



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 regular meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Dan Chin, Vice Chairperson, at 4:35 p.m., on September 23, 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, Mary Hornsby, Jim Jepsen, Joe Neves, Paul Marquez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ray Lerma

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Abanathie, Victoria Hall, Terri King, Chris Lehn, David Hamilton, County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT:

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES – August 26, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Triennial Performance Audit – Consultant Selection

Ms. King reported every three years KCAG is required to have a triennial performance audit done of the two transit operators and the regional transportation planning agency. The audit is scheduled to be submitted the end of this year covering the period of FY 2006-07 through FY 2008-09. A request for proposals was released to consulting firms with a budget of \$35,000. Four bids were received and an Audit Proposal Committee consisting of KCAG staff, Ron Hughes and Steve Kroeker reviewed and scored the proposals. They have rated JKaplan the highest scoring consulting firm, with a budget of \$31,300.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Jepsen) to approve the selection of JKaplan & Associates to conduct the triennial performance audits and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for their services. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2009 Air Quality Conformity Redetermination

Mr. Abanathie reported Kings County is one of eight counties that make up the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) which is a federally designated non attainment area for three of the air pollution factors (NOx, ROG and PM 2.5) and maintenance for another factor (PM 10).

Because Kings County is part of the eight region air basin, when any one of the regions redetermines conformity, the other seven must also redetermine their conformity. We performed this same type of redetermination in July when San Joaquin COG redetermined their conformity in response to an amendment to their Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and requires a Conformity redetermination. Although this redetermination does not affect the Conformity determination of Kings County it does change the overall conformity document for the air basin.

A motion was made and seconded (Hornsby / Barba) to approve the redetermination of conformity for the Federally Approved 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 2 and 2007 RTP with the adoption of Resolution No. 09-11. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 6

Mr. Abanathie indicated as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kings County Region, KCAG is required to develop and maintain the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Amendment No. 6 to the 2009 FTIP is a formal amendment that adjusts the programming of air quality-exempt projects in the FTIP. This amendment reschedules projects for the City of Hanford and Kings County in order to make them deliverable.

This amendment meets all the applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450 and 40 CFR Part 93. As amended, the 2009 FTIP remains financially constrained, does not impact the current Air Quality Conformity determination or the timely implementation of transportation control measures.

A motion was made and seconded (Jepsen / Neves) to approve the 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 6 with the adoption of Resolution No. 09-12. Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2009 FTIP Administrative Modification No. 7

Mr. Abanathie stated administrative modification No. 7 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) makes minor modifications to the current programming of projects and funds. These modifications do not affect the timely implementation of any transportation control measures, the air quality conformity, or the financial constraint of the FTIP. This modification adjusts the programming of one American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded project.

5. High Speed Rail ARRA Application

Ms. King stated the California High Speed Rail Authority is submitting an application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. There is \$8 billion available for high speed rail and the Authority is proposing to submit an application for all ten segments of the high speed rail system. Originally this item was to approve a resolution for support of an application to include two segments for the Valley section. There were two segments of the Valley that were included in the proposed application. One is the non urban segment between Merced and Fresno and the second is the non urban segment between Fresno and Bakersfield. The Authority staff recommended both segments, but the Authority Chairman wanted only one. The Resolution is for support of an application that includes both segments for the Valley. Fortunately the Authority did meet this morning and they approved the application with both segments. There is no need to approve the Resolution for its original intended purpose, but it could be used as general support for the application if it is needed at the Federal level.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Jepsen) to adopt Resolution No. 09-13 supporting the inclusion of both San Joaquin Valley segments in the ARRA high speed rail application.

Ms. King highlighted another item regarding High Speed Rail which was handed out, a memo from the Authority regarding the interest in and the guidelines for the location of a high speed rail heavy maintenance facility. There is competition for the heavy maintenance facility which is to be located somewhere in this Valley segment. The guidelines specify the criteria for where the facility needs to be located. The environmental document also identifies a few potential sites for the heavy maintenance facility, including Castle Air Force Base, Madera, and Chowchilla. There has also been interest from Fresno and Tulare Counties.

B. Caltrans Reports

Mr. Marquez reported that the SR 198 Expressway contract has been awarded and construction is anticipated to start in November. The SR 198/12th Ave. interchange project is moving along in the project approval and environmental document phase scheduled for approval in October. The proposed new ramp is being discussed for the south/east corner of the interchange and is being included in the project report. For the SR 198/19th Ave., project our district design staff has been meeting with headquarters on structure type and expects to have a determination of structure type in the next few weeks. City of Lemoore staff has been working with the Caltrans architect and project development team on the landscape treatment theme and are also looking at the right of way estimates, which are based on utility relocation.

Caltrans had some workshops that were scheduled in late September early October throughout the state regarding the California Transportation Plan 2035 Update but they have been postponed until February or March 2010 because Caltrans is looking to broaden the Plan. Caltrans is taking the approach called the Statewide Regional Blueprint, taking into account all the regional blueprints that are being done up and down the state and looking at it from a statewide perspective. The interregional blueprint plan would identify interregional highways, projects, rail projects and other state projects. They would compliment projects already in the Regional Transportation Plans of the various RTPAs. The initial assessment of the impact of the interregional projects on the transportation system appear concurrently with the current 2035 policy element for delivery to the Business Transportation and Housing Agency in September 2010. The

interagency blueprint effort, because of the large size of the model, will continue beyond that date to coincide with the following update which will be at the end of 2015.

Mr. Marquez also addressed the request regarding SR 43 and Whitley Ave. in Corcoran. At the request of Kings County Public Works Director Harry Verheul, Caltrans is conducting a signal warrants study which should be completed by the end of October. Should signal warrants be met then it would get on a priority list. Depending on the availability of funds and based on priority, that would depend on where on the list of safety projects it would fall. It will probably take 2 to 4 years before the project would be started if it was identified as a safety project. There is another opportunity for funding with the Caltrans Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) which is a discretionary grant program that our local division offers and the deadline for this grant application is October 8th. Mr. Marquez noted he would provide the information to Mr. Verheul.

Commissioner Barba suggested that the Kings County Public Works Department submit an application for the HSIP safety grant.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

Ms. King noted the Valley COGs submitted an application to the Strategic Growth Council for Prop 84 funds. Previously it was mentioned that the Sacramento COG developed a plan as to how to split the \$12 million which is available through the Prop 84 funds to each of the COGs in order to upgrade models and do various other activities in preparation for SB 375 and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Valley submitted an application for \$2.5 million based on the distribution list that was developed and agreed to by the COGs. The application includes the sharing of \$1 million between Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties for the model update.

Ms. Lehn reported the 1st stakeholders meeting for the Kettleman City Safety and Community Study will be held Friday, October 9, 2009 in Kettleman City at the Community Hall from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Abanathie stated the Regional Transportation Plan is moving along on schedule. Today is the official kick off of the development of the Environmental Impact Report. The notice of preparation has been filed with the state clearinghouse. The notice of preparation and initial study has been distributed to the local agencies and our scoping meeting will be Monday, October 5th at 6 p.m. in Hanford at the Government Center in the Administration Building Multi Purpose Room.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on September 23, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on September 23, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Regional Blueprint Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Lehn reported the blueprint effort is in its 4th year focusing on local implementation. We have the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before you that each of the eight COGs will be taking to their governing boards, which will reaffirm our commitment to the blueprint project. The tasks we are focusing on this year are developing a valley wide blueprint document, tool kit, working on the green house gas emissions, modeling, and continuing to look at residential densities.

A motion was made and seconded (Hornsby / Neves) to authorize the KCAG Director to sign the MOU entering KCAG into a regional commitment to continue efforts on the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Program. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2009 Legislative Update - September

Ms. Lehn stated several of the bills KCAG staff has been following have been sent to enrollment and will then be sent to the Governor. The Governor has until October 11th to sign or veto bill or let bills become law without his signature. There were no last minute amendment changes to SB 716 or SB 406 and the language that was sent to enrollment is the same. SB 575 is the anticipated clean up to SB 375 that will sync the update schedule of the housing element to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) so they are more coordinated. SB 83 would allow a county transportation agency to add up to \$10 on motor vehicles register within the county to fund transportation projects. It would have to be passed by KCAG Commission and then the voters of the county. It was the consensus of the board not to support SB 83.

Ms. Lehn noted the 2010 Valley Voice legislative trips are scheduled for Sacramento February 2-3 and in Washington DC on March 3-4. Mary Hornsby expressed an interest in attending the Sacramento trip and it was the consensus of the Commission to consider the use of the county lobbyist to attend the Washington DC meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None

B. Staff Comments

Ms. King stated that the CALCOG delegate meeting is scheduled for November 30 2009 in San Diego. A CalCOG Delegate should be named for KCAG to attend the meeting which will be placed on the next agenda.

Ms. King handed out a letter from the Center of Creative Land Recycling regarding a grant application for the EPA revolving loan funds stating that there is an offer to join a coalition of Councils of Governments in which our member agencies would be eligible for up to \$1 million for each eligible applicant for infill and redevelopment projects of former brown fields. There is a 20% match required if the loan funds were received. After discussion, the Commission reached a consensus that KCAG be a participant on the coalition to be eligible for the EPA funds.

Ms. King reminded the Commissioners that the Policy Conference is next Thursday and Friday in Fresno and that Commissioners Barba and Craighead will be attending along with KCAG staff.

Ms. King reminded the Commissioners that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley had made a presentation to the Commission and requested funding for FY 2009-10 staff support. Our response was to leave it up to the individual jurisdictions to pay if they wanted to. The City of Avenal has already paid and we have received invoices for the other jurisdictions which will be distributed at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Lehn reported that the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) grant has been approved and the contract agreement has been signed. There will be a meeting October 21, 2009 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the multi purpose room, which is directed at staff from Lemoore, Kings County and Fresno County. Fresno County Supervisor Case will be attending as well as Supervisors Neves and Fagundes.

Ms. King noted that the joint housing element has been submitted to the state for review and comment by the Housing and Community Development, and a conference call has been scheduled with all parties concerned on October 14th 3:00 p.m.

Ms. King reported that the items on the next agenda may include the Planning, Programming and Monitoring agreement for receiving planning funds, more information on the JLUS, and legislative review for bills that were signed or vetoed by the Governor.

C. Commissioner Comments

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director