

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting for June 21, 2018

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

June 21, 2018
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Wegman at approximately 6:30 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Gurrola, B. Smith, Vallejo, Mower, Prout, Krier, P. Smith, Wegman, Couch, Miller, Dermody, Parra, Kiernan

Members Absent: Mock, Cantu, Scrivner

Alternates:

Others: Stacy Unholz, Joe Arriola, Troy Hightower, Geoff Carter, Lorelei Oviatt, Karen King, Dave Domohowski, Ed Murphy, Adeyinka Glover, Heidi Lanza, Yesenia Ocampo, Cort Hitchens

Staff: Hakimi, Ball, Pacheco, Snoddy, Napier, Urata, Campbell, Jones, Heimer

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, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIR TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR CONDUCTING THE MEETING. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.**

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 – May 17, 2018

B. Response to Public Comments

C. JUNE TDA PUBLIC TRANSIT AND STREETS AND ROADS CLAIMS: DELANO STREETS AND ROADS CLAIM BAKERSFIELD AMTRAK STATION CLAIM FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,925,579

D. KERN COG CALTRANS STATE OF GOOD REPAIR POLICY

E. FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 FTA SECTION 5311 CALL FOR PROJECTS \$1,496,694

F. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT

G. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND CITY OF DELANO – DELANO AREA RAPID TRANSIT (DART)

H. INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS) KERN UPDATE REGIONAL ITS PLAN

APPROVAL

- I. **REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (RSTP) – ADDITIONAL FUNDING**
- J. **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY SAFETREC PROGRAM - STREET STORY APPLICATION**
- K. **BALANCING A STATE DESIGNATED “BEST PRACTICE” PERFORMANCE MEASURES ANALYSIS WITH AN “EXEMPLARY” PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS FOR THE DRAFT 2018 RTP**
- L. **CHANGES ARE REQUESTED BY CALTRANS TO KERN REGIONAL TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM TO MODIFY COUNT LOCATIONS**
- M. **CONTRACT BETWEEN KERN COG AND THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A KERN ELECTRIC VEHICLE BLUEPRINT PLAN**
- N. **CONTRACT BETWEEN KERN COG AND THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TO DEVELOP A KERN ELECTRIC VEHICLE BLUEPRINT PLAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$189,491**

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

MOTION BY DIRECTOR COUCH TO APPROVE, SECOND BY DIRECTOR P. SMITH TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR, MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE.

V. 2017 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – DRAFT AMENDMENT NO. 17

Ms. Pacheco advised that the 2017 FTIP amendment includes revisions to the transit program. The public review program began on June 8th and ends June 22nd. The Federal Transit Administration, Section 5311 funding as approved under the consent calendar is included in this amendment. The Kern COG Executive Director will consider approval of the amendment of June 25th. State and Federal approval is required.

Ms. Pacheco asked the Chair to open the public hearing, allow for public comment and close the hearing. Chair Wegman opened the public hearing, there were no public comments, Chair Wegman closed the public hearing.

VI. PUBLIC REVIEW: DRAFT 2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY; DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT; DRAFT 2019 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; AND CORRESPONDING DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

Ms. Pacheco stated that public review of Kern Council of Government’s long and near-term federal transportation documents is currently underway. Ms. Pacheco advised that all documents are available on the Kern COG website. Comments are due by 5:00 PM, July 12th. The first of three public hearings was held June 6th at the Ridgecrest City Council meeting, no comments were received. The second public hearing was held June 19th at the Arvin City Council meeting, one comment was received.

Ms. Pacheco asked the Chair to open the public hearing, allow for public comment and close the hearing.

Chair Wegman opened the public hearing.

Heidi Lanza from the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSR) thanked the committee for the opportunity to provide a comment on draft Regional Transportation Plan Sustainable Community Strategy. Ms. Lanza discussed the HSR station area plan and advised that it was approved by the City of Bakersfield in May 2018. Ms. Lanza discussed the benefits from the arrival of the HSR. She stated that in June of 2018, the Authority released its 2018 business plan. The plan proposed to build infrastructure to provide mobility, economic and environmental benefits to Californians and to initiate HSR service as soon as

possible. Ms. Lanza stated the the HSR Authority encourages Kern COG to work with the City of Bakersfield to encourage high-density development, a mixed land use, grid street patterns and compact pedestrian-oriented design, context-sensitive building design and limits on space dedicated to parking for new development. Ms. Lanza stated that in conclusion, they hoped that Kern COG and its partners are successful in securing funding to carry out the HSR station area plan as well as other regional and transportation projects.

Lorelei Oviatt, the Kern County Director of Planning and Natural Resources and a representative on the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) provided a comment. Ms. Oviatt stated that she had provided a written comment and wished to highlight what she had provided to staff. Ms. Oviatt advised that they had worked diligently and hard on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for a county that is bigger than Rhode Island. Half of the population lives in the unincorporated area and many of the cities have transportation and jobs balance to get people from where their jobs are, to where they live. Ms. Oviatt advised that this is a very different SCS and we cannot create what we need for our future, by just looking at the kinds of suggestions that are brought from Northern and Southern California. Ms. Oviatt stated that she believed that the RPAC and the other committees have worked hard with the city partners to make sure that this SCS complies with what the legislature wants while acknowledging that many of our industries need to be in rural areas and our cities are where people live. We cannot put chemical blending in an urban area and expect it to be safe. Ms. Oviatt went on to say that we have a very unique job/housing balance that is challenging. She provided some information that is from the Kern County General Plan 2040. They are in year two of a three-year project to comprehensively update the General Plan. They spent a year and each month addressed a particular topic. One of the things they looked at was the current rural transit ideas that many people have. Many fares do not cover the routes. Ms. Oviatt expressed that we need to look at shared mobility, be forward thinking so that our cities can thrive. Ms. Oviatt submitted the document, Promising Practices for Increasing Access to Transportation in Rural Communities. It contains a rural access toolkit and includes new ways of shared mobility. Ms. Oviatt went on to say, while she appreciates comments that are made about modeling, it is only a snapshot of a scenario. She expressed that the public comments useful are the ones that discuss what we are implementing, what are the policies, how are we moving forward.

Dennis Fox stated that he had three issues that he wanted to address. Mr. Fox stated that we wanted to address circulation of traffic and doing it correctly. He stated that citizens get fined on their vehicle registration for having poor air and the money goes to the air district. He would like to see the funds go towards coordinated traffic lights. He also addressed the need for sound walls. He stated that these could be funded by fines, such as by weigh trucks. He suggested using trains instead of trucks to move commodities.

Adeyinka Glover from the Leader Council for Justice and Accountability thanked the committee for the opportunity to comment. Ms. Glover stated that as an organization that works with rural and also low-income communities, they recognize that under-investment happens in those communities. They believe that more policy recommendation within chapter two should prioritize those communities. Ms. Glover commented on the scenarios from the 2014 RTP that were used in the 2018 draft. Ms. Glover stated that they do not believe that outreach was thoroughly done to garner a good public attendance from various segments of the communities at the Arvin public review period. She advised that these are not Leadership Council's complete comments and that they had submitted a comment letter on June 1st, they also made comments in Arvin and will be submitting a comment letter by July 12th. She concluded by stating that they appreciate that Kern COG staff has met with their organization to address the needs of the committees.

Troy Hightower, an Independent Transportation Consultant made a comment. Mr. Hightower stated that he had been very involved with the RPAC meetings and the committee activities. Mr. Hightower discussed concerns related to performance measures and projected GHG reductions. Mr. Hightower referred to table two, which is a list of policies and strategies and indicated that they were considerably different from the draft document than what was presented or reviewed by the committee. Mr. Hightower commented on the Environmental Justice analysis and what he perceived as potential problems. He added that in addition, the map that is in the draft is a single color map of an area that represents both the EJ and the Title VI areas. The document does state and as the committee has mentioned, the source for these maps is the EJ screen tool but in his opinion there is no correlation that can be determined between the source map and the map in the draft document. Mr. Hightower stated that the analysis breaks it down even further to urban, rural areas countywide. He pointed out that there is not a map demonstrating the metro/urban areas analyzed and these are the rural areas. Mr. Hightower stated in the EIR, under "Alternatives Analyzed", they are not consistent with what is in the

plan. He gave the example that the EIR compares analyses from an existing scenario and 2042, no project area. He stated that he was not familiar with an existing scenario alternative, however later in the EIR, there are some additional alternatives mentioned as no project, old plan a countywide infill and a slow growth alternative. These are all alternatives that were not presented to the RPAC or in the public meetings. He stated that whatever the indicators or growth patterns these other scenarios may have, the public and the RPAC did not have the benefit to analyze those and help provide more input into the actual plan. Mr. Hightower stated that his interest is in having the SCS to be the best that it can be, his hope is that the SCS can be improved.

Ms. Oviatt made an additional comment. Ms. Oviatt stated that the previous speaker may be an expert on transportation, but that she is a CEQA expert and the relationship between alternatives in an EIR and alternatives in the SCS are not the same and they cannot be the same. She stated as a member of the RPAC, she would find it a violation of CEQA processing to have staff bring forward any discussion of alternatives in a environmental impact report to let us determine what should be in there. She advised that those are standards under the California Environmental Quality Act and those are different from the alternatives that you put into an SCS. She stated since there were presentations that seemed to imply that staff is somehow not bringing forward information, she wanted to put that into the record. She stated that she was sure that the staff will look at all of the comments and bring forward some resolution for the Board.

There were no further public comments.

Chair Wegman closed the public hearing.

VII. BOARD MEMBER'S MEETING REPORT: (None)

VIII. CALTRANS' REPORT

Director Miller stated that on the Famoso Bridge replacement on SR 46 and 99, the bridge is continuing, however, a full closure of 99 is expected later this month to prepare the site for the falsework placement. The SR 99/Taft Highway 2-R pavement rehabilitation on SR 99 North of Herring Road overcrossing to Pacheco Road, the contractor is working on the Southbound, number four lane, removing and replacing continuous reinforce pavement. Segment 4-A to widen SR 46 from two lanes to four lanes between Lost Hills Road to I-5, abutment 1 & 5 are in settlement period for 90 days, contractors have constructed curb and gutter on 46. Contractors constructing New County Road. Chevron is removing the pipes and the Lost Hills Utility District is removing water lines. However, PG&E has no plans to relocate underground utilities, which may delay the project. Contractors started the west side canal construction on June 18th. The main flood canal construction also began on June 18th. Fish and Game has approved a permit, biologists are monitoring. The Cottonwood east rehab on SR 58 from Cottonwood undercrossing to the east of the 58/184 separation, contractors continue work on the inside shoulder for stage two of the project. The traffic will shift to the inside for the CRCP. That will be 45-60 working days. Project completion for this project is March 29, 2019. The contractor has completed the centerline rumble strips and stripping operations, along with traffic loops from 7th Standard road to north of Ave 196. This was completed in May. Construction for rumble strips for Kern 33 and 119 at various locations is about 80% completed.

Mr. Dermody stated that included in Board folders were the district boundary map, the Freeman Gulch ribbon-cutting press release and the Eastern Kern construction map. He stated Cash Creek bridge replacement project on SR 58, he stated that is a big project and will cause some delays on 58. He stated as he knows more with the traffic handling plan, he will update the committee.

Mr. Dermody stated that he wanted to highlight the financial impact of SB 1. He explained that with SB1 they have approximately 727 million dollars over the next ten years in their plan. He advised without SB 1 they would be looking at about 188 million. He explained that if that was the case, they would only be able to do about 25% of their projects.

He advised that they had just kicked off the District 9 Intelligent Transportation System Master Plan, similar to what Kern COG just did for their ITS plan. He advised they are also working on a freight study with a focus on SR 58. He advised that next year they would be initiating a Project Initiation document, which is an early-on document that identifies the cost of truck climbing lanes on East Bound SR 58.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Mr. Hakimi advised that Congressman McCarthy announced in early June that Bakersfield would be one of two recipients in California of an INFRA grant. We will receive 50 million dollars for the regions highest priority project, which will allow the regions highest priority project to be delivered without any bonding. Mr. Hakimi congratulated all of the Board members.
- Mr. Hakimi advised that Supervisor Scrivner, Nick Fidler and himself met with the CTC on June 13 regarding advancing the STIP money. They received approval for that.
- At the CTC Meeting Report on May 16 & 17 in San Diego, the CTC awarded 25 million to the Centennial Corridor. Which brings the grand total in the last four months to approximately 170 million dollars.
- At the next CTC Meeting on June 27 & 28 in Sacramento, the CTC is expected to approve the 25 million allocations so that the city can start work a subset of the Centennial Corridor.
- Mr. Hakimi reminded the Board members that we will be dark in July.
- Mr. Hakimi thanked Council member Mower and Mayor Wood for attending the Freeman Gulch ribbon cutting. He shared that the ribbon cutting was attended by Inyo, Mono, and Kern County staff and elected, as well as District 9 and District 6 staff. He stated that it represents almost 25 years of effort.
- Rob Ball attended an invitation-only event at the Governor's office to discuss freight movement in California.

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.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director

ATTEST:

Cheryl Wegman, Chair

DATE: _____