

Fresno COG CMP Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2015
Time: 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Place: Fresno COG Ash Conference Room
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201

Attendees:

Harpreet Kooner, Fresno County
Chai Vongsa, Fresno County
Frank Daniele, Fresno County
Mandeep Sekhon, Fresno County
Jill Gormley, City of Fresno
Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
Tim Barker, City of Clovis

Aly Tawfik, California State University at Fresno
Nicholas Don Paladino, Bicycling Club
John Downs, FAX
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Scott Carson, FHWA
John Robertson, City of Reedley (call in)
Leon Raykin, Iteris (call in)

Fresno COG staff:

Kristine Cai
Mike Bitner
Kai Han

Muyi Zhou
Angela Yang

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

No presentations.

II. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson, Ms. Harpreet Kooner**, at 2:05 p.m.

Ms. Kooner welcomed the attendees, and the attendees introduced themselves.

B. Approval of the Meeting Notes

Action: **Mr. Mike Bitner** moved for approval. **Mr. Aly Tawfik** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

C. Defining the Congestion in Fresno County

Ms. Kooner opened the session.

Mr. Kai Han made a presentation on the topic of congestion.

Mr. Han explained that the definition of “congestion,” which is various from region to region, and depends on different opinions and expectations of travel time. The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) has been conducting the National Congestion Study over the years. TTI’s study defined the congestion, ranked the congestion by scores, and calculated the delay times and financial loss by congestion; **Mr. Han** briefly introduced the methodology that TTI applied, which was focused on the national level and had a lot of assumptions. The study is nationwide, so the factors that applied in the Fresno area were not accurate enough.

Mr. Han proposed the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) as the main data source for the Fresno COG CMP project. The NPMRDS is GPS data and covers the National Highway System (NHS). Metropolitan Planning Organizations could receive NPMRDS data free from the FHWA. Examples of dashboard were shown. It was pointed out that the NPMRDS data was not real time data.

Ms. Kristine Cai asked the committee to consider defining congestion for Fresno region.

Mr. Moses Stites asked whether the congestion definition was based on the peak hours.

Mr. John Robertson asked whether there is a nation-wide, uniform definition of congestion.

Ms. Cai said the FHWA doesn't have a uniform definition of congestion. **Mr. Scott Carson** from FHWA confirmed that the CMP guidebook from FHWA encourages local agencies define congestion by themselves.

Mr. Tawfik, Fresno State, asked which databases the committee preferred to apply, real time data or historical data (NPMRDS). **Ms. Jill Gormley** said it depended on the project goals. **Ms. Cai** pointed out the real time data would be expensive. The free historical data covers the NHS in Fresno County and includes Fresno CMP network. **Mr. Nicholas Paladino** agreed that since the NPMRDS is only one month old when MPO receive them, it should be good enough for the project.

Mr. Chai Vongsa expressed the idea that besides speed, travel expectation is also essential in the congestion definition. **Ms. Cai** commented that congestion should be defined by travel time related information. Driving experience should be included in measuring the congestion too.

The Committee agreed that it would be better to come back and tackle the definition of congestion after data analysis is done.

D. Performance Measures

Ms. Kooner opened the session.

Ms. Cai briefly introduced the Moving Ahead for Process in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). A key feature of MAP-21 is the establishment of a performance- and outcome-based program. At the end of 2015, FHWA will release proposed congestion performance measures. Ms. Cai mentioned some recommended congestion measures by the ASSHTO. Several main causes and types of congestion were also discussed during the presentation.

Ms. Cai recommended three congestion performance measures for the Fresno CMP.

- Travel time index
- Planning time index
- Delay

Ms. Cai showed a map of the National Highway System for Fresno county. Truck data is available on the NPMRDS.

Mr. Tawfik asked whether the data could be available for the Fresno State. **Mr. Carson** suggested asking the NPMRDS dataset group.

Ms. Cai asked the committee to approve the recommended performance measures: delay, travel time index, and planning time index. **Mr. Carson** agreed and suggested to keep the measures as simple as possible.

Action: The motion was made by **Mr. Mike Bitner**, and seconded by **Mr. John Downs** to approve the three performance measures as recommended. The motion passed.

Mr. Tawfik pointed out that this NPMRDS data is GPS data, not cellphone data. **The committee** discussed the differences between GPS and cellphone data.

Ms. Cai advised the group that the next step of the project is to draft an RFP. Any suggestion for the RFP is welcomed.

E. Report on the Bike/Ped Counter installation

Ms. Kooner opened the session.

Ms. Han provided an update on the bike/ped counter program. City of Fresno was the first city to test out the counters. The counters performed well. Each participating agency will be provided with a viewer's account, through which cities can view everybody's data; and a master account, which gives the cities ability to edit their own data. **Mr. Han** explained how FresnoCOG plan to manage the counts. All counters were labelled.

Mr. Tawfik said that, in order to get more equipment and longer data collection time, Fresno State may want to delay the counting work until other agencies finished the counting. **Ms. Cai** explained there are only 4 pairs of counters available. The committee asked **Mr. Tawfik** to explain the information and confirmed the request with **Mr. Tom Gaffery**.

Ms. Cai mentioned that the counter vender will provide technical training for city and county staff. **The committee** reviewed a set of data collected on September 1st by City of Fresno.

Ms. Cai reiterated that the counter schedule is pretty tight. Every agency should take advantage the full two weeks. **Mr. Paladino** suggested installing bicycle counters near schools. It could help get good bike counts. **Ms. Cai** said that Fresno COG can look into that after the pilot program is completed.

F. Other Items

None

G. Adjourn

Ms. Kooner thanked everyone. The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.