



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 4:34 p.m., on February 25, 2009 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: David Ayers, Tony Barba, Sid Craighead, Mary Hornsby, Joe Neves, Sharri Bender Ehlert

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dan Chin, Ray Lerma

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Abanathie, Rachel Audino, Seth Eberhard, Victoria Hall, Terri King, Christina Lehn, David Hamilton County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: John Plourde, Harry Verheul, Tyler Ayers

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

Ms. King introduced the two new KCAG staff members, Bruce Abanathie and Rachel Audino, who were welcomed by the Commissioners.

MINUTES – January 28, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to approve the Minutes of January 28, 2009. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Ayers and Craighead abstaining.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2009-10 Transit Development Act (TDA) Estimates

Mr. Eberhard stated the Kings County Auditor has provided an estimate for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) in the amount of \$3 Million. The LTF is allocated based on population and the estimates are included in the agenda. This fiscal year there will be no State Transit Assistance funds allocated at this time due to the State budget. TDA claim forms have been sent to all the claimants and they have been told to hold their unmet needs hearings and return their claim forms to KCAG not later than April 1. The approval of the TDA apportionments and allocation instructions will be made by resolution during the June TPC meeting.

2. 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment No. 3

Ms. King stated the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This was to provide Federal funds for economic stimulus of which there is a large pot of funds for transportation. Caltrans is requesting a formal amendment to the FTIP to add the funds available at this time. Caltrans has provided an estimate of Federal economic stimulus (ECREC) funds available to each region and we are to program in those funds. There are two different pots and according to the latest estimates Kings County could receive \$8 million of which \$2.9 million can be sub-allocated to the local agencies for local road projects. Of the remainder, we are not sure how much we are getting or where it could be applied. It's possible that the funds will need to be applied to STIP projects to keep them flowing. The other pot of money is for transit estimated to be about \$2.2 million which will be available. This amendment is to only add the funds at this time. Caltrans, Federal Highways and Federal Transit Agency will expeditiously approve these amendments.

In the mean time we are getting ready to process another amendment to add the projects that would apply to the ECREC funds. We would only be programming projects for the \$2.9 million and the \$2 million for the transit portion. Included in the agenda packet are the funding sources and amounts for programming, and the financial summary pages which will be submitted. Handed out was a spreadsheet, after working with local agencies in dividing up the \$2.9 million and what projects could meet the timeline and the federal criteria. These are the proposed final list of projects that would be included in the next amendment. Some local money is involved in this, therefore on the financial formulas included in the agenda packet have been revised to add local money. For the cities, \$176,000 was added under gas tax and \$59,000 for the county.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to approve the draft 2009 Interim FTIP Amendment No. 3, adding the ECREC funds with the adoption of Resolution 09-03. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2008 Annual Listing of Projects

Ms. King reported each year KCAG is required to notify the public of the amount of federal funds that were obligated for the prior fiscal year. In FY 2007-08, \$10.7 million was obligated for street and highway projects and \$1.3 million was obligated for transit projects.

B. Caltrans Reports

Ms. Bender-Ehlert reported that the State Budget was passed. Some items of interest as it pertains to transportation were that the proposed 12 cents a gallon gasoline tax was not included in the budget. Those monies were intended to pay for debt service on the bond, so that debt service will come out of the general fund. Good news from the budget is we are able to keep bond projects under construction going. The new budget still does not provide funds for new bond projects. Until we can actually issue bonds, those projects will be shelf ready until we are financially ready to sell bonds, including the SR 198 expressway project. What Caltrans is doing with our share of the economic stimulus funds is looking at as many SHOPP projects as possible, which is the operational and safety type projects. Then there is another component to use the economic stimulus funds to help the stalled bond projects. We may look to Kings for help with that and hopefully by summer we may have that worked out. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is not approving any actions that are not STIP or safety related and this will continue until the cash flow is known. The SR 198 project will be on the next

CTC agenda for a STIP amendment to move some funds to right of way from construction. There are plenty of funds in the project to do that as it stands. CTC has been deferring all actions at this point, but we are hoping that at the March meeting they will take some action.

Ms. Bender-Ehlert reported that Caltrans Local Assistance will be developing some workshops for the local agencies so we can help them to be successful and deliver local projects and meet the time constraints that are being set by this Federal bill. She stated she has asked her staff to work with the COGs to assist in project selection or to help identify if the projects meet the stringent criteria. Ms. Ehlert asked Ms. King if she had been notified regarding the workshops. Ms. King stated she has received an email as well as a letter regarding the workshops and also has been notified of a webinar next Wednesday. Ms. King stated some of the local agencies have already used the help. Ms. King asked if there was clarification on the time line that local agencies are required to be held to in obligating the money. Ms. Ehlert responded there have been conversations regarding the time line, she has seen the 120 days as well as a year. We may have a year to get the projects obligated, but probably better to work with the 120 days.

Ms. Bender-Ehlert reported that the Whitley Ave. and SR 43 intersection did not meet the vehicular warrants, traffic volumes, or accident warrants to signalize that intersection. If conditions change we are willing to go back and look at it.

Commissioner Ayers asked for clarification regarding the SR 198 project. Ms. Ehlert stated the funding for the project is funded from the bond program and we are not able to sell bonds at this time. The bonds are not sold until the bills come in for construction. Right of Way has been purchased and expected to be completed by the end of March. The original plan was that the project was expected to be under construction by this Spring. The bonds are not sold first, but they must be in a fiscal situation in order to sell the bonds and CTC will not issue the order until we are in a position to do so. The project will be ready to go out for bid when given the go head. Ms. King asked if it would help or hinder if we utilized our local legislator. Ms. Ehlert stated it wouldn't hurt. Commissioner Ayers mentioned that projects in Hanford had been coming in under budget. Ms. Ehlert stated they are aware of the situation and fully expects the CTC will lower construction costs to reflect the lower expected bids. Commissioner Ayers asked if there was a specific legislator who should be targeted. Ms. King replied that Mr. Tyler Ayers, a representative from Assemblyman Gilmore's office, was present. Ms. King stated if the State picks and chooses what is on the high priority list to receive Federal stimulus funds, we would like our projects to remain on top of the priority list.

Commissioner Hornsby asked about a project listed for Lemoore on the annual obligations listing which noted that the date of the obligation was 6/20/2008 for the traffic signal at Bush St. and 19th Ave. which has not yet been constructed. Ms. King stated that the funds were programmed in the FTIP for that fiscal year, so the funds had to be obligated to keep the money available for that project, which has been delayed due to issues with the WalMart development.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

None

E. Commissioner Comments

None

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on February 25, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Barba) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on February 25, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Fourth Year Regional Blueprint Grant

Ms. Lehn reported the San Joaquin Valley has just received a 4th year grant in the amount of \$1.35 million and this will carry forward our 3rd year tasks that we have yet to finish and 4th year tasks. In Kings County we are set to receive \$79,000 which we intend to stretch as far as we can. Included in the agenda is the award letter from the Department of Transportation. In the 4th year of the grant program we are going to be focusing on implementation phases of the Blueprint. KCAG will work with our local jurisdictions and the planning directors to make sure their input is built into this process. Several new tasks will be coming on line in this 4th year, including an economic market finance study, a planners tool kit so planners in a urban area vs. rural area will have some tools on implementation measures, smart growth implementations, the final Blueprint document, and working on the Greenhouse Gas directives of AB32 and SB375. During the regional process we will be working with the local planning directors to get a local Kings County Blueprint document that we intend to use as a foundation for the local greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts.

Ms. Lehn reported that there was a meeting with the local Planners throughout the eight county areas where they shared their thoughts about the Blueprint, and they will be sharing their feedback at the Policy Council meeting. At the March 27th Policy Council meeting they will be endorsing the Regional Blueprint Scenario and Commissioners Craighead and Barba will be attending as members of the Policy Council. On March 25th at the KCAG meeting Ms. Lehn will be presenting an over view of all the scenarios. KCAG will be asking this Commission to take a position on the regional scenarios to help inform our representatives. Several of the local jurisdictions are taking this matter to their local city councils.

Commissioner Craighead mentioned that when they were at the Policy Council meeting the scenario was different than the one that was developed. The Policy Council voted for Scenario B+, but at the Summit meeting in Fresno it was felt that crowd was herded to pick Scenario C. Commissioner Ayers stated he wanted to inform our representatives he does not agree with higher density Scenario. Commissioner Craighead stated he agreed. Ms. King added that staff agrees with your concerns.

3. Draft FY 2009-10 Overall Work Program

Ms. King reported this is the draft FY 2009-10 Overall Work Program (OWP) which is to be submitted at this time for review and comment only. The OWP identifies the work elements and tasks as well as the funding we will be working on and the schedule of those tasks. The total estimated cost is \$1,047,000, which will probably increase because adjustments will need to be made to include consulting costs for the Regional Transportation Plan EIR. She stated that the OWP is funded through Local Transportation Fund shares, STIP Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds, Federal planning funds, AVA funds, Regional Blueprint grant funds, City and County general fund, and grant funds from previously approved projects. Included in the agenda is the budget sheet showing the line items with estimated costs and expenditures. We will be having consulting services for the Valleywide air quality planning services, traffic modeling services, TDA and AVA audits, Regional Blueprint, Housing Element, and grant funded studies. Funding is provided to include the Executive Director, four planners, Executive Secretary, and services and supplies. To date, we have received a few minor comments from the Federal Highways Administration.

A motion was made and seconded (Ayers / Barba) to approve the submittal of the draft FY 2009-10 OWP to Caltrans for review and comment. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Kings County Travel Restriction Policy Exemption

Ms. King stated since KCAG utilizes the Kings County Finance Department for all fiscal and accounting services according to our MOU, we need to follow their policies and procedures. Due to the budget issues the Kings County Board of Supervisors has adopted travel restrictions for all unnecessary travel. This also includes no reimbursement for travel expenses unless there is approval from the Administrative Office or a minute order from the Board. Since we are not funded with County general funds, KCAG is requesting an exemption from the travel restriction policy, including the provision for the reimbursement of travel expenses.

Commissioner Barba commented we could grant the exemption, as well as make an effort in cutting down on travel. Ms. King assured the Commissioners that we are very conservative on traveling, but that with new staff, some travel for training and workshops is expected.

It was moved and seconded (Ayers / Craighead) to approve an exemption to the Kings County travel restriction policy, including the provision for the reimbursement of travel expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None

B. Staff Comments

Ms. King reported on the Valley Voice trip where there are representatives meeting in Washington D.C. today. We chose to have the County's federal lobbyist represent Kings County, who will report back to us. They are meeting with several members of the House and Senate. The four main items they are discussing are a national goods movement program, short haul rail, air quality issues and California Consensus Principles for the Federal Transportation Authorization for 2009.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Craighead reported that he attended the CalCOG trip and discussed how they are still working on some of the bills and how the Valley was not well represented and ignored. He felt that going on the Valley Voice trips with all eight counties strengthened our position.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director