

Needs Assessment Workshop
June 8, 2016 from 1:00 to 4pm
Fresno COG, Sequoia Room

Attendees:

Lynn Ashbeck, Clovis
Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga
Graciela Elenas, Leadership Counsel
Bill Hyatt, CVRTV
Jeff Long, FAX
Tony Molina, BPAC
Rene Mathis, City of Clovis
Nick Paladino, Cycling Club
Jared Rutledge, Fresno County Public Health

Moses Stites, FCRTA
Dale Spencer, Fresno County
Tong Xiong, Fresno County

Fehr & Peers:
Rodney Brown
Carrie Carsell
Fred Chao

Ms. Ashbeck, Chair of the Needs Assessment Committee, opened the meeting.

Ms. Cai (FCOG) provided an overview of the process and background information regarding the needs assessment program. In 2014, at the request of a coalition of community groups, the Fresno COG Policy Board directed staff to develop 3 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation programs. These were the Transportation Needs Assessment Program, Ag Land Mitigation Program (which has been completed, white paper available) and Sustainable Infrastructure & Planning Grant Program (which will begin after the needs assessment is completed).

The needs assessment committee defined the Disadvantaged Community, and a scope of work for the study, which included developing an inventory of existing and future planned biking path infrastructure, develop maps using health & transportation data, and a gap analysis for regional bike and trail system, and a connectivity/accessibility study for the major regional/sub-regional facilities. Due to the budget, only 10 regional facilities were evaluated. The result of the study will not automatically be included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or Federal Transportation Improvement Program a (FTIP). The study is for informational purposes only; the Cities and the County follow their process for prioritizing projects that will be submitted to be included in the RTP and FTIP.

Public presentation

Benita Vasquez, Fresno Metro spoke via translator regarding her concerns related to the canals on Olive and Blackstone and the lack of proper fencing.

Mr. Rutledge (Fresno County Public Health Dept.) made a presentation regarding the Health Priority Index which looks at the health outcomes in Fresno County at the census tract level. He provided mapping that showed the most distressed neighborhoods in the region in terms of health status.

There was further discussion regarding what other indicators were available, data source, programmable and customized reports such as crime rates in rural and urban areas. The maps will be on a self-service portal and may be available by the end of the year with many more data layers to come in multiple languages.

Mr. Scott (FCOG) presented a series of web maps with health data and existing & future active transportation network. All the raw data is public record and are available upon request.

The consultant team presented their draft findings for the regional gap analysis for bike and trail facilities. The analysis focused on the disconnection in bike and trail network between the cities, and maximum travel distance, funding and recommendations.

Mrs. Carsell (Consultant) discussed how priorities of routes were identified by the comprehensive demand score which had 10 factors including proximity to activity centers, population/employment density, land use mix, etc.

The consultants presented 5 preliminary high priority project routes (see below), each with potential benefits, disadvantaged community indicators, and potential bike facility options.

- Parlier/ Reedley/ Orange Cove
- Selma/Kingsburg/Parlier
- Firebaugh/Mendota
- Biola/Kerman
- Easton/Fresno

There was further discussion regarding the benefits and infrastructure needed for cycle tracks.

Task 2 of the scope of work included an analysis of the connectivity/accessibility analysis for the 10 regional/sub-regional facilities (hot spots). For each of the following Hot Spots, the consultant team mapped the existing connectivity by all the modes, including sidewalk, transit, trails, bike, and roads. They evaluated route directness (defined by the ratio of network distance to the straight line distance), mapped the collision locations, examined the region for other missing connections in general, and provided findings and recommendation for transportation improvement and enhancements to these facilities. The consultant team emphasized that Task 2 was based on the needs of the users for each of the facilities. The scope of the analysis did not include a review of full system benefits, costs and impacts of implementing the recommendations out of this analysis. The 10 regional/sub-regional facilities analyzed in Task 2 are:

- Adventist Medical Center, Reedley
- Coalinga Medical Center
- Fashion Fair Mall
- Fresno County Superior Court
- Fresno City College
- Harris Ranch
- Mendota Department of Motor Vehicles
- Walmart, Kerman
- Walmart, Sanger
- Wawona Frozen Foods

Comments were made regarding the length of time assigned to travel from Coalinga to Fashion Fair. The consultant stated that the analysis was a worst case scenario based on average transit speed and did not differentiate between rural and urban transit besides reducing the speed limit in the urban areas.

Public comment:

Sophia Dewitt (Fresno Metro) submitted letter regarding sidewalk improvements around City College areas.

Several members of the public spoke via a Spanish translator regarding sidewalk and the need for safe pedestrian paths or parents and student walking to school. They also expressed concern for the train tracks that run south of McKinley.

Ms. Cai (FCOG) stated that the comments and specific recommendations received will be added to the final findings and recommendations. Fehrs and Peers is currently working with the City of Fresno on the ATP and can incorporate some of the comments heard at the meeting into Fresno's ATP and the Blackstone Corridor Study.

Consultants discussed funding options and the report includes an outline of potential funding programs for the recommended improvements. These findings help identify opportunities and inform cities when applying for the ATP dollars.

Ms. Mathis (Clovis) asked if these findings will be used as a criterion for consideration for ATP funding awards. Ms. Cai (FCOG) stated that it will need to be fully discussed by the ATP committee how the findings/recommendations from the Needs Assessment study will be used in the ATP process .

All presentations, draft technical memos, and web map links will be posted on Fresno COG's website at: <http://www.fresnocog.org/transportation-needs-assessment>.

The Draft Final report will go to TTC/PAC and the board for acceptance.

Members of the Public

Keith Berthold, Metro Ministries
Luis Hernandez, Metro Ministries
Ivan Paz, Metro Ministries
Sophia DeWitt, Metro Ministries
Benita Vasquez, Metro Ministries
Juan Meza, Metro Ministries
Sara Salgado, Metro Ministries
Beatriz Gonzaga, Metro Ministries
Kevin Hamilton, CCAC
David Padilla, Caltrans
Joe Prado, FCDPH

Lang Yu
Tony Boren
Peggy Arnest
Muyi Zhou
Lauren Dawson
Trai Her-Cole

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