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## **Fresno Council of Governments and Transportation for All Coalition Reach Historic Agreement to 'Move Forward Together' For Fresno County's Transportation Future**

Fresno, CA – After months of negotiations, the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) policy board voted Thursday to merge its Measure C renewal process with the community-based Transportation For All's campaign, to develop "One County, One Plan" – a plan for a broadly-supported transportation measure and a win for every resident of Fresno County.

Measure C is Fresno County's current half-cent sales tax to fund local transportation projects, initially approved by voters in 1986. It is set to expire in 2027, and the current goal is to place a measure to renew it on the ballot in November 2026.

Thursday's vote means that the Fresno COG – comprised of mayors and elected officials from across Fresno County – and Transportation For All will combine their previously parallel community input processes and steering committees into one united pathway for developing a plan that gets final approval by government bodies before ultimately going to voters for consideration next year. This agreement brings together the best of both processes.

Transportation for All launched its community visioning process in May. More than 2,000 residents from all over the county have already joined in-person sessions to share their vision and priorities for creating the transportation future that Fresno County deserves. The coalition plans to engage thousands more residents throughout the summer.

"A people-driven process gives us the best chance to move forward a transportation measure we can all support in 2026. We know the community has the expertise to shape road, transit, and mobility solutions to meet our everyday needs and make our county a better place to live and work for decades to come. People know what our neighborhoods need, we pay the taxes, and we deserve to have a say in how our hard-earned money is spent," said Sandra Celedon, a member of the coalition and President and CEO of Fresno Building Healthy Communities.

"We all agree that we need a measure to fund critical projects across our county," said Alma Beltran and Victor Martinez. Beltran, Mayor of Parlier, chairs the COG; Martinez, Mayor of Mendota, is the vice chair. "Now more than ever, it's important that we work together to put a plan in place that leads to a balanced ballot measure--one that Fresno County families can support and that truly benefits our entire region."

“‘Moving Forward Together’ is not just the title for our campaign. It’s what we’ve wanted from the very beginning,” said Dave Rivas, a member of the coalition and a senior field representative with the NorCal Carpenters Union. “We all need to work on a plan that includes as many voices as possible to ultimately build the best, most efficient, and safest projects to benefit all of Fresno County--projects that help folks get to work, help students get to school, and help parents take care of their kids.”

“Our residents deserve to have their elected officials and community members working together to deliver a transportation plan that meets their needs. In order for this to occur, we must be united,” said Fresno City Mayor Jerry Dyer, who is also a board member of the COG. “I appreciate the hard work by those who have gotten us to this point, but we all know there is still much work to be done. Together, we now must ensure the renewed Measure C delivers real improvements for every neighborhood and serves the interests of both city and county residents.”

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Transportation for All is a coalition of parents, grandparents, students, teachers, workers, and community leaders – including faith, business, and healthcare professionals – united to protect Fresno County’s transportation future.