



Kings County Association of Governments

339 W. "D" Street, Suite B, Lemoore, California 93245
(559) 582-3211 extension 2654 ❖ FAX (559) 924-5632
www.countyofkings.com/kcag

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, Chairperson, at 4:30 p.m., on July 23, 2008 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, Sid Craighead, Ray Lerma, Ed Martin, Joe Neves, Sharri Bender-Ehlert

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dan Chin

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

VISITORS PRESENT: Elaine Azevedo, Ron Hughes

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES – June 25, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to approve the Minutes of June 25, 2008. Motion carried.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Final Interim 2009 FTIP Resolution No. 08-09

Ms. King reported that the final 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) was revised based on comments received during the comment period which ended last month after the public hearing. Handed out was the response to the comments. She stated that the Interim FTIP is being adopted because the air quality budgets have not been approved. Therefore the difference between the regular FTIP and the Interim FTIP is there are phases of our three highway projects that have not been included because those phases have not been approved to proceed with an obligation of funds. Environmental and design phases are exempt and may proceed.

The projects and phases not included are right of way and construction for the 12th Ave. and 19th Ave. interchanges; construction for the SR 198 Expressway; and the CMAQ funded construction for the rail spur project in Hanford. We will begin processing an amendment to the Interim FTIP to add the project phases back in by relying on the previous emissions analysis.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Barba) to adopt Resolution 08-10 to approve the final 2009 Interim FTIP. Motion carried unanimously.

2. San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Goods Movement and Trade Corridor

Ms. King reported the current Federal transportation act SAFETEA-LU is about to expire. With the Valley being the poorest congressional district in the country, the Valley RTPAs would like to include into the new Federal transportation act a program for the San Joaquin Valley similar to the Appalachian Development Highway System, where they get millions of federal dollars each year over the life of the Federal Transportation Act. The proposal is for a San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Goods Movement Trade Corridor Program. A list of projects is being developed to show that there is a need and to justify that need. The criteria for projects is that they fit within one of the four major components of SR 99, trade corridors, grade separations, and rail, have to be completed by a certain date and have a local funding match available.

Each county came up with a draft list of projects, which was handed out. The list for Kings County projects included the 19th Ave. and 9th Ave. interchanges on SR 198, a grade separation at Grangeville Blvd and BNSF Railroad, and the CMAQ project for the rail spur at the Hanford Industrial Park.

3. Federal Transportation Act – Statewide Principles

Ms. King stated as previously mentioned, SAFETEA-LU is about ready to expire and transportation stakeholders in the State have held meetings and discussed what the principals in the next Federal transportation Act should be and how they can be beneficial to the State of California. They have come up with several principals which cover ensuring financial integrity, maintaining the infrastructure, establishing the goods movement, enhanced mobility, strengthen federal commitment to safety and security, strengthen environmental stewardship, and streamline project delivery. These are the principles that have been vetted throughout the State and they are asking that each of the State's RTPAs adopt these principals.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Martin) to accept the statewide principles for the next Federal Transportation Act. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Caltrans Reports

Ms. Ehlert commented on an effort that Caltrans is working on right now in conjunction with the COGs in the Central Valley to conduct an economic study to determine if improvements to convert SR 99 into an interstate would provide economic benefit. The goal is to get the study done so it could be handed off to the electeds at the congressional level so they can take that information back to Washington DC and work on leveraging funding for a new program. Caltrans is hoping to have a draft document by August and finalized by September. Commissioner Neves asked if the program would include other areas even though SR 99 does not run through Kings County, would we be involved, and will it be expanded to the entire Valley? Ms. Ehlert stated the economic study relates to improvements to SR 99, but the economic benefits could be reaped by all the counties within the Central Valley.

Ms. Ehlert stated that Caltrans is still working on the right of way acquisition for the project to widen SR 198. They are planning to have the project ready to advertise by October of 2008. The Sunflower II project on SR 41 in Kings, Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties is almost finished and should be done in August. There is an overlay project on SR 41 near Lemoore between Fremont Ave. and Laguna Ave. that is scheduled for completion later this month. There are a couple maintenance projects also on SR 41 between Laurel Ave. and Empire Canal, and between County Rd. and Bull Wheel Ridge Rd. which should be completed by August.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

Ms. King mentioned that the CTC was meeting this week to discuss the impacts of the State budget proposal to borrow Proposition 42 funds on the current State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). If this were to happen, the CTC would propose to revise the 2008 STIP fund estimate and the 2008 STIP by deleting projects. There is going to be a media release telling the public what is going to happen if the State takes away these funds.

E. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barba asked if we got the extension we requested from Sacramento on the Hanford Gateway Transportation Enhancement project. Ms. King stated the allocation and extensions for the TE project was approved as requested by the County.

Commissioner Barba asked what Caltrans was doing on SR 198 and 13th Ave. Ms. Elhert stated she was unaware of any project, but would look to see if there are any projects in that area.

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

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

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

2. SJVAPCD / SJV COGs Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. King stated that in 1992 all eight of the RTPAs entered into a MOU with the Air District because of all the air quality planning we have to do. We recently established the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council to represent us in public forums. The Policy Council is comprised of two elected officials from each of the eight valley counties. We are updating this MOU with the Air District to reflect our continuing cooperation of all agencies. The MOU does not provide for any significant changes from the current policies, just confirms and updates what we are already doing.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to authorize the signing of the MOU with the Air District. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Kings County Blueprint Update

Ms Lehn reported that included in the agenda are the top two growth scenarios that the public chose and the results of the wrap up workshop that was held May 22nd. She handed out three comment letters from the Lemoore Naval Air Station, the City of Hanford, and a Hanford Planning Commissioner Jennings that were submitted during the comment period. KCAG is working with the planners on two items. The first is the Blueprint Planning Principles that will consist of general policy statements that are not meant to supersede the policies identified in the current general plans. She elaborated that the jurisdictions will have the option to detail the specific objectives as to how they will meet these principles or otherwise specifying the where and the how they will grow. We do anticipate there to be some language addressing agricultural land preservation and housing choices. Furthermore, KCAG is having discussions with the planners to limit growth to within a Blueprint Growth Boundary based on either a modified primary or secondary sphere of influence. The second item that Ms. Lehn outlined was the Kings County Blueprint preferred scenario. She explained that this is the visual footprint representation for growth in the year 2050 and is also the data input that will be submitted to UC Davis when they do the valley wide U-Plan Land Use Model run.

Ms. Lehn reported that the Planners agreed to mask out all the lands outside a specified boundary and direct growth to within the unmasked area. The model report will tell us how many acres are allocated and how much growth we cannot allocate. She continued that we can then tweak the numbers which will enable us to look at density changes. We are hoping to get consensus on these two products to be brought to this Commission for your consideration in August.

Commissioner Neves stated he was under the impression the greenbelt around the LNAS was two miles, but the written document says three miles. Ms. Lehn will research that issue and let the Commission know regarding the greenbelt differences.

Ms. Elhert asked if Quay Valley has been a consideration in the Blueprint process. Ms. Lehn replied that it was considered in the new city and expanded communities scenario, which included Quay Valley, and that it was one of the least favorable scenarios at our public workshops. If the project does move forward we would have to address it in our base case at some point in the future.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None

B. Staff Comments

Ms. King announced the Fall Policy Conference will be held in Visalia, October 2-3, 2008 at the Convention Center. Also the One Voice Trips are scheduled for Sacramento on January 28, 2009 and in Washington, DC on February 25-26, 2009.

C. Commissioner Comments

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on August 27th.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director