



MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 3:02 p.m., on September 24, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Nancy Howze, Patricia Matthews, Joe Neves, Doug Verboon

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Shane Gunn

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Alvaro Preciado, Jeanette Zamora-Bragg

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Cynthia Baruch, LNAS; Via Zoom: Kelley Eagan, Caltrans; Estevan Benavides, Lemoore

A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances

None.

B. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

C. Unscheduled Appearances

None

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of August 27, 2025

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2025, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Verboon
Absent: Preciado, Zamora-Bragg

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Final Regional Active Transportation Plan

Teresa Nickell stated that KCAG staff, along with the consultant team of Mark Thomas and LSA Associates, completed the update to the 2019 Regional Active Transportation Plan. The cities of Corcoran and Hanford recently adopted their own Active Transportation Plans, and their projects are incorporated into the RATP. Comments received during the public review period from Caltrans District 6 were incorporated. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared for the project and is included as Appendix E of the document.

A motion was made and seconded (Matthews / Howze) to approve the Final 2025 Kings County Active Transportation Plan with regional Complete Streets Policy and the corresponding CEQA Notice of Exemption with the adoption of Resolution No. 25-10. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Verboon
Absent: Preciado, Zamora-Bragg

2. Draft Supplemental Public Participation Plan for the 2026 RTP/SCS

Kayley Clay stated that KCAG is required to develop a comprehensive long-range planning document or Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) every four years. The KCAG Commission adopted a Public Participation Plan (PPP) according to the federal requirements in 2011. Building on the comprehensive 2011 PPP document and the prior Supplemental PPPs, KCAG has prepared a draft 2026 Supplemental PPP that details how KCAG would engage the public during the 2026 RTP/SCS Update and was released on September 3, 2025, for a 45-day public review and comment period.

B. Caltrans Report

Shane Gunn reported that the Caltrans' Chief Deputy has retired and an interim Chief Deputy has been appointed; the second edition release of the Transportation Analysis Framework and the Transportation Analysis under CEQA has been released; CalSTA announced an open call for applicants for Interagency Equity Advisory Committee; and a workshop for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants program will be held on September 29, 2025.

It was reported that the Stratford community meeting was held on August 28, 2025, regarding potential improvements to the entrance into the community from SR 41, with a focus on full funding from Caltrans; the SR 99 draft Comprehensive Multi-Modal Plan draft review period has closed; the SR 41 Kettleman City roundabout construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2026; the Avenal Clean California enhancements project will have an art unveiling on October 1, 2025; the CAPM project on SR 41, from Nevada Avenue to SR 198 has no updates; the temporary roundabouts at Bush Street is now anticipated to be released in October of 2025; the SR 41 segment of unfinished two lane project in Fresno County is scheduled to start construction in March 2026; the SR 198 and 9th Ave interchange plan is ongoing; the Reef City CAPM construction completion date is March 2026; and Hanford SR 198 CAPM project construction is anticipated to start in 2028.

Commissioner Matthews inquired about the Bush Street Roundabout timetable. The response was that the developer will determine the timetable, as it is not a Caltrans project.

Commissioner Neves encouraged Caltrans to energize the streetlight at SR 41 and Kansas Avenue, as five years have passed.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

None.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

III. KCAO COMMISSION

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on September 24, 2025

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAO Transportation Policy Committee on September 24, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Howze, Matthews, Neves, Verboon
Absent: Preciado, Zamora-Bragg

2. Areawide Planning Review No. 25-08

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of the Valley Church is applying for a grant in the amount of \$380,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women's FFY 2025 Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program. The Lily of the Valley Church, through its Life of Victory – Shielded Years, Community Action Against Elder Abuse program, intends to provide support with safety and justice responses for older adults aged 50 and above who are experiencing abuse, neglect, or exploitation in rural, remote, and underserved communities across Kings and Tulare Counties. The comment period ended September 1, 2025, and staff received written comments from the following agencies that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs. Kings County Environmental Health Division, Kings County Fire Marshal, Family Services of Tulare County, and Tulare County District Attorney's Office. The Kings County Action Organization (KCAO) provided comments that the project duplicates and/or conflicts with their Domestic Violence Assistance Program. However, if the applicant coordinates with KCAO on their project, they must include KCAO services they intend to utilize. KCAO supports the project with this change to the proposal. The Tulare County District Attorney's Office provided comments

that the grant requires the grantee to send a multidisciplinary training team (MDTT) to a three-day “Training of Trainers” (TOT) training for law enforcement, which would include a prosecutor. Tulare County District Attorney is listed as a proposed partner, and they do not currently have resources available to participate in these activities.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Howze) to recommend that the KCAG Commission’s comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 25-08. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Howze, Matthews, Neves, Verboon
Absent: Preciado, Zamora-Bragg

3. Areawide Planning Review No. 25-09

Teresa Nickell stated that Self-Help Enterprises is preparing to apply for a grant in the amount of \$500,00 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development’s FFY 2025 Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant Program. The grant proceeds will be utilized by Self-Help Enterprises to benefit at least 18 households in target areas identified as communities with a population of fewer than 10,000 in the counties of Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin. The USDA Rural Development (RD) funds will be matched with \$7,000,000 in other grant funds. The comment period ended September 10, 2025, and staff received written comments from the following agencies that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs. City of Hanford Public Works, Kings County Office of Education, Kings County Environmental Health Division, and Home Garden Community Services District.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to recommend that the KCAG Commission’s comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 25-09. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Howze, Matthews, Neves, Verboon
Absent: Preciado, Zamora-Bragg

4. San Joaquin Valley Voice Washington DC

Terri King reported that she and Commissioners Verboon, Matthews, and Preciado participated in the 2025 Valley Voice Trip to Washington, DC. The agenda packet contains the brochure with the final platform presented to those who were met with. A summary of the Valley Voice Trip highlights and lessons learned was presented. Some of the highlights included that jurisdictions were encouraged to reach out to discuss grant applications, the funding focus is on safety, formula distribution of funding was supported, invite congressional members to visit projects, permitting reform ideas, rail service improvements, water infrastructure, and other issues.

Commissioner Verboon provided a summary of the meetings he attended, and stated that officials are still building staff, which is making the process slow for now. It was crucial to keep within the allotted presentation time to make your point. Commissioner Matthews concurred with Commissioner Verboon.

There was further discussion regarding the need to cover lessons learned for future trips improvements.

5. Request for Proposals for KCAG Executive Director Recruitment Services

Kris Pedersen reported that the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for recruitment services of the Executive Director position is in progress and noted that the current Executive Director job description is a 2006 version. The RFP was proposed to include, in the proposal, the creation of an updated job description, and conduct a salary survey for a competitive salary range. The commission decided to create an Ad Hoc committee to provide input on the RFP. Commissioners Howze, Matthews and Verboon will serve on the Ad Hoc committee. The goal was to complete the recruitment by April 2026.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King said that the next agenda will include the Finance Director Job Specifications, draft 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, the final Public Participation Plan, and rescheduling the November-December TPC meeting. There will be a scoping meeting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the 2026 RTP/SCS in October, and workshops are scheduled for Avenal and Hanford. The CalCOG Board meeting is on September 29, 2025.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Verboon stated that on November 14, 2025, there will be the rebranding ceremony in Stockton of the "Amtrak Gold Runner" to "Gold Runner".

Commissioner Neves said that the new Hanford Transit Center opening ceremony is December 13, 2025 and the Hanford Christmas parade is on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for October 22, 2025

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director