

**Fresno Forward**  
**Fresno Council of Governments'**  
**Regional Transportation Plan**  
**Public Outreach Strategy**

*Including a public participation plan for the*  
**Fresno County**  
**Sustainable Communities Strategy**

*Released for public review and comment on March 3, 2020*  
*Scheduled for final approval on May 28, 2020*

Fresno Council  
of Governments





## Fresno Council of Governments

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) is a consensus builder, developing acceptable programs and solutions to issues that do not respect political boundaries. Fresno COG is a voluntary association of local governments, one of California's 38 regional planning agencies, and one of 500+ nationwide. In 1967 elected officials of Fresno County and its incorporated cities informally created the agency, formalizing Fresno COG in 1969 through a Joint Powers Agreement. Fresno COG undertakes comprehensive regional planning with an emphasis on transportation, provides citizens an opportunity to be involved in the planning process, and supplies technical services to its members.

### **Fresno COG's Member Agencies:**

City of Clovis

City of Coalinga

City of Firebaugh

City of Fowler

City of Fresno

City of Huron

City of Kerman

City of Kingsburg

City of Mendota

City of Orange Cove

City of Parlier

City of Reedley

City of San Joaquin

City of Sanger

City of Selma

County of Fresno



**Public Outreach Strategy  
for the  
2020 Fresno COG Regional Transportation Plan  
and Sustainable Communities Strategy**

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## I. Introduction to the RTP

Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) are planning documents developed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) in cooperation with Caltrans and other stakeholders, as required per State legislation and Federal regulation.

The RTP establishes regional goals, identifies present and future needs, deficiencies, and constraints, analyze potential solutions, estimates available funding and proposes investments.

A comprehensive public involvement process is key to developing long-term regional plans. Fresno COG's 2022 RTP public outreach effort will communicate with nontraditional as well as traditional audiences to include them in the transportation planning process. Fresno COG's Public Participation Plan, the parent document to this public outreach strategy, spells out specific strategies to involve low-income communities and communities of color as well as limited-English proficient populations. These strategies will help ensure that environmental justice issues are addressed and that interested members of the public have ample opportunity to understand and provide meaningful input while the RTP is in its early stages and throughout the planning process.

The public participation process will require flexibility and is subject to change in response to input received. To direct Fresno County residents and organizations interested in participating in key actions and decisions, any changes, as well as additional detail, will be posted on fresnocog.org and communicated via social media.

## II. Summary of RTP Public Outreach Plan Requirements

### A. RTP Public Participation Requirements:

The RTP Planning Process must foster involvement through a proactive public participation process with the all interested parties. Title 23 CFR Part 450.316(a) states the following concerning participation and consultation:

*The MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing individuals, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, public ports, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation (including intercity bus operators, employer-based commuting programs, such as carpool program, vanpool program, transit benefit program, parking cash-out program, shuttle program, or telework program), representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.*

- **(1)** The MPO shall develop the participation plan in consultation with all interested parties and shall, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes for:
  - **(i)** Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;
  - **(ii)** Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;
  - **(iii)** Employing visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs;
  - **(iv)** Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web;
  - **(v)** Holding any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;
  - **(vi)** Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;
  - **(vii)** Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;
  - **(viii)** Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;
  - **(ix)** Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes under subpart B of this part; and
  - **(x)** Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.
- When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft metropolitan transportation plan as a result of the participation process or the interagency consultation process required under the EPA transportation conformity regulations (40 CFR part 93, subpart A), a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made as part of the final metropolitan transportation plan.
- A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before the initial or revised participation plan is adopted by the MPO. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted online, to the maximum extent practicable.
- MPO's and RTPA's are also encouraged to involve the media, including ethnic media as appropriate, as a tool to promote public participation in the RTP development, review and commenting process.

**B. The RTP's Additional SCS Public Participation Requirements:**

Public participation and consultation for RTP development remains an essential element of the overall RTP process. Mapping and visualization tools should be used, to the extent practicable, to

create visual representations of proposed scenarios, the SCS and the APS, if applicable. These tools will help provide more effective and meaningful public involvement in development and refinement of the SCS and APS, if applicable. A Public Participation Plan includes public outreach, public awareness, and public input, beginning with the planning stage.

The MPO shall adopt a Public Participation Plan in advance of developing an SCS and/or APS to include:

- 1) Outreach efforts encouraging the active participation of a broad range of stakeholders in the planning process, consistent with the agency's adopted Federal Public Participation Plan. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - affordable housing advocates
  - transportation advocates
  - neighborhood and community groups
  - environmental advocates
  - home builder representatives
  - broad-based business organizations
  - landowners
  - commercial property interests
  - homeowner associations
- 2) Consultation with congestion management agencies, transportation agencies, and transportation commissions.
- 3) Regional public workshops with information and tools providing a clear understanding of policy choices and issues. At least three workshops for counties with a population greater than 500,000. To the extent practicable, each workshop shall include urban simulation computer modeling to create visual representations of the SCS and APS.
- 4) Preparation and circulation of a draft SCS (and APS, if one is prepared) not less than 55 days before adoption of a final RTP.

For a single county MPO, at least two public hearings shall be held. To the maximum extent feasible, the hearings shall be in different parts of the region to maximize the opportunity for participation by members of the public throughout the region.

- 5) A process enabling the public to provide a single request to receive notices, information and updates.

This (SCS) public participation plan is not required to be reviewed or approved by any state agency to be included as part of the RTP. However, the MPO should maintain a record of its public participation efforts relative to the SCS and APS if applicable, and therefore, it is recommended these additional requirements should be included in the Federally required Public Participation Plan.

#### **Input and Consultation with Local Elected Officials on SCS Development**

During SCS development the MPO must conduct at least two informational meetings in each county for members of the board of supervisors and city councils. Only one informational meeting is needed in each county if it is attended by representatives of the county board of supervisors and city councils that represent a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population in the

incorporated areas of that county. The purpose of this meeting (or meetings) shall be to present a draft of SCS (and APS if applicable), to the members of the board of supervisors and city council members in that county and to solicit and consider their input and recommendations.

Continuing with a collaborative transportation planning process, MPOs work and consult with local elected officials as key stakeholders in the regional transportation system. While local elected officials serve on regional agency boards, expanded consultation is required pursuant to Government Code Section 65080(b)(2)(E) and (F) to provide outreach to all local elected officials and their member jurisdictions affected by the SCS (and APS if applicable).

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65080(b)(2)(G), in preparing an SCS, the MPO shall consider spheres of influence adopted by Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs). MPOs should also consult with LAFCOs regarding special districts that provide property-related services such as water or wastewater services, and should consult with these regional special districts, as appropriate, during SCS development.

Additionally, MPOs should consider consultation with school districts within their region during development of the RTP. School-related trips constitute a significant portion of all vehicle trips.

#### **Interagency Coordination on SCS Development**

As the MPO works on RTP development and approval, interagency coordination with both Federal and State agencies provides necessary information for the RTP, and notification to all interested parties. Advanced and continuous coordination with all appropriate agencies is highly recommended. RTP development should include interagency coordination with, but not limited to, the following entities:

1. Federal agencies including: Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
2. California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
3. California Air Resources Board (ARB)
4. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
5. Appropriate Resources Agencies (see list in Section 4.9)
6. Adjacent MPOs and RTPAs with which the MPO shares a significant amount of interregional travel.

MPOs are also encouraged to work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to incorporate the appropriate Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) within their RTPs.

## C. Other Consultation & Coordination Requirements:

### Consultation with Interested Parties

Consulting with interested parties on plans, programs and projects shall include individuals or organizations that are mentioned in Title 23 CFR Part 450.316(a) which requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as Fresno COG, to consult with federal land use management agencies as appropriate during the development of RTP. Title 23 CFR part 450.322(g) states that MPOs shall consult as appropriate with state and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation during the development of their RTP. MPO's should also consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities that are affected by transportation, including [State](#) and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements, or coordinate its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities.

The U.S. DOT defines consultation as when: “one or more parties confer with other identified parties in accordance with an established process and, prior to taking action(s), considers the views of the other parties and periodically informs them about action(s) taken.” Consultation shall involve, as appropriate: (1) Comparison of transportation plans with State conservation plans or maps, if available; or (2) Comparison of transportation plans to inventories of natural or historic resources, if available. In addition, the discussion of mitigation activities shall be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and Tribal land management, wildlife, and regulatory agencies.

MPO's shall also develop the metropolitan transportation plans with due consideration of other related planning activities within the metropolitan area, and the process shall provide for the design and delivery of transportation services within the area that are provided by:

- **(1)** Recipients of assistance under title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53;
- **(2)** Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations (including representatives of the agencies and organizations) that receive Federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide non-emergency transportation services; and
- **(3)** Recipients of assistance under 23 U.S.C. 201-204.
  - **(c)** When the MPA includes Indian Tribal lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Indian Tribal government(s) in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.
  - **(d)** When the MPA includes Federal public lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Federal land management agencies in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.

**(e)** MPOs shall, to the extent practicable, develop a documented process(es) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies, as defined in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, which may be included in the agreement(s) developed under § 450.314.



The U.S. DOT definition of “interested parties” to be engaged in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning has been expanded. The MPO/RTPA shall provide the following interested parties with reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed RTP:

1. Citizens
2. Affected public agencies
3. Representatives of public transportation employees
4. Freight shippers
5. Private providers of transportation
6. Representatives of users of public transportation
7. Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
8. Representatives of people with disabilities
9. Providers of freight transportation services
10. Other interested parties

#### **Native American Tribal Government Consultation and Coordination**

Title 23 CFR part 450.316(c) requires MPOs to involve the federally recognized Native American Tribal Government in the development of the RTP and FTIP. RTPAs shall comply as well. Title 23 CFR part 450.316 (a)(1), the participation plan shall be developed by the MPO in consultation with all interested parties and shall, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies and desired outcomes. The requirement of including interested parties in the development of the participation plan and the RTP would include federally recognized or non-federally recognized tribes.

#### **State of California**

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), consultation with agencies, governments or individuals that could potentially be impacted by transportation projects in the RTP. Government Code Section 65080(b)(2)(B)(v) requires that MPOs develop a sustainable communities strategy (which is part of the RTP) that shall gather and consider the best practically available scientific information regarding “resource areas” and “farmland” as defined in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Government Code Section 65080.01.

#### **Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plans**

Title 23 CFR Part 450.306(g) states the regional planning process should be coordinated and consistent with the preparation of the coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan as required by Title 49 U.S.C. Parts 5310, 5316 and 5317.

### III. RTP/SCS Public Outreach Strategy Objectives and Desire Outcomes

Fresno COG's Public Participation Plan calls for setting and measuring progress on involving the public in Fresno COG's Regional Transportation Plan. This portion of the RTP/SCS outreach plans denotes Fresno COG's commitments to meeting public participation requirements.

#### A. Objectives:

- Solicit participation from a broad range of groups and individuals in the 2022 RTP decision-making process
- Raise awareness and offer opportunities for public input about the 2022 RTP
- Provide information Fresno County region residents and other stakeholders
- Stimulate dialogue about the transportation challenges facing the Fresno County region
- Develop and incorporate into the 2022 RTP update realistic solutions that address the diverse mobility needs of the region's residents, visitors and business people
- Build public support for, and understanding of, the transportation improvements outlined in the 2022 RTP

#### B. Desired Outcomes:

**Diversity:** Participants must represent a range of socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural, geographic and user (mode) groups. They must also include a range of people with varying interests: social service, business, environment, social justice/equity, etc.

- Targeted groups include all those listed under "Summary of Outreach Requirements" including additional Fresno COG contacts
- Participating citizens represent a cross-section of people of various interests, places of residence and primary modes of travel, as reported on surveys and comments or other communications received throughout the update process

**Reach:** Every effort will be made to include the greatest number of people possible. Different levels of participation will make it more inviting for people with a range of involvement preferences to join the discussion. The success of the program will be measure by the following:

- Number of comments received
- Number of individuals who actively participated in the Fresno COG RTP 2022 Public Outreach Program, as measured by survey responses, focus group attendance, comments received and community outreach involvement. (excluding repeat attendance)
- Number visits or "views" to the Fresno COG RTP 2022 section website and/or requests for information during active periods of the public outreach and involvement program
- Assessing active participation from residents or their representatives from urban and rural locations.

**Accessibility:** Anyone who wants to participate can do so. This goal can be met by taking participation activities to where people already are located, whenever possible. It can also be met by providing ways to participate, regardless of individuals' language or ability to attend a meeting, access to the Web, etc.

- Meetings are held in communities and during existing meeting dates/times whenever possible

- One-hundred percent of meeting locations are accessible by transit, with the exception of rural, unincorporated communities and other town pockets that lack the public transportation needed to access all viable meeting locations.
- Meetings are linguistically accessible to 100% of participants, with three working days' advance request for translation. Meeting announcements will offer translation services with advance notice to participants speaking any language with available professional translation services. At most public workshops Fresno COG will automatically provide translators and Spanish language materials as need is anticipated.
- All meetings are accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Impact:** The feedback received through this Outreach and Involvement Program should be analyzed and provided to the Fresno COG Policy Board wherever appropriate. Interested participants should be informed of Board's actions. Decisions to not incorporate recommendations should be noted, with a rationale provided and ready to be discussed.

- One-hundred percent of written comments received are logged, analyzed, summarized and communicated in time for consideration by staff and the Fresno COG Policy Board
- One-hundred percent of the written comments are acknowledged in the form received, so that those making them knows whether their comment is reflected in the outcome of a Policy Board action or, conversely, why the Policy Board acted differently.

**Education:** This outreach program is an opportunity for Fresno COG to inform a wide range of people about transportation issues in the Fresno County region, as well as the link to climate change and sustainable growth, among other issues. Each step of the process should include an educational element, whether it is about Fresno County area transportation in general, specific projects being considered for inclusion in the long-range plan or background on the outreach results to date.

**Participant Satisfaction:** People who take the time and energy to participate should believe it was worth their while to join in the discussion and debate. The following targeted performance measures are associated with each of the goal topics. Surveys will be available for participants to complete throughout the RTP/SCS development process.

Majority of participants rate the Fresno COG RTP Outreach Program as *Excellent or good* on each of the following performance dimensions (or other specific features to be determined):

- Accessibility (meeting locations, materials, languages available)
- Adequate notice
- Sufficient opportunity to comment
- Clear understanding of items that are established policy versus those that are open to public influence
- Clear information at an appropriate level of detail
- Educational value of presentations and materials
- Responsiveness to comments received
- Understanding of other perspectives and differing priorities
- Quality of the discussion

## **IV. RTP/SCS Public Outreach Strategies & SCS Participation Plan**

### **How-To-Guide for getting involved in the planning process**

Under state law (SB 375, Steinberg, Chapter 728, 2008 Statutes), Fresno COG must develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to integrate planning for growth and housing with long-range transportation investments, including goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions for cars and light trucks. The law also calls for a Public Participation Plan that addresses outreach for an SCS and the Regional Transportation Plan. Fresno COG intends to implement the following public outreach strategies throughout the development of the 2022 RTP and SCS.

This section describes key engagement opportunities Fresno COG will employ during development of Fresno COG's "Fresno Forward" 2022 RTP/SCS development. Using strategies outlined in its 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP), Fresno COG will provide the general public with several avenues for ongoing participation. The following section explains those engagement opportunities and highlights how to participate *in blue below*.

#### **1. Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable**

Fresno COG forms a RTP Roundtable "committee" whose purpose is to support staff and COG standing committees in developing the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Roundtable provides community-based consensus on advisory recommendations to the Fresno COG Policy Board. The 39-member Roundtable comprises of 16 representatives from each of Fresno COG's member agencies, 20 positions for public agencies and stakeholder groups, and three positions for those who represent the public-at-large.

*The RTP Roundtable meets monthly, at 2 pm on the fourth Wednesday. Meetings are held in Fresno COG's Sequoia Conference Room, unless otherwise noted on [Fresnocog.org](http://Fresnocog.org). Meeting agenda packets are made available on the website one week prior under Agendas. To be added to Fresno COG's RTP Roundtable notification list, please email COG at [comment@fresnocog.org](mailto:comment@fresnocog.org) with a specific request or call Fresno COG at 559-233-4148.*

#### **2. RTP Survey of the community**

Fresno COG has contracted with a professional survey firm to conduct a statistically valid community survey whose participants are reflective of the county's demographics, including limited English-speaking populations from the urban and rural areas. The consultant is responsible for preparing a detailed list of findings with ranked values and transportation funding priorities identified by the Fresno COG.

*Voluntary participation in the actual survey is not possible. But results will be posted online at the Fresno COG's website by June 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter. Survey findings will be reported to the RTP Roundtable and Fresno COG Policy Board during regularly scheduled meetings. For more information about the Community Survey contact Brenda Veenendaal at [comment@fresnocog.org](mailto:comment@fresnocog.org) or by calling 559-233-4148, ext. 219.*

### **3. Community-Based Mini-Grant Outreach Program**

To help ensure diverse and direct input from all populations, Fresno COG will award grant funding to community-based organizations, schools, and groups to conduct outreach. The selected organizations will conduct outreach activities to secure public involvement from stakeholders in their communities, engaging them in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and generating feedback on the 2022 RTP and SCS. Specifically, mini grant recipients will organize workshops to gather community transportation needs throughout the month of September 2020.

*An application packet was released to the public on February 24, 2020. Notice of the RFP was emailed out to all of Fresno COG's contact listings, included in the Coming Up At Fresno COG e-newsletter in early March 2020, was posted on Fresno COG's social media sites and website under the Doing Business with Fresno COG webpage. The RFP was included in agenda packets of Fresno COG's Transportation Technical Committee, Policy Advisory Committee and the Fresno COG Policy Board as an information item. Information about how to participate in the mini grant community workshops will be posted to the Fresno COG website on the Get Involved page.*

### **4. Fresno COG Email Notifications**

Regular updates regarding RTP development will be included in "Coming Up at Fresno COG" e-newsletters. Additional email notifications will be sent to government and other stakeholder agencies seeking their involvement and coordination as required.

*If the public would like to submit a single request to receive all notices, information and updates regarding the RTP and SCS development they may do so by contacting Fresno COG staff member Brenda Veenendaal by phone at (559) 233-4148 ext. 219 or via email at [brendav@fresnocog.org](mailto:brendav@fresnocog.org).*

**5. Social Networks:** Updates, workshops, meeting announcements and any other opportunity to participate in RTP and SCS development will be posted to the Fresno COG social media sites. Facebook events will be created for workshops and public meetings as appropriate. *Access Fresno COG's social media is provided on the bottom of Fresno COG's website homepage.*

**6. Website:** Fresno COG's website, [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org), contains updated content with RTP meeting agenda packets and public comment/participation opportunities. Webpages dedicated to RTP/SCS information will be built and kept up-to-date throughout the RTP planning process. In addition, Fresno COG will develop videos explaining plans, programs or concepts and post them to the website and to COG's social media pages.

Fresno COG is actively analyzing all [fresnocog.org](http://fresnocog.org) content for accessibility and has installed an automated web accessibility technology that complies with the WCAG 2.1 with the goal of having our website fully accessible at all times. Language translation is readily available.

**7. Regularly scheduled meetings:** The following COG Boards and Committees will be consulted in the development of the RTP & SCS. All consultation with these and other committees will be documented:

- **RTP Roundtable:** Meets monthly during the development of the RTP and SCS (See page 13 for a full description of the Roundtable). *Starting June 2020, The Roundtable will meet monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2:00 pm in the Fresno COG Sequoia Conference Room.*

- **Transportation Technical Committee (TTC):** Standing RTP items included on TTC agendas each month brief committee members on RTP and SCS development issues and public outreach opportunities. *Meets the second Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. pm in the Fresno COG Sequoia Conference Room.*
- **Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):** Standing RTP items included on PAC agendas each month brief committee members on RTP and SCS development issues and public outreach opportunities. *Meets the second Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. pm in the Fresno COG Sequoia Conference Room.*
- **Fresno COG Policy Board:** Standing RTP items included on Policy Board agendas each month brief committee members on RTP and SCS development issues and public outreach opportunities. *Meets the last Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Fresno COG Sequoia Conference Room.*

**Other Fresno COG committees or boards:** Additional consultation and coordination will likely occur with the following committees and commissions during RTP/SCS development. *Meeting agendas and packet materials are available online on the Fresno COG website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org) under Agendas:*

- **Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) of Fresno County:** The ALUC will receive information via agenda items informing them of RTP progress and airport related issues. *Meets the first Monday every other month at 2:00 pm in the Fresno COG Sequoia Room as content dictates.*
- **Association for the Beautification of 99:** Committee members will be notified via email regarding RTP progress and opportunities to coordinate or consult with Fresno COG. *Meets as needed on matters relating to the aesthetics of Highway 99.*
- **Environmental Justice (EJ) Subcommittee:** Meets to discuss the EJ Plan RTP chapter and provide feedback on public outreach to EJ communities. *Monthly meeting dates and times are not yet established, but they will be published on Fresno COG's website.*
- **Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee:** Committee members will be notified via email regarding RTP progress and opportunities to coordinate or consult with Fresno COG. RTP issues related to Measure C will be agendized as requested by staff or committee members. *Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Fresno COG Ash Conference Room as content dictates.*
- **Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC):** Meets to aid staff in its review of transit issues with an emphasis on the annual identification of transit needs within Fresno County. Transit needs include the needs of transit dependent and transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled and persons of limited means. *SSTAC meets on the third Tuesday of the month, January through June of each year, or as needed at 1:30 pm in the Fresno COG Ash Conference Room.*

**Valleywide Committees and Boards** that will be consulted or coordinated with during the RTP/SCS development:

- **Model Coordinating Committee:** The Model Coordinating Committee (MCC) has been established to provide a coordinated approach to valley air quality, conformity and transportation modeling issues.

- **San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies – Regional Policy Council:** The Policy Council provides guidance on common interregional policy issues. This sixteen-member Regional Policy Council was established to discuss and build regional consensus on issues of Valley importance. *Meeting agendas, minutes and information about the SJV Directors meetings are available online at [www.sjvcoqs.org](http://www.sjvcoqs.org).*
- **San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies – Executive Directors Committee:** The Valley Executive Directors meet regularly to discuss issues of mutual importance to all the Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations. *Meeting agendas, minutes and information about the SJV Directors meetings are available online at [www.sjvcoqs.org](http://www.sjvcoqs.org).*

8. **Community Meetings**—Fresno COG staff will make presentations to organizations and community groups or associations as requested in partnership with the Valleywide SCS Outreach, and as available through additional channels.

9. **Technical Working Groups**—Fresno COG staff will be working with technical staff from our member agencies to develop/draft technical portions of the plans that require specific expertise or qualifications.

*Members of the public are welcome to attend. Meeting notices will be posted to the COG website calendar.*

10. **RTP/SCS Community Workshops**

Fresno COG staff, working with the RTP Mini-Grant recipient organizations, will host community workshops throughout the Fresno County region during the month of September 2020. Each of the workshops will include a meal, childcare and alternate language presentations and materials when needed, and translation and interpretation services.

This September outreach effort will focus on introducing RTP/SCS policies and issues to the public, while providing an opportunity for attendees to submit regional transportation project suggestions that could be considered by local agencies in response to Fresno COG’s RTP call for projects which will be issued November 1, 2020. Fresno COG will also develop an online survey in English and Spanish to allow transportation project input for those who could not attend the workshops. The survey will be available throughout the month of September 2020 as well.

*Fresno COG will advertise the workshops and online survey through all means possible, including but not limited to:*

- *Social Media and website posts and events*
- *Email notifications*
- *Radio, television, print and online media, including community and minority media*
- *Printed fliers*
- *Business and community agency eblasts*
- *Announcements and agenda items at Fresno COG's meetings*
- *Community organization and educational institution meetings*
- *TV/Radio talk shows*
- *Public Service Announcements*
- *Local agency resources used to reach constituencies*
- *Distributions through local school districts and churches*

*All workshop and online survey data and regional transportation needs suggestions will be made available on [Fresnocog.org](http://Fresnocog.org).*

**11. Required workshops/meetings and hearings on the DRAFT SCS**

Senate Bill 375 requires that at least three regional public workshops, with information and tools providing a clear understanding of policy choices and issues, on the Draft SCS are held in Fresno County during the SCS process.

*Fresno COG will host at least three regional public workshops when the Draft SCS is released for public review. The workshops will be advertised through the means mentioned in item 10 above. All previous workshop attendees will also be notified of these workshops.*

Informational meetings must also be held in each county for members of the board of supervisors and city councils on the Draft SCS. Only one informational meeting is needed in each county if it is attended by representatives of the county board of supervisors and city councils that represent a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population in the incorporated areas of that county. The purpose of this meeting (or meetings) shall be to present a draft of the SCS to the members of the board of supervisors and the city council members to solicit and consider their input and recommendations.

At least two public hearings shall be held on the Draft SCS in the RTP (and APS, if any). To the maximum extent feasible, the hearings shall be in different parts of the region to maximize the opportunity for participation by members of the public throughout the region.

*Informational meeting(s) for elected officials and at least two public hearings shall be held in the Fresno County region to present the Draft SCS and receive formal public input from the public. Public hearings will be held in two locations on different dates, one in the urban area of the county and one in the rural area. Dates and times of these participation opportunities will be announced via public notice, on the Fresno COG website and social media pages and through email notifications.*

**12. Additional tasks as identified during the process**

As appropriate and effective opportunities for outreach arise during the RTP and SCS development process, they will be evaluated and discussed. If the opportunities are viable, financially feasible approaches to providing public education or receiving public input, they will strongly be considered for implementation.

*To suggest an outreach approach or opportunity for Fresno COG's consideration, please contact staff in one of the following ways:*

*Email: [comment@fresnocog.org](mailto:comment@fresnocog.org)*

*Phone: 559-233-4148*

*Mail: 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA 93722*







**Fresno COG's contact information:**

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