearing on June 12 at Fresno COG's Sequoia Board Room and via Zoom webinar. Public comments are due orally or in writing by 5:30 p.m. on June 30.

Fresno COG's Policy Board will consider adopting the 2025 FTIP, 2022 RTP Amendment No. 4, and corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis during its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on July 25.

The Draft 2025 FTIP, Draft 2022 RTP Amendment No. 4 and Draft Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis is available on Fresno COG's website at Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) - Fresno Council of Governments (fresnocog.org)

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

- Ofelia Abundez (FCOG) gave an update on the public review process.

Information only, no action needed.

C. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Access For All Program (Jake Martinez) [ACTION]

Summary: Access for All (AFA) is a state-funded program that Fresno COG administers regionally. Senate Bill 1376 established AFA in 2018 by directing the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to design a program that offers accessibility for persons with disabilities to transportation network companies' (TNCs, e.g., Uber & Lyft) services, including wheelchair users who need a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV).

To fund the program, the CPUC instituted a \$0.10 access fee collected on each TNC ride. There are two different ways to meet the statute's overall goal of expanding and improving on-demand WAV transportation in California. The first is for TNCs to invest access fee revenue to expand or improve on-demand WAV service in a particular county. In return, they can file offset requests allowing the TNC to keep some of the revenue they collect, equal to the amount they invest in a particular county.

The second method allows the CPUC to set aside remaining monies (not claimed by the TNCs in the offset process) in a Access Fund. These funds are then distributed to access providers, such as transit operators, through Local Access Fund Administrators (LAFAs), which is how Fresno COG has been classified since 2021. The CPUC allocates funds annually proportional to the percent of fees originating in that county.

As of June 30, 2024, Fresno COG has awarded a total of \$373,534 to fund projects and improvements toward "dial-a-ride" services to both the Fresno County Rural Transportation Agency (FCRTA) and Clovis Transit.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC approve Fresno COG to serve another year as the designated Local Agency Fund Access for eligible transit operators and to distribute \$191,651 towards eligible projects focused on "on-demand" para-transportation by signing both the "Lafa Board Resolution 2024-23" and "Lafa Consent Form."

- Jake Martinez (FCOG) reported on the Access for all program. After an opportunity for public comment, Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) motioned, and Mr. Keene (Selma) seconded to approve the item as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

D. FY 2024-2025 Fresno Council of Governments Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment Report (Harold Sobrado) [ACTION]

Summary: Fresno COG has completed the FY 2025 cycle of the Unmet Transit Needs process, which includes the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report. Fresno COG released the FY 2024-2025 draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report with the agenda for the May 6 Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) meeting, during which the Committee approved the release of the draft report for a 30-day public review and comment period.

Fresno COG staff regularly exceeds minimum public outreach requirements, this year holding seven public meetings, six of which were in-person, and two that took place virtually.

Feedback was also collected online with a survey, social medial posts, a dedicated email address, and an “800” line during February and March. The sole public hearing requirement was satisfied at the April 25 Policy Board meeting, where staff received two public comments, both of which have been added to the draft report.

Examples of public comments received, included:

- Feedback on FAX, FCRTA, and Clovis Transit routes and services,
- Questions on FAX, FCRTA, and Clovis Transit routes and services, and
- General transportation-related comments.

This cycle, 38 comments were received, five of which were unmet needs, none of which were found to be reasonable to meet. All comments received, transit agency responses, and determinations of unmet needs are within the report and include the comment letter received from Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, along with Fresno COG’s official response.

Action: Staff and SSTAC request the TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board adopt Resolution 2024-22, approving Fresno COG’s FY 2024-2025 Unmet Needs Assessment Report, and to find that there are five unmet needs, none of which are “reasonable to meet.”

- Harold Sobrado (FCOG) reported on the Unmet transit needs.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) motioned, and Mr. Henderson (Kingsburg) seconded to approve the item as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

E. Fresno COG's Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan -- 45-day Public Review and Comment Period (Brenda Thomas) [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG released its Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan (PPP) for a 45-day public review and comment period beginning May 17 through June 30, 2024. The PPP identifies opportunities for the public to participate in Fresno COG’s planning processes and provides the Fresno COG Policy Board and staff with guidance on conducting public outreach and interagency consultation early and often during the regional planning process. It contains policies, guidelines, processes, and procedures Fresno COG commits to implementing while seeking and fostering open public involvement during the decision-making process, regarding all matters within its discretion.

At 5:30 p.m. on June 27, Fresno COG’s Policy Board will conduct a public hearing during its normal monthly meeting in the Sequoia Conference Room at 2035 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721 in downtown Fresno. The meeting is accessible to the people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities may call Fresno COG (with three-working days’ advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate. Translation services are available (with three-days’ advance notice) to participants speaking any language other than English. Public comments are welcomed at the public hearing or they may be submitted in writing via mail or email to the following:

Brenda Thomas, Fresno COG Administrative Services Manager

- bthomas@fresnocog.org
- 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA 93721

After addressing all submitted comments, the 2024 Public Participation Plan will be considered for adoption, by resolution, on July 25 by the Fresno COG Policy Board at its regularly scheduled meeting. All documents are available for review or download on the Fresno COG website at fresnocog.org or in hard copy at the Fresno COG offices.

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

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG) reported on the Public Participation Plan draft – Public review period.

Informational only. No action needed.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Contracts/Extensions (Fresno COG Staff) [ACTION]

1. **Circuit Planner and Engineer Program Contract Renewal (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize Fresno COG's interim executive director to renew the contract with Rincon Consultants for \$120,000 for FY 24/25.
2. **Fresno County Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Consultant Selection (Simran Jhutti) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests that TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the interim executive director to enter into a contract with LSA Associates for the Fresno County Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for an amount not to exceed \$450,000.
3. **Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 1) Program: Local Grant Awards -- Agreement Extensions (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]**
Action: Approve a time extension and authorize the executive director to sign agreement amendments for REAP Local Housing Planning Grant projects with the cities of Fresno, Kerman, Selma, and the County of Fresno.
4. **San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 1) Program -- Precision Engineering Contract Extension (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests the PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the executive director to extend the contract with Precision Engineering through Dec. 31, 2024.
5. **Multijurisdictional Housing Element -- PlaceWorks Contract Extension (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests that PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to extend the contract with PlaceWorks through June 30, 2025.
6. **Southwest Strategies Contract Renewal for Measure C Program Marketing/Advertising (Jake Martinez) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the interim executive director to amend the existing contract with Southwest Strategies for an amount not to exceed \$180,000 for work complete in Fiscal Year 2024/2025.
7. **Technical Support for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Contract Extension (Paul Herman) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff and TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to execute a contract extension with LSA through June 30, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$70,000.
8. **Contract with GHD for On Call RTMF Services (Les Beshears) [ACTION]**
Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to extend the contract with GHD for On Call RTMF Services to 2024-25 at a cost of \$50,000.
9. **Replica Contract Renewal: Data Support for Activity Based Model and Safety Related Projects (Santosh Bhattarai) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the executive director to renew the existing contract with Replica for through June 30, 2026 for an amount not to exceed \$96,000.
10. **Modeling On-Call Contract with RSG (Santosh Bhattarai) [ACTION]**
Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board authorize the executive director to enter into an on-call support contract with RSG for the amount not to exceed \$40,000.

- Mr. Jansons called for any items wishing to be pulled by members or the public.
- After an opportunity for public comment, Ms. Cabrera (San Joaquin) motioned, and Mr. Holt (Clovis) seconded to approve the consent agenda item A, 1-10 as presented.

All in Favor, no opposed.

Motion passed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- None.

V. OTHER ITEMS

A. Items from Staff

- Brenda Thomas (FCOG):
 - RTP email reminder went out this week. The agenda will go out next Thursday.
 - The Transportation Pocket guides are available, please contact if you would like copies.

B. Items from Members

- None.

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

- None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director

Public:

None

Staff:

Denise Flores, Robert Phipps, Jennifer Rodriguez, Brenda Thomas, Janelle Del Campo, Ofelia Abundez, Les Beshears, Matthew Shimizu, Jake Martinez, Moses Stites, Harold Sobrado.