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**FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS POLICY BOARD
EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, September 29, 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
Councilmember Javier Marquez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler
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 Judy Case, Fresno County

Neil Bretz, Caltrans
Zachary Redmond, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin), Chair.

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 15 members present representing 46.8081% of the population and there was a quorum. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County).

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.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action*</u>
A.	FY 2011/12 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims – Resolutions 2011-26 through 2011-36 [FAWCETT]	Approve
B.	Transportation Development Act (TDA) Report – LTF Surplus and Allocations Summary [FAWCETT]	Approve
C.	Fresno COG 4 th Quarter Progress Report [BESHEARS]	Accept
D.	Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) Multimodal Corridor Land Use Integration Partnership Project Consultant Selection [SOBRADO]	Authorize

E.	FY 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment Update [GARZA]	Information
F.	2011 Call for Projects [MONGE]	Information
G.	SB 375 Update [BITNER/CAI]	Approve
H.	Measure C Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Report [SOBRADO]	Information
I.	San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan [THOMPSON]	Information
J.	Fresno COG Title VI Plan [SOBRADO]	Information

For a complete summary of these items, please see the September 29, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Silva (Mendota) and seconded by Mayor Lander (Coalinga) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Darius Assemi, California Transportation Commission gave a brief powerpoint presentation regarding State Transportation Funding, Bonding vs. Pay-as-you-go and CTC Transportation Cost Estimates.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure C Transit Oriented Infrastructure for In-Fill Development (TOD) Program Guidelines [CAI]

Kristine Cai (Fresno COG) gave a brief powerpoint presentation explaining this program. The Transit Oriented Infrastructure for In-Fill Development (TOD) program is one of the subprograms under the Environmental Enhancement Program in the 2007 Measure C Expenditure Plan. The goal of the TOD program is to boost transit ridership through transit supportive land uses such as higher density and mixed uses, and to support livable and viable transit oriented communities by promoting walking, biking and use of public transit.

Based on the estimation in December 2010, the TOD program will have projected revenue of \$14.5 million over 20 years. About \$2.4 million is available for the first funding cycle. Local governments are eligible for the funding. Private sector and non-profit organizations can apply for the TOD funding through the local governments.

As recommended in the Measure C legislation, a technical advisory committee that consisted of representatives from the member jurisdictions, transit agencies, private sectors, interest groups and the general public developed the TOD program guidelines. The guidelines followed the recommendations from the Fresno County Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS), and focus the TOD funding on the priority transit oriented development areas and transit corridors identified by the Study.

After a brief discussion and expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Fast (Reedley) and seconded by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to approve the Measure C TOD program guidelines. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Prop 84 Update [STECK/TERRY]

Barbara Steck, Deputy Director, gave an overview of the program and introduced Planner, Rob Terry. Mr. Terry presented this item. Fresno COG, on behalf of the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning agencies, was awarded \$1 million for the first round of planning grants from Prop 84 (Focus Area 2 for MPOs). There were three components to the proposal:

1. Sustainable Community Strategies Outreach for the next Regional Transportation Plan update. (19%) Outreach workshops required by SB 375 will be held in each of the eight counties in the Valley.

2. Blueprint Integration Tasks (53%) – to assist Valley communities under 50,000 population with planning activities related to integrating the Blueprint Smart Growth principles into their planning processes. The vast majority of the funding is slated for circuit planners to assist the small communities. (This task complements the Smart Valley Places \$4 million grant for the 14 large cities in the Valley.)
3. Greenprint (28%) - to address the open space and resource protection issues in the Valley. The project will inventory and analyze the agricultural, natural, recreational and other land and water resources of the region and recommend strategies based on that analysis.

Staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP) on September 6th for component #2. The RFP is posted on the website at www.fresnocog.org. A summary of the scope of work was included in the meeting package. Mr. Terry explained how this will benefit the small cities (under 50,000 population).

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

C. Summary Presentation on High Speed Rail Draft Environmental Impact Report– Bruce O'Neal

Tony Boren, Executive Director introduced Local Planning Consultant, Bruce O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal provided a summary level review of the recently released High Speed Rail Draft Environmental Impact Report. Mr. O'Neal explained the impact on Fresno County regarding transportation, displacement, noise, economic development and air quality. A copy of the presentation and a fact sheet were included in the meeting package and are also available on our website at www.fresnocog.org under Committees & Agendas. The link to the website for the Environmental Reports is also available on our website.

Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) expressed his concerns regarding the route and the effect on agriculture in the area. Comments are to be submitted by October 15th. Staff was asked to make sure that a section for High Speed Rail is included on the new website.

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

D. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

Neil Bretz, Caltrans gave a brief update. Copies of the Quarterly Report were distributed. The report is available on our website at www.fresnocog.org under Committees & Agendas.

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

Fresno COG Sitting As the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board

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

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

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE 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.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action*</u>
A.	Fresno COG Policy Board July 28, 2011 Minutes	Approve
B.	Monthly Legislative Update [GARZA]	Information
C.	Legislative Platform [GARZA]	Information
D.	Regional Clearinghouse Items [SOBRADO]	Approve
	Project	Applicant
1.	<i>Head Start –Early Head Start Supplemental Funds Application for FY 03/30/2011 – 09/31/2012</i>	Fresno County EOC
2	<i>RHS 514 Loan</i>	Corporation for Better Hosting

For a complete summary of these items, please see the September 29, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Flores (Clovis) and seconded by Mayor Jimenez (Orange Cove) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Restricted Funds - Cash Impairment Policy [BESHEARS]

Les Beshears (Fresno COG) reported that the Council of Governments and Transportation Authority contract with a CPA firm to do statutorily required audits of member agency street funds covering allocations made from the Transportation Development Act and Measure "C". During the course of the recently concluded 2009/10 field audits, the auditor identified instances of potential impairment of restricted cash balances in various cities. The implications are such that if the current trend continues it is possible that one or more of the agencies may be found to be cash impaired during the 2010/11 audits. This situation occurred in a number of small cities back in the 1980's and the COG has an adopted policy for dealing with impairment situations. Mr. Beshears reviewed the previously adopted Impairment Policy. For a complete summary of this item, please see the September 29, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

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

QUORUM: 7:00 pm. Mayor Mitchell (Sanger) left the meeting. There 14 members present representing 44.294% of the population and there was a quorum.

B. Contract for Visioning Software and Technical Support for Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Development and Green House Gas (GHG) Target Setting for SB 375 [BITNER]

Mike Bitner (Fresno COG) reported that Fresno COG needs to test the effectiveness of applying specific land use strategies in the region in order to reduce carbon emissions resulting from daily passenger vehicle travel. This scenario development is required by Assembly Bill 32, which requires the state of California to reduce statewide carbon emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020, and Senate Bill 375, which calls for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning to help reduce the state's total carbon emissions.

In addition, Fresno COG and the other San Joaquin Valley MPOs are working towards development of Green House Gas (GHG) reduction targets to be submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) by 2012.

In order to develop the required GHG reduction targets and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scenarios for the upcoming RTP, a scenario planning tool is necessary to design and test the land use and transportation strategy options. In selecting the appropriate scenario planning and visioning tool, Fresno COG staff reviewed the known available software tools. COG staff then

narrowed down the selection to what they considered the best four. Ultimately staff reviewed UPLAN, CommunityViz, I-Places, and Envision Tomorrow.

Mr. Bitner reviewed the findings. For the complete summary please see the Annotated Agenda for September 9, 2011. A copy of the proposal from Fregonese Associates was included in the meeting package.

Following Mr. Bitner's presentation, and after an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Flores (Clovis) and seconded by Mayor Chavez (Huron) to approve the contract with Fregonese Associates of \$48,910 for comprehensive training in using Envision Tomorrow and technical assistance during Fresno COG's SB 375 target setting and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) development. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. Implementation of Transitional Retirement Program for COG Employees [BOREN]

Tony Boren, Executive Director reported on this item. This item was presented in July during closed session and was presented for formal approval. The COG management team has developed administrative policies offering a reduced work schedule to those of retirement age. This program known as the *Transitional Retirement Program*, would allow staff aged 62 or older to transition into retirement over a (maximum) 2 year period. The benefits of this type of program include:

1. Prepare those older workers taking advantage of the program to become accustomed to reduced earnings and work schedule in advance of full retirement;
2. It would allow the agency to know well in advance when an employee is planning to retire; thereby providing an adequate period of time for retiring staff to mentor younger employees to take on additional responsibilities;
3. Useful administrative tool for retaining skilled older employees who would otherwise retire;
4. Provides an administrative opportunity to reduce labor costs for the organization with relatively minimal disruption to the operations of the agency, while providing potentially significant salary savings to the agency.

Mr. Boren went on to explain the process for implementation. Policy Board members felt this was a good idea and a way to mentor younger workers.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Fast (Reedley) to approve implementation of the Transitional Retirement Program as identified. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

D. Fresno COG 2012 One Voice Kick Off [GARZA]

Melissa Garza (Fresno COG) reported that the One Voice Kick Off Meeting held on September 28th for our annual One Voice Trip that is scheduled for February 25th-March 1st was very successful.

Len Simon, Fresno COG's federal lobbyist, provided a wealth of information based on his observations from the last trip. He also provided a series of recommendations in which the committee agreed with and would like to use while planning the next trip.

Committee members reviewed the 2011 post trip survey and provided direction to COG staff on adequate amount of policy issues and projects. The major concern was that though all issues and projects are of major interest, there were just too many which minimized the effect of our message.

The committee suggested a list of projects that identify the need of our region; however, because there is a moratorium on earmarks, the need should be reflected through the advocacy of policy.

reform. The idea is that there will be a project tied to a policy issue; therefore, creating the entire picture of cause and effect. During our recent discussions with legislators regarding policy reform, they asked for specific examples of how projects are impacted.

Because it is expected that a large number of policy issues will be submitted, the committee would like to prioritize the list and format the binder materials to reflect those priorities. The committee has already expressed interest in setting up meetings with certain department agency staff and legislators so that we can begin scheduling meetings earlier than usual.

We also received direction to change from the Hilton Garden Inn to another location. We have received price quotes and received great reviews and a much lower rate from the Mayflower Renaissance.

Our next steps include issuing:

“CALL FOR NEEDS”

SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION OF THE ISSUES/PROJECTS

SUBMIT FOR BOARD APPROVAL

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

E. Regional Policy Council Update – DC Valley Voice Trip [GARZA]

Ms. Garza went on to present this item. Fresno COG was in charge of planning the 2011 SJV Regional Policy Council Valley Voice trip to DC which was held September 14th and 15th.

There were 20 representatives from the SJV including Mayor Dhaliwal who participated in this 2 day advocacy effort. Our federal lobbyist, Len Simon from Simon and Co., scheduled all of the meetings and for the most part, everyone was very pleased with the caliber of meetings that we had scheduled.

Meetings were scheduled back to back with White House Staff to discuss the Jobs Act proposed by the President.

The group also met with the SJV Congressional Delegation and their Legislative Staff to present all of the Valley's Priorities as well as several Department Agency staff, House and Senate subcommittees to discuss:

- The transportation reauthorization bill. As you know, both the House and Senate have released their proposals for a transportation bill. The House T&I committee believes that we will see a bill as early as Spring of 2012; while the Senate E&PW Committee believe that we will not see a passed bill until 2013.
- Goods Movement, such as funding for priority corridors in “nonattainment areas” including short-haul rail lines.
- Air Quality concerns and current legislation such as the “Commonsense Ozone Regulation Act”
- Housing Initiatives in regards to Sustainable Communities Partnerships, EDA funding for public infrastructure, and preservation Block Grant funding.
- NEPA Streamlining-Senator Feinstein has recently requested a follow up discussion on how can work together to address the NEPA streamlining concerns. She has requested examples of why there is a “need” for NEPA streamlining. We will be collaborating with our Valley MPO's as well as the Private sector to provide her office with the information they are requesting.

A survey is being conducted to evaluate our overall effort, but the verbal feedback we have received is that everyone was very pleased with the outcome of the trip and believes that it gets better every year.

Mayor Dhaliwal added that it was a successful and unified meeting where everyone spoke in One Voice. Discussions of High Speed Rail were not elaborated because it was agreed by the Policy Council that this was not a priority that was consistent throughout the different Counties.

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

F. Fresno COG Website Update [VEENENDAAL]

Brenda Veenendaal (Fresno COG) reported that Fresno COG's new website will be released to the public in October 2011. Ms. Veenendaal presented a brief overview of the new site.

Agenda Reader Technology: After researching available technology options staff has decided to hold off on making any purchases until Fresno COG's Committees and Policy Board have had an opportunity to become familiar with the new website agenda functionality being released in October. Research revealed that Ipads would cost Fresno COG \$500 each, and that the Barnes and Noble Nook's screen was too small to adequately view the agendas and attachments required by the new functionality.

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

G. 2011 Transportation Forum [BOREN]

Mr. Boren reported that the Fresno Council of Governments is hosting its 2011 Transportation Forum on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall. Senator Michael Rubio kicks off this half-day forum to discuss the future of mass transit, air travel, bikeway and freeway projects in Fresno County.

As part of the program, Fresno COG will honor each of our member agencies during the course of the morning with videos highlighting their communities. The forum is free and breakfast will be served.

Registration: The forum is free; however, we request that you submit registration information for each attendee to Fresno COG by Wednesday, October 12, 2011 to ensure seating space and food for everyone. Please see the enclosed registration form or contact Marla Day at mday@fresnocog.org to register.

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

H. California Consulting LLC Report [SAMUELIAN]

Liz Gomez, California Consulting, LLC provided a verbal report at the Policy Board meeting. A copy of the written report is available on our website at www.fresnocog.org Committees & Agendas.

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Mr. Boren mentioned that the portfolios that were handed out to the Policy Board were courtesy of Teichert Construction. These were handed out at the recent opening of Highway 180.

Mr. Boren also mentioned that he had been contacted by Sheriff Mims regarding a presentation she would like to give in October regarding realignment.

Mr. Boren and the Policy Board members recognized outgoing Coalinga Mayor, Ron Lander. Mayor Lander has served on the Policy Board recently since 2008 but his total service on the Board has been

over 14 years. The Policy Board presented Mayor Lander with a certificate of recognition and thanked him for his years of service.

B. Items from Members

None

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION:

Darius Assemi – California Transportation Commission – moved to earlier in the meeting.

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.**

None

Fresno COG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VIII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT

A. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement – FY 2010/11 Third Quarter Summary Status Report [THOMPSON]

Mike Bitner (Fresno COG) presented this item. Status reports are typically submitted quarterly to ensure proper distribution of funding to the member agencies. This status report contains the following information:

- The gross amount of money received by the Authority from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund during the quarter.
- An itemized statement of the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund monies expended by the Authority during the quarter.
- An accounting of money expended for major purchases, if any.
- An accounting of unexpended revenues from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund.
- An accounting of the total number of vehicles and parts thereof abated by the Authority during the quarter.

The enclosure for this item indicates the level of activity and distribution of funding to the member agencies. During the quarter, member agencies expended \$176,263.10 conducting AVA activities. A total of 955 vehicles were abated this quarter, compared to 813 vehicles abated during the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Chavez (Huron) and seconded by Mayor Fast (Reedley) to accept the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement FY 2010/11 Third Quarter Summary Status Report. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the Fresno County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Agency.

Respectfully submitted,


Tony Boren
Executive Director

Others Attending:

Darius Assemi, California Transportation Commission
Ann Kloose, Granville Homes
Jeffrey Webster, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Lynn Gorman, Fresno County
Liz Gomez, California Consulting
Erica Cabrera, Office of Assemblymember Perea
Jesse Cuevas, Office of Assemblymember Perea
Bruce O'Neal, Consultant
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Mike Bitner, Fresno COG
Melissa Garza, Fresno COG
Rob Terry, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Kristine Cai, Fresno COS
Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG
Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG
Brenda Veenendaal, Fresno COG
Kai Han, Fresno COG
Laural Fawcett, Fresno COG

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