



MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 3:00 p.m., on January 25, 2023, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jim Chaney, Richard Fagundes, Joe Neves, Travis Paden (3:45pm), Sid Palmerin

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Alvaro Preciado

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Joel Gandarilla, Kayley Clay, Teresa Nickell

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Via Zoom: John Douglas, Consultant; Steve McShane, David Kahn, Scott Robinson, Georgina Landecho, CalVans; Heather Corder, KCAPTA; Kings County Public Works; Avenal Viewing Room

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

B. Unscheduled Appearances

None.

C. Minutes

1. Minutes of December 7, 2022

A motion was made and seconded (Fagundes / Palmerin) to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2022, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Navarro, Neves, Palmerin
Absent: Paden, Preciado

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Final KART Fixed Route Study

Teresa Nickell stated that in December 2022, KCAG's consultant, Transportation Management & Design, Inc. (TMD), presented the Draft Kings Area Regional Transit (KART) Fixed Route Schedule Study to the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). The study provides a recommended redesigned fixed route system of KART service in Hanford to serve the future multimodal transit center planned on East Seventh Street. The realignment of the bus network would include expanded fixed route services for riders with new strategic bus schedules and route alignments to provide safe and reliable service, while providing passenger connectivity to downtown and area locations, to commuter routes, paratransit service, and Amtrak, and eventually to the future Cross Valley Rail and California High Speed Rail station. No public comments were received on the Draft Study.

A motion was made and seconded (Fagundes / Palmerin) to accept the final KART Hanford Fixed Route Schedule Study for KCAPTA as being completed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Navarro, Neves, Palmerin
Absent: Paden, Preciado

2. Social Service Transportation Advisory Council Appointments

Teresa Nickell stated that there are five members of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) whose terms are expiring in January 2023. Current members, Nichole Fisher and Jeff Garner will no longer be available to serve on the Council. KCAG has received five new membership applications related to specific areas of expertise and eligibility for the TPC to consider. These are Barbara Lemos, Anthony Yun, Rebecca Donabed, Tony Young, and Chris Riddington. The SSTAC is scheduled to meet January 26, 2023 for new members to be introduced and provided an overview of roles and responsibilities.

A motion was made and seconded (Fagundes / Chaney) to approve the reappointment of three members and the appointment of five new members to serve three-year terms on the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Navarro, Neves, Palmerin
Absent: Paden, Preciado

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro reported that the Clean California Local Grant program with a call for projects was set back to February 2023, with applications due in April 2023. The Reconnecting Communities Highway to Boulevards Program with \$150,000,000 available, with a workshop on December 19, 2022. The 2023 RAISE Grant of \$1.5 billion nationwide was announced in November. There is \$50,000,000 available for climate adaptation planning grants and \$34,000,000 for Caltrans Planning Grants with applications due in March 2023.

Projects reported on included a Clean California project in Avenal with construction completed by June 2023, Kettleman City roundabout project is moving forward with the right-of-way phase, SR 41 and Stratford bridge replacement is still scheduled to begin in December 2023 or January 2024, the Bush St. and SR 41 interchange roundabout is moving toward permitting, the SR 41 Stratford road rehabilitation project from Nevada Avenue to SR 198 is completing the environmental work with construction scheduled in 2024, the Kettleman City project from Quail Avenue to Nevada Avenue will be ready for construction in June 2023.

Commissioner Neves inquired as to when Caltrans might repair the road damages caused by the weather on SR 41 and SR 43. The response was that Caltrans is currently trying to manage the emergency work of landslides, mudslides, and rockslide blasting, however, Caltrans will report back. Commissioner Neves also stated how High Speed Rail construction continued to close roads with delayed reopening. Caltrans will continue striving to improve coordination between road closures.

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 January 25, 2023

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Fagundes) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on January 25, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Neves, Palmerin

Absent: Paden, Preciado

2. California Vanpool Authority – KCAG Withdrawal

Terri King reported that in January 2011, the KCAG Commission approved Resolution No. 11-01, by which KCAG resolved to join the California Vanpool Authority (CalVans). The CalVans Joint Powers Agreement states that a Member Agency may withdraw from the Transit Authority by filing its written notice of withdrawal with the Executive Director 180 days before the actual withdrawal. In September 2020, the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) submitted a letter to KCAG requesting that KCAG withdraw from CalVans and cited concerns regarding CalVans' financial condition. In October 2020, the KCAG Commission voted to remain as a Member Agency of CalVans and monitor the situation. In October 2022 KCAG Commission discussed the KCAG withdrawing from CalVans and it was the consensus of the Commission to take action to withdraw from CalVans. Resolution No. 22-06 was voted on by the KCAG

Commission, however, according to our bylaws, there were not enough “Affirmative” votes, so therefore Resolution No. 22-06 was not passed.

Following the December 7, 2022 KCAG Commission meeting, a letter from CalVans was received by KCAG requesting a delay on action to withdraw from CalVans for at least six months so the proposal and impacts can be studied and further discussed. Based on a statement in the letter, it was clarified that KCAG has no intention of developing its own vanpool program for any purpose. It was also noted that if CalVans could no longer operate within Kings County, there are other vanpool program options available, such as the KCAPTA Vanpool program.

CalVans Board Chair Steve McShane, and Councilmember for the City of Salinas, introduced, David Kahn, Scott Robinson, Georgina Landecho from CalVans. He provided comments regarding the potential withdrawal, stating that CalVans is in great financial standing and operating within their budget. The request was made to allow additional time to study the impact of a withdrawal, as there is a concern regarding operating a van pool within a non-member county, and the impact employees.

CalVans Vice Chair, Scott Robinson, who also serves as the Mayor of the City of Selma, added to the comment regarding the impact of a withdrawal on operations and employees and requested an additional six month to study the impact.

KCAG Legal Council, Kris Pedersen, stated that the legal concerns regarding operations within a non-member agency may not be supported by the Joint Powers Authorities agreement. Commissioner Neves asked is there was any legal obstacles to moving forward with withdrawal with the understanding that the Commission could change course, if merited. The response was that the withdrawal letter will trigger the 180-day period. However, staff could still interact with CalVans.

Terri King asked if operations within Kern County, a non-member agency, was a special agreement. The response was affirmative, based on an agreement with Kern COG for CalVans to remain in the county until the completion of three Affordable Housing projects in the County. It was asked if CalVans has partnered with any Affordable Housing Projects in Kings County. The response was ‘not to date’.

Angie Dow, Director of Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA), stated how KCAPTA started the van pool program. Due to the desire to extend the boundaries, CalVans was created and given the vanpool program. The program had 60 van pools and today CalVans has 16 vanpools operating in Kings County. The transition left CalVans \$1,000,000 to start up, and close to \$8,000,000 of assets. In 2020, CalVans obtained a \$3,000,000 loan without CalVans Board approval, and users are repaying the loans. KCAPTA has restarted a vanpool program.

(Commissioner Paden was seated as Commissioner at 3:44 p.m.)

Georgina Landecho, CalVans Executive Director, stated that in 2020 the CalVans agency she inherited was possibly in trouble and needed to be turned around. During the pandemic, federal funding helped many transit agencies survive. She concluded highlighting the positive accomplishments of CalVans.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Neves) to adopting Resolution No. 23-01 to repeal Resolution No. 11-01, by which KCAG resolved to join the California Vanpool Authority (CalVans); and Authorize the Executive Director to withdraw KCAG from the CalVans Joint Powers Agreement, in accordance with its terms. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Neves, Palmerin
Absent: Preciado
Abstain: Paden

3. Final Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan

Terri King stated that State law requires KCAG to prepare a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan for the 6th planning cycle, which extends from June 30, 2023, through January 31, 2032. In January 2022, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) assigned the KCAG region a total housing need of 9,429 units for the five jurisdictions in Kings County.

John Douglas provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the RHNA, the significance of the RHNA, the Kings County RHNA process, final RHNA allocations, and recommended actions.

Commissioner Neves opened a public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony regarding the RHNA Plan. Seeing no one coming forward, and not having received any comments, the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Paden asked how the housing allocation number was determined. The response was that the number is determined by the state Department of Housing and state Department of Finance based on local Census data. Terri King stated that the 6th Cycle RHNA amounts are lower than the previous 5th Cycle RHNA amounts and that more urban areas of the State received RHNA allocations up to three times higher than the previous cycle.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Paden) to adopt Resolution No. 23-02 to approve the Final RHNA Plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Neves, Paden, Palmerin
Absent: Preciado

4. Regional Early Action Planning Grant of 2021 Applications

Terri King stated that the purpose of the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 program is supporting transformative planning and implementation activities such as accelerating infill and affordable housing development; reducing vehicle miles traveled; and increasing transit ridership, walking, and biking as primary modes of transportation. REAP 2.0 allocates funds directly to Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as KCAG. The region's maximum award is \$2,060,590 of which an application for an initial advance allocation of 10% of the total funds may be submitted for outreach to support program development and preparation of the full program funding application. Both applications, included in the agenda packet, for the initial advance allocation of \$206,059 and the remaining \$1,854,531 full application were submitted by KCAG to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). An award letter for the advance allocation is expected soon. A suballocation formula is to be developed, as well as a project application that would be submitted by the local agency to KCAG in

order to verify eligibility by evaluating each project using the State goals and objectives for the program with HCD concurrence.

5. MOU – KCAG and County of Kings for REAP Grants of 2019 Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element

Terri King reported that the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program (AB 101) was established for the purpose of providing regions and jurisdictions with one-time grant funding for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to meet the 6th cycle of the regional housing needs assessment and to spur affordable housing production. A total of \$18,975,323 in Regional Early Action Planning Program (REAP) grant funds was made available to the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies. The Fresno Council of Governments, as the fiscal agent on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley REAP process, has applied for and received \$10.2 million in the initial round of funding and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between each of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations has been signed. The three primary work areas for the initial \$10.2 million are Regional Housing Needs Assessments, suballocations to jurisdictions, and Valleywide work efforts. KCAG received \$293,949, which is being used for to prepare the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Plan, and coordination with the Valleywide REAP funded activities. The remaining final apportionment of funds in the amount of \$311,858 has not yet been received. KCAG is proposing to distribute the available REAP funds from the final suballocation, and any remaining unspent prior suballocations, to the County of Kings to help fund the costs for the development of the Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element. Estimated available funds for this purpose is \$345,358 and program funds need to be expended by December 31, 2024. An MOU between KCAG and the County of Kings has been prepared with the intent to reflect the parties understanding of the distribution of the REAP grant funds for the stated purpose.

Commissioner Paden inquired as to when the funds need to be expended. The response was that the overall \$18,975,323 in REAP funds must be expended by December 31, 2024.

A motion was made and seconded (Fagundes / Chaney) to approve the attached MOU between KCAG and the County of Kings for the distribution of REAP funds for purposes of the Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chaney, Fagundes, Neves, Paden, Palmerin
Absent: Preciado

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King said that the San Joaquin Regional Policy Council Meeting is Friday in Fresno. Prior to that meeting will be the San Joaquin Valley Joint Powers Authority Board meeting. Three Commissioners, Verboon, Orth and Preciado, will be attending the CalCOG forum. Next month's agenda items will include the estimate of Local Transportation Funds, and the State Transit Assistance funds. KCAG staff is finalizing

the Regional Corridor Needs Study and extended the survey and comment period. This study focuses on transportation improvements in the Hanford and Lemoore urbanized area along SR 198, SR 41, and SR 43. The Fiscal Analyst position has been filled with Jennifer Morales.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Palmerin said that in February, Corcoran will hold the Man/Woman of the Year award ceremony, and in April will be the dedications for the Gateway Park Veterans Memorial.

Commissioner Neves stated that the County of Kings is hosting the City/County Coordinating meeting at Lake Bottom in Corcoran on February 8, 2023. Commissioner Neves thanked Commissioners Fagundes and Paden for sitting as alternates on this Commission.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for February 22, 2023

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director