



MINUTES

KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Thursday, May 30, 2024

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Ms. Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner, at 10:02 a.m. on May 30, 2024 at the Kings County Association of Governments conference room and via Zoom.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bobbie Wartson, Kings County Commission on Aging
Brenda Tamayo-Pagan, Kings County Behavioral Health
Angie Dow, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
Craig Wilson, MV Transportation
Corina Pulido, Alternate for Valley LEAP
Steve Mendoza, Kings Rehabilitation
Savino Perico, Kings County Action Organization
James Chaney, Senior transit rider

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Executive Director
Teresa Nickell, Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT: Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans D-6

B. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None.

C. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Chaney / Perico) to approve the Minutes of April 18, 2024 as submitted. Motion approved.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. Unmet Transit Needs Testimony and Transit System Review

Ms. Nickell stated the KART ridership increased since 2022 to 587,600 approximate passenger trips. KART continues to provide flex route service in Lemoore and on-demand services in Hanford. To aid in revenue and ridership, KCAPTA provides quarterly bus passes for \$20 for 3 months. Avenal service for Saturday shopping and recreational needs for its citizens is provided by KART. The KART multimodal station on 7th Street is under construction with build-out expected summer of 2025. Ms. Nickell provided that Corcoran Area Transit's ridership has grown in 2023 to 25,250 passenger trips, since the City added an after school program to increase trips. The City continues to update the Corcoran Amtrak Depot building and parking lot.

B. Unmet Transit Needs Testimony Analysis and Recommendation

Ms. Nickell reviewed the annual Unmet Transit Needs (UTNs) process by KCAG and the SSTAC's role to help identify and assess UTNs following the public hearings and to provide a recommendation to the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) with one of three findings:

1. That there are no unmet transit needs;
2. That there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; or
3. That there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

Ms. Nickell reviewed that KCAPTA received seven UTN requests consisting of new KART service requests and one bus infrastructure request. Ms. Dow indicated that although bus stop amenities are not an unmet transit need, KCAPTA is only able to install additional seating and overhead protection at bus stop locations that allow compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, such as leaving 3 feet of sidewalk clearance for wheelchair access.

Ms. Dow indicated the request to add service to Lemoore Naval Air Station (LNAS) was coordinated this past year with active engagement and included the new service with other UTNs under consideration. Ms. Mendibles indicated the service will assist veterans and civil service workers in transportation needs and that the funding could be provided with Low Carbon Transit Operations Program grant and/or subsidies. Ms. Dow stated the rural communities also receive discounted fares and consideration is across the board to promote equity, and LNAS would be eligible for the same discount as the general public. LNAS provides a employer subsidy program for its employees who use transit. KART will provide four routes to LNAS starting July 1st.

Ms. Dow indicated the Route 15 request to provide Saturday service to Visalia will be funded through the San Joaquin Valley JPA Rail funds, and KCAPTA continues to work with Visalia Transit for reciprocity.

Findings from the review and analysis of the received Unmet Transit Needs testimony were determined and unanimously approved to be:

- That the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee finds that there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdictions of Corcoran and Avenal.
- That the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024-25 within the jurisdictions of Hanford, Lemoore, and the County of Kings, as follows:

Provide a new route to the Lemoore Naval Air Station for access to Lemoore and Hanford destinations

Provide Saturday service on Route 15 to Visalia

C. Unmet Transit Needs SSTAC Recommendation Letter

It was moved and seconded (Wartson / Mendoza) and staff provided the draft Letter of Recommendation to Mr. Chaney for signature to recommend the findings and determination for the 2024 Unmet Transit Needs to the KCAG TPC on behalf of the SSTAC at the June meeting.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned on May 30, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Nickell

Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner