

**AGENDA
KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING OF REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2026 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRIMARY MEETING LOCATION:

Kern Council of Governments, Board Room
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION: [RPAC Meeting](#)

[|Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

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**SECONDARY MEETING LOCATIONS (for
Teleconference):**

Arvin City Hall
200 Campus Drive, Arvin, CA 93203

Offices at:
1234 O Street, Fresno, CA 93721

I. ROLL CALL:

- II. 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.**

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee may request assistance at 1401 19th Street, Suite 300; Bakersfield CA 93301 or by calling (661) 635-2910. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made at least three (3) working days in advance whenever possible.

III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARY

A. Meeting of November 5, 2025.

B. Meeting of February 4, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE.

IV. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP (Raymond)

Comment: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is required to be updated every 4-years and contains a long range 24-year transportation expenditure portfolio fulfilling numerous policies and regulations including but not limited to public involvement, social equity, air quality conformity, congestion management, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. The public engagement process is complete and the draft documents

are scheduled for public review from May 8 to July 2, 2026 and will be available online at: <https://www.kerncog.org/2026-rtp/> .

Action: Information.

V. PRESENTATION: SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES (Ball)

Comment: Kern COG staff have prepared a presentation summarizing the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Success Stories.

Action: Information.

VI. PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT: KERN AREA REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT OPERATIONS (KARGO) COMMUNITY PROTECTION/PROSPERITY STUDY (Davisson)

Comment: Comments are invited on the growing goods movement activity in the Kern region and ways to protect our communities while promoting their prosperity. The study is available online at <https://www.kerncog.org/kargo/> .

Action: Comments on the draft final report are due to Karl Davisson kdavisson@kerncog.org or (661) 635-2919 by April 30th, 2026.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Raymond)

Comment: The Regional Planning Advisory Committee needs to select a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

Action: Select a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY
November 5, 2025
1:30 P.M.

Chairman Esselman called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steve Esselman	Shafter
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	Brianna DeLeon	McFarland
	David Deels	Caltrans
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
KERN COG STAFF:	Ben Raymond	Karl Davisson
	Irene Enriquez	
OTHERS:	Andrea Nason	Caltrans

II. 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 information or request staff to report 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.

III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARIES

- RPAC Meeting of July 2, 2025

Committee Member Keri Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2025; seconded by Committee Member Chavez, unanimously approved by voice vote.

IV. UPDATED: LEGISLATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CHANGES ENACTED IN 2025
(Davisson)

Comment: Karl Davisson presented on several substantial changes to housing law passed in the recent legislative session, including the Permit Streamlining Act, AB 130, SB 131, AB 893 and SB 79.

Action: Information.

V. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP (Raymond)

Comment: Ben Raymond provided an update on public outreach events that have taken place to support the development of the 2026 RTP.

Action: Information.

VI. MOBILITY INNOVATIONS AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT (Romero Valdivia)

Comment: Victoria Romero Valdivia gave a status report on efforts by Kern COG to promote early deployment of alternative fuel vehicle technologies. The report covered progress made from July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025.

Action: Information.

VII. UPDATE – KERN COG TRAVEL MODEL: VALIDATION, CALIBRATION, AND SENSITIVITY TESTS (Raymond)

Comment: Mr. Raymond presented summary information on the draft travel model documentation and shared how to access and review the documentation.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is December 3, 2025 (**May be dark**).

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY
February 4, 2026
1:30 P.M.

Lorena Mendibles chaired the meeting in Steve Esselman's absence and called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Isaiah Medina	Arvin
	Roque Nino	Bakersfield
	Jose Lara	Delano
	Brianna DeLeon	McFarland
	Heather Spurlock	Ridgecrest
	Luke Risner	Taft
	Corey Costelloe	Tehachapi
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
	Lorena Mendibles	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Ben Raymond	Karl Davisson
	Raquel Pacheco	Rob Ball
OTHERS:	Victor Paliacio	Bakersfield
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	David Tokarski	DKS Associates
	Jim Damkowitch	DKS Associates

- II. 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 information or request staff to report 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.

III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARIES

- RPAC Meeting of November 2, 2025

A motion was not taken on the November Discussion summary. The Discussion summary will be taken for approval at the next RPAC meeting.

IV. 2025 KERN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION BLUEPRINT UPDATE FINAL REPORT (Pacheco)

Raquel Pacheco provided a brief summary of the vehicle charging station blueprint project and introduced David Tokarski with DKS Associates who provided a presentation covering details of the project and the final report.

Ms. Chavez asked about how public input was used to determine charging locations and Mr. Tokarski provided information about how comments were incorporate in evaluations for sites.

The action requested is that the Regional Planning Advisory Committee recommend the Transportation Planning Policy Committee receive and file the 2025 the Kern Electric Vehicle Charging Station Blueprint Update.

With no further discussion, Mr. Nino made a motion to approved the action, and Ms. Spurlock seconded the motion. Mr. Raymond performed a roll call vote, and the motion was carried out unanimously.

V. PENDING TTAC REAP 2.0 GRANT STATUS REPORT (Davisson)

Karl Davisson reported on the status of REAP 2.0 grants. The grantees in Kern provided status reports at the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee early this day and Mr. Davisson summarized those status reports.

This item was for information only.

VI. MOBILITY 2026 HOUSING UNIT SURVEY AND ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (Davisson)

Mr. Davisson provided information about the housing unit survey collected by the Department of Finance each January and the Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Annual Progress Reports due in April of each year. Member agency staff were encouraged to complete the survey and progress report in a timely manor and Mr. Davisson offered Kern COG staff assistance if needed.

Local jurisdictions were asked to coordinate on completed Housing Unit Surveys with Kern COG staff and submit Annual Housing Report to HCD/LCI by April 1, 2026. This item was for information only.

VII. UPDATE: 2030 CENSUS BLOCK BOUNDARY SUGGESTION PROGRAM (Davisson)

Mr. Davisson provided information about the Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP) as part of the Census Bureau's first redistricting phase, running January–May 2026, allowing local input to refine census blocks for the 2030 Census. Mr. Davisson invited member agencies to coordinate with Kern COG to provide input in the program.

This item was for information only.

VIII. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP (Raymond)

Ben Raymond provided an updated on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) development process. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is required to be updated every 4 years and contains a long range 24-year transportation expenditure portfolio fulfilling numerous policies and regulations including but not limited to public involvement, social equity, air quality conformity, congestion management, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. Mr. Raymond mentioned that Kern COG was wrapping up it's outreach process for the development of the Draft 2026 RTP and noted that is anticipated to be released for public review and comments in May.

A question from the audience was asked about how many people Kern COG engaged during the outreach process and Mr. Raymond responded that over 10,000 people were engaged through various surveys, outreach events, and workshops.

This item was for information only.

IX. SUMMARY OF KERN COG ASSISTANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION (Raymond)

Mr. Raymond provided an overview of Kern Council of Governments coordination, technical assistance, monitoring, and policy support provided to member agencies for implementing the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Mr. Raymond encouraged member agencies to review the resources attached to the staff report and contact Kern COG staff for assistance in implementing the identified sustainable community strategies.

This item was for information only.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XI. MEMBER ITEMS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is March 4, 2026 (**May be dark**).



IV RPAC

April 1, 2026

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Rob Ball, Deputy Director/Planning Director
Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item: IV.
UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM
PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP

DESCRIPTION:

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is required to be updated every 4-years and contains a long range 24-year transportation expenditure portfolio fulfilling numerous policies and regulations including but not limited to public involvement, social equity, air quality conformity, congestion management, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. The public engagement process is complete and the draft documents are scheduled for public review from May 8 to July 2, 2026 and will be available online at: <https://www.kerncoq.org/2026-rtp/> .

DISCUSSION:

This discussion provides an update on the activity related to the RTP and the SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The report is updated regularly with the most recent developments listed first.

March 23, 2026 – Kern COG staff had a coordination call with California Air Resource Board staff (CARB) to discuss the Technical Methodology submitted by Kern COG in February. Very limited clarifications were addressed and coordinated

February 27, 2026 – Submitted the 2026 Kern SCS Technical Methodology Version 2 to the California Air Resources Board (ARB).

December 10, 2025 – Received revised modeling protocol from the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to account for impact of the revocation of the ARB waiver for setting more stringent emissions than the rest of the nation.

November 13, 2025 – Concluded the 4-year outreach process engaging over 10,000 participants on the 2026 RTP SCS via statically valid phone/text surveys, fairs/festivals, workshops and more.

October 10 – November 13, 2025 – Completed 7 stakeholder outreach events on the RTP SCS engaging 300 participants. The effort garnered input from 7 stakeholder groups in the communities of Bakersfield, Taft, Delano, Ridgecrest, Arvin, Rosedale, and Wasco. The stakeholder groups included Bike Bakersfield, Taft Chamber of Commerce, Center for Race Poverty and the Environment, AkaMya Indian Culture Group, FARO Church/Arvin HS Students, Riverlakes Farmers Market, and Wasco Youth Police Activities League.

September 17-28, 2025 – Received input from over 1000 people at the Kern County Fair booth on the development pattern scenarios for the 2026 RTP.

August 6, 2025 – Kern Regional Transportation Modeling Committee met to review Kern Travel Model validation and documentation for the 2026 RTP/SCS. Information is posted on Kern COG website under RPAC agendas.

May 21st – June 4th, 2025 – Kern COG hosted four hybrid (in-person/online) community workshops and three online workshops collecting input on the KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection Study and Freight related projects for the RTP/SCS. Workshops were held in Arvin, California City, Keene, and Shafter.

May 13, 2025 – CARB formally adopted their determination that Kern COG's 2022 RTP/SCS, when implemented, would achieve the SB 375 Target Reductions by 2035. In June 2023, Kern COG received an email from CARB to notify that the 2022 SCS was "officially approved."

April 23, 2025 – SB 375 Target Setting Update – Kern COG staff is participating in a workshop hosted by ARB for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to discuss SB 375 Target Updates and other SB 375 program-related items.

April 17, 2025 – Kern COG Annual Statistically Valid Community Survey was conducted in January. Survey results have been compiled and presented to the Kern COG board at the April Board Meeting. Results of the Annual Community Survey are available on Kern COG's website.

September 18th – 29th, 2024 – Kern COG collected input for 2026 RTP/SCS and collected input on transportation issues in the community at the Kern COG booth during the Kern County Fair.

July 24th – August 2nd, 2024 – Kern COG hosted four community workshops collecting input on the KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection Study and Freight related projects for the RTP/SCS. Workshops were held in Greater Arvin area (at the Tejon Indian Tribe Community Center), Delano, Rosamond, and Tehachapi.

June 28, 2024 – Kern COG submitted to the ARB the Kern COG 2026 SCS Technical Methodology and responses to their draft comments on the 2022 SCS. ARB staff responded that their final comments on the 2022 SCS are moving up their management reviews. As of July 22, the final comments have yet to be provided.

May 20, 2024 – Kern COG hosted an outreach roundtable for the Kern Area Regional Goods-movement Operations (KARGO) Study, which will feed into the 2026 RTP and include additional outreach events to collect input on the study and development of the 2026 RTP. Community based organizations and local/state agencies provided feedback on the outreach plan.

May 3, 2024 – Golden Empire Transit (GET) hosted a workshop on the Metro Bakersfield Moves – Long-Range Transit Plan (LRTP). The LRTP is a key input in the development of the 2026 RTP. During the outreach process for the LRTP, surveys collected public input for both the LRTP and the RTP.

April 18, 2024 – The Kern COG Board adopted the 2024-2050 Regional Growth Forecast. The Regional Growth Forecast establishes population forecasts for the horizon of the 2026 RTP.

February 20, 2024 – ARB provided another email re-confirming that they officially accept Kern COG's 2022 SCS, and provided a draft of 11 recommendations for the 2026 SCS. No estimate on when their final acceptance letter will be submitted.

January 9, 2024 and November 2, 2023 – ARB provided an email update on the status of Kern COG's promised 2022 RTP/SCS acceptance letter. A key upper management review person is not available this month pushing the issuance of the final letter into 2024, 7-months after ARB indicated acceptance of Kern COG's SCS in their June 13th email.

August 10, 2023 - At the quarterly SJV Inter-Agency Consultation meeting, ARB staff announced that the SCSs for Kern, Stanislaus, and Tulare COGs have been approved and will receive official documentation in September. Fresno and San Joaquin COGs have completed their reviews and are in the process of making some required board actions before they can receive their official approval. Kings, Madera, and Merced are still under review by ARB staff.

July 26, 2023 – 2026 RTP/SCS Roundtable Meeting was held for environmental, equity, business & industry groups on the public outreach process at Kern COG and included 14 representatives from the Delores Huerta Foundation, Central California Asthma Collaborative, Sierra Club, Home Builders Association, Golden Empire Transit, Caltrans, County Public Works, and staff from the cities of McFarland, Taft, and Wasco.

June 15, 2023 – Kern COG Board approved the 2023 Public Involvement Procedures document after a 45-day public review. The document is online at <https://www.kerncog.org/policies/> .

June 13, 2023 – ARB staff emailed Kern COG and the California Transportation Commission that “the SCS is officially approved.” However, the final acceptance letter is still working its way through upper management reviews and will take several weeks before it is issued.

May 19, 2023 – ARB staff acknowledged receipt of the requested transmittal letter signed by the Kern COG Chair, and associated TPPC staff report. ARB staff indicated they would provide a status update by May 31, and try to meet Kern COG's request for an expedited review by June 8, but that they could not commit to any date earlier than June 27.

May 5, 2023 - Kern COG submitted a draft Kern COG TPPC staff report and transmittal letter to ARB with a request for the Kern COG Chair to sign. Approved by the Board on May 18, 2023, the letter documents technical changes that do not affect the adopted RTP/SCS text or conclusions and includes updates from the November 2022 SCS technical data submittal per ARB guidelines.

May 1, 2023 – Kern COG circulated the draft Public Involvement Procedure for a 45-day public review ending June 15. The Executive Director and other San Joaquin Valley COG directors also met with ARB’s SJV representative, where staff indicated Kern was close to an acceptance finding for its SCS.

April 26, 2023 – Kern COG submitted to ARB a cover letter and revised technical methodology data submittal with all the requested updates since the November data submittal. ARB requested that it be approved by the Kern COG Board and have Kern COG’s chair’s signature.

April 17, 2023 – Kern COG web conferenced with ARB staff for the 14th time in 3 years to discuss the 2022 SCS technical methodology. ARB is required to provide their findings and recommendations 2 months after the submitted package from Nov. 29, 2022, is found complete.

February 17, March 29, April 7, April 14, 2023 – Kern COG web conferenced with ARB to further refine SCS modeling methodology and in February provided draft comments on the 2022 SCS.

January 20, 2023 – ARB responded to Kern COGs SCS technical methodology submittal from November 29, 2022 with questions. A meeting was held on January 24, 2023, to clarify questions.

December 16, 2022 – The 2022 RTP/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) short range transportation program air quality conformity was federally approved.

November 29, 2022 – Kern COG submitted the technical methodology data package to the ARB.

July 21, 2022 - the Kern COG Board adopted the 2022 RTP/SCS and associated documents. The documents are available on the Kern COG website at <https://www.kerncog.org/category/docs/rtp/>.

Table 1 – 2018 & 2022 SB 375 Targets for the Kern Region

Per Capita GHG Reduction Target/	2020	2035
2022 RTP/SCS demonstration (July 21, 2022) w/ required off-model adjustments (2020 is pre-COVID)	-10.9%	-15.1%
2018 RTP/SCS demonstration (August 15, 2018)	-12.5%	-12.7%
Targets for 2022 RTP/SCS (set March 22, 2018, by ARB, effective October 1, 2018)	- 9%	-15%

March 22, 2018 - ARB adopted new SB375 Targets for the third cycle RTP/SCS to be effective October 1, 2018. Next ARB target setting will be during the 2022-2026 window.

Preliminary Timeline 2026 RTP/SCS

- ~~June 2023~~ Update Public Involvement Procedure
- ~~July 2023~~ Stakeholder roundtable process to vet outreach and performance measures
- ~~April 2024~~ Regional Growth Forecast Update
- ~~June 11, 2024~~, Bakersfield Downtown Transit Ctr. LRT Plan Update walk-up event

- ~~July-August 2024 KARGO Study RTP/SCS Freight Outreach Events~~
- ~~April 2025 Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys~~
- ~~May 2025 KARGO Study RTP/SCS Freight Outreach Events~~
- ~~August 6, 2025 Transportation Modeling Committee Special Meeting~~
- ~~August 23-24, 2025 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Tehachapi Mountain Festival~~
- ~~August 29, 2025 Mini-Grants Applications Due~~
- ~~September 17-28, 2025 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Kern County Fair~~
- ~~September each year Technical Assistance Requests to Kern COG Due~~
- ~~October 18, 2025 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Oildorado Days in Taft~~
- ~~Fall 2025 Mini-Grant Stakeholder Hosted RTP/SCS Workshops (see attached flyer)~~
- ~~Fall 2023 to Fall 2025 Fairs/Festivals/Farmer's Market Outreach~~
- ~~Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process~~
- ~~Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys~~
- May 8 to July 2, 2026 – 55-day public review process for RTP/SCS, congestion management plan, environmental document, air quality conformity, federal transportation improvement program. Documents will be available at <https://www.kerncoq.org/2026-rtp/>
- August 20, 2026 – Kern COG Board scheduled to adopt the 2026 RTP/SCS and associated documents

ACTION: Information.



V
RPAC

April 1, 2026

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)

FROM: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director

By: Rob Ball, Deputy Director/ Planning Director
Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item: V.

PRESENTATION: SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES

DESCRIPTION:

Kern COG staff have prepared a presentation summarizing the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Success Stories.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Success Stories showcase how Kern COG's member agencies and regional stakeholders have implemented strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in support of the SB 375 goals included in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

The Success Stories featured in this presentation will be included as an appendix to the 2026 RTP/SCS. A video recording of the presentation, along with the draft Success Stories appendix, will be posted on the RTP documents website (www.kerncog.org/rtp-docs) to provide local agencies with examples of initiatives that may be applicable in their own communities.

ACTION: Information.



VI RPAC

April 1, 2026

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)

FROM: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director

By: Karl Davisson, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item: VI.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT: KERN AREA REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT
OPERATIONS (KARGO) COMMUNITY PROTECTION/PROSPERITY STUDY

DESCRIPTION:

Comments are invited on the growing goods movement activity in the Kern region and ways to protect our communities while promoting their prosperity. The study is available online at <https://www.kerncoq.org/kargo/>.

DISCUSSION:

The objective of this project has been to assess the climate change vulnerabilities throughout Kern County, including the Tehachapi Pass and Tejon Pass corridors and their resiliency connectors, and to leverage and advance critical projects that implement adaptive climate mitigation measures while maximizing co-benefits countywide. The project focused on three main components:

1. Vulnerability/Resiliency Assessment Report: This component assessed current and future vulnerability of the corridor and connecting resiliency routes to the impacts of climate change and identify critical infrastructure.
2. Adaptation Mitigation/Co-Benefit Analysis Report: This component developed a comprehensive climate adaptation Analysis for the Corridor, incorporating the results of the vulnerability assessment. The analysis identified and ranked short- and long-term adaptation mitigation measures, such as the construction of mudslide barriers, retaining walls, drainage structures, wildlife crossing infrastructure improvements, vegetation management/restoration to reduce the impacts of climate change on the corridor while prioritizing co-benefits for safety, community, economy, and habitat.
3. Expedite Implementation Conceptual Design Effort: Leverage planned projects in the corridor including the truck lane and the High-Speed Rail projects to focus on early implementation of the identified adaptation measures, including 30% design and cost estimates

of drainage culverts, wildlife crossing infrastructure, retaining walls, vegetation management and restoration, resiliency connectors and other safety, community, economic and habitat co-benefits.

Through an extensive public outreach and engagement process, Kern COG worked with consulting firm Mark Thomas to develop the draft final study report. In the report the consultant prepared cost estimates and up to 30% conceptual designs for projects on the prioritized list the TTAC approved in November 2024. Comments on the draft report are due April 15th to be incorporated into the final draft, which will be presented to the TTAC on May 6th for recommendation to the TPPC for final acceptance.

ACTION: Comments on the draft final report are due to Karl Davisson kdavisson@kerncog.org or (661) 635-2919 by April 30th, 2026