

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:02 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Public Works Director Weisser, Finance Director Wong, Police Chief Brand, City Attorney Garza, Planning Consultant O'Neal, City Engineer Peters

There were no public presentations.

DISCUSSION: GOLDEN STATE CORRIDOR - FINAL ENGINEERING PHASE OF THE PROJECT CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED BY FRESNO COG

City Engineer Peters explained that for the past several years, Fresno COG, the County of Fresno, and the cities of Fowler, Kingsburg and Selma, have been working to revitalize the Golden State Corridor. A vision for the Corridor was developed, with plans to enhance economic development potential by unifying the Corridor through design, preserving and enhancing the character of the three Corridor cities, and repairing and reconstructing the roadway. Staff is asking for the Council's input on what the priorities should be, to assist COG with it's upcoming Request for Proposals for the final engineering phase.

Representatives from COG and Quad Knopf Engineering gave a detailed presentation on the project. Plans for the Fowler section include: shifting the road and merging sections of it with 8th Street to improve traffic flow, opening up areas in the Corridor to place businesses and parking areas, and implementing a transit stop. The original cost estimate for the entire project was \$65 million, to be paid for with Measure C funds. Presently there is only \$41 million in Measure C funds available, so the project had to be reduced from the original scope. Items removed included: the installation of fiber optic lines; medians and street lights in County areas; specialty signage; and reducing the landscape budget by half. Planned road improvements from Clovis Avenue to Adams Avenue were changed to a less expensive chip seal project. It was stated that the items taken out can easily be added back in later as funds become available. The City can also seek other funding sources for the items.

The Council discussed the plans for the Corridor. City Manager Elias said that future workshops will be held for further discussion and input.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Simonian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p. m.