

FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS POLICY BOARD

Executive Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2011
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending: Mayor Jose Flores, City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
Mayor Chris DeFrancesco, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
Mayor Ashley Swearengin, City of Fresno
Mayor Sylvia Chavez, City of Huron
Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Mayor Bruce Blayney, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Gabriel Jimenez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
Mayor Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Joshua Mitchell, City of Sanger
Mayor Kenneth Grey, City of Selma
Supervisor Judith Case, Fresno County

Paul Marquez, Caltrans
Zachary Redmond, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 16 members present representing 100% of the population and there was a quorum. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County).

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dhaliwal, Chair.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Fresno COG 2009/10 Financial and Compliance Audit [BESHEARS]
- B. Results for the 2011 COG Administered FTA Sections 5316 (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) Grant Programs [SOBRADO]

For a complete summary of these items, please see the March 24, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

Supervisor Case (County) asked that Item A. be pulled for discussion of Financial Report.
Supervisor Case questioned the use of reserve funds in programming funding. Mr. Beshears explained.

Mayor Swearengin asked when the budget for next fiscal year will be out. Mr. Beshears responded that the Overall Work Program and Budget was sent out for review in the February meeting package and will be brought back to the Policy Board for adoption in May. Mr. Boren reported that staff met with the Policy Advisory subcommittee recently and responded to their list of questions. A copy of the questions and responses will be sent to the Policy Board members.

Mayor Fast (Reedley) asked for an explanation of the item on page 8 titled "Compensated Absences" under liabilities. Mr. Beshears explained that this item is the liability for accrued vacation and sick leave.

There being no other questions, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) and seconded by Mayor Fast (Reedley) to approve the Transportation Consent Items. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Formal Amendment (Type #5) to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (Amendment No. 3), the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (Amendment No. 1) and the Corresponding Conformity Analysis - PUBLIC HEARING [GARZA/MONGE]

Lindsey Monge (Fresno COG) reported that Fresno COG is currently amending the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Corresponding Conformity Analysis. This amendment is a two-part process and is reflected as two separate amendments, Amendment No. 3 to the 2011 FTIP and Amendment No. 1 to the 2011 RTP. The 30-day public review and comment period for Amendment No. 3 to the 2011 FTIP and Amendment No. 1 to the 2011 RTP opened on March 11, 2011 and will close on April 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.; written comments are welcome. All documentation associated with this amendment is available for viewing on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org; the public hearing notice is enclosed. Amendment No. 3 to the 2011 FTIP and Amendment No. 1 to the 2011 RTP will be considered for adoption, by resolution, by the Fresno COG Policy Board at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held on April 28, 2011. For more information regarding the amendment process or the public review process please contact Melissa Garza at 559-233-4148 ext. 210 or Lindsey Monge at 559-233-4148 ext. 205.

Mayor Dhaliwal asked for comments from the Policy Board, hearing none the Public Hearing was opened. There being no comments from the Public, the Hearing was closed.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

B. Resolutions 2011-04 and 2011-05 in Support of the City of Fresno's Application for Caltrans Planning Grants related to the High Speed Rail Station in Downtown Fresno [SOBRADO]

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) presented this item. Since the mailing of this agenda this item has changed. The City of Fresno had previously planned on submitting two grant applications for Caltrans planning grants with Fresno COG as recipient and the City of Fresno as sub-recipient. The funds are to be used for planning activities related to the proposed High Speed Rail Station in Downtown Fresno. The two Caltrans Grant programs that the City of Fresno was pursuing were the:

1. FTA Partnership Planning Grant; and
2. FTA Section 5304 Transit Planning Grant

Just recently, the City of Fresno has decided to not submit an application for the FTA Partnership Planning Grant and is submitting an application only for FTA Section 5304 Transit Planning Grant funds. As a result, Fresno COG is requesting that the Policy Board consider signing Resolution 2011-04 in support of the City of Fresno's application for FTA Section 5304 funds for planning activities for the proposed High Speed Rail facility in Downtown Fresno.

Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) voiced his concerns of the use of "consistently voiced strong support" in the resolution and asked for the resolution to be revised. This was made in the form of a motion and

seconded by Mayor Grey (Selma) Following a discussion of the topic, Supervisor Case asked to amend the motion made by Mayor Blayney to change the line in the resolution to strike the word "consistently". Mayor Blayney agreed to the amendment to his motion. The motion was seconded by Mayor Grey. A roll call vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Five Cities Planning Grant Application to Caltrans – Resolution 2011-06 [STECK]

Ms. Steck went on to present this item. This item came to COG's attention on 3/15/11 (after the PAC meeting) from the Five Cities in the Manning Avenue Corridor - Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, Selma and Fowler. Due to the pace of recent growth in residential and commercial areas, the new US Census data and the fact that all the cities involved have updated their general plans, the cities feel the need for further study of the corridor. There are gaps in transportation connections between the cities that need further planning to accommodate motor vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle and public transit. The purpose of the Caltrans planning grant application is to assist these local entities complete planning studies to address long-standing transportation needs. These studies will help establish priorities for state and Federal funding opportunities for implementation projects. The Five Cities Economic Development Authority is requesting that the COG submit a grant application for this purpose. The program will provide direct funding on a reimbursement basis of 90% of plan costs and the Five Cities Economic Development Authority will provide the 10% match (of which a portion of that amount may be an in-kind contribution). The study, if funded, would update the Manning Avenue Transportation and Economic Development Study of 2002 and the Manning Avenue Corridor Initiative of 2003.

A motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) and seconded by Mayor Fast (Reedley) to approve Resolution 2011-06 supporting the Five Cities' request for Fresno COG to submit an application for a Caltrans Planning Grant on their behalf. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

D. Resolution (2011-07: Section 5304, Transit Planning Student Internship Grant) in Support of Fresno Area Express' (FAX) Application to secure funding for a Transit Planning Intern to assist with scheduling for a period of two years. [SOBRADO]

Ms. Steck reported that Fresno Area Express (FAX) is currently applying for a Section 5304 - Transit Planning Student Internship Grant to pay for a student to assist with scheduling for a period of two years. The student intern would first learn and then implement route planning and scheduling. Two community-specific pressures are forcing FAX to adjust transit routes in relation to both short-term and long-term transit planning. First, the current economic climate has forced a reduction in transit service and second, as FAX plans for the implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit service, a rethinking/revision of the planning for the route system is emerging. The ideal candidate would be a college student interested in the fields of logistics / scheduling / engineering /planning.

Fresno COG is applying for the Section 5304 - Transit Planning Student Internship Grant with Fresno Area Express as sub-recipient. The total project cost for the grant is \$44,100, with \$39,000 requested of the Section 5304 grant program and \$5,100 coming from an 'in-kind' local share. Todd Sobrado should be contacted for additional questions or to request more information.

A motion was made by Supervisor Case (County) and seconded by Mayor Flores (Clovis) to approve Resolution 2011-07. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

E. Blueprint Update [STECK]

Ms. Steck reported that in early 2006 the eight Regional Planning Agencies (MPOs) in the San Joaquin Valley came together in an unprecedented effort to develop a coordinated valley vision – the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint. This eight county venture has been conducted in each county, and was ultimately integrated to form a preferred vision for future development throughout the Valley to the year 2050. The Blueprint is a bottom up, voluntary endeavor that is intended to engage and

guide local agencies in their pursuit of sustainable development patterns within their own jurisdictions and throughout the Valley.

The Blueprint planning process - Eight individual Valley MPOs planning in unison

Phase 1: Values and Vision – gathered from community input

Phase 2: Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures based upon Values and Vision

Phase 3: Evaluation of alternative "what if" growth scenarios in each county

- Selection of preferred county level scenarios for Valleywide analysis
- Evaluation of four Valleywide alternative scenarios
- Adoption of Smart Growth Principles and Preferred Growth Scenario for Valley

Phase 4: Develop documents to memorialize the Blueprint planning process, suggest strategies for implementation and provide a toolkit to assist planners with integrating the Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into local planning processes.

On April 1, 2009, after a full vetting in each of the eight San Joaquin Valley Counties, the Regional Policy Council reviewed the Valley MPOs' collaborative work on the Blueprint and took the following actions:

- Adopted a list of Smart Growth Principles to be used as the basis of Blueprint planning in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Adopted Scenario B+ as the Preferred Blueprint Growth Scenario for the San Joaquin Valley to the year 2050. This preferred scenario will serve as guidance for the Valley's local jurisdictions with land use authority as they update their general plans.

Since its inception, the Blueprint planning process has been billed as a bottom up and voluntary process. Those assurances remain as the Valley Regional Planning Agencies move forward in their work with their member agencies to help integrate the Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into local planning processes. The documents being discussed today have been developed to help in this pursuit.

In February 2010, the Valley RPAs entered into a contract with Mintier Harnish to prepare three deliverables that comprise the Blueprint Roadmap:

- SJV Blueprint Planning Process Summary Report [September 2010]
- Draft SJV Blueprint Guidance Framework (Implementation Strategy) [February 15, 2011]
- SJV Blueprint – Planners Toolkit (web based) – the as yet unreleased beta version is available at <http://toolkitvalleyblueprintorg.alias.strangeocode.com/>

The Blueprint Project Managers from each RPA, the Valley Planners Working Group, the RPA Directors and other stakeholder groups have all been involved in reviewing and commenting on the three deliverables that comprise the Blueprint Roadmap. The first two documents along with the comments received on the Guidance Framework through February 15, 2011 are available online at <http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=187>

At the Valley Planners Working Group meeting on February 23, 2011, the following items emerged as concerns related to the draft Guidance Framework:

1. The document should describe what traffic modeling was done during the development of the Blueprint. If traffic modeling was not done, the document should disclose that.
2. The document needs to state that the Blueprint is completely voluntary.
3. The word "implementation", as it is used in the document needs to be defined. For example since the Blueprint is voluntary, then "implementation" would apply to those wanting to incorporate the 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles and density targets in their local general plan and development codes. In short if an agency or agencies desire to promote or incorporate the Blueprint into their policies and land use/ transportation

planning efforts then the Guidance Framework would provide them with assistance in implementing the Blueprint.

The Valley Regional Planning Agencies have engaged their local jurisdictions in the Blueprint Planning Process for five years. As promised it has been an inclusive, bottom up endeavor that is voluntary in nature. I believe that Caltrans intends for Blueprint planning to become an ongoing process that will lend itself to the upcoming work on Sustainable Communities Strategies. The outreach and engagement alone, along with information sharing and relationship building will likely have long term benefits. What may be on many local agency planners' minds at this point is the lack of resources to do the work necessary to move toward implementation. Prop 84 will help, but the extent of need may be greater than the resources available. That remains to be seen.

This item is on the agenda this month as an information item prior to the material being presented to the Regional Policy Council. The Valley RPA Directors will discuss the comments and concerns we have received thus far on the Blueprint Roadmap deliverables to determine how best to respond and move this body of work on to the Regional Policy Council for their review on March 25th and their ultimate acceptance on June 24th. The schedule calls for each RPA to engage their member agencies in discussions on the documents so that any comments or concerns about the deliverables can be gathered for consideration and direction by the Regional Policy Council on June 24, 2011. Following the June 24th meeting, the Roadmap documents will be revised to reflect Regional Policy Council direction.

Ms. Steck gave a brief powerpoint presentation. Mayor Swearengin asked if there is an opportunity for the COG to act as a body to help in implementation.

Mayor Dhaliwal asked questions regarding SB375.

Ms. Cox-Kovacevich (Caltrans) commented that the State is looking at funding opportunities.

Supervisor Case thanked Ms. Steck for her work on the Blueprint and asked for clarification about adding non-profits partners to list for outreach.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

F. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) Update [Downs]

John Downs (Fresno COG/FAX) gave a brief update on the status of the study. Mr. Downs reported that the draft PTIS final report and associated recommendations are being reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and stakeholder agencies. The draft report is available for review on the Fresno COG website.

The final PTIS public event was a Smart Growth Conference that took place on March 2nd and 3rd at the Fresno Art Museum Auditorium. Stakeholders and members of the public heard perspectives from smart growth experts about the benefits and opportunities smart growth could provide Fresno County. Participants also engaged in discussions about strategies for implementing PTIS recommendations and other smart growth strategies.

The PTIS is on track for completion this May.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

G. SB 325 – Central California Railroad Authority Act [THOMPSON]

Clark Thompson (Fresno COG) reported that SB 325, the Central California Railroad Authority Act, would establish the Central California Railroad Authority as a measure of last resort to prevent the abandonment of short-haul rail lines in Kern, Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties. Short-haul railroads often hold monopolies over rail shippers and receivers and, because of increasing rates and other factors, are forcing them to ship by truck. As rail traffic decreases on the short-haul rail lines, they are then abandoned and the track and ties sold for their scrap value. Just recently, a 30-mile segment of short-haul rail from Jovista in northern Kern County to Exeter in Tulare County has been completely abandoned and the track removed.

The systematic removal of short-haul rail segments has significant environmental and economic impacts to Central California. Removing the rail option increases the number of goods shipped by truck, impacting local air quality and increasing maintenance costs for both local roads and state highways. The rail option can contribute to local economic development, particularly in an environment of rising fuel prices. Ideally, the Central California Rail Authority may eventually play a key role in establishing a short-haul network through the entire San Joaquin Valley, stretching from Kern County to the Port of Oakland, largely for agricultural and petroleum-based products.

A motion was made by Mayor Fast (Reedley) and seconded by Mayor Chavez (Huron) to authorize the Fresno COG Board Chair to sign the letter in support of SB 325, the Central California Railroad Authority Act. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

H. Status Update of the Route Adoption Study of the West Bound 180 Corridor, Bob Hull, Caltrans

Bob Hull, Caltrans gave an update on the study. Information and a map were included in the meeting package. Mr. Hull pointed out that there will be a Public Hearing on March 30th at the Kerman Community Center from 4:30 – 7:30. Everyone is invited to attend. Mayor Silva (Mendota) gave Mr. Hull a letter of support from his city. Mayor Yep (Kerman) briefly discussed Kerman project.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

I. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

A verbal report was given by Christine Cox-Kovacevich. A written report was included in the package.

Ms. Cox-Kovacevich reviewed the written report and updated the Board on things that are happening on the state and federal levels in transportation.

Ms. Cox-Kovacevich asked Board members to contact her if there are specific projects that they would like to see in future reports.

In an audit done by Federal Highways of 300 agencies, the City of Fresno and Fresno County finished in the top 10. Ms. Cox-Kovacevich presented Mayor Swearengin and Supervisor Case with plaques recognizing them.

Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) reported that extensive work is to be started on Highway 99 on April 1st. Ms. Cox-Kovacevich remarked that there will be a ground breaking ceremony. Details will be sent to Mayor Blayney.

Route 269 will be receiving long awaited funding. Mayor Chavez (Huron) thanked Caltrans for their assistance.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board

III. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Fast (Reedley) to reaffirm all action taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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- A. February 24, 2011 Executive Minutes
- B. Monthly Legislative Update [GARZA]
- C. Regional Clearinghouse [SOBRADO]

	Project	Applicant
1.	FAA – Airport Improvement Project - FYI	City of Fresno

For a complete summary of these items, please see the March 24, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Grey (Selma) and seconded by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. High Speed Rail Update [BOREN]

Mr. Boren reported on the status of the High Speed Rail project. Mr. Boren attended the recent meeting in Madera with the Agriculture community and reported that the group still has major concerns regarding the effect on the Ag. community. The Fresno Works Executive Committee has asked that Dr. Gary Manross work as a facilitator to meet with the Ag community to discuss their concerns. A Town Hall meeting is also being discussed. Mr. Boren reported that the Rail Authority is still moving forward with the maintenance facility. A site has not been determined. Mr. Boren will report back to the Policy Board as things unfold.

Mayor Blayney asked when a new business plan will be available as well as the EIR study. Mr. Boren reported that there is no firm date and that alternative alignments are being discussed.

There was a brief discussion of costs. Mayor Swearengin reported that the design has improved however there are still significant issues. Mayor Swearengin went on to say that the City is please with the work of the Rail Authority and is working closely with them.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

B. Fresno COG 2011 One Voice DC Trip Update [GARZA]

Brenda Veenendaal (Fresno COG) gave a brief report on the recent One Voice trip to Washington DC. A copy of the agenda and the materials that were distributed at the meetings were given to the Policy Board. Members of the Board that traveled to Washington with the group briefly commented on the trip. Mr. Boren suggested that a different approach to the trip needs to be developed due to the stance taken in Washington on earmarks and funding. This will be discussed as plans are made for next year's trip.

More information about Fresno COG's One Voice activities is available online at:
<http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=216>

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

C. Fresno COG 2011 One Voice Sacramento Trip – April 5th and 6th [GARZA]

Laural Fawcett (Fresno COG) gave an update on the Sacramento One Voice trip planned for April 5th and 6th. A revised Legislative Platform and draft list of Advocacy Issues was handed out. Additional information about Fresno COG's One Voice activities is available online at:
<http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=216>

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

D. California Consulting LLC Report [SAMUELIAN]

Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, LLC provided a report. Mr. Samuelian reviewed the written report that was included in the meeting package and gave updates on recent activity on certain items. Mr. Samuelian commented briefly on a compromise proposal that was submitted by Assemblymembers Perez and Perea. An email will be sent out to the Policy Board members asking for support letters. Mr. Samuelian introduced Liz Gomez, newest member of California Consulting.

Mr. Samuelian also introduced Erica Cabrera from Assemblymember Perea's office. Mr. Cabrera distributed information regarding AB 890.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

VI. ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR [BOREN]

The special Board elections held earlier this year were to accommodate Board vacancies resulting from the November elections. Fresno COG's JPA calls for annual elections in March of each year.

Mayor Dhaliwal opened the nominations for Chair. Mayor Chavez (Huron) nominated Mayor Dhaliwal as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Yep (Kerman). There being no further nominations, a vote was called for and passed unanimously.

Mayor Dhaliwal opened the nomination for Vice Chair. Mayor Lopez (Parlier) nominated Mayor Cardenas (Fowler). The nomination was seconded by Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg). There being no further nominations, a vote was called for and passed unanimously.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from staff.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Flores (Clovis) complemented Fresno COG staff for putting the meeting package on the website. He felt it was very convenient.

Mayor Swearengin (Fresno) thanked the Board members that attended the recent Fresno Food Expo. Mayor Swearengin also had a request for the Policy Board. Mayor Swearengin stated that the City of Fresno has standing conflicts with Thursday meetings due to their Council meetings and asked if there was another day during the month when Fresno COG Policy Board meetings could be held. Mr. Boren stated that staff would check into the matter and report back to the Policy Board.

Several Board members remarked on the success of the Food Expo.

Mayor Silva (Mendota) reported that he and several other mayors are planning another trip to Washington to discuss water allocation needs.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

B. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the COG on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the COG on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

No presentations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Boren, Executive Director

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***Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.**

****All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas**

Attachment A

Observers and Non-Members
COG Board Meeting
March 24, 2011

Jeffrey D. Webster, FCRTA
Bob Hull, Caltrans
Francisco Chavez, CHUSD
Ron Hughes, Kings County
Erica Cabrera, Assemblymember Perea's office
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting
Liz Gomez, California Consulting
John Downs, Fresno COG/FAX
Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Les Beshears, Fresno COG
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Brenda Veenendaal, Fresno COG
Laural Fawcett, Fresno COG
Laruen Dawson, Fresno COG
Lindsey Monge, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG