

AGENCY ADVISORY GROUP | MEETING #1 NOTES

FRESNO COUNTY REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN

Fresno Council of Governments and County of Fresno

April 30, 2020 | 2:00-3:30PM | Virtual meeting via Zoom

Advisory Group Action Items:

- Once live, visit the online map and share at least three comments
- Share the online map link with three friends, colleagues, or neighbors

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristen Lohse, Consultant Project Manager, welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending the first Agency Advisory Group meeting for the Fresno County Regional Trails Plan (Plan). Kristen Lohse then provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda and asked that the Project Team and Agency Advisory Group members introduce themselves. A complete listing of meeting attendees can be found below.

Name	Agency/Organization
Peggy Arnest	Fresno Council of Governments
Brian Spaunhurst	County of Fresno
Gloria Hensley	County of Fresno
Mohammad Alimi	County of Fresno
Mohammad Khorsand	County of Fresno
Chris Bernal	County of Fresno
TJ Miller	City of Fresno
Jill Gormley	City of Fresno
Shelby MacNab	City of Fresno
Dwight Kroll	City of Clovis
Renee Mathis	City of Clovis
Rob Terry	City of Reedley
Sonia Hall	City of Parlier
Stan Bulla	City of San Joaquin
Pedro Ramirez	Caltrans
Kristen Lohse	Toole Design
Megan Wooley-Ousdahl	Toole Design
Hector Guerra	VRPA Technologies, Inc.

2. Regional Trails Plan Overview

Kristen Lohse explained that the Plan will focus on unpaved trails, paved shared-use paths (Class I) and County-owned land (areas outside cities/towns) and county “islands.” The Plan

will emphasize making connections to recreational facilities, allowing more opportunities for the community to be active outside.

To guide the development of the Plan, draft goals were developed and shared with the Agency Advisory Group. These draft goals include:

- **Livability:** Enhance livability by integrating trails systems into community activity.
- **Connectivity:** Develop an accessible and well-connected network of trail routes in urban, rural, and open spaces.
- **Mobility:** Create active transportation options for recreation and utilitarian trips.
- **Collaboration:** Collaborate with local jurisdictions, organizations, and communities to plan, coordinate, implement, maintain a countywide trail system.
- **Economic Development:** Leverage economic development opportunities for local business and tourism by increasing the use of trails.

Agency Advisory Group members were asked to provide their thoughts on the draft Plan goals, and provide additional goals that they felt were important for the Plan's development. Additional goals provided by the Agency Advisory Group via Mentimeter, an online polling platform, included:

- Equitable access
- Safety
- Resilience
- Grant Linkage

3. Community Engagement

Megan Wooley-Ousdahl explained that Community Engagement for the Plan will be broken up into the following three (3) phases:

- **Phase 1 - Existing Conditions:** Input and data gathering from the Agency Advisory Group and community members to learn more about existing trails usage and identify future trails connections.
- **Phase 2 - Proposed Network and Priorities:** Development of the proposed trails network, which will incorporate feedback received during Phase 1. During this Phase, the Agency Advisory Group and community members will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed trails network.
- **Phase 3 - Draft Plan:** The Project Team will be soliciting input from the Agency Advisory Group and community members on the Draft Plan.

Three (3) methods are being used to collect input for the Plan. These methods include:

- **Advisory Group meetings:** The Agency Advisory Group will be asked to provide input and guidance through the Plan development process.
- **Online, interactive map:** An online mapping tool has been developed for the Plan that will allow users to take a brief survey, drop a point, draw a route, and leave comments.
- **Pop-up events:** The Project Team will be utilizing attendance at pop-up events during the planning process, which allows the team to engage stakeholders in locations where they already planned on being. The first pop-up event at the Big Fresno Fair last fall was highly successful in soliciting the community's feedback on recreation trails. The Project Team is planning to attend additional pop-up events in the summer, pending developments of the COVID-19 situation.

The Project Team concluded the Community Engagement discussion by making two (2) request of Agency Advisory Group members. The first request was that members review and leave comments on the online map. The second request was to ask members to forward the online map link to three (3) other individuals and ask for their participation as well.

4. Discussion Question #1 - What are you hoping the Plan will achieve? What is your goal for this Plan?

Kristen Lohse asked attendees to list what they are hoping this Plan will achieve and what their agencies goals are for this Plan. Responses to this discussion question were provided via Mentimeter and included the following:

- More recreational options for County residents
- Connectivity of trails to parks
- Connectivity, a metro loop, integrate with Clovis trail network
- A plan that enables the trail network to be funded, built, and connects all cities in the County
- Regional connectivity
- More Class I and Class IV facilities in the urban areas
- Connect urban to rural/mountains
- Create a practical plan that Fresno County with its present resources can construct and maintain
- Comprehensive wayfinding program
- More areas for recreation that would be located in some of the smaller communities
- Access from unincorporated communities to County parks
- More County trails new lakes (Shaver Lake specifically)
- Facilities, restroom, etc.
- Oval connections within large urban areas

5. Discussion Question #2 - At your agency/organization, what projects or programs are underway that dovetail with this Plan or that should be included?

Kristen Lohse explained that the Project Team has reviewed the Fresno County Regional ATP and other local plans and policies as part of the existing conditions assessment. The Project Team also asked Agency Advisory Group members to discuss their own projects or programs that dovetail with this Plan. Responses to this discussion question included the following:

- **Mohammad Alimi:** Hopeful that this Plan compliments the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP).
- **Chris Bernal:** Would like to see development of trails and access to trails.
- **Stan Bula:** Would like the Plan to link everything together so that the City of San Joaquin can communicate to residents that there are places to walk and ride to.
- **Jill Gormley:** The City of Fresno adopted an ATP three (3) years ago and will likely update that document in the next few years. The City recently completed a trails feasibility study and has received funding to perform a wayfinding study. Additionally, the City has many Class IV projects currently in the works.

- **Dwight Kroll and Renee Mathis:** The City of Clovis is wrapping up the Sierra Gateway Trail along State Route (SR) 168 and is also exploring a bridge crossing on SR 168 at the Enterprise Canal Trail. The City has completed master planning for a northwest urban village, Heritage Grove, which is very trails heavy and connects a number of educational facilities.
- **Pedro Ramirez:** Caltrans just completed its Bicycle Plan, which documents all the ATP's within District 6. Caltrans is also working on a California ATP, which each district has to complete. District 6 will begin working on the Plan next year.
- **Rob Terry:** The City recently updated its Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan, has a Rails to Trails project and is exploring trails connector routes.

6. Next Steps

- The online map will be provided to Agency Advisory Group members in the days to come, with members encouraged to visit the map, provide input, and share the map link with others.
- The online map will be open through late May.
- Development of the proposed network will occur through the summer.
- The second Agency Advisory Group meeting will take place in the summer and the third meeting will occur in the fall.
- The Project Team will continue to monitor pop-up event opportunities.
- The Draft Plan will be coming together in the fall, and will be shared with the Agency Advisory Group and the public before it is finalized.