

**Council of Fresno County Governments
First Quarter Progress Report for FY 2010-11
Ending September 30, 2010**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

WE 110 - Regional Streets and Highways

Objective: To maintain a continuing, cooperative, and coordinated regional streets and highways planning process that is responsive to local needs as well as state and federal requirements.

Accomplishments:

- Continued participation in the Statewide California Federal Programming Group (CFPG) established to provide a linkage between State, Federal, and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies involved in transportation programming activities.
- Involvement with related subcommittees of the CFPG group evaluating and making recommendations on policy and procedure updates related to programming.
- Continued use of the *California Transportation Improvement Program System* (CTIPS) and involvement in program updates.
- Continued participation in the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Consultation Group.
- Continued usage and improvement to FresnoTrak, the programming software provided by EcoInteractive used to integrate all components of programming such as Modeling, RTP, and FTIP. Local agencies now access their project information online and verify programming details on FresnoTrak.

[GARZA/MONGE]

WE 111 - Regional Transportation Modeling

Objective: To maintain a continuing, cooperative, and coordinated regional transportation modeling process that is responsive to local needs as well as state and federal requirements.

Accomplishments:

- Provided various model data to consultants, member agencies, and Caltrans.
- Continued participation in the Caltrans led Statewide Modeling/Information Sharing Group. Helped coordinate the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) Modeling/Air Quality Coordinating Committee. This committee was established to provide interagency transportation conformity consultation. The meetings are attended by representatives of the eight Valley RTPAs; the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Caltrans; the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD); and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- COG staff is chair of the San Joaquin Valley TP+/Cube Model Users Group.
- Kept the road network database up-to-date. The database is used for modeling and other reporting purposes.
- Completed the land use update for traffic model to year 2003 conditions by updating land use information utilizing 2000 Census data and local data. Reviewed final land use and validated network. The Model Steering Committee adopted the validated 2003 base year model.
- The COG Board adopted the new validated model and land use.
- COG Modeling staff participates in the Regional Targets Advisory Committee developing green house gas targets and modeling requirements for the San Joaquin Valley.
- Submitted Green House Gas targets to the Air Resources Board for SB 375.

- Fresno COG led the San Joaquin Valley effort in successfully applying for and receiving \$2.5 million dollars for valley wide model improvements for SB 375 implementation.

[BITNER/HAN]

WE 112 - Regional Traffic Monitoring

Objective: To maintain the Fresno Regional Traffic Monitoring Program as a source of current traffic information for use by member agencies and the public, and as a validation tool for the Countywide Traffic Model.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinated the *Traffic Counts Program* and provided technical assistance to member agencies.
- Provided traffic counts in response to public requests.
- Facilitated Triennial Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) traffic counts.

[HAN]

WE 113 – Regional Transportation Planning Studies

Objective: The Regional Transportation Planning Studies work element is intended to provide resources to conduct focused transportation studies for the Fresno County region.

Accomplishments:

Fehr and Peers have completed the traffic analysis of the Study Area including detailed analysis of the roadway segments and intersections. Fehr and Peers has also completed a stakeholder interviews. The report on the interviews was submitted to the technical work group and included in the final report. Preliminary recommendations based on financial constraints and roadway demands are also complete, and a final presentation has been made to the City Council of City of Fresno with County of Fresno Board of Supervisors presentation scheduled for October and the Fresno COG Policy Board scheduled for November. [TWEBSTER]

WE 115 – Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Plan

Objective: As of January 1, 2010, Resolution 2009-01 gives the RTMF joint powers agency (FCRTMFA) the authority to collect the fee. The RTMF JPA and the Transportation Authority entered into an indemnity agreement, whereas the Transportation Authority (FCTA) assumes liability for FCRTMFA's actions in collecting the fee.

Accomplishments:

During the 1st Quarter of 2010, the following activities continue;

- Staff analyzes eligibility forms on behalf of local jurisdictions.
- Staff assists the public in interpretation and application of the fee.
- Staff collects and processes fees in accordance with the Mitigation Fee Act, on behalf of local jurisdictions.
- Staff tracked the eligibility and fee collection process using a database developed by staff specifically for RTMF activities.
- A report was presented to the Measure C Citizen's Oversight Committee, detailing the collection activities of the RTMF.

[SOBRADO/FAWCETT/BOREN]

WE 116 – National Park Transit Study

Objective: The National Park Transit Study is a market assessment and feasibility study is to assess the viability of providing public transportation service between the city of Fresno and Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Accomplishments:

- An RFP was released on October 20, and on November 24, eight proposals were received. The proposals were scored and four of the proposals were selected for formal presentations scheduled to take place in January 2010.
- The COG Policy Board awarded the contract to Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants, and the contract was executed on March 19. The first meeting of the Study Advisory Committee will be May 4, 2010.
- Two Service Advisory Committee meetings have taken place and stakeholder interviews have been undertaken to determine the level of interest in service to National Parks. Stakeholders include officers of the National Parks Service, representatives from local colleges, the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Fresno Convention and Visitors Agency, as well as other Fresno and Madera County officials.
- Interviews were conducted among Fresno, Madera and Oakhurst key stakeholder. Additional interviews were also conducted with representatives of the National Parks Service (NPS).
- COG staff met with NPS representatives and others regional planning groups to discuss various planning activities currently underway at or around Yosemite National Park.
- A survey of Fresno State University students was conducted to determine the level of interest in transit service from Fresno to the national parks. [DOWNS]

WE 117 -Golden State Corridor Study

GOLDEN STATE CORRIDOR: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS: PLANNING, ENGINEERING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Objective:

The Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) in conjunction with the County of Fresno, and the cities of Selma, Fowler and Kingsburg are conducting a Golden State Corridor: Economic Development Infrastructure Improvements: Planning, Engineering, and Environmental Study.

There are three parts to this study:

- 1) Developing the planning design guideline specifications for the entire Corridor,
- 2) Preparing the preliminary engineering design plans, and
- 3) Preparation of environmental documents sufficient to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The goal is to revitalize the Corridor, enhance economic development, and improve Corridor safety for both commercial purposes as well as local drivers.

Funding for the Golden State Corridor Improvements has been made available in the Measure “C” Sales Tax Extension, passed by the voters of Fresno County in 2006. For this phase, \$515,000 is allocated. The second allocation is in the 2013/14 time frame at \$5,970,000, and the third allocation occurs in the years 2015/16 at \$37,343,000

Accomplishments:

- Chapters 1 (Background) and 2 (Context) of the Design Manual is in process. The outline of the Design Manual has been provided to the three cities and the County.
- Field and office work on the topographic mapping continue.
- The Recycled Water Feasibility Study (2003) prepared by SKF was reviewed. A memo is in the draft stage regarding the potential and alternative scenarios for using recycled water.
- Traffic study assumptions were drafted and reviewed. Traffic counts on all impacted intersections are being performed.
- Economic information is being reviewed and grant possibilities are being developed.
- Details were added to the topographic survey map that was not picked up by photogrammetry.
- Graphics for each intersection were developed; additional traffic counts were taken; Synchro worksheets were set up.
- Planning Design Guidelines: example designs and themes were developed for upcoming presentations to the three City Councils. *Preserving the Historic Road* conference was attended (not billed to the Project)
- Topographic Mapping: Field data collection was completed.
- Synchro traffic flow assumptions were reviewed with Kingsburg staff in August.
- Fresno COG reviewed the existing traffic counts and assumptions prior to final traffic projections. Schematic work began on possible roundabout designs at key intersections.
- A meeting was held with the SJVUAPCD on coordination of District Rule 9510-Indirect Source Review-fees with the Corridor as a Sub-Regional Facility with some potential relief from the standard fee structure.
- Presentations for the cities of Fowler and Kingsburg City Councils were held in September.
- Kingsburg staff requested investigation into the status of the Monterey Bridge removal in Fresno as a potential loss of connectivity to the Golden State Corridor. Status and history were researched, Fresno City staff reports were reviewed, a meeting was scheduled with the County of Fresno; discussion was held with City of Fresno staff. Research to be continued.

[DAWSON]

WE 120 - Regional Public Transportation Planning - Urban

Objective: To carry on the continuing urban area public transportation planning process to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration under TEA-21 (1997), the Alquist-Ingalls Act (AB-402, 1977) and AB-120 (Statutes of 1979); the Social Service Improvement Act (SB-826, 1988); the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments; The 1988 California Clean Air Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336).

Accomplishments:

- *Demand-Responsive Service Evaluation:* Staff continues to monitor the system for productivity, cost effectiveness, and compliance with ADA regulations.
- *Management Information Systems:* Staff continues to develop and maintain various MIS programs and services. Major work this quarter includes testing and fine-tuning regional farebox reporting, regional trip planning software implementation, and Automatic Passenger Counting system.
- *National Transit Database Report:* National Transit Data Base (NTDB) annual operating statistics for FY2010-11 are being compiled for the report to the Federal Transit Administration. NTDB data collection is an ongoing process.
- *Coordinate with Air District:* Staff reviews Air District's plans and rule making and attends workshops on topics related to transit planning. Staff also works closely in developing funding request strategies from the SJVUAPCD for related TCM's such as alternative fuels funding and transit pass subsidy funding.

- *Review Development Proposals:* Staff continues to work closely with the development community in order to promote pedestrian and transit-friendly development through review and comment on development proposals.
- *Community Outreach and Public information:* FAX information continues to be maintained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fresno.gov/index.html>. Staff continues to work with major employers to promote public transit, and to find creative ways to increase transit's market share. Staff has participated in several community outreach activities with various local agencies.
- *Service Coordination:* The Clovis/FAX Metro pass continues to be a success, and FAX continues to include transit service schedules and information for Clovis Stageline in the FAX Schedule Guide.
- *Regional Farebox:* The contract has been approved for Fare Logistics, and will now be funded with ARRA funds. The new fareboxes have been installed on FAX Route 9 (Shaw Ave.) to facilitate acceptance testing. There have been significant issues with the acceptance testing. This project continues to experience significant problems, and FAX has issued a cure letter putting Fare Logistics on notice.
- *Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC):* The SSTAC is in the process of compiling information for the annual Transit Productivity Report.
- *Automatic Passenger Counters (APC):* Staff prepared and released an RFP for Automatic Passenger Counters to retrofit the entire FAX fleet. Two vendors were selected to participate in a demonstration project. The demonstration part of the process has been completed. Two bids were received, but the City's purchasing department declared one of the bids non-responsive. The non-responsive bidder has filed an appeal that is currently pending resolution.
- *Regional Transit Trip Planning Program:* Staff prepared and released an RFP for Regional Transit Trip Planning Program. The procurement process has been completed, and FAX has negotiated a contract with Ontira Communications. The program will be funded using JARC funds. Automated trip planning is currently available via Google Transit for FAX, but in a much less robust format.
- *Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan:* Staff prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan, and the contract has been awarded to Nelson\Nygaard Associates. A technical steering committee comprised of the three transit operators and the consultants has been established, and the consultants are currently evaluating the transit operators' business operations as well as considering operating models from other agencies for possible application to Fresno County.

[DOWNS]

WE 121 – Public Transit -Human Services Transportation (JARC)

Objective: The Human Services Transportation Coordination work element's aim is to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that public and non-profit agencies coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs including the Formula Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities; the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program and the NEW FREEDOM Program.

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This new legislation included human services transportation coordination provisions which aim to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that communities coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs. Coordination will enhance transportation access, minimize duplication of services, and facilitate the most appropriate cost-effective transportation

The human services transportation coordination provisions include the following activities:

- Requires the establishment of a locally developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for all FTA human service transportation programs: Section 5310 Elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities program, Section 5316 Jobs Access and Reverse Commute

Program and Section 5317 New Freedom Program. This plan has been completed and accepted by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Accomplishments:

- Issued a call for projects for the FTA Section 5316, JARC Large Urban grant program. This program is administered by Fresno COG.
- Received five grant applications for the COG administered component of the Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 JARC grant program.. We also convened the SSTAC grading committee to review and score the grant applications. All submitted grant applications were awarded funding.
- Completed the programming process for COG administered portion of the Section 5316 Grant Program and had the contract reviewed by County Counsel.
- Worked with prospective applicants to prepare for future FTA Section 5316 JARC Call for projects.
- Collected quarterly reports from previous Section 5316 (JARC) grantees to comply with administrative requirements.
- Conducted an extensive review of the Fresno COG Standard Agreement and made several updates to the contract.

[SOBRADO]

WE 122 – Public Transit – Human Services Transportation (New Freedom)

Objective: The New Freedom program goals are to provide new public transportation services to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the workforce and full participation into society while expanding the transportation mobility options available to persons with disabilities beyond requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.).

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This new legislation included human services transportation coordination provisions which aim to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that communities coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs. Coordination will enhance transportation access, minimize duplication of services, and facilitate the most appropriate cost-effective transportation

The human services transportation coordination provisions include the following activities:

- Requires the establishment of a locally developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for all FTA human service transportation programs: Section 5310 Elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities program, Section 5316 Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program and Section 5317 New Freedom Program. This plan has been completed and accepted by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Accomplishments:

- Issued a call for projects for the FY 2009, 2010 FTA Section 5317, New Freedom, Large Urban grant program. This program is administered by Fresno COG.
- Completed the programming process for COG administered portion of the Section 5317 (New Freedom) grant program and had contracts reviewed by County Counsel.
- Worked with prospective applicants prepare for future FTA Section 5317 New Freedom call for projects.
- Collected quarterly reports from previous Section 5317 (New Freedom) grantees to comply with administrative requirements.
- Conducted an extensive review of the Fresno COG Standard Agreement and made several updates to the Contract.

[SOBRADO]

WE 123 – Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS)

Objective: The purpose of this work element is to identify and evaluate viable alternative mass transportation options for Fresno County, and develop ridership and cost projections for various scenarios to establish a long-range plan leading to optimum connectivity within the region.

Accomplishments:

- Summary of travel markets, transit needs, and planned public transportation improvements;
- Summary maps and brief description of transit friendly employment centers, market conditions, and characterization of transit corridors;
- Transit technology and service alternatives feasibility assessment;
- Menu of service and technology options for transportation systems management (TSM) scenario;
- Baseline GIS mapping of Fresno County (includes layers reflecting Blueprint scenarios where available);
- Evaluation of current vacant land capacity based on existing zoning;
- Summary of current conditions and future trends analysis; and
- Countywide opinion survey

The PTIS website has been developed and launched, and all of the study documents, including newsletters are available at www.fasttrackfresnocounty.com. In January a series of public workshops were conducted to gauge the community's interest in different land use and transit treatments. Also, stakeholder interviews for the Streetcar Study were conducted as well as a public open house regarding the Streetcar Study. Several more public activities are scheduled for April.

During the 4th quarter major work included modeling alternative land use and transportation scenarios and developing performance criteria for alternative scenarios. The modeling scenarios have been completed and performance measures for the different alternatives have been collected. PTIS draft recommendations are being developed and will be presented to elected officials in October. [DOWNS]

WE 130 - Regional Public Transportation Planning - Rural

Objective: To carry on the continuing rural public transportation planning process to satisfy the requirements of the Alquist-Ingalls Act (AB-402, 1977); the Social Service Improvement Act (AB-120, 1979); the Mello Act (SB-157, 1985); the Specialized Transportation Services Act (SB-826, 1988) the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments (1990); the 1988 California Clean Air Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336).

Accomplishments:

- No Work Element tasks were scheduled or performed during the First Quarter. [WEBSTER]

WE 150 - Other Modes - Aviation & Rail

Objective: To maintain a continuing, coordinated planning process in the aviation, non-motorized and rail modes.

Accomplishments/Aviation:

- Monitored aviation issues and legislation important to Fresno County.
- Comprehensive review and update of aviation section of 2011 Regional Transportation Plan, in conjunction with operators of public use airports in Fresno County.

Accomplishments/Rail:

- Monitored rail issues and legislation important to Fresno County.
- Monitored activities of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and other activities related to high-speed rail in California.
- Participated in a meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee on July 29, 2010 in Merced. Usual reports were made on Amtrak California safety/security/train operations, passenger services, marketing, route performance, Amtrak California train and thruway bus operations, capital projects delivery, and state/federal budgets, legislation, and other updates.
- Participated as a member of a delegation presenting to Quentin Kopp, member of the High-Speed Rail Authority, information concerning the Heavy Maintenance Facility.
- Presented high-speed rail updates to the COG Committees and Policy Board during the September cycle of meetings. Items included key findings from recent research on high-speed rail in California and a letter supporting early construction of the Fresno to Bakersfield segment of the high-speed train system. Also in September, COG Committees and Policy Board approved Amendment #1 to the FY 2010-11 Overall Work Program increasing the budget in Work Element 150 by \$30,000 for the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Study.

[THOMPSON]

WE 151 – Bicycle and Pedestrian

Objective: To maintain a continuing, coordinated planning process in the bicycle and pedestrian transportation modes.

Accomplishments:

- Monitored bikeway issues and legislation important to Fresno County.
- Scheduled and participated in a trails/bikeways meeting on August 11, 2010 to discuss a potential amendment to the Measure C Expenditure Plan to allow for use of trail/bikeway program funds to be used for maintenance activities in addition to or instead of new construction.
- Staff sits as a voting member representing the San Joaquin Valley on Caltrans Bicycle Advisory Committee (CBAC). The purpose of the CBAC is to advise Caltrans on technical issues related to bikeways planning and implementation. Participated via teleconference in meeting of the CBAC on August 5, 2010. Ongoing agenda items included various status reports (Highway Design Manual Revision, Interchange/Intersection Guidelines, AB 1581 Implementation, Bikes on Roadways Training, AB 1358 and DD-64 R1 Implementation, Bicyclist Representation on CTCDC, a new Statewide Bicycle Committee, Strategic Highway Safety Plan, California Vehicle Code 21202 opinion, Bridge Rail, etc.) and new business items including a share the road sign proposal, new SHSP CA 13 actions, VeloCity Conference/Copenhagen cycling and bike facility inconsistencies..
- Ongoing participation in the development of a Fresno County Regional Bicycle Master Plan.

[THOMPSON]

WE 152 – High Speed Rail Planning

Objective: To assist the California High-Speed Rail Authority, in conjunction with Fresno COG member agencies and interested citizens and organizations, with the development of the project level environmental document for the high-speed train system, and to identify and evaluate all other issues associated with high-speed trains in Fresno County in order to maximize its benefits.

Accomplishments:

- Ongoing activities related to the Heavy Maintenance Facility. These activities included participation in meetings of the “Fresno Works” Steering Committee, discussions with community members concerning

high-speed rail issues, and other activities. The Steering Committee and Land Use Task Force continue to meet regularly to discuss next steps and resolve issues related to the heavy maintenance facility.

- Continue to monitor activities and decisions of the California High-Speed Rail Authority for their relationship to high-speed rail in Fresno.

[THOMPSON]

WE 153 – Airport Land Use Commission

Objective: To ensure the orderly development of lands in the vicinity of public use airports within Fresno County and ensure consistency of land use development with the various Airport Land Use plans within Fresno County.

Accomplishments:

- Conducted two Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) meetings to determine consistency with the Fresno County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- Continued to maintain a GIS map base to facilitate ongoing and future presentations to the Commission.
- Followed established procedures and reviewed current, best-practices from other ALUCs in order to establish more meaningful and functional process for the COG.
- Currently in the process of creating a Fresno County ALUC website.
- A Compatibility Land Use (CLUP) update for FYI was approved by Fresno County ALUC Resolution 2010-01, after completion of the 45 day public and inter-agency review. The last Fresno Yosemite Airport (FYI) CLUP update was in 1990, and coincides with current update underway of the FYI Master Plan Update

[TWEBSTER/FAWCETT]

WE 170 - Regional Transportation Plan

Objective: To develop and publish, on a four-year basis, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Fresno County which addresses at a minimum a twenty year planning horizon. The plan shall include both long-range and short-range strategies and actions for implementing an integrated intermodal transportation system. The plan will address the federally required Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) planning factors. The final rule for SAFETEA-LU implementation was released in February 2007 with an effective date of March 16, 2007.

Accomplishments:

- Subsequent environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) presented to COG committees and Policy Board during July cycle of meetings. The Policy Board certified the SEIR and adopted the 2011 RTP on July 29, 2010.

[THOMPSON]

WE 172 - Congestion Management Process

Objective: The Final Rule for the Federal Management and Monitoring Systems (Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations Chapter I, Subchapter F, Part 500) defines an effective CMP as a systematic process for managing congestion that provides information on transportation system performance and on alternative strategies for alleviating congestion and enhancing the mobility of persons and goods to levels that meet State and local needs. The objective of this element is to respond to federal congestion management planning requirements. The Fresno County CMP addresses congestion-related issues in Fresno region in a systematic and regional approach. As an integral part of Fresno COG's planning process, the Fresno County CMP is incorporated in the RTP and TIP process.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to work with member agencies to add new traffic count locations on the updated Regionally Significant System to the Traffic Monitoring Program
 - Continued to implement CMP strategies that were identified in the CMP report
 - Continued to assess the effectiveness of the CMP strategies
- [CAI]

WE 180 - Air Quality Transportation Planning

Objective: The Air Quality Transportation Planning Work Element provides for the development and maintenance of a coordinated transportation and air quality planning process. The federal and California Clean Air Acts require that transportation plans, programs and projects be consistent with, or conform to, state air quality implementation plans, and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they conform. In order to be in compliance with federal and state regulations, transportation activities can not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards. With the State of California taking the national and international lead on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change, new tasks are being required of transportation planning agencies. New Work Elements # 413-Fresno County SB 375 Implementation and Work Element #415-Valley I-Places have been added to address greenhouse gas/climate change work elements.

Accomplishments:

- On-going coordination with local, State, and federal agencies regarding air quality and transportation issues.
- Monitored State and federal guidance related to air quality transportation planning requirements.
- Continued participation in the Statewide Transportation Conformity Working Group including meetings and transmitting updates from the working group. A Statewide meeting was held 9/16/2010 to discuss new EPA Draft Guidance for Quantitative PM Hot-spot guidance, new national ambient air quality standards, the Conformity Restructuring Rule, changes in the calculation of fugitive dust, and progress on the development of EMFAC 2010.
- Continued participation with the other seven Valley Regional Planning Agencies (RPA) in the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Consultation Group to address pertinent transportation, modeling, air quality, and conformity analysis issues. (Last meeting was 9/16/2010)
- Assisted and drafted project level (hot-spot) transportation conformity determinations for transportation agencies.
- Assisted member agencies with CMAQ information to process their funding applications.
- Participated in conference calls with staff from ARB, EPA, FHWA, Caltrans and various members of the other San Joaquin Valley RPAs.
- Attended San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD) Board meetings and workshops related to transportation.
- Presented air quality updates to the Fresno COG Transportation Policy Committee, the Transportation Technical Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee.

- Membership and active participation in the San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition. The third quarter workshop was held on 9/25/2010 focusing on compressed natural gas (CNG).
 - Final Conformity Analysis for the 2011 RTP and 2011 FTIP -adopted 7/29/2010.
 - Finalized Climate Change Element Chapter for the 2011 RTP, -adopted 7/29/2010.
 - Finalized Pricing Policy content for 2011 RTP-adopted 7/29/2010.
 - Finalized the PM10 Policy for the 2011 RTP/Conformity document, -adopted 7/29/2010.
 - Finalized the CMAQ Cost effectiveness policy for the 2011 FTIP, -adopted 7/29/2010.
 - Facilitated SJVUAPCD Presentations/Updates for COG Committee meetings.
- [DAWSON]

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

WE 210 – Measure C Reauthorization

Objective: To provide the organizational structure and staffing for development of an Expenditure Plan that will guide the utilization of a proposed ½ cent sales tax measure that is tentatively scheduled for the November 2006 ballot. The Reauthorization process is being guided by a Regional Steering Committee consisting of elected officials, interested regional stakeholders and the general public. Staffing is provided by COG.

Accomplishments:

- Staff continued implementing the Measure C Carpool, Commuter Vanpool, Farmworker Vanpool and Taxi Scrip Programs.
- Designated staff worked to administer the Measure C Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program during the quarter.
- At the direction of the Fresno COG Policy Board, staff crafted Amendment #1 to the Measure C Extension Expenditure Program. A great deal of public outreach was done regarding the amendment, including a public meeting, media releases and outreach advertisements in local newspapers, placed on various websites, and sent out via email. The Fresno COG Board approved the amendment at their September 30, 2010 meeting.

[VEENENDAAL/BOREN]

WE 211 – Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee

Objective: To inform the public and to ensure that the Measure C funding program revenues and expenditures are spent as promised to the public in the 2006 Measure C Extension Expenditure Plan.

Accomplishments:

- The Citizen Oversight Committee met once during the quarter, on July 15, 2010.
- Fresno COG staff coordinated the meeting, agenda and handouts needed by the committee.
- Staff updated and forwarded the Citizen Oversight Committee's Local Agency Reporting Forms and completion instructions to each agency required to report on how they plan to spend fiscal year's 2010-2011 Measure C Local Agency Pass Through Funding. Then staff worked with member agencies to help them accurately complete the forms.

[VEENENDAAL]

WE 212 – Measure C Carpool/Vanpool Program

Objective: To expend Measure C Carpool/Vanpool Program funds to encourage an increase in carpooling and commuter vanpooling in Fresno County.

Accomplishments Commuter Vanpool Program: COG staff continues to:

- Improve, evaluate, and monitor tracking and reporting procedures
- Develop and release notifications of funds available via website, email, public service announcements, news articles, participate in community events, radio and television interviews, and other means available to all Fresno County residents including the Tribal membership and employees.
- Update all related information and forms online.
- Receive and evaluate all applications for the commuter vanpool program. Monitor all subsidies and reimbursements for renewals at the vanpool's 12 month anniversary. Receive and process all renewal applications. Mailed award letters to new and existing vanpool drivers.
- Create new partnerships with vanpool providers and with public and private organizations to increase vanpool and carpool awareness and participation.
- Provide customer service through phone calls, assisting walk-in traffic and arranging onsite visits with public and private organizations.
- Receive and process monthly vanpool invoices and mail out subsidies, reimbursements and award letters.
- Perform research and development to improve and enhance Commuter Vanpool Program.

Accomplishments Carpool Subsidy Program: COG staff continues to:

- Develop outreach materials used for community events, presentations, email blasts, graphics, web posts and ad and mailings. Ran a complete outreach programs via all of the above listed media.
- Give presentations at various businesses and organizations about the Carpool Program. .
- Oversee the distribution of monthly awards to carpool winners. Three monthly drawings were held where three winners were awarded \$1,000 each.
- Maintain the Valleyrides.com website that includes the Measure C commuting programs, and Tulare County commuter information (due to a funding and partnership with TCAG staff). The website includes Carpool Program functionality and information. Staff updated and added content to many of the Measure C Carpool sections.
- In preparation for the end-of-year grand prize drawing, COG staff got donations and made purchases for the four Grand Prize packages, and negotiated a deal with Lithia Nissan of Fresno for the main grand prize; a 2010 Nissan Altima Hybrid.
- Worked with Jeffrey Scott Agency to put together a media campaign for the Grand Prize Giveaway event at Chukchansi park, held during one of the Fresno Grizzlie Baseball Games.
- Made all of the arrangements for the giveaway event and hosted it on July 17, 2010.

[VEENENDAAL/MARTINEZ]

WE 214 – Measure C ADA/Seniors/Paratransit Taxi Scrip

Objective: To implement the Measure C Taxi Scrip Program for enhanced taxicab transportation services for persons 70 years of age and older living in the Fresno County (service area) region.

Accomplishments: Staff continues to:

- Improve and update tracking, reporting and information in database for taxi scrip program.
- Develop and release program notifications such as funds available, forms, bilingual educational literature, question and answers via website, email, public service announcements, news articles, community events and other means available to all Fresno County residents including the Tribal membership and employees.
- Update all related information, forms and applications online as well as ensures that all distribution centers have complete and updated resources.

- Visit all distribution centers no less than once a month to ensure proper sales reporting, documentation, and provide training sessions on a needs basis.
- Process vendor reimbursements to Measure C for all scrip sold (minus a 5% administration fee) on a quarterly basis.
- Receive and evaluate all applications for Taxi Scrip Program and Proxy Designation Forms.
- Provide customer service through phone calls, assisting walk-in traffic and arranging onsite visits with public and private organizations.
- Receive and process invoices, subsidies, reimbursements and sales.
- Maintain an accurate list of taxi cab companies that accept taxi scrip.
- Review biweekly taxi vendor logs and submitted taxi scrip for accuracy and reimbursement.
- Maintain partnerships with various local vendors, private and public organizations to act as currency distributors and as educators to increase taxi scrip program awareness and participation.
- Perform research and development to improve and enhance the Taxi Scrip Program.
- Work with marketing agency to develop outreach material used for media, community events, presentations, and mailings.

[VEENENDAAL/MARTINEZ]

WE 215 – Measure C Farmworker Vanpool Programs

Objective: To implement the Measure C Farmworker Vanpool Program, encouraging an increase in farmworker vanpooling participation in Fresno County.

Accomplishments:

- Improve, evaluate, and monitor tracking and reporting procedures.
- Maintain the accessibility of bilingual notifications of funds available via website, email, public service announcements, news articles. Participate in community events, and other means available to all Fresno County residents including the Tribal membership and employees.
- COG staff continuously updates all related information and applications online and works closely with vanpool provider to educate Farmworkers on informational program items.
- COG staff receives and evaluates all individual applications for the Farmworker vanpool program.
- Continue to implement the renewal process for those applicants that have reached their one-year anniversary in the Farmworker Vanpool Program.
- Maintain partnerships with vanpool providers and with public and private organizations to increase Farmworker vanpool awareness and participation.
- Provide customer service through phone calls, assisting walk-in traffic and arranging onsite visits with public and private organizations.
- Receive and process monthly vanpool invoices and mail out subsidies and reimbursement.
- Continuous research and development to improve and enhance Farmworker vanpool program.
- Continue to work with marketing agency to develop outreach material used for community events, presentations, and mailings.

[VEENENDAAL/MARTINEZ]

WE 220 – Transportation Program Development

Objective: To identify transportation improvements proposed for implementation within a short-range period of compliance with federal and state requirements.

Accomplishments:

- Continued participation in the Statewide California Federal Programming Group (CFPG) established to provide a linkage between State, Federal, and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies involved in transportation programming activities.
- Involvement with related subcommittees of the CFPG group evaluating and making recommendations on policy and procedure updates related to programming.
- Continued use of the *California Transportation Improvement Program System* (CTIPS) and involvement in program updates.
- Continued participation in the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Consultation Group.
- COG staff continues to work with its member agencies in an effort to develop/maintain a financially constrained transportation improvement program.
- COG staff continues to attend California Transportation Commission meeting and Statewide RTPA meetings to monitor, regional, state and Federal transportation issues and policies.
- Correspondence with Agency staff and Caltrans regarding preparation and delivery of the Obligation Plan for 2009/10.
- Collaboration with Agency staff, Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA for the development of the 2011 FTIP and RTP adopted by the COG Policy Board July 31, 2010 and will be submitted to Caltrans and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on October 1, 2010 for approval. Federal approval expected in December 2010.
- COG staff continues intergovernmental coordination and public notification for all formal amendments to the FTIP. COG staff also continues to conduct administrative modifications to the FTIP as needed.
 - o Administrative Modification #26: Minor modifications were made to project descriptions that did not affect the limits or environmental document, post programming adjustments, and changes to the back up list. The amendment was approved by Caltrans on August 4, 2010.
 - o Formal Amendment #27: This amendment included many new transit projects utilizing the 2008/2009 apportionments. The amendment also included a change to the Highway Bridge Program back up list due to the advancement of projects. The Executive Director approved the amendment on behalf of the Board on August 18, 2010. Caltrans approved this amendment on September 1, 2010 and FHWA approved it on September 3, 2010.
- Continued involvement, participation and monitoring of monthly California Transportation Commission meetings, Regional Transportation Planning Agency meetings, and Self-Help County Coalition meetings.
- Continual development and improvements to FresnoTrak for use in project tracking and enhancing visualization of the FTIP.

[GARZA/MONGE]

SERVICES AND GENERAL COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

WE 310 - Intergovernmental Coordination

Objectives: 1) To promote coordination, cooperation and communication on administrative and planning matters among local agencies, the COG, federal and state agencies. To enable various agencies, including Native Americans, to participate in and review the regional planning process; 2) To provide the public with information on activities, meetings, planning documents and reports, and to seek advice from the public on COG's planning activities; and 3) To provide local agencies and the public the opportunity to review and comment upon federal grant proposals through the Local Clearinghouse Process; and 4) To provide local agencies with information on federal and state legislation, regulations, guidelines, and policies that effect the Fresno COG and our member agencies.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to provide staff support to the Association for the Beautification of State Route 99. Organized bimonthly meetings for the Association, assisted with correspondence, conducted research, and prepared staff reports.
- Continued efforts towards implementing the *2000 Highway 99 Beautification Plan* by recommending the adoption of a draft Highway Beautification Overlay Zoning District by the Cities of Kingsburg, Selma, Fowler, Fresno, and Fresno County. Provided guidance and support to Fresno County planning staff as the Overlay made its way through the adoption process.
- Continued monitoring other SR 99 beautification efforts such as the Great Valley Center's Highway 99 Project and Caltrans' *Highway 99 Plan*.
- Provided ongoing support to member agencies of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority in the establishment of this new program in Fresno County. Issues discussed over the course of the quarter include election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority and a determination of time standards and personnel costs for use in calculating program costs.
- Staff continues to outreach to the Native American Tribal governments, both federally and non-federally recognized, in Fresno County to solicit their input and to seek their participation in COG activities. Staff continues to provide all of the tribes with ongoing meeting notifications and any other pertinent information that may be of interest to the tribes. Fresno COG is working with Kern COG, the lead agency on a grant to enhance outreach to Tribal governments throughout the Valley.
- Continue monthly distribution of state Clearinghouse items to member agencies for review and comment.
- Continue process of member agency outreach to provide update on the SJV Regional Blueprint Planning Process and determine how MPOs can assist with implementation.
- Continued outreach with staff and administrators of member agencies to gather input for the Blueprint.
- Provide ongoing updates to member agencies on progress with Blueprint activities.
- Continue Valleywide management of eight Valley COGs on for SJV Blueprint.
- Staff continues involvement/collaboration on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects of local, valley-wide, and State interest. Executive Director and Deputy Director have been holding meetings with member agency Board and PAC members to provide information and solicit input.
- Continue staff participation in monthly meetings with the Fresno Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Council where legislation and local, state and federal policies are discussed that affect the Fresno region.
- Fresno COG staff devotes significant time to on-going legislative activities including, but not limited to, monthly reports detailing pending state and federal legislation in current sessions, bill analysis, regular correspondence to state and federal representatives communicating positions on bills of interest by our Policy Board, and the development of an annual Fresno COG Legislative Platform.

[ALL PLANNING STAFF]

WE 311 - Public Information and Participation

Objective: To provide the public with information on activities, meetings, planning documents and reports, and to seek advice from the public on COG's planning activities. This work element is intended to highlight the COG's desire to encourage more public participation in the transportation planning process, consistent with TEA 21 requirements. This will include public involvement in the development stages of plans and programs as well as throughout the adoption process. COG's Public Involvement Procedures will be consulted and followed during each phase of plan or program development.

It is Fresno COG's desire that the citizens of Fresno County and its cities assist in delineating values, goals, and objectives of transportation-related services and planning documents. Further, it is Fresno COG's intent that those same citizens, charged with the responsibility of providing feedback on a continuous basis, will participate in the selection of transportation facilities and programs for planning and programming under Fresno COG's authority. Finally, it is the goal of Fresno COG to adequately provide information to and solicit input from

historically underserved community of Fresno County (i.e. elderly, minority groups, youth, disabled and lower income people).

Accomplishments:

- Prepared agenda packages, reports, and notices for COG's three monthly public meetings.
- Filled requests for information about Fresno COG and/or their member agencies and updated various listings.
- Designed and printed presentations, graphics and materials for Fresno COG staff as requested for One Voice, Blueprint, several Measure C programs, and the Regional Transportation Plan and related documents..
- Implemented an outreach/media plans for the Measure C Carpool Program Grand Prize Giveaway Event at Chukchansi Park in July 2010.
- Continuously updated Fresno COG's website with a variety of information, meeting packets and calendar entries.
- Sent out weekly email alerts called "This Week...at Fresno COG." The email went out each Tuesday and highlighted Fresno COG activities, plans, projects, RFPs, etc. with links to the Fresno COG website. Developed and continuously updated the emails lists used for circulation.
- Continued working with Fresno County Transportation Authority Staff and consultants on public outreach for Measure C projects and programs.
- Implemented a public outreach program for review and comment of Measure C Amendment #1.
- Maintained the Fresno COG Facebook page
- Attended meetings of the Fresno Works Outreach Committee, coordinating efforts to encourage the California High Speed Rail Authority select Fresno County for the High-Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility. Forwarded and facilitated a request to our member agencies for Resolutions of Support for the placement of a Heavy Maintenance Facility in Fresno County.
- Worked with member agency staff to have their city councils approve an amendment to Fresno COG's Joint Powers Agreement allowing us to change our name to Fresno Council of Governments.
- Worked with Jeffrey Scott Agency to develop a new Fresno COG logo and begin development of the new Fresno COG website. [VEENENDAAL]

WE 312 - COGView Internet Home Page

Objective: To create a source that provides easy access to government and other information for Fresno County residents, member agencies, and perspective business interests using the latest technology of the World Wide Web. Additional objectives include enhancing potential economic development and increasing public knowledge and involvement of COG activities as well as reduce costs.

Accomplishments:

- The Fresno COG website maintains minutes and agendas for the Fresno COG Technical Advisory Committee, the Policy Advisory Committee and Policy Board. Committee members have the choice of continuing to receive agenda by mail or they can sign up to receive links to the agendas online by email.
- Air quality, transportation modeling data and other information is updated regularly on the website.
- Updated and added reports and publications put out by the Fresno COG.
- Calendar, Announcement and Meeting sections are continuously updated and kept current on the Fresno COG website. Meeting agenda/handout links are included on the online calendar.
- Continued to provide ongoing support and maintenance of the COGView website.
- A vendor has been selected for the development of the new Fresno COG website. It is currently in development and scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of FY2010-2011.

[VEENENDAAL/SOBRADO]

WE 313 – Environmental Justice Activities

Objectives: Devise ways to ensure that Fresno County’s disadvantaged and minority populations are being included in the transportation process. The COG’s Environmental Justice Task Force, whose members include representatives from community based organizations that represent low-income, minority, elderly, disabled, Native American, and farmworker communities as well as representatives from local government agencies, Caltrans, and FHWA, met on a monthly basis from March of 2004 through spring of 2005.

In response to Federal and State emphasis on Title VI and Environmental Justice an effort has been added to this work element that will involve establishing an Environmental Justice Task Force to develop a process with which to assess and ensure compliance of Fresno COG’s transportation planning efforts with environmental justice requirements and Title VI. The Task Force will play a key role in evaluating COG’s current Environmental Justice and Public Participation efforts and provide guidance on how to achieve the desired results. The Task Force will also help define the target population within Fresno County, identify the needs of the target population and develop appropriate performance measures for gauging the regional benefit and burdens of transportation system investments on the target population.

An Environmental Justice Report will be prepared, which will include the Environmental Justice Task Force efforts and recommendations, as well as the analysis used to evaluate the Regional Transportation Plan to ensure that the programs, policies, and activities outlined in the plan serve all segments of the region without generating disproportionately high adverse impacts upon target populations.

Caltrans has developed an Environmental Justice Desk Guide that will serve as a resource for COG staff to better understand Environmental Justice issues and provide guidelines for the implementation of Environmental Justice in the planning process. Fresno COG staff has reviewed the Caltrans Desk Guide and plans to use the recommendations provided by incorporating them, as applicable, in our Environmental Justice efforts.

The Environmental Justice Task Force has reviewed the Fresno County Environmental Justice and has provided valuable guidance to strengthen key points made in the Plan. Fresno COG staff has also had the Fresno County Environmental Justice Plan translated into Spanish for Spanish-speaking stakeholders. A draft copy of the Fresno County Environmental Justice Plan has been completed and will be release for 45-day review and comment during the January/February 2009 Fresno COG public meetings cycle.

Accomplishments:

- Outreached and networked to Indian tribes from Fresno County in order to facilitate dialog to better incorporate them into the transportation process.
- Continued to participate in the ongoing Environmental Justice project focusing on Indian tribes in the San Joaquin Valley managed out of the Kern County Council of Governments.
- Continue working on developing relationship with local tribes to include them in the transportation planning process.

[SOBRADO]

WE 320 - Technical Assistance to Members

Objective: To provide member governments with specialized technical assistance services. It is intended that the major beneficiaries of this service be the smaller cities with limited technical staff resources.

Accomplishments:

- *Rural Communities Collaborative of Fresno County (RCCFC)*: Served on RCCFC Steering and General Committees. The RCCFC is a volunteer organization geared toward helping rural communities to become self-sufficient through increased social and economic development. The Collaborative acts as a catalyst in identifying available federal, state, and local resources available to serve local community needs and provides access to and dissemination of those resources. Fresno COG staff also continues to participate in I-5 Business Development Committee activities, which focus on identifying economic development opportunities on the westside of Fresno County.
- *I-5 Business Development Corridor*: COG staff continues to participate in this work activity which focuses attention on planning, growth and economic issues facing the communities in western Fresno County.
- Currently assisting rural communities with establishing videoconferencing platforms in order to help cut the cost, time and air quality detriment associated with frequent travel to required meeting.
- COG staff is providing additional support to help fund the project through various competitive as well as available, government formula grants.

[BITNER]

WE 330 – Outside Technical Assistance

Objective: To provide traffic modeling information to outside agencies on a cost reimbursement basis. Also, to provide program support functions for microcomputer applications (accounting, utility billing, etc.) to interested parties on a cost reimbursement basis.

Accomplishments:

- Conducted modeling to support several traffic impact studies for local consultants.

[BITNER]

WE 340 – Traffic Demand Management Program

Objective: Transportation Demand Management (TDM) includes a wide variety of transportation control measures having a goal of reducing overall motor vehicle usage. In prior years, the predominate effort of this activity has been promotion of ridesharing. Declining state and federal revenue to support this effort in recent years has resulted in a less ambitious Program beginning in 1996/97. Much of the work accomplished for Transportation Demand Management is discussed in the reporting for WE 212 and WE 215.

Accomplishments:

- Currently have over 1,400 registered users in the *Carpool/Vanpool Online Matchlist* program at www.Valleyrides.com. Maintained this current and active database of commuters, referring callers to the online system or inputting information for clients.
- Staff continually works with the Valleyrides.com website developer to update and improve the information available online.
- Worked with other agencies, employers and vanpool agencies to facilitate matches and refer clients. These agencies include: CSU Fresno, South Valley Rideshare, San Joaquin Commute Connection, Fresno Area Express, Tulare Council of Governments, KART, VPSI and Enterprise Rideshare.
- Filled requests for transit referrals and information; park and ride lot information; vanpool subsidies and referrals; carpool incentives; transportation guides; bikeway maps; and additional bikeway information.
- Prepared and maintained program records, invoices, budget and Quarterly Report.
- Attended Fresno COG Committee meetings as appropriate.

[MARTINEZ/VEENENDAAL]

WE 350 - Fresno Regional Data Center

Objectives: To perform the duties as an Affiliate State Census Data Center and provide assistance to member agencies and the general public in obtaining, analyzing and utilizing census and other demographic data in support of the area-wide planning process. Also to provide continuing support to the internal data needs for traffic simulation modeling requirements including the updating and development of alternative socio-economic scenarios and providing data support for COG prepared reports and plans.

Accomplishments:

- Assisted 50 individuals from governmental agencies, businesses, and the public in their information needs.
- Monitored, prepared and distributed Census 2000, American Community Survey 2009, State of California Department of Finance, State of California Employment Development Department and other data to member agencies and the public.
- Developed socio-economic data for alternative land use scenarios for consultants' traffic impact studies and special studies.
- Provided demographic information for COG-prepared documents and presentations including the data needs of the SB 375 target-setting process.
- Prepared for the 2010 Census Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) delineation process.
- Worked on preparation of data book for use by member agency staff and the public.
- Worked on preparation of information for the COG website
- Prepared Affiliate State Census Data Center activity report as required, and State of California Department of Finance population surveys.

[CHUNG]

WE 360 – One Voice Advocacy

Objective: “One Voice” unites Fresno County communities and regional interests in a voluntary and collaborative effort to seek federal and state funds and support annually for projects and legislative priorities of regional significance. All projects and legislative priorities chosen shall contribute to an improved quality of life throughout the Fresno County region.

At the Valleywide level, the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies have united through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council to build consensus on projects and legislative priorities in order to advocate at the state and federal level through their own lobbying effort, termed “Valley Voice”. This effort takes the Valley MPO’s and their respective elected officials to Sacramento and Washington D.C. on an annual basis beginning in 2008. More details are highlighted in WE 820.

The “One Voice” and “Valley Voice” efforts heighten Fresno COG and the Valley’s visibility and solidify relationships with both elected and staff representatives in Washington D.C. as well as in Sacramento.

One Voice and Valley Voice Accomplishments:

- Seven Washington DC “One Voice” visits; mailed projects for the 8th year due to Feb. 2010 blizzard.
- Five Sacramento “One Voice” visits
- Three Sacramento “Valley Voice” trips
- Two Washington DC “Valley Voice” trips.
- During 1st Quarter 2010-11, planning was initiated for 9th “One Voice” trip to Washington DC

[STECK/BOREN/GARZA]

REGIONAL COORDINATION OF TRANSPORTATION, LAND USE AND HOUSING

WE 410 – San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Planning Process

Objective: The San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Planning Process is a multi-year planning effort envisioned to support long range regional planning through comprehensive development of regional consensus. The goal of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process is to develop a preferred future growth vision for the region through the use of scenario planning.

Accomplishments:

During the first four years, Fresno COG worked with the other 7 SJV MPOs to coordinate our county efforts into a Valleywide Vision. We have conducted the community outreach and modeling activities that have allowed us to:

- Solicit input on community values.
- Define a Vision Statement for Fresno County.
- Develop Goals, Objectives and Measurable Outcomes that are consistent with the Values and Vision.
- Developed four “what if” growth scenarios to compare to the status quo.
- Select a “preferred growth concept” to submit to the Valleywide modeling effort.
- Developed four Valleywide scenarios with assistance from all Valley MPOs and UC Davis.
- Made recommendation to SJV Regional Policy Council on a preferred growth scenario.
- Communicated Policy Council’s adoption of the Preferred Blueprint Scenario and Smart Growth Principles
- Completed the many sub-tasks associated with these accomplishments which have been included in former year’s quarterly reports.

The following is an overview of Blueprint activities during the first quarter of FY 2010-11:

- Continue Valleywide management of SJV Blueprint planning process
- Continued ongoing monthly meetings and conference calls with project managers from all SJV MPOs
- Held one quarterly conference call with Blueprint Coordinating Committee (includes state agencies)
- Continued to sponsor Valleywide Planners Work Group to convene planners from throughout the Valley three times per year
- Worked with MCAG to fully transfer fiscal oversight of Blueprint from MCAG to Fresno COG
- Held second annual SJV Blueprint Awards program to recognize projects that reflect the Blueprint Principles. Added a Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award category to the program.
- Participated in conference calls and meetings on Prop 84 funding and SB 375 requisites
- Participated in RTAC target criteria meetings
- Managed consultant contract to complete Blueprint Roadmap which will lead to Blueprint implementation
- Coordinated working group to develop a scope of work for a “Greenprint” component of the SJV Blueprint.
- Managed the consultant in preparing a summary report of the first three years of San Joaquin Valley Blueprint planning and develop a toolkit that will assist local planners integrate Blueprint planning into their local general plans. The first major deliverable was the summary report, which will also include a transitional “next steps” piece. The final product, the toolkit, is due December 2010.
- Several studies are underway or forthcoming. A consultant has completed a report on the financial-institutional barriers to higher density development and to recommend strategies to overcome these barriers.
- In addition, an RFP is expected to be released in 2010-11 to study the two additional aspects of higher density development. The first part will examine the cost/benefit to the public of sprawl vs. more compact (higher density) development. As part of the deliverables for the first part, the consultant will develop a tool that local planners can use to assess the cost of different types of developments. The second part of the

study will examine the marketability of different types of development. The outcome should help inform the development community about what is marketable in the current climate of higher density development planning.

[STECK/TWEBSTER]

WE 411 – Farmland Conservation Model Program

Objective: Develop a plan, strategy, and program to conserve prime agricultural lands in the Central Valley. The Program will build upon initial activities to identify farmlands of strategic importance, and to develop a program to protect farmlands that is consistent with long term planning goals that maintain agriculture as a key economic and cultural force in the region. The program is first intended for the benefit of Fresno County and subsequently, the other counties making up the San Joaquin Valley.

Farmland Conservation Model Program Steering Committee members first met in June of 2007. Comprised of key stakeholders in Fresno County, steering committee members include Fresno County, the City of Fresno, the City of Clovis, the Fresno County Farm Bureau, and others. The purpose of the Farmland Conservation Model Program Steering Committee is to oversee the daily activities for implementing the Farmland Conservation Model Program. Also involved in the development of the plan is an advisory board comprised of stakeholders from governmental, the agricultural industry, the environmental and development community, amongst others that are involved in agriculture matters on regular basis that advised the Steering Committee on issues of importance to agriculture in Fresno County.

The deliverables for the Farmland Conservation Model Program include:

- Devise an approach to identifying “strategic” farmland
- Public Input
- Document factors affecting the conversion of farmlands
- Create a toolbox for decision makers to implement farmland conservation in Fresno County
- Provide a series of recommendations based upon the finding of this process
- Prepare a final report.

Accomplishments: While the Draft Farmland Conservation Model Program Report for Fresno County was released for public review on January 16, 2009, the public comment period was prolonged indefinitely in order to engage in discussions with stakeholders. Key stakeholders within the agricultural community in Fresno County expressed their dissatisfaction with the recommendations outlined in the draft report. A couple of meetings were held with groups representing the agricultural community and the decision was made to utilize the services of Dr. Gary Manross, a consultant to Fresno COG. Dr. Manross has been meeting with key stakeholders individually in to find a point of agreement between stakeholders. The information gathered in this process will in part serve as the basis for the recommendations outlined in the final Farmland Conservation Model Program for Fresno County to be released in the near future

Dr. Manross has completed the interview process with leading agricultural stakeholders. Many agricultural stakeholders were interviewed, some of them more than once. Out of the interview process, a model for Farmland Conservation emerged that seems viable to pursue. The next phase of the process consists of defining and confirming the model with agricultural stakeholders. Dr. Manross had just started this process at the end of 4Q. This process is ongoing.

[SOBRADO]

WE 412 – Mid Valley Multi-Modal Partnership

Objective: A regional collaboration of the 4 counties of Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings (FMTK) and their 30 incorporated cities, in Mid-San Joaquin Valley, is emerging and coming together with the goal of evaluating and assessing the feasibility of a bold concept for a high-capacity, mass transit-based, multi-modal corridor system. This system is proposed as part of the Regional Blueprint process to efficiently link these cities and counties together into an effective regional metropolitan area that will balance the economy, the environment and equity for the 7.7 million residents projected to live and work in the 4 county region in the next 100 years. This project will deliver a study extending previous work on the four-county Metro Rural Loop multi-modal system to work with all jurisdictions to define specific regional land use policies, recommendations for jurisdictional General Plan updates and zoning district designations, and proposed inter-jurisdictional cooperation policies and protocols that are required to protect and preserve potential four-county (Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings) inter-connecting multi-modal corridors and rights-of-ways.

Accomplishments: The Council of Fresno County Governments, the City of Fresno and the County of Fresno, have drafted a modest scope change to the Phase II FMTK, Multi-Modal System Partnership Grant from Caltrans. The changes are a result of the direct outcomes of the Phase I study itself as well as ongoing public outreach efforts. While in its core function to evaluate interregional corridors it remains unchanged, further development of supportive data and strategies are required. COG staff to meet with Caltrans in October to discuss the direction and future of this study.

There will be no change to the grant award amount and all work will still be accomplished within the given grant award budget. [TWEBSTER]

WE 413 – Fresno County SB 375 Implementation

Objective: To comply with Senate Bill 375 requirement of reducing greenhouse emission for cars and light trucks through integrated land use and transportation planning. The landmark legislation tries to align land use, transportation, housing and greenhouse gas emission reduction through MPOs' Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process. The 18 MPOs in the State are required to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) in their RTP to demonstrate the region's ability to the greenhouse gas emission targets established by the Air Resources Board (ARB). If SCS fails to meet the targets, then an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) shall be developed to show the region's strategies to meet the targets. The Statute specified that MPOs can recommend targets for their region for the ARB to consider, and the ARB was required to release the final targets for the MPOs by September 2010.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to participate in the state-wide SB 375 Planning Working Group committee meetings
- Participated in the SB 375 public workshop hosted by the ARB in July
- Actively involved in the discussion of valley-wide target vs. single county target among Valley MPOs
- Sent in comment letter regarding the over-ambitious targets for the Valley after ARB staff released draft targets in early August
- Held SB 375 Task Force meeting to hear feedback from the stakeholders about the draft targets released by the ARB staff in August
- Modeled and estimated greenhouse gas emission reduction for the Aggressive TOD and Constrained TOD scenarios from the PTIS study
- Worked with the other seven Valley MPOs and the Air District and sent in request for alternative target placeholders, which was not accepted by the ARB
- Worked with the other seven Valley MPOs, and submitted grant application for Prop. 84 funding to fund future SCS development

[CAI]

WE 415 - Valley I Places

Objective:

This project will develop an I-PLACE3S land use application that represents the current conditions for the 8 Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the Central Valley, consisting on the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern.

Accomplishments:

- Working with EcoInteractive and UC Davis to complete the required contract documents.

[BITNER]

VALLEYWIDE COORDINATED ACTIVITIES

WE 813 - San Joaquin Valley Model Improvements for SB 375

Objective: To develop and manage a short range and long range San Joaquin Valley model improvement plan that will improve each San Joaquin Valley MPO travel model's sensitivity to smart growth strategies in response to the requirements of SB 375.

Accomplishments:

- Fresno COG staff is the lead for the Valley wide Model Improvements Plan.
- Successfully worked with the other seven MPOs in the San Joaquin Valley securing \$2.5 million of Proposition 84 funding for valley-wide model improvements, which are necessary in order to measure the greenhouse gas reduction benefits resulting from sustainable land use and transportation planning under SB 375.
- Awarded contract to develop scope of work for short term and long term modeling improvements for the San Joaquin Valley.
- Held a kick-off meeting for the valley scoping project.
- Valley wide scoping plan successfully completed
- Issued an RFP for \$2.5 million dollars for the valley MPO model improvements to meet the requirements of SB 375.

[BITNER]

WE 820 – Valley Coordination Activities

Objective: To promote coordination, cooperation and communication among the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies, including the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG), and other federal, state, and local governments, related to various regional planning processes.

Accomplishments:

- Hired consultant to coordinate the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council and Executive Directors' Committee meetings, including tracking of minutes and other relevant records.
- Participate on the Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC), consisting of legislative staff from each of the eight Valley RTPAs. Meetings are held on a monthly basis or more often as needed, to discuss legislative issues of importance to the Valley and to build consensus on legislation and policy objectives at the state and federal level.
- Work to develop a unified position and outreach related to the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU.
- Continue to work with Caltrans and other RPAs on issues related to plans, projects, and other needs associated with SR 99.
- Continue to participate in meetings for the Caltrans SR 99 Business Plan Advisory Committee. The committee includes Caltrans employees and staff from the eight Valley MPO's working together to update the 2005 Caltrans SR 99 Business Plan.
- Develop joint positions and participate in meetings related to High Speed Rail and Intercity Rail.
- Coordinate efforts related to the implementation of a 511 information system in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Continue to coordinate development of a videoconference system to reduce trips and vehicle miles traveled related to valley-wide meetings.
- Continue to investigate alternative methods of coordination of valley-wide activities.
- Coordination of Valleywide efforts related to SJV Regional Blueprint (WE 410)
- Coordination and consultation on efforts to address goods movement plans and projects.
- Participates in regular monthly and quarterly meetings with the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the Federal Interagency Task Force including the Partnership's legislative staffer meeting and the air quality working group to help implement the Partnership's established goals. The Valley COGs have recently taken on the leadership of the transportation working group for the Partnership.
- Fresno COG, along with staff from the other seven Regional Planning Agencies and Caltrans, continue to collaborate on the 99 Business Plan
- Continue activities, meetings and conference calls related to 4th year Blueprint tasks.

[ALL PLANNING STAFF]

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

WE 910 – COG Administration

Objective: To effectively administer the planning program and fiscal operations of the COG.

Accomplishments:

- Staff monitored funding levels, expenses and budgets. Policy Board adoption of the FY 2009/10 Overall Work Program occurred in May, 2009.
- Supervised planning staff activities and progress on work assignments.
- Coordinated preparation of agendas, related materials and committee schedules.
- Conducted ongoing management team meetings to coordinate staff assignments and outcomes.
- Conducted staff evaluations as needed.

[BESHEARS/BOREN]

WE 911 – Overall Work Program and Budget Development

Objective: To develop an Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget consistent with federal and state funding priorities and local agency needs.

Accomplishments:

- FY 2009/10 Overall Work Program adopted May 2009.
- Amendment #1 adopted June 25, 2009
- Amendment #2 adopted September 24, 2009
- Amendment # 3 adopted November 19, 2009
- Development of the FY 2010/11 Overall Work Program began in January 2010.
- Amendment # 4 adopted January 28, 2010
- Amendment # 5 adopted May 27, 2010
- Amendment #6 adopted June 24, 2010
- FY 2010/11 Overall Work Program adopted May 27, 2010
- Amendment # 1 adopted September 30, 2010

[BESHEARS/BOREN]

WE 912 - Local Transportation Funds Administration

Objective: To administer the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) Fund in accordance with the California Transportation Development Act.

Accomplishments:

- Staff recorded sales tax deposits from the State Board of Equalization and STA allocations from the State Controllers Office.
- Member Agency Claims were processed.
- Allocation Instructions were prepared and sent to the Auditor Controllers Office.
- Changes in state regulations were monitored through the TDA Ad Hoc Committee chaired by the Division of Mass Transportation.
- Documentation of transportation funding activities was provided to the independent consultant, PMC in order to conduct a triennial audit for the period of 2007-2009. Completion of the 2007-2009 Triennial Audit documents has occurred, and recommendations distributed to Transit Operators and local agencies.

[FAWCETT/BESHEARS]

WE 920 – Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Administration

Objective: To provide under contract, administrative and fiscal management services for the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA).

Accomplishments:

- During the First Quarter, Staff processed claim reimbursement for provided transit service.
- Staff continued to respond to Caltrans staff on pending Grant requests.
- During the First Quarter staff began closing out the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year books for auditing purposes.
- Staff also performed a variety of administrative functions concerning: general administration; accounting; risk management; procurement; and statistical analysis.
- The General Manager began analysis for the Transit Operators Report and Annual Productivity Evaluation Report. The results will be reviewed during the Second Quarter [WEBSTER]

WE 930 – Fresno County Transportation Authority Administration

Objective: To provide personnel support services to the Fresno County Transportation Authority.

Accomplishments:

- Staff provided payroll and benefit administration for the Fresno County Transportation Authority.
- [BESHEARS]

WE 940 - Freeway Service Patrol

Objective: To continue the Freeway Service Patrol, in coordination with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol, in an effort to remove minor incidents rapidly, thereby reducing congestion, secondary accidents and vehicle emissions.

Accomplishments:

- Administered the FSP tow contracts. This primarily included reviewing and paying invoices for towing services and radio use, both on a monthly basis, and paying for radio repairs and miscellaneous supplies (i.e. brochures) on an as-needed basis.
- Ongoing coordination and communication with the Freeway Service Patrol Statewide Oversight Committee and with Caltrans Traffic Operations, including annual program benefit/cost evaluations.

[THOMPSON]

WE 950 – Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program

Objective: To administer the activities and duties of the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Service Authority.

Accomplishments:

- Ongoing communication with AVA Service Authority members, particularly regarding eligible expenses for reimbursement and reporting requirements.
- Calculated payment amounts to eligible local jurisdictions for AVA expenses.
- Presented AVA FY 2009-10 Third Quarter Summary Status Report to Policy Advisory Committee and Policy Board during the September cycle of meetings.

[THOMPSON]

COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
SCHEDULE OF FUNDS ALLOCATED & EXPENDED
For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2010

		Budget	Year to	Local	FHWA	FTA MPO	FTA	Partner	Cal	FTA	PPM01	FSP		
	Percent	Authorized	Date	Resources	PL	5303	5316/5317	Planning	Blueprint	5307	6086(028)	6086(29)		
			Expense								6086(027)	6086(27)		
2010/11 OWP Allocated Funds:														
110 Regional Streets & Roads	19%	267,343	51,398	5,895	45,503									
111 Regional Transp. Modeling	12%	455,469	53,572	6,145	47,427									
112 Regional Traffic Monitoring	24%	260,914	63,353	7,267	56,086									
113 Reg. Transp. Studies	15%	25,000	3,690	423	3,267									
115 Reg. Transp. Mitigation Fee	36%	51,138	18,516	18,516										
116 National Park Studies	38%	50,000	18,781	2,154		16,627								
117 Golden State Corridor	16%	546,968	88,025	88,025										
120 Public Trans. - Urban	11%	645,131	69,919	2,401	7,568	10,957				48,993				
121 JAARC	3%	1,859,353	57,015	10,983		4,362	41670							
122 New Freedom	1%	674,863	3,983	601		3,194	188							
123 PTIS	11%	2,434,980	273,969	254,063						19,906				
130 Public Trans. - Rural	13%	28,585	3,750	430		3,320								
150 Other Modal Elements	13%	46,775	6,137	6,137										
151 Bicycle & Pedestrian	13%	31,285	4,056	4,056										
152 High Speed Rail Planning	33%	34,890	11,410	8,141		3,269								
153 Airport Land Use	60%	35,720	21,409	2,456		18,953								
170 Regional Transp. Plan	20%	191,199	38,418	16,439	16,055	5,924								
172 Congestion Managment Plan	5%	13,140	612	70	542									
180 Air Quality	20%	307,102	61,563	7,061	54,502									
210 Measure "C"	18%	295,447	54,252	54,252										
211 Measure "C" Oversight Comm.	20%	11,608	2,294	2,294										
212 Measure "C" Car/Van Pool	6%	398,853	25,533	25,533										
213 Measure "C" Highspeed Rail	0%	0	0	0										
214 Measure "C" ADA/Seniors	32%	203,221	64,480	64,480										
215 Measure "C" Farm Van Pool	17%	123,815	21,631	21,631										
220 Transportation Prog. Dev.	16%	290,744	46,035	0							46,035			
310 Intergov. Coordination	8%	160,168	12,785	2,251	8,076	2,458								
311 Public Info. and Partic.	15%	125,355	18,978	2,177	16,801									
312 COG View Internet	7%	18,479	1,241	1,241										
313 Environmental Justice	25%	46,832	11,729	7,058	4,671									
320 Technical Assist. Members	16%	42,356	6,750	6,750										
330 Outside Technical Serv.	16%	35,218	5,521	5,521										
340 Rideshare Program	2%	16,750	275	275										
350 Regional Data Center	21%	97,516	20,158	2,312	17,846									
360 One Voice Advocacy	9%	182,986	15,589	15,589										
410 California Blue Print	18%	1,792,000	328,955	56,740				263,164			9,051			
411 Farmland Trust	0%	31,924	0	0										
412 Metro Rural Loop	0%	345,000	0	0										
413 SB 375 Implementation	32%	37,503	12,065	1,384	10,681									
415 SJV Iplaces Pilot Program	0%	350,000	0	0										
813 Strategic Growth Modeling	0%	2,514,188	7,320	840	6,480									
820 Valley RTPA Coordination	20%	140,280	27,480	19,517	7,963									
910 COFCG Admin.	24%	158,416	38,524	38,524										
911 OWP & Budget	3%	43,902	1,493	171	208	1,114								
912 Transportation Funds Adm.	24%	148,001	36,053	36,053										
920 FCRTA Admin.	18%	287,637	53,115	53,115										
930 Trans. Auth. Admin.	24%	2,600	626	626										
940 Freeway Service Patrol	25%	300,800	74,511	15,030								59,481		
950 Abandon Vehicle Abatement	19%	13,502	2,600	2,600										
Total Allocated Funds	11%	16,174,956	1,739,569	877,227	303,676	70,178	41,858	0	263,164	68,899	55,086	59,481	0	0