

Transportation Technical Committee

Date: Friday, January 15, 2021
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: COG Ash Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

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OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION REGARDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS THE JANUARY 15, 2020, TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:30 A.M. WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM.

JOINING THE MEETING:

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/99199120091?PWD=WxGYTGnpVcRtWvRSNPHctFPMxM3ZZ09](https://zoom.us/j/99199120091?pwd=WxGYTGnpVcRtWvRSNPHctFPMxM3ZZ09)

MEETING ID: 991 9912 0091

PASSCODE: 894896

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****IF JOINING BY PHONE USE *6 TO UNMUTE AND MUTE YOURSELF. WHEN JOINING THE MEETING ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED. DO NOT USE THE MUTE FUNCTION ON YOUR LAN LINE PHONE OR CELL PHONE.**

THOSE ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE MUST STATE THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME AND AGENCY FOR THE RECORD.

TO FACILITATE ELECTRONIC ACCESS, NO PERSON SHALL SPEAK UNTIL RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Transportation Technical Committee will consider all items on the agenda. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.

TTC agenda and annotated agenda in PDF format - ALL EXHIBITS ARE AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Exhibits:

Agenda Annotated Agenda

I. **TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

About Consent Items:

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

A. **Executive Minutes of November 6, 2020 [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

November Minutes

B. **City of Coalinga Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

TDA Claim Resolution 2021-02

Approve resolution 2021-02 adopting the City of Coalinga's 2018-19 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$759,573.

C. **City of Firebaugh Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

TDA Claim Resolution 2021-04

Approve resolution 2021-04 adopting the City of Firebaugh's 2020-21 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$392,875.

D. **City of Fresno Transportation Development Act Claim (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

TDA Claim Resolution 2021-06

Approve resolution 2021-06 adopting the City of Fresno's 2020-21 Transportation Development Act claims totaling \$33,197,321.

E. **2020 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Final Audit Reports (Les Beshears) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

Audit Committee Letter FCRTA ACL FCRTA FS FCRTA GAS Report FCOG
Combination Report

F. **Circuit Planner and Engineer Program: Update on Current Tasks (Meg Prince) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: This is an update on tasks underway through Fresno COG's Circuit Planner and Engineer Program, which provides technical assistance to the small cities in Fresno County. Such assistance may include, but is not limited to planning studies, delivering projects, grant applications, environmental documents, engineering services, etc.

Zoning Evaluation Tool and Model Zoning Ordinance

The Fresno COG circuit planner developed an online tool that allows cities to assess their zoning ordinance and provides a list of sections that need to be updated. The circuit planner is available for any questions or comments about the tool or zoning ordinances.

ZONING EVALUATION TOOL: <https://forms.gle/MAJzyneqAxxSvS5LA>

The circuit planner is also developing model zoning code sections that can be used as templates for updating those sections that can be customized to fit the individual cities.

Other current circuit planning projects

- Assistance with Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grant applications
- Kerman Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines
- Selma Downtown Overlay Outreach

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

G. **Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Technical Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (Meg Prince/Trai Her-Cole) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

 Resolution 2021-03

Summary: The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has announced recipients of the Round 4 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Technical Assistance Program. Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. and San Joaquin COG are the leads for the San Joaquin Valley Technical Assistance Team to provide technical assistance for Valley AHSC applicants.

As the lead agency, San Joaquin COG is requesting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) be established for this collaborative effort. Attached is resolution 2021-03, intended to allow Fresno COG to bill for its portion of program activities.

Questions regarding AHSC technical assistance may be directed to Meg Prince at mprince@fresnocog.org or Trai Her-Cole at traih@fresnocog.org.

Action: Staff requests the TTC/PAC recommend the Board approve entering into an MOU with San Joaquin COG by signing resolution 2021-03, allowing Fresno COG to participate in the AHSC Technical Assistance Program.

H. **Quarterly Update on the Fresno-Madera State Route 41 and Avenue 9 Sustainable Corridors Study (Braden Duran) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Fresno COG, in partnership with Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), is conducting a study to determine State Route 41's future transportation needs in the City of Fresno, as well as the southern segment in Madera County. In addition, the study will analyze future transportation needs along the Avenue 9 corridor in Madera County between SR 41 and SR 99.

The study will recommend sustainable improvements to address residents' transportation needs in both counties through multi-modal approaches. Issues to be addressed include: mobility, access, safety, and connectivity for all modes of travel, including automobiles, transit, walking, and rolling/cycling.

This project began in July 2020 and is anticipated to conclude in June 2021.

Over the last quarter, consultants IBI Group (along with BluePoint Planning and RSG) have achieved multiple tasks, such as completing the planned improvements report, developing study goals and objectives, the second steering committee meeting, work on the bi-county model, and the first round of outreach.

The online information center will be live throughout the project, and can be accessed at the following link: https://www.ibiviz.com/41_9InfoCenter/

Key milestones for the next quarter include: a bi-county model, the third steering committee meeting, initial drafts of the sustainable corridor transportation improvements and management strategies, and the beginning of the second round of outreach. Fresno COG staff will provide quarterly updates for the duration of this project.

All study information and documents can be accessed from: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/fresno-madera-state-route-41-and-avenue-9-sustainable-corridors-study/>

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

I. **Modeling On-call Contract with RSG (Kristine Cai) (Approve)**

Exhibits:

Scope of Work

Summary: Fresno COG's activity-based model (ABM) has been applied in various planning activities since 2019. RSG developed the ABM and has been providing ongoing technical support for Fresno COG staff. Such technical support includes fixing software bugs, troubleshooting the model, staff training, writing scripts for special analysis, etc. It is expected that more guidance and assistance will be needed from RSG for environmental justice analysis, SB 743, vehicle-miles traveled analysis and Sustainable Communities Strategy modeling in the coming year.

Attached is the scope of work for the modeling on-call contract with RSG.

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with RSG for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

J. **SB 743 Update (Kristine Cai) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Fresno COG published the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines in July 2020, and has developed several tools related to SB 743 vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) analysis for user convenience. Fresno COG staff has also been providing modeling assistance to project sponsors in their VMT analysis using its activity-based model (ABM). Due to emerging new data and technical issues, Fresno COG has been working with the consultant team to update its SB 743 tools with the best information available, and is committed to continuing such efforts in the future.

The VMT screening tool has been updated and is available at: <http://gis.lsa-assoc.com/FCOGVMT/>.

The VMT calculation tool, which calculates VMT for existing + project scenario for smaller projects, is still undergoing further improvement, and is expected to be available within a couple of weeks. For those who are interested in conducting VMT analysis for a small project, Fresno COG staff will be able to provide modeling assistance while the VMT calculation tool is temporarily unavailable.

For projects that require multiple scenario analysis, please contact Santosh Bhattarai at bhattarai@fresnocog.org, or Kai Han at khan@fresnocog.org for further assistance.

The step-by-step guide for VMT analysis is available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/sb743-regional-guidelines-development/>.

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

K. **Obligational Authority and Project Delivery Update (Jennifer Soliz) [INFORMATION]**

Summary: Despite a 2019/20 target to obligate \$27.6 million in transportation funds -- the highest Fresno COG's target has ever been -- the region collectively obligated nearly \$31 million for the year, according to Caltrans. Fresno jurisdictions exceeded the 19/20 target by \$3.2 million, allowing the region to secure an additional \$1.76 million in additional funds. Another \$1.48 million will be reduced from Fresno COG's FY 20/21 OA delivery target.

The FY 20/21 OA delivery target is \$22.3 million. Based on the FY 20/21 quarterly report, staff is projecting to deliver more than \$24 million and again exceed the regional target. Fresno COG staff will be scheduling obligation plan meetings in late February with all of member agencies to discuss the status of FY 20/21 programmed projects and to finalize our OA plan to submit to Caltrans by April 1, 2021.

Please keep Fresno COG staff updated on any changes to programmed projects that could possibly impact the region's project delivery plan. Contact Jennifer Soliz at 559-233-4148 ext. 223 or jsoliz@fresnocog.org with any questions regarding fiscal year deadlines or the process of obligating project funds.

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

L. **Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Electric Vehicle Rideshare/Carshare/Rural Transit Expansion Plan (Jennifer Soliz) [ACCEPT]**

Summary: Fresno County Rural Transit Agency was awarded funding in cycle two of Fresno COG's Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Grant Program for a combination of two operational plans,

expanding FCRTA rural transit service and creating a regional network of rural transit services. Walker Consultants was selected as the preferred consultant and was approved to kick-off the project by the Policy Board in February 2019. This plan includes a broad public involvement plan, creative mobility solutions for expanded rural service and opportunities for implementing a rural electric vehicle ridesharing pilot program in Fresno County, along with key rural transit recommendations. One of the recommendations has already been implemented and was deployed in the unincorporated communities of West Park and Biola. The final plan is available at <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/fresno-cog-administered-grant-programs>.

Action: Staff requests TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board accept the final Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Electric Vehicle Rideshare/Carshare/Rural Transit Expansion Plan.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

1. SCS Strategies (Seth Scott) [APPROVE]

Exhibits:

2022 RTP/SCS Strategies

Summary: The Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) will include land-use and transportation strategies that aim primarily to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to travel and foster co-benefits that advance equity and sustainability throughout the Fresno County region.

COG staff has compiled a list of applicable strategies from multiple sources, including the Fresno Futures workshops hosted by COG staff in February, the 2050 California Transportation Plan, and the RTP/SCSs from other MPOs throughout the state. Over several meetings, the SCS Subcommittee has refined this to a concise and comprehensive list of strategies that are appropriate for the Fresno County region and that can be quantifiably modeled within COG's technical capabilities.

The strategies that are chosen will form the basis of how the SCS scenarios will be developed.

The RTP Roundtable further refined this list. The current version is attached.

Action: Staff and the Roundtable request the TTC/PAC recommend to the Board the presented strategy list for inclusion in the 2022 RTP/SCS.

B. Fresno COG Local Housing Planning Grants Program Final Guidelines (Meg Prince) [ACCEPT]

Exhibits:

FCOG_Housing_Planning_Grants_Program_Final_Guidelines_1-5-20

Summary: Fresno COG is proposing to distribute approximately \$900,000 received from the state in Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program (REAP) funds through a competitive, local housing planning grants program.

In accordance with state requirements, these funds must be used for planning efforts that will accelerate the production of housing and meet the requirements of the sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan.

The draft guidelines were released in October with the deadline for comments on Dec. 18, 2020. The final guidelines are attached to this agenda item.

Revisions included in the final guidelines include:

- Agencies limited to submitting three applications for this round of funding
- Agencies partnering with a subapplicant must provide a letter of commitment from the subapplicant in the application

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Policy Board adopts guidelines and application packet	January 28, 2021
Applications due	March 5, 2021
Scoring Committee convenes	March 23, 2021
Release staff recommendations	April 2, 2021
Policy Board approves awards	April 22, 2021
Projects must be completed and submitted to FCOG	August 1, 2023

Action: Staff requests that TTC/PAC recommend that the Policy Board accept the Fresno County Local Housing Planning Grants Program Final Guidelines and open the call for applications.

C. **DRAFT 2021 FTIP, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 4, and Corresponding Conformity Analysis (Braden Duran/Suzanne Martinez) [APPROVE]**

Exhibits:

Resolution 2021-01

Summary: Fresno COG is federally mandated to prepare and maintain the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This four-year program of projects 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 Regional Transportation Plan and are part of the area's overall strategy for providing mobility, congestion relief, and reducing transportation-related air pollution to help attain federal air quality standards.

Fresno COG is required to update the FTIP every two years. The most recent update was the 2019 FTIP, which was adopted by Fresno COG's Policy Board on July 26, 2018. Fresno COG is now proposing a draft 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, a draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan amendment No. 4 (2018 RTP amendment No. 4), and a draft conformity analysis. See the attached draft resolution for details. Referenced documents are available at <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/federal-transportation-improvement-program-ftip/>

A transportation conformity analysis is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990, in non-attainment areas to ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of national ambient air quality standards.

A 30-day public review and comment period began December 7, 2020 and ended on January 5, 2021. Fresno COG staff held a public hearing at 5 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 16, 2020 and did not receive any comments. The 2021 FTIP, 2018 RTP Amendment No. 4, and conformity analysis are scheduled for adoption at the Jan. 28, 2021 Fresno COG Policy Board meeting.

The draft 2021 FTIP, 2018 RTP amendment No. 4, and conformity analysis meet all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450, 40 CFR Part 93, and conform to the applicable SIPs.

Action: Staff requests that the TTC/PAC recommend the Policy Board adopt the draft 2021 FTIP, draft 2018 RTP amendment No. 4, and corresponding conformity analysis via resolution No. 2021-01.

D. **Measure C TOD Program Cycle IX Call For Projects (Kristine Cai/Trai-Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]**

Exhibits:

Funding Application Package

Summary: The Measure C Transit-Oriented Infill Program (TOD) program was created as part of the 2006 Measure C Extension Plan to boost transit ridership and encourage transit supportive land uses such as high density residential development and mixed-uses. The TOD program is estimated to generate \$16.9 million during the 20-year lifespan of the Measure C program, and accrue about \$850,000 annually. There is approximately \$910,000 available for cycle nine.

All of Fresno COG's 16 member jurisdictions are eligible for the funding. Non-profit and private sector businesses may apply for TOD funding through the local government where the project is located. There are three sub-programs under which applications can be submitted: Capital Improvement Program, Planning Program and Housing Infill Incentive Program.

The TOD Program Policies and Guidelines can be found at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-TOD-Program-Policies-and-Guidelines.pdf>.

The call-for-projects for TOD program cycle nine opened on Jan. 15 and applications are due on March 1, 2021. A scoring committee will review the applications and make recommendation in March, and the funding recommendation will be presented to COG Policy Board for approval in April. The Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Board will approve the funding recommendations in June 2021.

Attached is the application package, which is also available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/measure-c-transit-oriented-development/>.

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

E. Multi Jurisdictional Local Roadway Safety Plan (Trai Her-Cole) [INFORMATION]

Exhibits:

Kittleson SOW MLRSP_RFP_Final

Summary: Federal regulations require each state have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). In coordination with federal, state, local, and private sector safety stakeholders, the SHSP establishes goals, objectives, and emphasis (or challenge) areas. The SHSP address the four "Es" of traffic safety: engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services.

A Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) can be a means for providing local and rural road owners with an opportunity to address unique safety needs in their jurisdictions while contributing to the success of the SHSP. The development process provides a framework for organizing stakeholders to systematically identify, analyze, and prioritize roadway safety improvements on local and rural roads. Safety projects stemming from the plan must be consistent with federal and state project funding requirements if those funds will be used for project implementation (i.e. HSIP).

Future HSIP funding cycles will soon require all jurisdictions to have a Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) or an equivalent document. To ensure the Fresno region can continue to receive its share of HSIP funds, Fresno COG is seeking to develop a Multi-Jurisdictional Local Roadway Safety Plan (MLRSP) for those agencies that do not have one. These include: Fresno County, Coalinga, Clovis, Huron, Firebaugh, San Joaquin, Orange Cove, Kerman, Mendota and Selma.

The approach to develop a multi-jurisdictional plan provides a unique opportunity to analyze the entire roadway system and coordinate transportation safety measures at a regional and local level. The benefits to a multi-jurisdictional plan would maximize economies of scale by leveraging local and state funds, sharing costs and resources. Furthermore, this process avoids duplication of efforts across 10 jurisdictions and would provide a structure that supports local jurisdictions with project management.

Fresno COG has recently launched the Regional Safety Plan (RSP) to address safety issues in the region. The RSP will develop a deeper understanding of crash patterns and safety performance across Fresno County's roadways and intersections, identify safety countermeasures, prepare a transportation safety education program, and create an implementation plan tied to available funding sources to help the region achieve its safety goals. Kittleson and Associates was selected through an RFP process to develop the RSP, which due in December 2021. The RSP scope of work is available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/special-studies/>.

The MLRSP should build off of the RSP and be developed concurrently to maximize public engagement, data analyses and development of countermeasures. Fresno COG will closely coordinate both documents to ensure consistency, achieve fiscal savings, reduce duplicate work and finalize both documents for adoption by March 2022 before the next HSIP funding cycle opens in April 2022.

Fresno COG was awarded \$180,000 from the HSIP set aside to complete the MLRSP. The 10% required local match of \$20,000 will be split even among the 10 participating jurisdictions, and Fresno COG will be contributing \$71,000 in remaining SB1 formula funds for a total project budget of \$271,000.

On Jan. 4, 2021 Fresno COG released a request or proposal for qualified consultants to develop the MLRSP. Proposals are due Jan. 22. A scoring committee will review proposals and return in February with a recommended consultant, and anticipates kicking off the project in March. See the attached

request for proposals document for more information or [click here for the full RFP](#).

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

F. **Fresno Electric Vehicle Readiness Draft Plan (Trai Her-Cole)**, [INFORMATION]

Summary: Fresno COG's draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (EVRP) was developed in partnership with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), AECOM and funding from the Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant. The EVRP was developed to meet local need and state targets for increased electric vehicle adoption and to serve as a regional resource in guiding electric vehicle charging infrastructure installation. The EVRP includes a holistic analysis of existing local conditions, a data-driven forecast, funding sources, and stakeholder engagement to develop recommendations for priority sites of charging infrastructure, as well as policy and permitting recommendations. The draft EVRP is available for public review at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/special-studies/>

All comments should be sent to Trai Her-Cole at traih@fresnocog.org by January 31, 2021.

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

III. **OTHER ITEMS**

A. **Items from Staff**

B. **Items from Members**

IV. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Public Presentations**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes.**

JOINT Transportation Technical/Policy Advisory Committee

A. **Caltrans Report (Caltrans)**, [INFORMATION]