



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 3:05 p.m., on October 25, 2023, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA and via Zoom.

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

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Caleb Brock

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen via phone

VISITORS PRESENT: Cynthia Echavarria Baruch; Via zoom: Crystal Schisler, Russ Sterling, Heather Corder

A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances

None.

B. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

C. Unscheduled Appearances

None.

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of August 23, 2023

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2023, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brock, Morrow, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Draft 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Kayley Clay reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has adopted Guidelines and a Fund Estimate for the upcoming 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The overall statewide capacity for the 2024 Fund Estimate identifies a net new capacity of \$1.718B in the five years of the STIP period of FY 2024-25 through FY 2028-29. Programming in the 2024 STIP will be constrained by the fiscal year. The STIP consists of two broad programs, the regional program funded 75% from new STIP funding and the interregional program funded 25% from new STIP funding. The 75% regional program is further subdivided by formula into county shares. Kings County has a balance of \$5,797,000 in advanced regional shares from prior STIP periods and a formula distribution of \$4,126,000 in new STIP capacity through FY 2027-28. This leaves a new balance of (\$1,671,000) in advanced regional shares against future capacity, which does not allow for any new project programming. However, the available regional shares out through FY 2031-32 provides an estimated \$18,899,000.

Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) are required to submit an adopted 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) to the CTC by December 15, 2023. The Project Study Report (PSR) for the State Route 198 and 9th Avenue Interchange was completed on December 15, 2020. With the completed PSR, the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase in the amount of \$4.5 million is being proposed for programming in FY 2024-25 within the 2024 RTIP. The 2024 RTIP also consists of retaining the previously programmed PPM funds in the amount of \$75,000 in FY 2023-24 to be used for project planning. Terri King noted that the proposal is again requesting an advance of regional shares, of which the availability is dependent upon regional shares unprogrammed throughout the state, the year of programming, and any actions by the CTC in their recommendations.

Commissioner Neves opened the public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony on the Draft 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Not having received any written testimony, no one on-line, and seeing no one in chamber come forward, the public hearing was closed.

2. FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program – Amendment No. 1

Terri King stated that in May 2023 the Commission adopted the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program (OWP) and budget. A total of \$1,662,695 in available federal planning funds and \$61,708 in SB 1 Formula Grant funds was programmed in the same year. The reconciliation letter of prior year carryover funds from Caltrans requires a total programming increase of \$133,378. A summary of the six work elements in the OWP adjustments was provided.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve Amendment No.1 to the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program with the adoption of Resolution No. 23-08. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brock, Morrow, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon

3. FY 2022-24 FTA Section 5310 Regional Priority Project List

Teresa Nickell stated that Federal Transit Act (FTA) Section 5310 provides grant funds to private nonprofit corporations and some public agencies for the purpose of providing transportation services. Approximately, \$22.3 million for Small Urban and Rural areas are available for this grant cycle for two years. KCAG received one application from the Kings Rehabilitation Center (KRC), which is requesting to purchase four vehicles for a total project cost of \$500,000. The Statewide Review Committee will prioritize the FTA Section 5310 projects and develop the Draft Statewide Prioritized List of Projects.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to adopt Resolution No. 23-09 to approve the FY 2022-2024 FTA Section 5310 Regional Prioritized Project List, which includes projects for the Kings Rehabilitation Center for submittal to the State Review Committee to be considered for funding. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brock, Morrow, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon

4. SB 125 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and Emissions Transit Capital Program

Kayley Clay stated that SB 125 provides \$5.1B to the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA). Of that \$5.1B, \$4B comes from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for FY 23-24 and FY 24-25; and \$1.1B comes from the Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP) for FY 23-24 through FY 26-27. KCAG, as the designated RTPA for Kings County, has a total fund estimate of \$18,204,049 between both the TIRCP and ZETCP funds for the next four fiscal years. The TIRCP was created to fund transformative capital improvements that modernize California's intercity rail, bus, ferry, and rail transit systems. Each RTPA seeking an allocation of funding shall complete an Initial Allocation Package for FY 2023-24 funds by December 31, 2023. KCAG Staff is working with the two transit operators to develop their project list for approval by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee meeting in December.

B. Caltrans Report

Caleb Brock, Office Chief for Transportation Planning at Caltrans District 6, stated that for the Clean California program there is a proposal to extend the litter abatement initiative for another four years. The Clean California 2.0 project awards were announced, and the City of Corcoran received \$2,580,000 for city beautification and cleanup. There was a call for projects for the multi modal discretionary grant program, with requests due October 31, 2023. The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant application guide has been published, with applications due on January 18, 2024, and Caltrans will hold a hybrid workshop on October 26, 2023.

Regarding projects, Caleb Brock reported that the City of Avenal requested the beautification of SR 269 and SR 33 focus on SR 33 inside of the City; the Kettleman City Roundabout is scheduled for summer of 2024; the SR 41 Stratford bridge replacement construction is now scheduled to begin in late January 2024, with detour route from SR 198 toward I-5; the Bush Street roundabout in Lemoore is scheduled for permitting in spring of 2024; the SR 41 widening project in Fresno County, up to Excelsior Avenue is scheduled to start in spring of 2025; construction for the Stratford/Lemoore repaving project is anticipated in Summer of 2024; the emergency

paving along SR 41 is completed; and Caltrans is planning several pavement rehabilitation projects along SR 41 during 2024.

Commissioner Verboon asked about opening Kansas Avenue due to several major accidents at Kent Avenue before the fog season begins.

Commissioner Neves asked if the county line signage at SR 198 and 1st Avenue can be re-installed since it has fallen. Also, the lights at the SR 41 and SR 198 interchange are not illuminated.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

None

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

III. KCAG COMMISSION

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on October 25, 2023

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

Ayes: Morrow, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon

2. FY 2022-23 Fourth Quarter and Year End Financial Reports

Jennifer Morales presented the KCAG financial report for the period of April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. Total expenditures reported during the Fourth Quarter were \$410,834 and a total of \$228,145.87 in federal funds were received as reimbursement for eligible activities. Total expenditures reported during FY 2022-23 were \$1,345,689 and a total of \$848,154 in federal funds was received as reimbursement for eligible activities. The total expenditure billed to the local agencies for unallowed expenditures was \$57,513. Total expenditures for FY 2022-23 were \$1,228,003 and total revenues received were \$1,909,347.

3. San Joaquin Valley Voice Washington DC Meeting Summary

Terri King reported that Commissioners Verboon and Preciado, as members of the Regional Policy Council, attended the meetings for the 2023 Washington D.C. Valley Voice trip. Valleywide staff, in consultation with Jen Covino of Simon and Company, and other partners, compiled a list of legislative and regulatory priority

advocacy items for consideration that were included in the Valley Voice brochure provided to participants and attendees.

Commissioner Verboon stated that the meetings were more engaging than in the past, and elected officials were prepared for the meetings. The Department of Transportation listened to our local needs. There was also discussion regarding local water issues. The meeting with Congressman Jim Costa, Congressman John Duarte, and Representative Kevin McCarthy to discuss our local needs was very informative.

Commissioner Preciado said how the same meeting, which included Congressman David Valadao, overall went very well. In one meeting, it was stated that there will be a greater focus on smaller projects, so that larger projects do not consume most of the available funding, resulting in a benefit to smaller communities.

4. Reschedule November and December KCAG Meeting Dates

Terri King stated KCAG's November and December regularly scheduled meetings are close to the Holidays. KCAG historically reschedules and combines the November and December meetings so that they do not conflict with the Holidays.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to cancel the November 22, 2023, and December 27, 2023, regularly scheduled meetings, and schedule a Special Meeting for December 6, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Morrow, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon

C. Adjourn to Closed Session (5:17 p.m.)

1. Closed Session for the Discussion of the Following:

- a) Conference with Labor Negotiator: [Govt. Code Section 54957.6]
KCAG Negotiator: Kris B. Pedersen, General Legal Counsel
Executive Director

D. Adjourn Closed Session / Reconvene Open Session (5:48 p.m.)

There was no reporting out.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King said that there will be a meeting with High-Speed Rail regarding the Kings Station Area Planning on Friday at 10:00 a.m.; there is a San Joaquin Joint Power Authority meeting scheduled for November 17, 2023; there will be public outreach efforts regarding the closure of SR 41 during the Stratford bridge replacement project; and KCAG Staff will meet with NAS Lemoore regarding a Compatible Use Study/Installation Resiliency Program grant opportunity. She noted that all

Commissioners were sent an email inquiring about their interest in attending the CalCOG Regional Leadership Forum on February 7-9, 2024, in Monterey.

Commission Preciado asked for clarification regarding the Kettleman City roundabout location. The response was the roundabout will be constructed on SR 41 and Bernard Drive. A detour road extending Dana Circle to connect to SR 41 will be constructed first.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Morrow stated that event tickets are selling out fast. Also, the Winter Wonderland event is returning November 18, 2023. Other local news is forthcoming.

Commissioner Preciado said that the City of Avenal ice rink is in place; O'Reilly Auto Parts store opening is delayed due to a PG&E delay; and the City of Avenal supports Measure C, to help Fresno State refurbish classrooms, as rural community residents attend that college.

Commissioner Orth said that the Local Night Out was well attended and the new Panda Express building is waiting on PG&E to install a transformer for power.

Commissioner Palmerin said that Corcoran is preparing to install their Christmas Tree; the new Starbuck's will open soon; and the city will be announcing the hiring of a new Police Chief.

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

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director