



Kings County Association of Governments

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Member Agencies: Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, County of Kings
Chair – Joe Neves ❖ Vice Chair – Ray Lerma

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 4:34 p.m., on June 24, 2009 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California. The Chairperson conducted Roll Call.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Barba, Dan Chin, Sid Craighead, Joe Neves, John Plourde, Jim Perrault

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ray Lerma

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Abanathie; Rachel Audino; Victoria Hall; Terri King; David Hamilton, County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG; Jeff Sorensen, Caltrans

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES – May 27, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2009. Motion carried unanimously, with Craighead, Plourde, and Perrault abstaining.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2009 -10 Transportation Development Act

Ms. King reported the unmet transit needs public hearings have been concluded. Meetings of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) have been held and they are recommending a finding that there are no unmet transit needs reasonable to meet within any of the jurisdictions within Kings County. The SSTAC letter to the Committee stated that it is their hope and understanding that the local transit operators will take the requests for service improvements under consideration within their existing budgets and work with the local jurisdictions to implement them where feasible. In addition, the SSTAC encourages local jurisdictions to continue to expeditiously work with KCAPTA toward establishing more bus stops, shelters and benches where needed.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Plourde) to adopt Resolution No. 09-07 approving the determination that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. King stated that the allocation of the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) will need to be approved as well. KCAG staff has revised the allocation amount for transportation planning purposes from what was shown in the agenda materials due to the need to fund consulting costs for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan that was not originally budgeted. The amount was increased by \$20,000 to provide a non-federal matching fund. This also decreased the amount of LTF available for street and road purposes.

A motion was made and seconded (Plourde / Chin) to adopt Resolution No. 09-08 approving the apportionments and allocations of the FY 2009-10 LTF. Motion carried unanimously.

2. San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study

Ms. King reported Merced County Association of Governments, on behalf of the eight COGs, was the grant manager for the San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study and that the final report has been completed. The study was to evaluate potential interregional transit systems and improve interregional transit for citizens within the Valley. They looked at existing transit services, case studies, analyzed the demand for services, and offered recommendations for improvement and additional services. The report recommended maximizing rideshare and vanpool services in the southern San Joaquin Valley, continue with the Agricultural Industries Transportation Services (AITS) and proceed with a joint powers agency in the southern portion of the Valley to operate the two vanpool programs currently operated by the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA).

A motion was made and seconded (Plourde / Barba) to accept the final San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study. Motion was carried unanimously.

3. 2009 Air Quality Conformity Redetermination

Ms. Audino stated the San Joaquin Valley area is multi-jurisdictional nonattainment area for Particulate Matter 2.5 microns (PM2.5). The PM2.5 conformity determination is based on the regional emissions analysis of the entire eight MPO region. San Joaquin COG has revised their PM2.5 conformity analysis for their current Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) amendment and therefore all the other seven MPOs have to redetermine conformity. There was a 30 day public comment period from May 8th to June 8th and no comments were received.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve the conformity redetermination for the Federally Approved 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 2 and 2007 RTP with the adoption of Resolution No. 09-09. Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 5

Mr. Abanathie stated Amendment No. 5 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) adds \$2.9 million of the second distribution of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for streets and roads, adds \$184,000 of ARRA Transportation Enhancement funding, and \$1.7 million of rail grade separation funding. It also makes changes to existing projects as required. KCAG had a 14 day public comment period, during which we received a couple of comments that were addressed.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to approve the 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 5 with the adoption of Resolution No. 09-10. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Valley RPA / SJV Air Pollution Control District Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. King stated in 1992 the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) entered into two Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements, one between the eight valley RPAs and the other between the RPAs and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). In 2006 the MOU was updated to create the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council and set the membership of the Regional Policy Council as two elected officials from each of the eight valley counties. This 2nd MOU is being updated to ensure the continuing cooperation and continuing coordinated regional approach for transportation and air quality planning efforts and increasing the membership by one, adding the SJVAPCD. The MOU has been reviewed by County Counsel and approved by the SJVAPCD at their June 18th meeting.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve the MOU and authorize the Executive Director and Chairman to execute the agreement.

6. 2035 California Transportation Plan Update

Ms. King reported Caltrans is currently in the process of updating the California Transportation Plan which is to be completed in 2010 and has a horizon year of 2035. Ms. King introduced Jeff Sorensen from Caltrans who discussed the 2035 plan. The CTP is the States long range plan for meeting the goals across all modes of transportation. The plan has a minimum 20 year planning horizon and is prepared in accordance with State and Federal requirements, and is updated every 5 years. The plan is anticipated to be completed in September or October 2010. The purpose of the plan is to provide a common policy framework that will guide transportation investments and decision into the future. The plan defines the goals, policies and strategies to achieve the collective vision for California's future transportation systems. Some of the things to be focused on are population growth and climate change as required by AB 32 and AB 375. It is not a financially constrained plan and does not include individual projects. Workshops are scheduled throughout the state and the valley workshop will be held October 5, at the Fresno City Council chambers. There is an interactive website that provides updates, calendar, opinion polls, articles, and information on where the plan is at this time.

B. Caltrans Reports

Mr. Perrault reported there has been a staffing change in District 6 and he will be our representative for the next four months. He reported that the California Transportation Commission has approved the allocation of funding to move forward on the 4-lane expressway project on SR 198. The project is being advertised on June 15th, bid openings are scheduled for August 5th, awarded sometime in September and construction starting November to last 24 to 30 months. The 12th Ave. interchange project is currently in the PA&ED phase and is planned to be approved in October 2009. The 19th Ave. interchange project just completed the 30% constructability review last week and Caltrans continues to discuss technical issues with the City of Lemoore concerning drainage, right of way, and hydraulics, and are working with the structure people in Sacramento. It has a construction phase period, if funding is available, of February 2010 to August 2012. Regarding the Safe Routes to School programs, there were 47 applications this round and 17 were recommended for funding. The successful candidates will be announced within the next few weeks. Announcements will be posted on the web site and the Local Assistance office will get the word out. The Local Assistance office has an open door policy; if an applicant is unsuccessful they are welcome to contact the Local Assistance office for guidance and help in filling out grant applications. Another program that was funded under SAFETEA-LU called the High Risk Rural Roads Program (HR3) is a funding program focused on rural roads. Funding is available for safety projects on any rural major collect, minor collect, or rural local road. In the last two cycles this area only received a small portion of the statewide funds and we could do better. We are encouraging agencies to look into this program and get additional projects funded.

Commissioner Plourde asked if the City of Lemoore was getting enough cooperation in the 19th interchange project and Mr. Perrault replied all was going well.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

None

E. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barba remarked he was glad to hear the SR198 project was going out to bid. Commissioner Craighead remarked on SR 269 was starting to be smoothed down. Ms. King followed up on the request to Caltrans regarding contacts from Avenal and email was sent and Commissioner Craighead stated that he had received it.

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on June 24, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on June 24, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2009 Legislation Review

Ms. King proved an update on several of the bills that KCAG staff has been following. SB 406 was just amended yesterday and some of the COGs are recommending support if amended. This bill allows the COGs to charge \$1 or \$2 to fund Regional Blueprint and SB 375 implementation. It was amended to allow the two air districts from the Bay Area and Sacramento to charge the fee. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council and CalCOG are opposing SB 406.

SB 716 is the bill that would revise the Transportation Development Act allowing that once all unmet transit needs are funded, that before it can go to streets and roads, claims could be made for farm worker vanpool programs. It also amends the population thresholds on who can use the funds for streets and road purposes. Staff is recommending this Commission take an oppose position on this bill. Mr. Hughes provided an update on SB 716. He stated he is a member of CalAct and voted against the bill. It was the consensus of the Commission to take no position on SB 716 at this time.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council has taken a support position on ACA 15 which lowers the voting threshold to 55% to pass a sales tax for transportation.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Neves opened the nominations for Chairman for FY 2009-10. It was moved and seconded (Barba / Chin) to nominate Commissioner Lerma as Chairman. It was moved and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to close the nominations and elect Commissioner Lerma as Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded (Craighead / Barba) to nominate Commissioner Chin as Vice Chairman. It was moved and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to close the nominations and elect Commissioner Chin as Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None

B. Staff Comments

Ms. King stated there are several meetings coming up. There is a San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council meeting on June 26th. Tomorrow there will be a phone call of the Policy Council to discuss the proposed lobbying trip to the Capitol to discuss budget problems. The Fall Policy Conference is scheduled for October 1-2 in Fresno at the Holiday Inn. The draft agenda includes items on the future of transportation funding, political climate of California, water as it relates to the future growth of the valley, a session on Blueprint, a session of SB375, high-speed rail, best practices, and a Policy Council Meeting. The Policy Council has created a new program titled the Smart Growth Awards, to be given at the Conference.

Next month agenda items include the budget amendment for the EIR.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Craighead discussed some of the items from the meeting he attended last month in San Diego.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director