

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of May 15, 2008

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

MAY 15, 2008
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Wegman at approximately 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tarver, Scrivner, Lessenevitch, Ramirez, Rosson, Morgan, Florez, Smith, Wegman, Rubio, Ehlert, Silver

Members Absent: Mock, Thompson, McQuiston, Warren

Alternates: None

Others: Approximately 5

Staff: Brummett, Collins, Hildebrand, Phipps, Pacheco, Ball, Snoddy, Napier, Smith and Irby

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Committee at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.** None heard.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by Kern COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken. **ROLL CALL VOTE.**

- A. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2008
- B. Response to Public Comments (None)
- C. FY 2008-09 TDA Public Transit Claims – North of the River and the Cities of Tehachapi and Wasco
- D. Call for Projects: Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program
- E. Amendment to Moore & Associates, Inc. Contract: Arvin Transportation Development Plan
- F. FY 2007-08 TDA Streets and Roads Claim – City of Ridgecrest
- G. FY 2007-08 TDA Public Transit Claim – City of Ridgecrest

***** END CONSENT CALENDAR*****

MOTION BY DIRECTOR RUBIO, second by Director Lessenevitch, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

V. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM: SB 1507

Mr. Phipps stated that Senate Bill 1507 by Senator Oropeza would prohibit new highway construction or reconstruction within a quarter mile of an existing school boundary with certain exceptions that have been amended in for certain operational, safety and high-occupancy vehicle lane projects. As is the case with many other regions, Kern's planned transportation network would be devastated by this bill in its current form. With more than ten projects affected that have already been funded for construction or are in some other funded phase of development with a combined total of \$1.169 billion. These projects would affect the TIP and the RTP. We are asking tonight that you authorize the Chair to sign a letter in opposition of SB 1507 on this basis. The letter does include a reference to being amendable to any grandfather clause for existing planned projects and exceptions for maintenance and rehabilitation work. He said with his discussion with the Senator's office there doesn't seem to be anything forthcoming on that or any other additions or deletions. At this point, we are asking for a hard oppose. It has been put in suspension, but he doesn't know how long it's going to be there. This action is being mirrored up and down the valley.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR SMITH, second by Director Morgan, TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN A LETTER OF OPPOSITION AGAINST SENATE BILL 1507.

Director Morgan stated that if we are in strong opposition then we should remove the second to the last sentence that states "While we remain open ...if grandfathered in" as you previously mentioned. If we are going to have a strong opposition we do not want to waffle at the end. Mr. Brummett said we can certainly do that.

The maker of the motion and the second agreed to the change. Motion carried with a voice vote.

VI. PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Ms. Pacheco stated that as part of the implementation of Kern COG's Project Delivery Funding Policy and Guidance, local agencies are to submit for funding authorization by the end of March. If an agency does not, then they would need to send a revised submittal schedule to Kern COG in April. As shown in your summary, nineteen letters were submitted to Kern COG representing a total of about \$7.7 million in federal programming. Letters received prior to the Board agenda mailing total \$7.35 million and the four remaining letters represent \$350,000. This week information for two of the remaining four letters was received from Ridgecrest staff, one was for the preliminary engineering of the third phase of the resurfacing of College Heights for \$71,000. The revised submittal schedule is now the end of June. The project was delayed until Caltrans reimbursement to the City's capitol fund was received. The second letter was for the Bowman Road Bike Rest Stations for \$226,000, the City did not and will not pursue the funding this year. The project was linked to the proposed development of the Linear Park facing the existing bike path. The Linear Park project has been delayed and consequently delayed the bike station project. This is the first year of the implementation of this policy and Kern COG staff will continue to report on the progress of these projects via subsequent project status meetings held on a monthly basis and this item is for information only.

VII. MEETING REPORTS: None

VIII. CALTRANS' REPORT: (Report on Projects in Progress)

Ms. Ehlert stated that the 2008-09 May revised budget was released yesterday. She highlighted the information regarding transportation, the Governor is proposing to fully fund Proposition 42 full monies, that is the sales tax on gasoline that is used primarily for the STIP. The May revised includes \$1.4 billion in Prop 42 for this coming fiscal year, that would be an estimated four year total of approximately \$5.6 billion. The funding for transit remains stable at \$306 million. The Proposition 1B,

first time funding for the trade corridor improvement fund is \$413 million for this coming fiscal year. The state and local partnership program they are proposing \$200 million. The good news is we are holding on and retaining these Prop 42 monies. We will let you know when the final budget is signed.

She went over a few projects in construction: State Route 178 Fairfax interchange is being administered by the City of Bakersfield, it is about 30% complete and it is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009. The next phase they will be moving the traffic off of the main line as it transitions through that intersection and putting it onto the eastbound ramps, that will allow them to open the south side of the intersection, which is good because it has been closed for awhile. The bad news is that now we have to close the north side of the intersection. So those who live on the north side of that intersection will have to use Morning Drive to access 178. Another project that is just getting started is State Route 99, the 7th Standard Road interchange improvements and grade separations, that is being administered by the County. You will be seeing more activity out there now because of the Fairfax interchange and that is because they have the same contractor. The contractor will be using the excavation from the Fairfax project for the 7th Standard project. The third project that is being advertised right now is I-5 and Laval Road down in the Tejon Ranch area, the County is also administering this project. The advertisement started on May 5th and should be closing on June 11th, so more to come on that one. Two other projects: there was a chip seal on SR 178, from Oswell to the downtown area and that is completed, if you go that way you will notice that it looks great and rides much better. The last one is the project in Arvin state route 223, that project is complete, we did an overlay out there. We still have some questions our maintenance department is contacting our headquarters division of rail to see if we can talk to the railroad about that issue that Mayor Tarver has talked to us about. Mayor Tarver thanked her.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Brummett stated that the California Transportation Commission staff recommendation came out last Friday, the good news is that we got everything that we asked for in the year that we asked for it to be delivered in, the bad news is that we are still about \$2 million short on our third phase of Highway 46, but the Caltrans Director, Mr. Kempton is working with the Commission to try to get us the \$1.9 million to fully fund that third phase of Route 46. When those three phases are done we would have 25 miles of Route 46 done. The vote is two weeks from today at their meeting, the City of Bakersfield staff is going to be there and he said that he plans on attending as well.

He pointed out the stack of papers and a CD that is the Regional Transportation Plan Amendment, the 2009 Federal State Transportation Improvement Program and the conformity document that we have to do for the air quality conformity. He said they are identical you can choose to take both or one, if you leave the paper one here you will get it mailed to you next month because next month we will be having a public hearing. We have to have a quorum in July to vote on this, and if we miss it we could freeze the entire Valley's transportation dollars, so we have to have you here for the July meeting. We actually need a quorum the next two months, June for the public hearing and July to vote on it.

At the request of the Tulare County Rail Committee to provide a letter to the Federal Rail Authority, there is an eastern rail line that most of us are not familiar with that takes off near Delano/McFarland and goes up to the east through Porterville to Fresno. Union Pacific is proposing to abandon that route and are proposing to transfer it to a salvage company, which means they would rip up the tracks and ties and there would no longer be a railroad there. With our rail issues and air quality issues we think it is important that we be given an opportunity to figure something else out that we can do with that line, so we have filed a letter in opposition to the abandonment of that line. It is only a few miles in Kern County, most of it is in Tulare and Kings Counties, but we are supporting their request.

The reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act is next year, the bill expires next year. There are two groups meeting, the Valley COG Directors who has established a committee of which he is on and they have developed a position and will present that position next Friday, the 23rd at the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council, in which Directors Florez and Rubio serve on. Over the next several months we will be putting together more detailed on it. There are plans for a trip to Washington in the spring of 2009 by the entire San Joaquin Valley delegation to go there to meet with Federal legislators. The Valley Voice trip to Sacramento was so successful they want to try it on a Federal scale. We will continue to inform you on that.

He said he mentioned a couple months ago about remodeling here in the Board room, as you can see we are progressing, we have the brackets on each side of the room for monitors, the power points will no longer be shown on the screen, you cannot see it anyway because the lights need to stay on for the cameras, so you will be able to see these. You will notice there are more microphones, we are maxed out on our sound board right now, but we are looking at expanding our sound board and getting 2-3 more microphones so that everybody will have their own, so within the next couple of months we should have all the work done.

X. MEMBER STATEMENTS:

On their own initiative, Council members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. In addition, Council members may ask a question of staff or the public for clarification on any matter, provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting concerning any matter. Furthermore, the Council, or any member thereof, may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. None heard.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald E. Brummett, Executive Director

ATTEST:

Cheryl Wegman, Chairman

DATE: _____