



Kings County Association of Governments

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

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Dan Chin, Vice Chairperson, at 4:30 p.m., on December 2, 2009 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California. Chairperson conducted roll call.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Barba, Dan Chin, Sid Craighead, Sherri Bender-Ehlert, Mary Hornsby, Ray Lerma, Joe Neves

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Abanathie, Rachel Audino, Seth Eberhard, Terri King, Chris Lehn, David Hamilton, County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: None

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES –October 28, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Craighead) to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. KCAG Travel Demand Forecasting Model Update

Ms. Audino provided an overview of the KCAG travel demand forecasting model update. KCAG hired Dowling Associates to update the travel demand forecasting model so that it has a base year of 2005, a horizon year of 2035, and is validated to 2005. The model update incorporates updated land use assumptions using Department of Finance projections, Woods and Poole estimates, InfoUSA employment data, and US Census data.

Ms. Audino indicated the model documentation provided by Dowling contains further information regarding the technical aspects of the model. Ms. Audino stated that an informational overview of the model will be conducted at a future meeting to provide the Commissioners with more information on the modeling process at KCAG.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to approve the travel demand forecasting model street network and land use assumptions. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Kettleman City Safety and Community Study: Consultant Selection

Ms. Lehn provided an overview of the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study consultant selection process for the Caltrans Environmental Justice grant recently awarded to KCAG. This study will evaluate traffic calming measures, investigate pedestrian crossing alternatives, and evaluate gateway signage options. A request for proposals (RFP) was prepared by KCAG staff in consultation with stakeholders. A review panel of eight individuals from different community agencies and stakeholder groups reviewed and scored the proposals. This group selected TPG Consulting from Visalia as the top-scoring consultant.

Commissioner Barba requested that, for future consultant selection processes, a summary be furnished in the staff report detailing the selection process, the qualifications of each consulting firm, scoring criteria for proposals, and why the final selection was made by the committee. Ms. Lehn and Ms. King provided more information regarding the selection process and the specific points of TPG Consulting's proposal that merited the recommended selection of the firm.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with TPG Consulting with the caveat that a summary of the consultant selection process and ranking be provided at the next TPC meeting. Motion carried, with Ehlert abstaining.

3. Draft 2010 State Highway Operation and Protection Program

Ms. King provided an overview of Caltrans' draft 2010 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and the four projects included in it for Kings County. These are left-turn channelization at SR 41 between Jersey and Jackson Avenues; signalization and left-turn channelization lengthening of SR 43 between Elder and Dover Avenues; bridge preservation on SR 198 at 14th Avenue, Hanford-Armona Road, and 11th Avenue; and SR 41 road rehabilitation between Utica Avenue and Quail Avenue. A total of almost \$79 million is being programmed within Kings County for these projects. Comments on the draft 2010 SHOPP projects are due by December 31, 2009.

4. Trail Networks Workshop

Ms. King discussed the flyer for the Local Government Commission's "Trail Networks in the San Joaquin Valley" workshop slated for December 3, 2009 in Hanford. A field trip is planned within Kings County as part of the workshop to discuss potential trail projects.

5. CMIA Cost Savings Proposal

Mr. Abanathie discussed KCAG's response to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC's) call for projects for the Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) program with the submission of two project proposals. Caltrans and KCAG submitted the SR 198 widening project and KCAG submitted the 19th Avenue interchange project. Initially, 19th Avenue was not recommended for funding because the timeframe for construction was outside the CMIA guidelines' timeframe.

Because bids for construction have been lower than anticipated statewide, there is a cost savings that has led to additional funding availability for CMIA projects, including at least \$22 million in savings for the SR 198 project. The CTC is looking to fund projects that were not initially funded by CMIA from the savings, for which the 19th Avenue project qualifies. KCAG, in conjunction with Caltrans District 6, has taken preliminary steps to submit a proposal for the 19th Avenue interchange project with an updated construction date of March 2011. Commissioner Neves asked if it would be possible to apply for the 19th and 12th Avenue projects concurrently. Commissioner Ehlert stated that this would not be possible because 12th Avenue was not a project initially submitted for CMIA funding.

Ms. King discussed the upcoming 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the use of STIP and CMIA funds for the 19th Ave. and 12th Ave. projects. Due to the lack of State funds, current projects may need to be delayed by two years. The 19th Ave. project needs to stay on schedule in order to qualify for the CMIA savings.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves/Craighead) to authorize the Executive Director to complete discussions with Caltrans and sign any and all letters, proposals, or instruments to submit the 19th avenue interchange project to the CTC for funding. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Caltrans Reports

Ms. Bender-Ehlert reported that she has returned from her temporary assignment as acting division chief for Caltrans District 6's environmental department. The SR 198 widening groundbreaking occurred and construction has begun. Construction is anticipated to end in November 2011. Prop. 1B funding has a secondary program for SR 99. Although SR 99 does not go through Kings County, Caltrans is working with Tulare County and other valley agencies for projects along the SR 99 corridor.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

Ms King stated that the Regional Transportation Improvement Program will be discussed at the next board meeting. The statewide goal is to delay 30 percent of the projects from earlier years into fiscal years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. The eight San Joaquin Valley regional transportation planning agencies are working together to meet an overall goal for the valley to minimize the impact on each valley county. To do this, KCAG is proposing to delay the 12th Avenue project.

Staff from the High Speed Rail Authority met with the Hanford City Council at a study session on December 1st to discuss the route through Kings County along the BNSF line, which is currently the only route being considered in the area. Another meeting is being held at the request of Tulare County to discuss a rail stop option in Hanford. There is an additional meeting on December 10 with High Speed Rail staff to discuss planning needs to facilitate a rail stop. Commissioner Chin discussed his meeting with Carrie Bowen and City of Hanford staff regarding a rail stop.

E. Commissioner Comments

None

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on December 2, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Neves/ Barba) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on December 2, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

2. FY 2010-2011 Overall Work Program Activities

Ms. King discussed the FY 2010-2011 Overall Work Program to be submitted in March 2010 for review and comment by state, local and federal agencies. Ms. King discussed the particular projects to be included in the OWP for FY 2010-2011 and noted that there were no new changes or projects proposed at this time, but asked that Commissioners contact her with any additional projects they may desire. A draft OWP will be brought to the Commission in February for review and comment.

3. Areawide Planning Review No. 09-10 Armona Pacific Associates – U.S. Department of Agriculture- Rural Development

Mr. Eberhard stated that Pacific West Communities is applying for a federal loan for \$500,000 for funding from the USDA for low income home funds and housing tax credits in Armona. The City of Hanford and Kings County Department of Public Health commented that the project does not duplicate any of their efforts. Pacific West communities will provide an additional \$5,163,227 in matching funds.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba/Craighead) to include and ratify Commission's comments and those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 09-10.

4. NAS Lemoore Joint Land Use Study

Ms. Lehn discussed the Lemoore Joint Land Use Study. It will include the NAS Lemoore, the City of Lemoore, the County of Kings, and the County of Fresno. The JLUS will look at encroachment issues to make sure jurisdictions can grow while NAS can continue to operate its flight patterns. There are two groups for this, one comprised of elected officials from each jurisdiction and an ex-officio from the base and one that has technical planning staff from each jurisdiction.

An RFP was released soliciting firms to conduct the JLUS. Each jurisdiction will have a representative on the review panel and a recommendation is anticipated to be brought to the JLUS Policy Committee on January 27, 2010. KCAG will request authorization from the KCAG Commission later that day to enable the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the consultant preferred by the JLUS Policy Committee. An overview of the selection process as requested previously by Commissioner Barba will be furnished. KCAG is also working on a joint powers agreement (JPA) without County Counsel. This is expected to go before the Commission at the January meeting.

Ms. King provided an overview of the Department of Defense conference in Orlando, Florida. Presentations were divided into three tracks: BRAC, growth, and JLUS. She mentioned issues like solar farms could impact flight operations and would need to be coordinated with the base in addition to growth.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Ms. King stated the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council is meeting on Friday, December 4 and that High Speed Rail, the San Joaquin Valley Partnership, status on air quality, the Blueprint, and the legislative platform will be addressed. The Valley Voice trips to Sacramento are slated for February 3-4 and for Washington D.C. on March 2-5. Commissioners Craighead and Hornsby confirmed that they will be attending the Valley Voice trip to Sacramento. Additionally, a staff person to facilitate the agendas and meetings of the Policy Council will be addressed at the meeting.

Ms. King discussed the health insurance premium holiday undertaken by the county. This waives the employee health insurance contributions for four pay periods for employees who pay into the insurance program. This was approved by the Board of Supervisors and will be extended to KCAG staff since they pay into the County's health insurance program. Commissioner Neves requested that staff see if a minute order is necessary and provide the documentation to the Auditor's Office. David Hamilton, County Counsel, stated that he would look into it and get back to staff.

The next KCAG Commission meeting is scheduled for 3:30 pm on December 16, 2009 so that the draft 2010 RTIP can be discussed.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Craighead provided an overview of the CalCOG meeting in San Diego. He spoke with Mike Dozier regarding the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. He indicated that people from the Partnership will be updating City Councils and Boards of Supervisors valley wide regarding updates from the Partnership.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director