



# 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 May 22, 2024, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA.

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

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kalish Morrow

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen via Phone

VISITORS PRESENT: Matthew Tuttle, Field Representative for CA 33rd District Assemblymember Devon Mathis.

### 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 April 24, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2024, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

## II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

### A. General Transportation Items

#### 1. FY 2024-25 Transportation Development Act

Teresa Nickell stated that the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) must identify and review unmet transit needs pursuant to the Transportation Development Act (TDA) law. After all public hearings, the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) will review all testimony and assess individual requests. The Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) held two public hearing meetings on February 28 and March 27, 2024, the City of Corcoran held two public hearings on March 12 and April 9, 2024, and KCAG held one public hearing during the April 24th meeting and continued the hearing to today. The SSTAC will meet to assess all unmet transit needs received as public testimony and will make a recommendation to the TPC by signed letter in June 2024. A summary of the Kings County transit review was provided.

Commissioner Palmerin inquired about Kings Area Regional Transit (KART) Route 15. The response was Route 15 is to the city of Visalia and back to Hanford.

Commissioner Neves continued the open public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony on any unmet transit needs. With no one coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

#### 2. FFY 2024 Federal Transit Act – Section 5311 Regional Program of Projects

Teresa Nickell stated that Kings County receives an apportionment of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 funds that are available to public and private non-profit transportation providers in rural areas for capital, operating, and administrative expenses. The Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) has applied for \$412,387 in FTA 5311 funds for operating assistance, using Local Transportation Funds and 5311 toll credits for a local share overmatch. The City of Corcoran applied for \$125,065 in FTA 5311 funds for operating assistance for Corcoran Area Transit (CAT), using Local Transportation Funds for a local share match.

Commissioner Neves opened the public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 funds. With no one coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the FFY 2024 FTA Section 5311 Regional Program of Projects, which includes for KCAPTA \$412,387 for operating assistance and for the City of Corcoran \$125,065 for operating assistance, with the adoption of Resolution No. 24-04. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. Fund Transfer Agreement – Planning, Programming and Monitoring

Jennifer Morales stated that in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) each region is allowed to program a portion of their regional improvement program funds for project planning, programming and monitoring. These reserved funds are to be used in preparing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), project planning, and monitoring of STIP projects, and related activities. KCAG programmed a total of \$75,000 in the 2022 STIP for planning, programming and monitoring purposes in FY 2023-2024. A portion of this amount is included in the FY 2024-2025 Overall Work Program (OWP) for eligible activities. Caltrans has prepared the attached Fund Transfer Agreement to apportion the FY 2023-2024 Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) Program funds to KCAG.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Verboon) to adopt Resolution No. 24-05, authorizing the Executive Director to enter into the Fund Transfer Agreement with the attached FY 2023-2024 PPM Plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**B. Caltrans Report**

Michael Navarro reported that Caltrans had their annual Ride Your Bike to Work Day; Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 7 applications are due June 17, 2024; Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant opportunity for Cycle 12 was released earlier this month with applications due September 9, 2024; and Clean California project awarded in Avenal will start this summer.

Michael Navarro reported that 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; turn lane in Stratford is being reviewed by Caltrans; the SR 41 widening project in Fresno County from Excelsior Avenue is in the design phase; and 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; SR 41 from Stratford to SR 198 road reconstruction will start this summer; the pavement preservation project on SR 198 from 14th Ave. to SR43 in the environmental stage.

**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 May 22, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on May 22, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon

Absent: Morrow

##### 2. 2024 Department of Finance Population and Housing Estimates

Terri King stated that the California Department of Finance (DOF), Population Research Unit released the 2024 population estimates for Kings County and the Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford, and Lemoore. Overall, the total Kings County population has increased slightly from the prior year January 1 estimates of 151,018 (2023) to 152,627 (2024) for a 1% increase (1,609 persons). Tables are included in the agenda packet that details the 2024 Department of Finance breakdown by jurisdiction, civilian population, housing estimate information for each jurisdiction, and a historical summary.

##### 3. FY 2023-24 Third Quarter Financial Report

Jennifer Morales reported that the FY 2023-24 quarterly financial report for the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, was submitted to Caltrans, which showed that a total of \$160,945 in federal funds will be received as reimbursement for eligible activities, total expenditures were \$248,088, and total revenues received were \$332,293.

##### 4. Areawide Planning Review No 24-02

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of The Valley Church in Lemoore is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$500,000 from a federal grant to support the Consolidated and Technical Assistance Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence and Engage Men and Boys as Allies, available through the Office on Violence Against Women. The comment period ended May 3, 2024, and staff received written comments from agencies that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

Staff recommends that the project works in coordination and does not conflict with other County programs and should be undertaken now. Staff also recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-02.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-02. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. KCAG Employee Compensation – Unrepresented Employees

Terri King stated that during the April 24, 2024 special meeting of the KCAG Commission a closed session was held to conference with the KCAG labor negotiator to present the proposed changes to the compensation salary and benefit package for Unrepresented Employees and Management. During the discussion, instruction from the KCAG Commission to the KCAG labor negotiator was to have KCAG staff prepare for KCAG Commission action, a resolution to approve a salary and benefits package for Unrepresented Employees and Management that included a salary increase of 4%, effective the first pay period of FY 2024-25.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) approve a salary and benefits package for Unrepresented Employees and Management to include a salary increase of 4%, effective June 24, 2024, the first pay period (#14) of FY 2024-25. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**C. Adjourn to Closed Session (3:31 p.m.)**

1. Closed Session for the Discussion of the Following

- a. Performance Review – Executive Director  
Public employee performance evaluation review, pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of Government Code section 54957
- c. 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 (3:54 pm)**

No reporting out.

**IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Correspondence**

None.

**B. Staff Comments**

Terri King reported that next month's agenda will continue the final FY 2024-25 Transportation Development Act process, Areawide Clearinghouse reviews, out of state travel, election of chair and vice chair, and the draft FY 2024-25 Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

**C. Commissioner Comments**

None.

**V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for June 26, 2024**

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director