



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 4:32 p.m., on October 22, 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, Dan Chin, Sid Craighead, Ray Lerma, Ed Martin, Joe Neves, Sharri Bender-Ehlert

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

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

VISITORS PRESENT: Joanne Striebich, Caltrans

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES – September 24, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2008. Motion carried unanimously, with Commissioner Martin abstaining.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. SR 198 Corridor System Management Plan

Ms. King reported as a condition for receiving Proposition 1B funds for the State Route 198 project, Caltrans has to prepare a Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP). Caltrans has drafted the plan that encompasses the area that extends along SR 198 between Lemoore NAS and Highway 99. Included in the agenda is a draft CSMP plan that has been reviewed by the local agencies and stake holders including Kings and Tulare Counties. Comments were received and incorporated, and the final document.

Ms. King introduced Ms. Joanne Striebich from Caltrans District 6 Planning, who discussed the Route 198 CSMP. The Plans are required for the use of Prop 1B funds. The CSMP is a long range planning document, which includes some special features which we have not used in some of our other documents, including performance measures, a 10, 20 and beyond 20 year plan for additional improvements on the corridor and a stronger emphasis on alternative modes of transportation, and local roads within the corridor. The process of developing a CSMP is a cooperative one between Caltrans and our local partners. In order to develop a CSMP a project development team was formed. The team includes representatives from local cities and counties within the CSMP limits as well as the local MPO's and tribal governments. In the case of this CSMP it also included representatives from the Lemoore Naval Air Station. During these team meetings, the team was faced with a number of decisions. The first was extent of the CSMP, known as the logical termini. The logical termini do not need to include the entire route but the CTC emphasizes that it could not coincide with the limits of the construction project, it needed to go beyond that. The logical termini that were chosen by this team were the Lemoore NAS and route 99 in Tulare County. This encompasses the route 198 expressway project, which is funded by Prop 1B which extends from SR 43 in Hanford to about a half mile west of Route 99. In District 6 we have four CSMPs underway for the five Prop 1B projects. Great effort has been made that the format and content are consistent throughout all of the CSMPs, so changes that were made on the SR 198 CSMP were also made to the other documents where that was appropriate. We are trying to improve the readability and the usefulness of the documents by keeping them consistent. The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) and Caltrans have all signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that states our intentions of working together on the preparation of this project. The CSMP must also be approved by all three entities; TCAG approved the SR 198 CSMP at their meeting this last Monday.

Commissioner Barba stated that the Prop. 1B project was good for us, but there is a bottleneck to the west and asked if Fresno County had thought about making improvements to SR 198 out to Interstate 5? Ms. Striebich stated we have some constraints on doing the CSMPs, we had very short time frames in order to implement them and still get the money from the Prop 1B. So we had to be rather cautious on our logical termini so we didn't bite off more than we could chew in the time frame we had. We had not discussed yet what our next steps will be for the Corridor System Management Plans. We do assume that they will be a requirement in future funded projects, so we are anticipating needing to do more of them and one step maybe to expand the limits of the ones we have already started.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve the SR 198 CSMP with the adoption of Resolution No. 08-11. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. King stated over the last month or so we have been processing Amendment No. 1 to our Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The amendment was needed because the air quality conformity budgets had not yet been approved by the EPA and we needed to add in projects and phases that were not except from an air quality conformity analysis, but could rely on the previous emissions analysis. In the mean time, EPA did approve the new budgets and therefore we have to withdraw the amendment.

We are in the process of preparing Amendment No. 2 which includes adding in those same projects and/or project phases and a new conformity analysis based on the new budgets. Additional projects that were approved for the Federal Safe Routes to Schools Program for Avenal and Lemoore will also be included in the amendment.

3. Kettleman City Grant

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to add the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study as an emergency item to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. King stated last month Caltrans awarded KCAG the grant for the Kettleman City Safety and Community study. In order to sign the agreement with Caltrans for funding we need to have a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign that contract with Caltrans.

A motion was made and seconded (Lerma / Chin) to adopt Resolution 08-12 to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Caltrans for the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study funding. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Caltrans Reports

Ms. Bender-Ehlert reported that the Federal Safe Routes to School program for cycle two was announced. There was a total of \$46 million that was awarded statewide and 20 of those grants were in our five county district for a total of \$3.6 million. Two of them were for Avenal to install an in-pavement lighted crosswalk at the intersection of 7th Ave. and Orange Street for \$53,000 and the other project was in Lemoore for an educational program to implement a walking school bus program and safety education program for Cinnamon and Meadow Lane Elementary Schools.

Ms. Bender-Ehlert reported on the projects under construction, there is a maintenance project on SR 43 from Lansing Ave. to just north of SR 198 that should be completed in November. The SR 198 Expressway project has right of way certification of three properties that still has to go through orders of possession to finalize the right of way. Caltrans is expecting to advertise for construction in April. The SR 198 at 12th Ave. interchange project is in the process of finishing up the draft environmental document and will be out for public review next week and the environmental should be wrapped up by summer of next year. The SR 198 at 19th Ave. interchange project is in the design phase and in December will be doing a value analysis. A team of people get together and look for cost effective ways to improve the cost and bring the cost of the project down. That project is scheduled to be done and ready to list for advertisement in November 2009.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

Ms. King stated next month a FY 08-09 OWP amendment will be brought before the Commission to add the Kettleman City project and another study regarding the tribal consultation and coordination. There will be an article in the local paper regarding the store and gas station that was removed as part of the SR 198 right of way efforts.

E. Commissioner Comments

None

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on October 22, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on October 22, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Fourth Year Regional Blueprint Planning Grant

Ms. Lehn reported that the San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government are applying for a fourth year grant from the California Regional Blueprint Grant Program. She noted that three grants totaling just over \$5 million have been previously awarded to the Valley. Ms. Lehn commented that if successful, this grant funding will focus on implementation of the Blueprint Project, developing the final blueprint document, and evaluating the economic value of land use. The Blueprint efforts may also lend themselves to working towards California's green house gas laws.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to authorize the submittal of a fourth year grant application to the California Regional Planning Program. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Blueprint Update

Ms. Lehn stated that the draft San Joaquin Valley Blueprint maps have been prepared by UC Davis staff and will be presented to the Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee on November 7, 2008. Ms. Lehn explained that there are three maps that represent the recent development trends, the locally preferred scenarios, and a valley wide hybrid. The valley wide hybrid map was developed by UC Davis professional staff, whereas the remaining two valley scenario maps are a compilation of the local modeling work from the eight counties. Ms. Lehn continued that a valley wide media campaign will begin in mid November to direct the public to the website www.valleyblueprint.org to provide comments on the regional scenarios. Ms. Lehn also encouraged attendance of the January 26, 2009 Valley summit.

Commissioner Barba asked if Quay Valley was identified on the regional scenario maps. Ms. Lehn responded that Quay Valley was not included in the local scenario information provided to UC Davis.

4. Schedule November/December Meeting

Commissioner Neves stated the LAFCO meeting was scheduled for December 3, 2008. Due to the Holiday schedule, KCAG should set our next meeting for the same date at the normal time of 4:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None

B. Staff Comments

Ms. King stated the recruitment for Regional Planner should be open tomorrow for approximately 2 weeks.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Neves recognized Commissioner Martin's retirement and thanked him for his service to his community. Commissioner Martin stated it has been a pleasure. Ms. King stated that staff appreciated his efforts over the years working on KCAG issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director