

# Needs Assessment Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201

## Attendees:

Lynne Ashbeck, Community Medical Centers  
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis  
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga  
Harpreet Kooner, County of Fresno  
Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno  
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club  
Moses Stites, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency  
Jeff Long, Fresno Express  
Scott Bier, Public Health  
Sara Bosse, Public Health  
Veronica Garibay, Leadership Council of Justice & Accountability

## Fresno COG staff:

Kristine Cai  
Mike Bitner  
Seth Scott  
Kai Han  
Angela Yang

Chair **Ms. Lynne Ashbeck** called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

I.

II. **Public Presentation**

No presentation was made.

III. **Information and discussion items**

A. **Welcome and Introductions**

**Ms. Ashbeck** welcomed the attendees, and the attendees introduced themselves. **Ms. Ashbeck** briefly noted that the purpose of today's meeting was to finalize the scope of work.

B. **Approval of Meeting Notes**

**Ms. Ashbeck** made a motion to approve the meeting notes. **Mr. Moses Stites** seconded the motion. **Ms. Ashbeck** called for a vote, and the committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

C. **Defining the Scope of Work**

Transportation Connectivity/accessibility analysis

**Ms. Kristine Cai** briefly reviewed the past Needs Assessment committee meetings and the goals of the scope.

**Mr. Nick Paladino** asked whether bike lanes will be analyzed in this study. Ms. Cai confirmed that three classifications of bike facilities: trails, bike lane and paved shoulders were all included.

**Ms. Cai** introduced **Mr. Seth Scott**, the GIS specialist with the Fresno COG. Mr. Scott proposed two options of analysis.

**1. Option 1: System-wide Analysis.**

**Mr. Scott** presented the basic idea of system-wide analysis which is to signify the facility needs from high level. Mr. Scott showed a map of health facility system-wide analysis as an example. The methodology was explained, and there were some assumptions made, such as bike speed, transit speed and transit schedule. There were three travel time maps shown. Three maps were based on the whole region's health facility analysis, hospitals, and the five major hospitals facility analysis separately.

**Mr. Paladino** was concerned of the assumption of bike speed at 10 miles/hour being too slow. It should be 12-13 mile/hour. Mr. Scott agreed to change that.

**Mr. Scott** said the analysis was for demonstration purposes, and showed a map with travel time analysis. Fresno COG staff could bring it down, if the committee liked this analysis idea.

**Ms. Sara Bosse** with the Public Health Department asked that whether the analysis considered the appointment schedule.

**Mr. Stites** added a point that most of the residents from Coalinga to Fresno rely on the transit while traveling. And the doctor's offices made the appointments to work with the transit schedule. Mr. Scott said that staff could add more indexes into the map, if the committee desired so.

**Ms. Kooner Harpreet** mentioned that the area north of the County may need more hospitals, based on the high population density. Mr. Scott reiterated that the project should focus on transportation.

**Ms. Ashbeck** pointed out that the current analysis is an example. Many factors were not added to the analysis, such as appointment wait time and congestion time. The maps could be built up and gave the committee an idea where more connections were needed.

**Mr. Mohammad Khorsand** was concerned of the assumption that people bike to hospital while sick. Residents might take multi-modal transportation mode. Mr. Khorsand suggested making accessible transit service to help people get the service.

**Ms. Renee Mathis** said that the City of Clovis wanted to focus on the transportation accessibility. Instead of transit, the accessibility study could focus on the transit stops more.

**Mr. Paladino** suggested the committee think about not only public health facilities, but also other facilities, such as retail, employer, and education centers.

**Ms. Ashbeck** made a comment that it was a good idea for the Fresno COG staffs to put together all facilities which need to be analyzed.

**Ms. Cai** confirmed that the Fresno COG staff can do it, if it is the committee's decision to do this analysis with option 1.

## **2. Option 2: Hot Spot Analysis**

**Ms. Cai** discussed the methodology of option 2, which was to select a few locations, and ask the consultant to conduct specific study for them. The analysis would focus on the connectivity/accessibility of the facilities. Option 2 has more details in analysis, but covers fewer facilities. Ms. Cai mentioned that the project can go for either option 1, option 2, or both of them.

**Ms. Mathis** commented that, for the City of Clovis, the study of schools and university might be different from other locations.

**Ms. Veronica Garibay** commented that the study should be based on the community. It was suggested to look into what kind of benefit the communities could get from this study in the future.

**Ms. Mathis** agreed and said that the study should make sure the community can get the facility. Regardless of the travel time and transit schedule, the study should stay focused on the bike/pedestrian. It is important to make sure there are connections to the transit.

**Ms. Ashbeck** pointed out that the project wanted to see the inter-city connectivity.

**Ms. Bosse** was concerned whether the committee really knows where the residents want to travel.

**Ms. Garibay** said that the Leadership Council conducted the community engagement before. The transit connection study is needed.

**Ms. Mathis** said that the option 2 might be the better one. Selecting the specific five locations is the first task to complete.

**Ms. Cai** pointed out that for this round of Needs Assessment, it is not practical to cover everything.

**Ms. Kooner** said that the County was conducting a plan. It might be beneficial for County to take advantage of some ideas from the Fresno COG's study and data source.

**Ms. Cai** mentioned that only the City of Fresno had the data for sidewalks. The Fresno COG staff need to work with the rural cities to collect the bike/sidewalk plan, and hire the Fresno State students to work on the sidewalk inventory.

**Ms. Bosse** would like to go with the option 2.

**Ms. Cai** mentioned that the project budget was limited. The committee discussed what locations to start with.

**Ms. Garibay** said that the Reedley needed the service. Ms. Garibay talked about how Reedley lack of facilities, and expressed the idea that big employment centers were very important.

**Ms. Ashbeck** said that the health centers had a lot of employee. Ms. Ashbeck suggested the first phase of study could be the hot spot study for the health centers and Fresno County's large employers.

There was a major employer list distributed during the meeting.

**Mr. Scott** would map everything in the list and send the map to the committee on next Monday, May 18th. The committee members were encouraged to reply email by Wednesday, May 20th.

**Ms. Mathis** asked Mr. Scott to map the disadvantaged communities with the hot spot study map. **The committee members** agreed with it.

**D. Other Items: RFP, future role of the committee**

**Ms. Cai** would like to get feedback from the committee members for the hot spot study map and the draft scope. The draft RFP will be sent to the scoping committee for review. COG staff would start talking with the Fresno State staff and working on the sidewalk inventory.

After discussing the RFP timeline, the committee agreed that it would take three months to start study. A consulting firm was expected to start work on the project by September, 2015.

**Ms. Cai** mentioned that it might need six to seven months to get the consulting work done.

The project is expected to be finished before the summer of 2016.

**IV. Adjourn**

Ms. Ashbeck thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 3:55 p.m.