



MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 4:31 p.m., on February 23, 2022, via teleconference, in accordance with COVID-19 Public Meeting Protocol.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kalish Morrow, Joe Neves, Sid Palmerin, Alvaro Preciado, Doug Verboon

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: David Orth

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Jennifer Morales, Joel Gandarilla, Joe Cosgrove, Teresa Nickell

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Dominic Tyburski, Kristie Bailey

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

B. Unscheduled Appearances

None.

C. Minutes

1. Minutes of January 26, 2022

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Preciado) to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Morrow, Navarro, Neves, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon
Noes: None
Absent: Orth

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2022-23 Transportation Development Act Fund Estimate

Teresa Nickel stated that KCAG is to administer Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds available to Kings County, which are composed of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. Based on the current State budget, there will be \$1,476,972 in STA funds allocated to Kings County in FY 2022-23 and \$5,800,000 for the FY 2022-23 LTF. Apportionments and funding shares based on the 2021 population figures were provided in the staff report. Each claimant is required to hold a public hearing and have both an adopted resolution, stating their findings on unmet transit needs and required environmental documents before funds can be allocated for road purposes. Terri King added that the FY 2022-23 LTF estimate provided is relatively conservative.

2. Draft FY 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget

Terri King stated that each year KCAG is required to prepare a draft Overall Work Program and Budget (OWP), submitted to Caltrans by March 1st for review and comments. The funding sources for next year's work program include federal planning funds, toll credits as a match for federal funds, carry-over sustainable transportation planning formula grant, Local Transportation Fund, Abandoned Vehicle Abatement fund, AB101 Regional Early Action Planning grant funds, and City and County General Funds. A summary of the work element topic and the proposed costs are included in the agenda packet. The total cost is approximately \$2.3 million. The OWP includes consultant costs and several carry-over projects, and two new projects; the Kings County Transit Needs Assessment Study and the Kings County Electric Bus Infrastructure Plan. The remainder of leftover funds from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment plan will be for the Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element contract. Based on the draft OWP, the estimate FY 2022-23 budget is \$2,332,600.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Morrow) to approve the release of the draft FY2022-23 OWP for review and comment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Morrow, Navarro, Neves, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon
Noes: None
Absent: Orth

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro stated that Caltrans' Clean California local grant program applications awards will be announced March 1, 2022 and that it is anticipated that each district will be awarded approximately three grants. The SR 99 Summit will be held on March 3-4, 2022. Improvement to the connectivity between the commercial area and Kettleman City is being considered as part of an Active Transportation Program Cycle 6 state grant application.

Michael Navarro reported on the status of various highway projects, including that the Kettleman City roundabout environmental document is completed and proceeding to the design phase, with construction slated for summer 2024; the SR 41 and Stratford bridge replacement project has been delayed until September 2023, due to the permitting process; the SR 198 roadside safety improvement project between SR 43 and SR 41 was awarded, but is now in winter suspension; the SR 41 and Bush Street interchange temporary roundabout is in the permitting process; and the SR 41 widening project is in the right-of-way phase and is seeking additional funding with

projected construction to begin in 2024; and the SR 41 and Kansas Avenue work is slated to be completed in the summer.

Commissioner Verboon asked if the construction of a new pipeline through a culvert underneath SR 41 has been permitted. The reply was that Caltrans will be investigating this issue. The question was asked if traffic could be rerouted through Laurel and 22nd Avenue during the SR 41 bridge replacement. The response was that the suggestion will be discussed with the Caltrans team.

Terri King inquired about the Clean California grant awards announced on the Governor's website, of which one was for Avenal. The reply was that the March 1, 2022 announcements will be for the competitive grants and the current website announcements pertain to the projects Caltrans is currently implementing.

Commissioner Neves expressed support for the suggested traffic rerouting along Laurel and 22nd Avenue during the SR 41 bridge replacement.

Dominic Tyburski stated that the final detour route chosen was due to the proximity of the utility poles to the road pavement and that the County of Kings was not able to accept liability for that scenario.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

None.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

III. KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on February 23, 2022

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Morrow) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on February 23, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Morrow, Neves, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon
Noes: None
Absent: Orth

2. FY 2021-22 Second Quarter Financial Report

Jennifer Morales reported on the second quarter report to Caltrans summarizing the expenditures and revenues for the fiscal year to date and a reimbursement request for federal funds expended for the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. A total of \$68,228.19 in federal funds was received as reimbursement for eligible activities. Total expenditures for FY 2021-22 Quarter 2 were \$253,828.66 and total revenues received were \$61,420.60.

3. Legal Counsel Contract Term Extension

Joel Gandarilla stated that currently KCAG has an Agreement for Professional Services for Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, LLP to provide legal services. This was a five-year contract with an option to extend for four, one-year periods. KCAG would like to retroactively renew the contract with the first of the four, one-year extension options.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Palmerin) to approve the one year extension option from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, LLP to provide legal services for KCAG. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Morrow, Neves, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon
Noes: None
Absent: Orth

4. Finding of Necessity and Authorizing Use of Remote Teleconferencing Provisions of AB 361

Terri King stated that the Governor has not yet lifted the Emergency Order and this Commission has continued to meet remotely subject to the requirements of SB 361. State or local health officials continue to impose or recommend measure to promoted social distancing.

Kris Petersen stated that the proclamation has not been removed by the Governor, but that the proclamation ends March 31, 2022. The California Senate is debating this issue on March 15, 2022.

Terri King stated that KCAG anticipates returning to in-person meetings after March 2022 and aligning meeting times with other agencies that share the same venue. Any permanent change to meeting times or days would require changes to KCAG by-laws, so the meetings would be considered as a special meeting. It was suggested that the affected agencies also review the conference platform options until the Brown Act is fully restored; Zoom, WebEx, etc. After the Brown Act is fully restored, potentially establish hubs in Avenal, Corcoran and Lemoore to be used as public spaces and connect into the meeting room.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Morrow) to reaffirm Resolution No. 2021-03 authorizing the KCAG Commission and all standing, advisory, policy, oversight, steering, and inter-agency committees and subcommittees of the Commission to continue to meet by remote teleconference, subject to the requirements of Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas). The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Morrow, Neves, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon
Noes: None
Absent: Orth

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King encouraged those present to review the attached Executive Summary of the San Joaquin Valley Housing Production Trends and Best Practices Report that is a Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funded activity. She reported that KCAG submitted two projects for the Valley wide master list of priority projects that could go forward with grant applications; the KART Transit Center and SR 41 roundabout and Dana Circle extension in Kettleman City; the Valley Voice Sacramento meetings are scheduled for March 18, 2022. A report regarding AB 285 that requires Caltrans to detail how it plans to achieve emissions reductions was released and seems to attempt to restrict all state and local funding for emissions reduction compliant type projects; the SR 99 Summit is themed “Complete the 99” and will support goods movements, passenger rail, zero emissions infrastructure, and sustainable community strategies. KCAG will forward Commissioners the 99 Summit registration information. The Consultant for the Regional Corridor Plan is working and finishing the alternative project designs for Caltrans to review and comment on before going to the public comment phase. The KART Hanford Fixed Route Study is moving forward with needs assessment and data collection, then on the cost estimates and funding sources. The consultant for the Regional Transportation Plan is currently working on the public outreach phase then developing the scenarios. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan kickoff meeting will be February 28, 2022. The PM1 target form has been submitted to Caltrans. Next month’s agenda will also include the TDA claims summary.

Commissioner Neves said that one item missing on the San Joaquin Valley Housing Report was any mention of a broadband infrastructure. This may be an issue considering the changes in alternative work schedules by some employers, education and medical care.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Preciado said that Avenal is working with Caltrans on an improvement project; the main water transmission line project is ongoing; and Avenal continues to seek funding for the completion of the community center.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for March 23, 2022

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director