

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of October 15, 2009

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 15, 2009
7:00 P.M.

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tarver, Scrivner, Lessenevitch, Ramirez, Rosson, Morgan, Prout, Linder, Smith, Wegman, Perrault, Silver

Members Absent: Mock, McQuiston, Rubio, Warren

Alternates: Crump

Others: Approximately 10

Staff: Brummett, Collins, Ball, Pacheco, Smith, Palomo, Heimer, Phipps, Hightower, Raymond, Schoolcraft and Randolph

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 – September 17, 2009
- B. Response to Public Comments (None)
- C. FY 2009-10 TDA Public Transit Claim – County of Kern
- D. Transportation Enhancement Projects – Draft Timeline
- E. 2011 Regional Transportation Plan – Draft Projects of Regional Significance
- F. Draft Congestion Management Program (CMP) Update
- G. Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program of Projects for FY 2009-10
- H. Program Supplement Agreement – Safe Routes to Schools Education and Outreach
- I. Consultant Contract Agreement – Safe Routes to Schools Education and Outreach
- J. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) – Draft Fund Estimate
- K. Local Project Commentary (RSTP, CMAQ, TE, Transit)
- L. Blueprint Visualization Contract Award
- M. Kern SB 375 Climate Change Travel Demand Model Enhancements: Contract Approval
- N. Draft Regional Growth Forecast Report – Response to Comments
- O. Climate Change Task Force Meeting Minutes

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

Mr. Brummett stated that staff would like to remove item I. and continue it until next month and on item M. the amount of the contract was not listed on the agenda, but it is in the staff report, it is \$49,916.

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

V. CONGESTION MITIGATION/AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM – DRAFT FUNDING TARGETS

Ms. Pacheco stated that Kern Council of Governments' staff has developed funding targets to implement the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Call for Projects. On September 17, 2009, the Transportation Planning Policy Committee (TPPC) gave approval of the timeline to proceed with a CMAQ call for projects. Part of the development of the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is project list review. While there are projects in fiscal year 10/11, Kern COG staff recommends moving forward with programming additional projects for federal fiscal year 10/11 and the introduction of federal fiscal year 11/12. The planning funding level is \$8.3 million. Table 1 in the staff report reflects proposed category percentages for this call for projects cycle. Adjustments can be made, by Board action, should actual projects submittals not conform to these target values. Kern COG staff recommends that the TPPC consider the proposal presented in Table 1 based on the experience of the 2005/2006 CMAQ Call for Projects cycle. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed this item and recommends approval. The action requested is that the TPPC approve the CMAQ Funding Targets.

Motion by Director Smith, second by Director Lessenevitch, TO APPROVE CMAQ FUNDING TARGETS. Motion carried with a voice vote.

VI. 2010 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Brummett stated that this is basically the same list that we have been dealing with for several years. On the staff report the projects are highlighted that are either under construction or moving towards construction shortly. Mr. Stramaglia is in San Diego at the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting and they discussed the fund estimate, and the CTC adopted a fund estimate of zero for the next two year cycle, which is going to be very hard for us to move projects forward without funding. We are hoping that we do not get into a situation like we were a couple of years ago where in fact we had to remove or delay projects, and some of them we haven't started yet. This is an information item, but those are the projects that we have been actively working on. The ones not highlighted are in jeopardy of being delayed. We will be bringing an FTIP back to you in the next couple of months once the CTC gives us direction on whether or not we have to delay projects.

Chair stated that since the West Ridgecrest Blvd. project is going to go out to bid and it is listed as a possible delay, remember that the City of Ridgecrest put the funds toward the environmental and if this project does get delayed the City of Ridgecrest is going to be insisting that it move forward because the environmental will run out and we would have to do it again. Mr. Brummett stated that the CTC has developed a list of projects that have submitted their environmental and you can submit them which shows your commitment to the project, then as they work down their list of completed but unallocated projects they will eventually get to your project. There was a project that got funded today that has been on that list for quite some time. There is a process that the CTC has put in place to handle that. The environmental has a shelf life of about three years.

VII. DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICIES

Mr. Ball stated that the document that you have before you is a section of our long-range Plan – 20 year – Policy on how we plan to move forward on those transportation goals. As you recall from last months' meeting, embarking on an update to our RTP that will conclude in July of next year. We have already began the process of feeding segments of the RTP document to you and this is one of those segments. This happens to be the goals, policies and performance measures. There are no major changes in the policy, but he did point out towards the back of the document there is a comparison with the Kern Regional Blueprint Principles and performance measures. The Technical Committee has seen this. Also on your agenda tonight item D. on the consent calendar was a timeline of a draft listing of projects for the RTP and item. F. which is a draft Congestion Management Program Update, all three of these items will be coming back to you at next month's meeting for some direction. This is just an information item.

Chair asked when the deadline was to get any input back to you. Mr. Ball said about two weeks, the 30th of October would be good.

VIII. MEETING REPORTS (None)

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

Mr. Perrault stated that regarding what Mr. Brummett talked about earlier, the Department of Finance went through a bond sale of \$4.2 billion, of those, \$313 million in funds went to road projects, so this will allow us to keep current projects that are under construction, but at this time there will be no new construction as he indicated. The other thing that he wanted to report on is that we recently went through the Highway and Safety Program application process, within the district there were 41 applications received, and we had seven agencies here in Kern County that submitted a total of 13 applications. These are safety projects on local roadways and they are rated based on the safety index. Recommendation should be made within the next month or so and awarded by the end of the year. There is another program that we have a call for projects out for the bicycle transportation account program and those applications are due December 1st. In the Fresno area we have a pilot program for warning about fog up in that area, that project came online within the last month and we now have four new changeable message signs (CMS) up there that are a part of that project they are colored and that is a new direction for Caltrans and the State. We are hoping that will be a successful program to alert drivers.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Brummett stated that last week was Rideshare Week and we had 360 people pledge to participate by turning in their pledge cards, we had 295 people enroll in our Kern Commuter Connection, which is a 37% increase. We had benefits for those that enrolled, there were seven coffee houses throughout the county where they could take their pledge cards and get a free cup of coffee. We had a lunch time express program where there were certain places where they could go and get an express lunch if they had carpooled or road the bus or anything other than driving alone in their vehicle. We had television, radio and print advertisements; we were in about every newspaper in the County. The County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the week as Rideshare Week with a formal presentation and proclamation and the Public Health Department held a press conference recognizing the relationship in the increase of ridesharing with the decrease of asthma cases, so all in all it was a pretty successful week. We had not had one of these to this extent in a number of years. This program had laid dormant for quite awhile but with Anne Schoolcraft coming on staff she put together a very successful program. The theme was based on the 40th anniversary of Woodstock, that theme was used with mood rings, tie dye, etc. to promote it, it was very colorful and very attractively done.

The San Joaquin Valley Fall Policy Conference was held a week ago, we had three members of the Board there as well as four members of the staff, they had a number of issues, the Executive Directors got a lot out of it.

Proposition 84 funding, the Valley had applied for \$2.5 million in funding to help update our models to comply with SB 375 and the climate change requirements, there is \$12 million available statewide and our share is \$200,000 to help update our model and increase the capabilities of our computer transportation model and you just approved the contract for that with the consent calendar so we are starting to spend some of that money.

On October 26th the San Joaquin Valley COG Directors will be meeting with the new CTC Commissioner representing the Valley, he's from the Fresno area, Darius Assemi, we will be meeting with him as a group. Mr. Stramaglia met him yesterday at the CTC meeting and has invited him to come down here, we have been asked by at least two agencies if they could have an audience with him to talk about their projects, so we will be trying to set those up and get him down here soon to talk to us.

The next meeting of the Kern Climate Change Task Force is on November 13th, staff is continuing to meet to see how best to go through the requirements of SB 375, so hopefully we will be bringing some things to you over the next few months.

The next San Joaquin Valley Policy Council meeting is scheduled for December 11th in Fresno, we will be sending you copies of the agenda and information.

We had a booth at the Kern County Fair and spoke to a couple thousand people, we had a video playing on the high speed rail, that tended to attract them and then we got into a lot of different discussions. It was a very successful opportunity for us, we were moved to a different location than past years and it seemed to work out better for us.

October 22-25 Mr. Phipps will be at the Desert Empire Fair in Ridgecrest with a booth.

Route 46 received allocation to begin segments 1 and 2, and segment 3 is still sitting on the list, hopefully that will be coming up soon as well. District Director Dougherty said he will be setting up a date to start ground breaking, we have been working on this since the early 90's.

The Planning Company Associates and Alcade and Faye reports are in your folders.

The California Partnership is having their annual summit on November 23rd in Fresno, we have some staff going, if any Board members would like to attend, the information is in your folders.

XI. 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.

Director Lessnevitch introduced Mr. Tom Weill, the new City Manager of the City of California City; he used to be our Airport Manager and now he is back with us.

Director Scrivner said that the groundbreaking for Phase 2 of the Westside Parkway will be October 23rd. Mr. Brummett said we emailed you late this afternoon the information on this.

Director Paul Linder said it is a pleasure to be back on the Board and that he had attended the Safety Task Force meeting in Buttonwillow last Thursday and fatalities are way down and citations are way up. He thanked the Board for the additional funds for CHP patrols out there, it has made such a difference.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald E. Brummett, Executive Director

ATTEST:

Steven P. Morgan, Chair

DATE: _____