

Fresno COG CMP Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Attendees:

Scott Carson, FHWA

David Padilla, Caltrans

Michael Navarro, Caltrans

Sundeshesha B.N., Fresno County

Harpreet Kooner, Fresno County

Nick Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club

Tom Gaffery, Fresno State

Moses Stites, FCRTA

COG staff:

Kristine Cai

Mike Bitner

Kai Han

Lindsey Chargin

Angela Yang

Ms. Kristine Cai (FCOG) opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

I. Public Presentation

There were no public presentations.

II. Information / Discussion Items

A. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Cai welcomed the attendees. Everyone introduced themselves.

Ms. Cai gave the background of the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The last CMP of Fresno COG was approved in 2013. The 2015 CMP update would focus on the data collection and traffic monitoring.

B. Election of the Chair

Ms. Cai briefly described the responsibility of the committee chair and asked for a volunteer to be the chair.

Ms. Harpreet Kooner (Fresno County) volunteered to be the Chair. There were no other nominations. The meeting was turned over to the Chair, Ms. Kooner.

C. Federal Regulations and Expectations

Ms. Kooner opened the item and invited Mr. Carson to make his presentation.

The CMP project's objectives, expectations, regulations, CMP's eight-step process, and the roles of committee were explained in the presentation. Mr. Carson suggested that the committee think about how to use the CMP data in the performance based planning process and the next RTP. The big data sources and travel time concept were pointed out for the CMP analysis.

Mr. Moses Stites asked what the monitoring process was and how to conduct it. **Mr. Carson** answered that the process was to monitor the existing data, and the method of analysis also need to be monitored.

Mr. Carson pointed out that the data should be as realistic as possible. Instead of using the level of service data, using real travel time data is better to get the real feel about the congestion, and it is also good for the performance measures. Cell phone data was mentioned as one of the new data sources to track travel times.

Mr. Paladino asked whether the CMP project could collect the bicycle and pedestrian level data. **Mr. Carson** answered that the project would be focused on the CMP network. Mr. Carson also mentioned that Fresno COG is receiving \$20,000 from FHWA to conduct bike and pedestrian counts. **Mr. Tom Gaffery** (Fresno State) expressed interest in the bike & ped count data.

The attendees had questions about whether it was necessary to expand the CMP network. **Ms. Cai** explained that as part of CMP requirement, any Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) expansion projects in the nonattainment area need to go through the SOV test to prove that travel reduction or system management strategies cannot fully satisfy the need for additional capacity and additional SOV expansion project is warranted. **Mr. Carson** pointed out that only projects on the CMP network need to go through the SOV test, so it makes sense to simplify the CMP network.

The attendees asked how to use big data sources and the travel time data.

Ms. Cai said that the Fresno COG was interested in the travel time data in the last CMP project, but didn't have the data source at that time. Now, the cell phone data could be a potential source to track the travel times. **Mr. Carson** mentioned that the travel time data could be used on the air quality model. **Mr. Bitner** said cell phone data has been used in the San Joaquin Valley Travel Demand Model's validation process. **Mr. David Padilla** said cities might be interested in the data too.

Ms. Cai said the Fresno COG could potentially purchase the data for the entire region if cities and the County are interested. However, for the CMP project, the data analysis would be focused on the CMP network and the congestion management.

Attendees suggested making sure the cities and FAX staff would attend the future meetings. **Ms. Cai** said the cities and FAX would be contacted to ensure their attendance.

D. Overview of the Fresno COG 2015 CMP Update Scope

Ms. Kooner opened the item.

Ms. Cai said the Fresno COG would like to conduct a wider coverage in this year's CMP update. MAP 21 requires performance based planning and performance measures are being proposed through NPRM process. The CMP scope is proposing to collect data that will keep track of the progress of the RTP/SCS as well as data that will help Fresno COG start incorporating the performance measurement proposed under MAP 21 into the next RTP development.

The draft scope was handed out.

Ms. Cai went through the timeline.

1. Kickoff meeting. (March 2015)
2. Redefining the CMP network. (April 2015)
3. Defining the congestion levels in Fresno County. (May 2015)
4. Quantifying the congestion with performance measures. (June 2015)
5. Releasing the RFP to solicit consultant's service to process the big Data and produce congestion monitoring data. (July 2015)

Ms. Cai pointed out that the FHWA can provide travel time data for the National Highway System, and it was free for MPOs. FCOG could invite interested consultants to give presentations on the prevailing methods of big data collection. Money has been set aside for potential purchase of Big Data.

6. Other data collection efforts. (August 2015)

E. The CMP Network and Congestion

Ms. Kooner opened the item.

Mr. Han showed a map of the existing CMP network and introduced the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) as a free dataset provided by the FHWA. The NPMRDS covered limited Fresno CMP network. **Mr. Han** briefly explained how the speeds of particular sections were produced by the big data.

Mr. Han explained the SOV analysis regulation. The confusion on the relationship of CMP network and federal funding was explained. It is not true that in order to get the

federal funding the project has to be on the CMP network. The requirement states that the TMA has to approve the CMP process, but not the projects.

Two Google maps of a typical Tuesday (8:00 AM and 5:30 PM) traffic condition were showed. The panel discussed whether there is any definition of congestion from Google Maps or transportation engineering agencies. It turned out that there was no uniform definition on the congestion. **Ms. Cai** suggested the committee should determine the congestion definition and the ranking method.

F. Other Items

Ms. Kooner opened the item.

Attendees discussed whether it was necessary to add new roads to the CMP network, and whether it was applicable to link sidewalk analysis with the CMP project. **Ms. Cai** and **Mr. Carson** suggested the project focusing on the big corridors.

Attendees agreed that Wednesday was good for the next meeting. Ms. Cai would check with the cities to determine which Wednesday would be good for all.

G. Adjourn

Ms. Cai will send an email with the date for the next meeting.

Ms. Kooner closed the meeting at 2:50 p.m.