



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 March 27, 2024, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA.

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

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Logan Odneal, Field Representative for CA 33rd District Assemblymember Devon Mathis; Kristie Baley, City of Lemoore, Community Development; Cristal Schisler, City of Lemoore Public Works; Claire Fitiausi; Robert Izquierdo Jr.

A. **Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances**

None.

B. **Roll Call**

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

C. **Unscheduled Appearances**

Robert Izquierdo Jr., resident of Stratford, CA, expressed gratitude for the SR41 bridge replacement project, as the SR41 closure has minimized the fear of rear end collisions while entering Stratford. Mr. Izquierdo asked to keep the conversation open regarding a permanent turning lane into Stratford for the safety of its residents.

Claire Fitiausi, from Valley Voices, a non-profit organization in Kings County that conducts community services in Stratford monthly, expressed support for a turn lane into Stratford for the safety of their staff and residents.

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of February 28, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2024, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2024-25 Transportation Development Act Summary

Terri King stated that KCAG staff are working on the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds process. The estimate of the FY 2024-25 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) for KCAG member agencies is \$6,400,000, and \$1,878,275 in State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. Each claimant is required to hold a public hearing and have both an adopted resolution stating their findings on unmet transit needs before funds can be allocated for road purposes, and required environmental documents within their jurisdiction, and then submit their claim packages to KCAG by April 1. The agenda packet contains the proposed distribution by each claimant.

2. 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Adoption

Kayley Clay reported that in December 2023, KCAG submitted the Kings County 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), which sought out \$4.5 million of advanced future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) shares to fund the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase of the SR 198 and 9th Avenue Interchange project in FY 2024-25. On March 21, 2024, the CTC voted to adopt CTC staff recommendations for the 2024 STIP with the inclusion of \$4.5 million for the SR 198 and 9th Avenue interchange project.

Commissioner Verboon asked when noticeable work will be seen. The response was not for some time due to the long design approval phase to construction phase. A summary of the alternative design costs was provided which was \$64-\$86 million, depending on the selected preferred alternative.

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro stated that in April, Corcoran will be hosting their Clean California program annual dump days; the Multi Modal Project Discretionary Grant Program allows for environmental phase funding and consists of \$5 billion nationwide; there is also the Safe Streets for All program for road safety; and the Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) is a tool used to evaluate projects. Regarding projects, Michael Navarro reported that the bids for city of Avenal's Clean California project opened on March 8, 2024, and will be awarded in the next few weeks; Caltrans continues to work on the Kettleman City roundabout and right of way, with construction anticipated in 2025; the SR 41 Stratford bridge replacement work continues; the SR 41 pavement rehabilitation near Kettleman City from Quale Ave. to Nevada Ave. is ongoing; the interim roundabout at Bush St. and SR 41 is in the permitting phase, with construction anticipated to begin in the spring of 2024; the SR 41 widening project in Fresno County from Excelsior Avenue is in the design phase; the SR 41 Reef City

pavement rehabilitation project from the Kern County line to the I-5 and SR 41 separation is in the design phase; there will be traffic signal modifications at SR 41 and Grangeville; and the ramp closure between SR 41 and SR 99 will last three months.

Commissioner Preciado asked if SR 41 toward Paso Robles will be closed for a day or two. The reply was affirmative, due to the grade separation project at SR 14 and SR 46.

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 March 27, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on March 27, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. 2024 San Joaquin Valley Voice Sacramento Report

Terri King reported that the Valley Voice Trip to Sacramento was a two-day meeting with Commissioner Verboon and Commissioner Preciado attending, along with KCAG Executive Director. The agenda packet contains the meeting schedule and platform talking point. A summary of a few selected talking points was provided.

Commissioner Verboon stated how the delegation worked well together and encouraged further participation for elected state officials.

Commissioner Preciado expressed appreciation for the team effort. He also stated that accountability regarding spending was important.

The next Valley Voice Trip to Washington DC is tentatively scheduled for September 8-12, 2024.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King reported that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program call-for-projects was released, and five applications were received. KCAG staff will start working on the draft 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). There was an information exchange meeting with CalVans and other San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations regarding van pools programs. Next month's agenda will include the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing, the final FY 24-25 Overall Work Program, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Second Quarter report, a closed session for KCAG Executive Director performance evaluation and labor negotiations. Form 700's are due by April 2, 2024.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Preciado stated that the SR 41 closure has increased Avenal traffic and requested that Caltrans place a warning light near the Avenal entrance road.

Commissioner Morrow indicated that Hanford is moving forward with the downtown improvement project.

Commissioner Orth said that Panda Express now has power and is near opening; there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday; and the Lemoore City Manager recruitment is ongoing.

Commissioner Palmerin stated that there is a new Starbucks in Corcoran and there will be a new Love's truck stop at SR 43 and Fifth Avenue.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for April 24, 2024

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director