

FY 2008-09 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: CONTEXT-SENSITIVE PLANNING APPLICATION

An electronic version of this application is available at the following web site:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.htm>

- ✓ Application length – 20 page maximum – includes all documents **except** letters of support
- ✓ Double spaced, 12 pitch font
- ✓ No binding, use one staple

Required documents

- Signed Application, Scope of Work, Project Timeline, Local Resolution, map of project area, digital photographs of project area (when applicable)

Submit five signed hard copies and one electronic copy on a CD (Microsoft Word) of the entire Application and all documents, including the Required Documents listed above.

PROJECT TITLE	Kettleman City Safety and Community Study
PROJECT LOCATION (city(ies) and county(ies))	Kettleman City Community, Kings County

	APPLICANT				SUB-RECIPIENT(S)*			
Organization	Kings County Associations of Governments				Kings County Planning Department			
Contact Person (include salutation and title)	Ms. Terri King Executive Director				Mr. Greg Gatzka Deputy Planning Director			
Mailing Address	339 W. D Street, Suite B				1400 W. Lacey Blvd			
City	Lemoore				Hanford			
Zip Code	93245				93230			
E-mail Address	Terri.king@co.kings.ca.us				Greg.gatzka@co.kings.ca.us			
Telephone Number	Area Code	559	Number	582-3211 ext. 2678	Area Code	559	Number	582-3211 ext. 2682
Fax Number	Area Code	559	Number	924-5632	Area Code	559	Number	584-8989

FUNDING INFORMATION	
Grant Funds Requested	\$140,000
Local Match (See sample calculation on Page 11)	\$20,000 (\$14,000 private/ \$2,864 LTF/ \$3,136 In Kind)
Source of Local Match	Private and Local Transportation Funds
Other Funding	\$0
Total Project Cost	\$160,000

LEGISLATORS IN PROJECT AREA	
State Senator(s) (name and district)	Assembly Member(s) (name and district)
Dean Florez, District 16	Nicole Parra, District 30

* Attach additional pages if necessary (this attachment will not be included in the 20 page maximum)

☞ *Enter answers in the area provided below each question*

☞ *Points that will be used for scoring are included on the right side above the text box (100 points possible)*

20 points

1. Project Description (half page maximum)

- ⇒ Define project and project area
- ⇒ Identify community/communities and stakeholders (include demographics)
- ⇒ Specify what will be accomplished including what final products will be delivered
- ⇒ Describe how project will be managed

The unincorporated community of Kettleman City located in southwestern rural Kings County, population of 1,500 with 93% Hispanic and 44% below the poverty line (medium family income \$22,000), faces considerable pedestrian/school children safety challenges along State Route 41 that bisects the community. A Kettleman City Safety and Community Study is proposed to explore options to improve pedestrian safety along the Highway and key cross streets to enhance resident/school children crossing safety. State Route 41 within the residential community and General Petroleum Avenue will be the main focus area of the study. The study approach will integrate a collaboration of residents, public, quasi-public and community based organization stakeholders to explore and define transportation and community enhancement strategy recommendations. Stakeholders in the community include the California Highway Patrol, the Kings County Fire Department, Waste Management, the Kettleman City Community Services District, the Kettleman City General Plan Advisory Group, Proteus, and the County of Kings. Kings County Association of Governments will administer the grant, and the Kings County Planning Agency will manage all coordination and consultant activities. Once the study is complete, Kings County intends to pursue a Safe Routes to School Grant to implement the pedestrian safety improvements. Kings County Association of Governments also intends to allocate Transportation Enhancement funds for community gateway improvements.

20 points

2. Grant Objective - Describe how the proposal addresses the following Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning objective:

- ⇒ Proposed projects should have a clear focus on transportation and community development issues that address the interests of low-income, minority, Native American, and other under-represented communities

Kettleman City is a small rural community of 1,500 residents and 320 households, with 92.73% of the population Hispanic according to the 2000 Census. Children under the age of 18 make up the largest percentage at 36% of the population. More than 60% of all households have children under the age of 18, with

approximately 38.6% of families and 43.7% of the population considered below the poverty line. The median income for a family in Kettleman City is \$21,955 and \$22,409 for a household.

The Kettleman City Safety and Community Study will focus on transportation and community development issues of this low-income, minority, and traditionally under-represented community. State Route 41 divides the residential community of Kettleman City. Currently the only designated pedestrian crossing across SR 41 is a painted crosswalk at General Petroleum Avenue, which lacks any additional signage or flashing lights to warn oncoming traffic. This intersection has been identified by Kettleman City residents as the primary location to cross SR 41.

Kettleman residents have expressed critical concern for safety issues crossing SR 41 at the General Petroleum Avenue, noting the excessive speeds of traffic and little warning for oncoming vehicle motor traffic. The community would like to explore options to provide advanced warning to motorists, evaluate traffic calming measures, examine gateway signage options, identify the paths that school children take walking and biking to and from school, and increase traffic enforcement efforts.

As essentially all of the community buildings/ services including the elementary school, post office, library, community center, and two small grocery stores are located west of SR 41, residents on the east side must regularly cross at this unsafe intersection. Motorists have indicated that it is often difficult to slow down for pedestrians, as the speed of traffic generally travels faster than the posted 45 mph speed limit. Often times when a vehicle does slow down for a pedestrian, this will encourage unsafe conditions as the motorists behind the slowing vehicle will typically attempt to pass, or the oncoming traffic will not slow down or stop. At a minimum, approximately 20 school children cross SR 41 twice a day to attend the Kettleman City Elementary School.

In addition to the safety concerns of crossing SR 41, the community has identified lack of traffic speed enforcement. This is perhaps one of the most important elements in this Safety and Community Study. The community members, stakeholders, and partners look forward to addressing this concern and identifying strategies in the upcoming months with the California Highway Patrol.

The Kettleman City community lacks a recognizable identity and town center which contributes to the lack of interest from highway travelers as they pass through on SR 41. It has been identified that gateway signs could call attention to the town of Kettleman City, encourage community pride, further encourage motorists traveling on SR 41 to slow down, and increase economic opportunities. Through community meetings held to develop the Kettleman City Community Plan, residents designed and selected the Kettleman City “Vista to the Valley” logo (as shown on the first page of the Kettleman City Community Plan). These gateway community signs should be placed at key entrance points along SR 41 to promote economic development and to increase awareness of the highway travelers, residents, and visitors of this community existence (see figure 6 & 7). The “Vista to the Valley” signs will be integrated in the downtown commercial area and residential area of Kettleman City as the city grows. Street signs and landscaping will use street names and features that tie to the Kettleman “Vista to the Valley” logo, which will increase civic pride and instill a greater sense of ownership among community residents. Further community planning is needed to discuss the gateway sign details and identify entrance and exit locations.

There is a significant lack of pedestrian infrastructure, particularly around the Kettleman Elementary School where children frequently walk and bike (see figure 3). Existing roadways are open with pavement meeting dirt shoulders, leaving no separation between pedestrians and traveling vehicles. Sidewalks provide an element of safety for residents walking or bicycling in the community, which can encourage additional walking or bicycling trips.

Kettleman City residents recently partnered with the Kings County Planning Department to develop a vision and plan for the community’s future growth. The Kettleman City Community Plan is based upon the input of community members and stakeholders and serves as a planning guide that is unique to the Kettleman City community. This document has not yet been formally approved but can be found in draft status online at <http://www.countyofkings.com/planning/genplan/Communityplans.htm> . The Plan highlights the residents’ safety concerns of crossing at the SR 41 and General Petroleum Avenue Intersection, in addition to unprotected access between the residential and commercial area, and general lack of pedestrian safety from vehicle traffic throughout the community.

Caltrans was invited and attended the community meetings held to gather input from residents. Caltrans has indicated that there is not sufficient population or commercial activity to warrant any major intersection changes at SR 41 and General Petroleum Avenue. However, all possible design feature options should be explored to determine what alternatives would meet both the needs of the Kettleman City residents and Caltrans. Options that will be considered in the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study include a more visible marked crossing, additional signage to call attention to the crosswalk, a solar panel flashing light, or ridged roadway surface. The Kettleman City Safety and Community Study will utilize the community partnerships established in the Kettleman City Community Plan and add Caltrans, Waste Management, Proteus, the California Highway Patrol, the Kings County Fire Department, and the Kings County Association of Governments as partners. The residents of Kettleman City have already shown that they are eager to take a more proactive stance in planning their community. Once awarded, this Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant will enable the residents to again come together and address specific transportation and community development issues.

20 points

3. State Transportation Planning Grant Goals - Demonstrate how the proposal addresses one or more of the following Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Goals:

- **Smart or strategic land use and opportunities for affordable housing and jobs** – Not applicable.
- **Congestion relief** – Not applicable.
- **Efficient movement of people, goods, and services** – Not applicable.
- **Safe and healthy communities** – The Kettleman City Safety and Community Study will positively affect the safety and health of the community. The increased law enforcement presence along SR 41 and the identified advanced warning strategies should deter speeding motorists and increase the safety of pedestrians crossing SR 41. An increase in law enforcement presence may also encourage motorists to slow down in the residential areas of Kettleman City, where children frequently walk in the roads. There are no existing sidewalks to encourage a sense of safety when walking through the community. Walking and bicycling are two easy and inexpensive forms of exercise that are available to the low-income residents of Kettleman City that could improve the health of residents if done consistently.

- **Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit mobility and access** – The residents of Kettleman City have stated their desire to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety along community streets, specifically in regards to State Route 41. State Route 41 divides the residential area of Kettleman City and residents have expressed critical concern over the speed of traffic and unsafe conditions that pedestrians are faced with. Currently the only pedestrian crossing across SR 41 is a painted crosswalk at General Petroleum Avenue, where approximately 20 school children cross twice a day to attend school. This key intersection is the main crossing for residents to access all community services including the post office, library, community center, elementary school, and two small grocery stores.

The residential area of Kettleman City has little to no pedestrian infrastructure to instill a sense of safety for residents walking or bicycling within the community (see figure 4). With increased accessibility and safe separation from motorists, walking and bicycling are likely to become more appealing to community residents. Existing roadways are open with pavement meeting dirt shoulders, leaving no separation between pedestrians and motorists. Unrestrained traffic speeds and lack of sidewalks negatively impact the small town residential feel, discouraging residents from walking and bicycling and potentially impacting the quality of life for residents. Traffic calming street designs of new community streets to promote speed reduction in residential area, commercial areas, and along parkways will be considered in the future. Traffic calming measure may include but not limited to bulb-outs, on-street angled parking, street medians, and textured crosswalks. Kettleman City does not have any designated bicycle classifications.

- **Public and stakeholder participation** – As Kettleman City residents have been traditionally left out of the transportation and planning decision making process, this study provides an opportunity for their voices and ideas to be heard. As the majority of the population is Hispanic, informational handouts, public meetings and events will be available and or conducted in both Spanish and English. To kick off the Kettleman City Safety Study a community movie night will be held where residents will have an opportunity to meet the stakeholders such as the California Highway Patrol, the Kings County Fire Department, and Waste Management. Prizes, food, drinks, and the movie will encourage residents to attend.

After the initial kick off event, a series of meetings will be held at familiar community locations such as the Kettleman Community Center or Kettleman Elementary School Cafeteria. All of the meetings will take place in the early evening when the greatest number of residents are available to attend. The meetings will also provide light refreshments and raffle prizes to encourage residents to participate and provide input. Written comment forms will also be available throughout the process for residents to provide input outside of a scheduled meeting, at their convenience. A community BBQ is attentively planned to commence the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study. It may be possible to coordinate this final community event with the Kings County Health Department's mobile health services and representatives from Kings County Community Action. Food, drinks, raffle prizes, games, and possibly a bounce house for the children will encourage attendance.

- **Measures to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions** – Not applicable.
- **Conservation of energy and other natural resources** – Not applicable.
- **Protection of sensitive habitat and farmland** – Not applicable.

20 points

4. Public Participation - Describe how the proposal will innovatively and collaboratively involve the public, community-based organizations, low-income and minority communities, Native American Tribal Governments, and under-represented groups in the planning and decision-making throughout the project.

This Kettleman City Safety and Community Study is first and foremost based on the involvement of the Kettleman City residents. Residents must be actively engaged to ensure the success of this Safety and Community Study. Stakeholders in the community are also very important and will include at a minimum the California Highway Patrol, the Kings County Fire Department, Waste Management, the Kettleman City Community Services District, the Kettleman City General Plan Advisory Group, Proteus, County of Kings, and the Kings County Association of Governments.

To kick off the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study in March 2009, a community “movie night” will be held where residents will have an opportunity to hear about the Safety and Community Study, pick up handouts and upcoming meeting dates, watch a family friendly movie, and meet the various committed stakeholders including the California Highway Patrol and the Kings County Fire Department. A movie night

was chosen as this is already an existing and well attended community monthly event and because the month of March is typically cold and would not lend itself well to an outdoor activity. Prizes, food, drinks, a movie, and possibly games will encourage families to attend. In small rural communities such as Kettleman City, word of mouth among residents is an important strategy to disseminate information. This was found to be case in the development of the Kettleman City Community Plan. Flyers, going door-to-door, handouts from the elementary school and preschool, utility bill inserts, and local media announcements will ensure that greatest number of residents are informed and encouraged to attend the community movie night. Every attempt to encourage residents to attend the kick off event will be taken. It may also be possible to coordinate the final event with the Kings County Health Department's mobile health services and representatives from Kings County Community Action

After the movie night event several meetings will be held at locations such as the Kettleman Elementary School Cafeteria or the Kettleman City Community Center. These meetings will include written materials and verbal presentations in both English and Spanish. Light refreshments, snacks, and raffle prizes will be available at every meeting to encourage public participation. Gift cards from local businesses such as the auto parts and grocery stores will be utilized whenever possible.

The first 5 meetings will be directed towards visioning, brainstorming, and gathering ideas from the community. It is envisioned that two general community meetings will be held, each with a separate focus on safety and community development. In addition, brainstorming meetings will be held with the local businesses, the school district, and the youth (7th-12th grades). The remaining 2-3 will focus on possible solutions as researched and presented by the consultant and review and community input from the residents on the draft report.

The Kettleman City Safety and Community Study will conclude with a community BBQ to be most likely held at the community park. Efforts will be taken coordinate this final community event with attractions such as a Kings County Fire Truck and demonstrations, the Kings County Health Department's mobile health services, and representatives from Kings County Community Action. Food, drinks, raffle prizes, games, and possibly a bounce house for the children will encourage families to attend.

5. Project Outcomes - Explain how the proposal will ensure a successful outcome and be carried forward to the next stage.

The Kettleman City Safety and Community Study can ensure a positive outcome and progression to the next steps of completion because of the well thought out implementation plan and the recent successful efforts of the Kettleman City Community Plan. The Kettleman City Community Plan effort was successful in engaging the residents in the planning process and building partnership between the residents and stakeholders. Throughout the Community Plan development, Kettleman City residents attended a series of community meetings. A Kettleman City General Plan Advisory Group, made up of community members and stakeholders was created to provide additional community representation and to provide guidance in engaging the residents. Specific details can be found in the Kettleman City Community Plan found online at <http://www.countyofkings.com/planning/genplan/Communityplans.htm> .

After the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study is complete, it is the intent of Kings County to pursue a Safe Routes to School Grant to implement the pedestrian safety improvements around the Elementary School. Kings County Association of Governments will work with Kings County and Caltrans to allocate Transportation Enhancement funds for a gateway “Vista to the Valley” project. These gateway community signs should be placed at key entrance points along SR 41 to promote economic development and to increase awareness of the highway travelers, residents, and visitors of this community existence. The “Vista to the Valley” signs will be integrated in the downtown commercial area and residential area of Kettleman City as the city grows. Street signs and landscaping will use street names and features that tie to the Kettleman “Vista to the Valley” logo and will increase civic pride and instill a greater sense of ownership among community residents.

Collaboration with Caltrans will take place to identify improvements in a highway paving project on SR 41 scheduled for 2011. It is in this manner that the next steps as discussed in detail in the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study and the Kettleman City Community Plan will come to fruition.

To the best of my knowledge, all information contained in this proposal is true and correct.

Signature of Authorized Official (Applicant)

Print Name

Title

Date

Signature of Authorized Official (Sub-recipient)

Print Name

Title

Date

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Signed Application
- ✓ Scope of Work (see sample of required format on Page 48)
- ✓ Project Timeline (see sample of required format on Pages 51 and blank on Page 52)
- ✓ Local Resolution (see Page 11)
- ✓ Map of Project Area
- ✓ Digital Photographs of Project Area (when applicable)
- ✓ Five signed hard copies and one electronic copy on a CD of the entire Application and all documents

Kettleman City Safety and Community Study Scope of Work

PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH

1. Retain a Planning Consultant

Task 1.1

- Develop and circulate a Request for Proposals.

Task 1.2

- Review and evaluate proposals that are submitted by interested consultants.

Task 1.3

- Prepare a contract for consultant.

Task 1.4

- Choose consultant and enter into an agreement for their services.

Deliverables	Documentation
Prepare and distribute a Request for Proposal, review submitted bids, prepare contract, and enter into an agreement with chosen consultant.	Request for Proposal, submitted proposals, and signed contract with consultant.

2. Prepare for Workshops

Task 2.1

- Work with stakeholders, partnering community organizations, and consultant to identify the structure and goals of the workshops.

Task 2.2

- Identify potential dates, times, and locations, for the workshops.

Task 2.3

- Begin preparations for the community kick off meeting.

Task 2.4

- Prepare and gather workshop materials such as raffles prizes, visuals, and handouts.

Deliverable	Documentation
Meet with stakeholders and partners to brainstorm the details of community workshops. Begin preparations for the kick off event, workshops, and materials.	Final workshop dates and location, workshop handouts and materials.

3. Media and Outreach

Task 3.1

- Prepare media products in English and Spanish such as flyers, pre-school and school notes, utility inserts, and press releases.

Task 3.2

- Distribute and mail out the final media products.

Task 3.3

Post workshop information at central community locations such as the post office, library, and grocery store.

Task 3.4

Work with community leaders to help spread the word.

Task 3.5

Go door to door talking to residents about the community workshops.

Deliverable	Documentation
Develop, post, and distribute media products.	Copy of media products and mailing list.

4. Community Workshops

Task 4.1

- Hold kick off event introducing the project to the community.

Task 4.2

- Host visioning workshops with local businesses, school district officials, and the youth (7th- 12th grades).

Task 4.3

- Host two general community meetings focusing separately on safety and community development.

Task 4.4

- Host general community workshops with a focus on possible solutions and reviewing the study report findings.

Deliverable	Documentation
Host several community workshops.	Copies of agendas, sign in sheets, photographs, and meeting summaries.

SAFETY AND COMMUNITY REPORT

5. Develop Project Study Report

Task 5.1

- Consultant will review existing documents such as the Kettleman City Community Plan that provides information on Kettleman City as related to the study.

Task 5.2

- Consultant will collect detailed input from residents including ideas, suggestions, and complaints.

Task 5.3

- Research a variety of solutions that would address the concerns of Kettleman City residents that meet Caltrans requirements as related to safety and community study issues.

Task 5.4

- Present in detail the results of the research such as additional crosswalk signage, options to warn motorists in advance including a solar flashing light, and other options in regards to the safety of pedestrians crossing State Route 41.

Task 5.5

- Draft a report that describes the best practices to address the specific concerns of the study. Identify the next steps and possible funding sources in addition to the Safe Routes to School Program and Transportation Enhancement Funding.

Task 5.6

- Finalize the draft study report to include any additional comments, clarifications, or suggestions from residents and stakeholders.

Task 5.7

- Submit the draft report to Caltrans for review and the final report for approval.

Deliverable	Documentation
Reviewing existing documents, collect input from residents, research and present traffic calming solutions and community design options, develop and finalize study report.	Summary of meetings, photographs, and 6 hard copies and 6 electronic copies submitted to Caltrans of the final study report.

ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION

6. Project Management and Final Product

Task 6.1

- Kings County Association of Governments will provide administrative oversight throughout the grant process.
- Kings County Planning Department will oversee the day to day management and work extensively with the consultant, stakeholders, and community members.

Task 6.2

- A final study report will be delivered to Caltrans for review and approval.

Deliverable	Documentation
Project management and final report.	Processing invoices, reviewing deliverables, monitoring consultant work and developing/ delivering a final product consisting of 6 hard copies and 6 electronic copies to the Caltrans Project Manager.