



Executive Summary

Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) serves as both the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Fresno County, leading comprehensive long-range regional planning that integrates transportation, air quality, housing, and economic development. Fresno COG's top priorities focus on advancing major regional transportation improvements through collaboration with Caltrans, the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA), and the California Transportation Commission (CTC). A key strategy is leveraging Measure C—the county's local ½-cent transportation sales tax—with state and federal funds to maximize project delivery. Current priorities under the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) include the SR 41 Excelsior Expressway, the South Fresno Interchanges at North Cedar and American Avenue (both planned for 2027–28), and the new Shaw Avenue Multimodal Interchange, which will modernize the interchange along SR 99 to improve safety, operations, and multimodal access. Fresno COG also continues to support ongoing planning, design, and monitoring efforts to ensure efficient program implementation and enhance long-term regional mobility.

2026 STIP and Reprogrammed 2024 RTIP Funding Summary

Project / Program	Description / Phase	Amount (\$)	Fiscal Year (FY)	Open-to-Traffic Year
SR 41 Excelsior Expressway	Construction Right-of-Way (ROW)	\$10,000,000 \$2,000,000	2024–25	2030
South Fresno Interchange – North Cedar	Construction	\$45,346,000	2027–28	2033
South Fresno Interchange – American Avenue	Construction	\$42,353,000	2027–28	2032
Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM)	Program Monitoring	\$1,878,000	2025–26 to 2029–30	N/A

Proposed New 2026 STIP Programming

Project/Program	Description/Phase	Amount (\$)	Fiscal Year (FY)	Open-to-traffic Year
Shaw Avenue Multimodal Interchange (New Project)	Planning, Design, and Early Phases	\$9,684,000	2026 STIP Cycle	2040
SR 41 Excelsior Expressway	Additional Programming Approved by CTC	\$4,162,000	2024–25	2030
Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM)	Program Monitoring (Additional)	\$765,000	2029–30 to 2030–31	N/A

Benefits

The Shaw Avenue Multimodal Interchange Project, programmed in the 2026 RTIP, provides regional and statewide benefits by enhancing safety, connectivity, and freight efficiency along a key corridor identified in the 2023 ITSP. The existing interchange no longer meets regional or state standards, and reconstruction is needed to relieve congestion, improve freight and transit access, close active transportation gaps, and support future growth on Fresno's west side. The project will reconstruct the interchange from Post Mile 27.8 to 28.4 to improve multimodal circulation, reduce emissions, and meet ADA standards. These improvements will enhance safety, traffic operations, and access for residents, businesses, and goods movement throughout the corridor.

The South Fresno Interchange, American Avenue, and SR 41 Excelsior Expressway projects collectively enhance safety, accessibility, connectivity, and goods movement across the region. These projects support sustainability, economic vitality, and collaboration among partners. In particular, the SR 41 Excelsior Expressway will address a critical safety gap—where 30% of fatalities on the corridor have occurred—while improving freight efficiency, access for underserved and tribal communities, and overall regional mobility.

Goals and Objectives

The 2026 RTIP advances the goals of Fresno COG's 2022 RTP/SCS, which meets CARB's GHG reduction targets, reduces per capita VMT (Table B1), and aligns with regional funding capacity. The plan emphasizes infrastructure, safety, accessibility, connectivity, sustainability, resiliency, economic vitality, and partnerships. The SR 99/Shaw Avenue Interchange. The RTIP is one of several key funding sources advancing Fresno COG's RTP/SCS objectives.

The Shaw Avenue Multimodal Interchange proposed project includes the removal and replacement of the Shaw Avenue Overcrossing, including the on and off-ramps, and construction of the retaining walls around the Shaw Avenue Overcrossing Bridge structure (Bridge number 42-0130 at PM 28.1). The existing Shaw Ave Overcrossing Bridge Structure will be replaced and widened, along with segments of the following local roads: W. Shaw Avenue, N. Lola Avenue, N. Parkway Avenue, N. Barcus Avenue, N. Dale Avenue, N. Forestiere Avenue, W. Fairmount Avenue, N. Polk Avenue, N. State Street, W. Mission Avenue, and N. Cornelia Avenue. Drainage facilities will be replaced, Intelligent Transportation System elements (lights, traffic signals, ramp meters, and loop detectors per Caltrans standard plans) will be installed, and landscape features constructed.

The Shaw Avenue Multimodal Interchange, as the project remains in the early stages of development, Caltrans is currently evaluating four build alternatives, which will be refined and narrowed to a single preferred alternative as the project advances. All alternatives will require bridge structure and on and off-ramps to be replaced and elevated to meet vertical clearance requirements.

The RTIP aligns with the State's goals related to Safety by making improvements to facilities that will reduce fatalities and serious injuries, particularly in disadvantaged areas around Fresno County. Projects listed in the RTIP will also contribute towards a more multimodal transportation future by investing in facilities that will promote transit and active transportation modes, including building infrastructure for those modes where they do not presently exist. Lastly, the RTIP will enable more efficient goods movement through replacement of outdated infrastructure that will promote economic prosperity through increased system efficiency, reduced congestion, improved travel time reliability, and bottleneck relief.