



Kings County Association of Governments

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

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Joe Neves, Vice-Chairperson, at 4:32 p.m., on April 23, 2008 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Barba, Dan Chin, Ray Lerma, Paul Marquez, Joe Neves,

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ed Martin, Sid Craighead

STAFF PRESENT: Seth Eberhard, Victoria Hall, Terri King, Chris Lehn, Kyle Sand, County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: David Wlaschin, Elaine Azevedo, Angie Offenburger

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES – March 26, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2008. Motion carried with Commissioner Chin abstaining.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2008-09 Transportation Development Act

Mr. Eberhard reported that claims for the FY 2008-09 Transportation Development Act have been submitted. The apportionments will be revised after the 2008 population estimates are released on May 1, 2008. Revised claim forms will be sent after that date. He provided the definitions of unmet transit needs and reasonable to meet, summarized results of the on-board transit survey and attainment of service goals.

Mr. Eberhard stated that an unmet transit needs public hearing has been scheduled for today and will be continued until May 28, 2008. During the KCAPTA public hearing most of the public's comments were for more shelters, benches and repair of existing facilities. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) has met and discussed unmet transit needs and the status of the current transportation services by transit operators and will be meeting again in June following the unmet needs public hearings to discuss a recommended finding. The final approval of the TDA apportionments, allocations and unmet transit needs determinations is scheduled to take place at the June TPC meeting.

Commissioner Neves opened the hearing public hearing. Mr. Eberhard read a letter from Mr. Anderson of Hanford stating he appreciates KART's service and that it is vital to the area.

Commissioner Neves stated the public hearing would remain open for the next 30 days. We will be meeting on May 28th in the Ag Commissioner's meeting room. Ms. King stated that we would need to revise the public hearing notice for the new location.

2. 2006 FTIP – Amendment No. 7

Ms. King stated we prepare a Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) which identifies all the federally funded projects. We are getting toward the end of the federal fiscal year where we need to make some adjustments to our projects currently programmed within the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Funds (CMAQ). The City of Hanford and County of Kings requested cost increases for two projects currently programmed. In order to fund those cost increases and other changes and still maintain financial constraint, KCAPTA agreed to delay and delete a project.

The handout adds a few more projects to the amendment for the CMAQ funds. For the City of Lemoore we have two projects that are not able to meet their timeline at this point so we want to delay those two projects. These are the signals at Bush Street and Belle Haven and Bush and 19 ½ Ave., currently programmed in 07-08 to be delayed to 08-09. The County of Kings also has two projects that are not able to meet their timeline. These include the signal at 18th Ave. / Jersey Ave. and the seal unpaved road projects. The last additional change is a project for KCAPTA that was advanced from 08-09 to 06-07 for the new buses. The revised resolution identifies these changes that have been discussed tonight.

The second part of the amendment adds a new project for the 10th Ave. Hanford Gateway to the Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding. Funding was added in FY 07-08 for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$49,000 and \$394,000 for construction in FY 08-09, for a total of \$443,000 in TE funds. The non federal share is coming from the state.

Commissioner Barba asked if the signal project on 13th Ave. and Lacey Blvd. was a shared project between the County and Hanford because local match funding is being shown as strictly county funding. Ms. King replied that the County was the project sponsor, but is working with the city on the project.

Commissioner Neves opened the public hearing regarding 2007 FTIP Amendment No. 7. There being no comments, Commissioner Neves closed the public hearing.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve 2007 FTIP Amendment No. 7 with the adoption of Resolution No. 08-03. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Prop. 1B – California Transit Assistance Fund Designation

Ms. King reported that under Prop. 1B there is \$1 billion identified for the Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Account. Under that program is a sub-program called the California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF) and the legislature has appropriated \$60 million statewide via Senate Bill 88 for these projects. Funds are allocated similar to FTA, with a portion based on population and a portion based on revenue of transit operators. There are two separate dollar amounts, Section 8879.58(a)(2) for \$118,723, which is the part the regional agency is responsible for; and Section 8879.58(a)(3) for \$23,951, which is the operator revenue share that KCAPTA and City of Corcoran are eligible to apply for.

KCAPTA submitted an application for their share of \$23,364 and KCAG submitted an application for our share of \$118,723 for a project to retrofit KART buses with new surveillance systems.

A motion was made and seconded (Lerma / Chin) to adopt Resolution No. 08-04 for Prop 1B California Transit Assistance Fund Designation and to authorize the Executive Director to execute for and on behalf of any applicant for this section 8879.58 funds. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FY 2007-08 RSTP Exchange Agreement

Ms. King stated every year we receive an apportionment of Federal Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds (RSTP) and the final FY 07-08 estimates of those funds have been released. Every year we exchange these funds for State funds under two separate apportionments, one for the RTPA which is \$1,158,297 and the other for a separate apportionment for the County of \$288,086. We allocate these funds to the member agencies based on a formula using lane miles within their jurisdictions.

A motion was made and seconded (Chin / Barba) to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement to exchange the FY 2007-2008 RSTP funds with the adoption of Resolution 08-05. Motion was carried unanimously.

5. CMAQ Call for Projects

Ms. King stated that Kings County receives an annual apportionment of Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and we need to program those in the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The total amount available for programming from the FY 2011-12 apportionment is \$1.5 million, of which the non-federal match would be 11.47% depending on the type project. KCAG released the “call for projects” that are due in by May 2nd. Adopted previously is a policy regarding cost effectiveness threshold, where we agreed we would distribute at least 20% of CMAQ funds to projects that need a minimum cost-effectiveness threshold for emission reductions. Applications expected to be submitted would be for signals, seals, and diesel traps for transit buses and other vehicles. This is just one year of apportionments, but depending on the number of projects that are proposed, we might want to program additional future apportionments.

6. 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Revision

Ms. King stated back in February we submitted an adopted Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) showing where our regional share of funds would go. We have proposed additional funds for some cost increases and asked for an advance in order to fund the construction of the 19th Ave. project.

Regarding the 19th Ave. project, our original estimate was \$22 million for construction, but it was brought to our attention that the cost was not escalated out to FY 2010-11 that we had proposed for programming. The most recent estimated escalated cost is \$26.3 million for the construction phase. No other changes are proposed. We are recommending that KCAG revise its funding request now rather than after the STIP is adopted.

Caltrans is also requesting that KCAG revise the funding proposal for the SR 198 Expressway project. We had worked with the District to obtain the latest cost breakdown, but they didn't match up with what Headquarters wanted. We are just revising our submittal to match what the State agreed to do and no additional funds are being requested.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to revise the 2008 RTIP submittal with the identified changes. Motion carried unanimously.

7. 511 System Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Eberhard reported last year at this time the 511 systems allows travelers to call by either cell phone or land line to get relevant travel data including road conditions, public transit information, carpooling, weather, and various other options.

Last year the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) extended an offer to the eight counties in the Valley to join their established 511 systems and cover all the operating costs. At that time, KCAG recommended that we not participate. However, each of the other Valley counties has agreed to participate. Kings County would join in the baseline system at no cost. A baseline 511 system consists of call forwarding to Caltrans road conditions if a user selects the Kings County option and is using a cell phone. If KCAG decided to include public transit data specific to Kings County, a land based phone would be needed to be installed at a cost to KCAG. This is above and beyond the baseline, but is optional and could be added at a later date.

Commissioner Neves asked if it would be possible to get a report on how many calls were generated from our area, tracking and monitoring the use. Mr. Eberhard stated he will report back with that information.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to authorize the Chairman to sign the MOU regarding participation in SACOG's 511 Phone System. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Caltrans Reports

Mr. Marquez reported on the status of the SR198 Expressway Project which is in the right of way stage and the District intends to submit the design specifics up to Sacramento this week. The interchange project on 12th Ave. and SR198 is in the environmental stage. For the 19th Ave. interchange project, Caltrans is looking at traffic numbers that could impact the design of the project. The Sunflower II projects are progressing and the only delays will be in Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties. The project will be completed in August.

C. Correspondence

Ms. King handed out a proposed draft letter of support for a Caltrans application for Federal funds for extending the double tracking through Kings Industrial Park in Hanford. Caltrans has already received funding through Prop 116 and bonding funds for double tracking the San Joaquins Amtrak line to improve system performance. They are going to apply for a Federal Railway Administration grant to extend that double tracking an addition 7.9 miles south of the current line. Caltrans is requesting a letter of support from the local agencies for their application.

Commissioner Neves stated by consensus that the letter of support, as presented, be submitted.

D. Staff Comments

Ms. King stated that since the emission budgets have not yet been approved by EPA, an assortment of Federal TIP documents and air quality conformity determinations will need to be done. We need to do two FTIPs, a standard one and then one without non-exempt projects just in case those budgets are not approved in time. Draft documents are supposed to be released in May, then we will have a public hearing in June and adopt in July and submitted to state and federal agencies by August 1st so that it can be approved in time so that our projects can proceed.

E. Commissioner Comments

None

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on April 23, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on April 23, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Areawide Planning Review No. 08-01 Self Help Enterprises USDA Rural Housing Preservation Grant

Mr. Eberhard reported Kings County Community Action Organization is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$110,000. They will be providing \$250,000 in addition to the grant from program funding.

The grant application is for funding from the USDA Rural Development towards the preservation of housing for low to very low income households by providing loans and/or grants to repair their homes and bring them up to RHS thermal standards.

We have received comments from the City of Hanford Public Works Department, the City of Corcoran, and Kings County Environmental Health Services that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Chin / Barba) to ratify comments of staff and other reviewers regarding Areawide Planning Review No. 08-01. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Housing Needs Allocation Methodology

Ms. Lehn stated that staff is working on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan for which the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has told Kings County that we need to show HCD that we can accommodate 11,489 housing units. That number is not a quota so HCD isn't saying Kings County has to build those units; we have to show through our plan that we can accommodate them. What KCAG is doing to facilitate that process is we are working with representatives from the Cities and the County and has created the Kings Regional Housing Technical Advisory Committee which has recommended the weighted methodology included in the agenda package. This advisory committee has indicated that the population growth over this 7.5 year planning period that we are looking at is the most important factor. Because of that, population growth has been given 75% of that methodology, following that is 10% for building permits, 10% for market demand and 5% for economic development and other growth factors. It is this group, with the support of KCAG staff, recommends that this Commission approve the methodology.

A question was asked about how good was this methodology and the placement of 12,000 homes. Ms. Lehn replied it is a good methodology looking at some of the other COGs and the placement of all those housing units is part of the frustration, all of the counties are dealing with HCD numbers, just looking at historical data these are more than twice than what we have actually produced and that is consistent throughout the state.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve the RHNA methodology. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Kings County Blueprint Scenarios Outreach

Ms. Lehn reported on the monthly Blueprint update, recapping what has been happening for the last 30 days and also the upcoming events. Presentations to the local governing boards have continued. We are taking a proactive role making sure all the boards are made aware of what is going on. We have five public workshops coming up and we are hoping to engage the public. These will occur the week of May 12th in each city and a final workshop on May 22nd at the Government Center Multipurpose Room. We are planning workshops where there will be stations with the scenario maps and planners available at every station.

This Friday there is an Executive Valley Forum where we have some representation from Kings County attending. Next month will be a summary of all the comments from the public community workshops and the recommendation from the Blueprint Planners Group, which is the group that has representation from cities and county and has been involved in planning the base case scenarios.

5. Board Chambers Audio System Upgrade Cost Sharing and Budget Amendment

Ms. Venturella asking for participation in funding the upgrade of the board chambers. The County is upgrading the sound system, video equipment, digital recording and archiving systems. The current system is 31 years old and continually failing. The Board of Supervisors requested staff to research equipment and for the groups that utilize the room on a continual basis to help in the up-grade cost. The KCAG's portion of the cost would be \$6,990.46. The plan is to have the equipment installed between May 21st and June 2nd; all staff within the participating entities would be trained during that time of the programming and mechanics of the equipment.

Ms. King stated KCAG does have savings in salaries that we can pay for the upgrade from this budget year. Included in this agenda item is a budget transfer for the cost of the upgrade.

A motion was made and seconded (Lerma / Chin) to approve the request to share in the cost of the audio upgrade of the Board Chambers and approve a budget transfer of \$6,990.46 from Salaries and Employee Benefits to Office Expense for the cost of the upgrade. Motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

Ms. King presented an email trying to schedule the next SJV Policy Council meeting; our members are Commissioner Barba and Commissioner Craighead with Commissioner Neves as alternate. They are looking at May 23rd in Fresno at 10:00 a.m. or in the afternoon of June 6th or the morning of June 20th.

Video Conferencing Equipment – It has been suggested by Fresno COG that we reconsider sharing in the cost of video conferencing equipment because there has been another change in the cost to us for a system. Fresno COG submitted an application to the Air District which included us in that proposal. They felt that it was a stronger proposal if they included all eight counties. There are two options both are a one time cost with no annual fees. The first is the lower cost which no other COG is doing and would be a desk top camera on the computer for approximately \$1,000. The other option is self contained portable unit, which could be used in other locations with an internet connection for \$5,744. The cost includes installation, on site training and assistance.

Commissioner Neves stated by consensus that the portable video conferencing equipment is approved.

B. Staff Comments

None

C. Commissioner Comments

None

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular scheduled meeting will be a special meeting due to the change of location. The meeting will be held on May 28th, in the Ag Extension Building, Multipurpose Room, 680 North Campus Drive, Hanford.

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri King".

Terri King, Executive Director