

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND  
CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY  
February 6, 2019  
10:00 A.M.

Chairman Schlosser called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. A “sign-in” sheet was provided.

**I. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jay Schlosser	Tehachapi
Stuart Patteson	City of Bakersfield
Lorena Mendibles	Caltrans
Joe West	NOR/CTSA
Wayne Clausen	City of Shafter
Bard Lower	City of Ridgecrest
Ricardo Perez	GET
Craig Jones	City of Taft
Bob Neath	County of Kern
Kameron Arnold	City of Wasco
Mario Gonzales	City of McFarland

STAFF:

Peter Smith	Kern COG
Robert Snoddy	Kern COG
Raquel Pacheco	Kern COG
Rob Ball	Kern COG
Becky Napier	Kern COG
Ahron Hakimi	Kern COG
Rochelle Invina	Kern COG

OTHER:

Viviana Zamora	City of Delano
Yolanda Alcantar	County of Kern
Luisa Lopez	Caltrans
Cindy Parra	Bike Bakersfield
Bividiana Bishop	City of Wasco

- 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 date.

SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION There were no Public Comments.

- III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARY:** Meeting of January 2, 2019. Mr. Neath requested a correction to the minutes and asked that his name be added as being in attendance. Mr. Lower made a motion to approve the discussion summary as corrected. Mr. Neath seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- IV. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT – STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA**

Mr. Snoddy informed the Committee that transit operators eligible to receive Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Local Transportation Funds (LTF) may also be eligible to receive State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds if the STA complicated qualifying criteria are met. Mr. Snoddy explained that if you don't claim your STA Funds for two years the qualifying criteria does not apply.

This item is for information only.

#### **V. CALTRANS 10-YEAR SHOPP LISTING OF PROPOSED FUTURE PROJECTS**

Mr. Stramaglia informed the Committee that Caltrans District 6 has assembled project information for the 2017 10-year State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP). At the January 17, 2019 Kern COG Board meeting, several maps indicating locations of future 10-Year SHOPP projects in Kern County were distributed to the Kern COG Directors for their information. The purpose of this report then is to disseminate this information to Transportation Technical Advisory Committee members for their review and potential comments.

All comments on projects should be sent to Kern COG by the end of February 2019. If the TTAC and Caltrans feels it's feasible perhaps we can do this again in the fall with revised lists and maps.

Chairman Schlosser asked if there would be the same type of information from District 9 for Ridgecrest, California City and Tehachapi. Mr. Stramaglia stated he would reach out to District 9.

This item is for information only

#### **VI. 2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Stramaglia informed the Committee that the California Transportation Commission will initiate the beginning of the 2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (2020 RTIP) process in January to advance regional projects statewide. The general order of this process is 1) CTC develops a statewide 5-Year regional share fund estimate; 2) CTC updates 2020 STIP guidelines; 3) regions submit RTIP's; and 4) the CTC consolidates RTIP's and approves the 2020 STIP.

Following is a brief summary of 2018 STIP funded projects in Kern County that are advancing towards construction:

1. SR 14 Freeman Gulch – Segment 1: this project was constructed and completed in 2018;
2. SR 14 Freeman Gulch – Segment 2: this project is currently in the design phase;
3. SR 46 Widening – Segment 4A: this project just started the construction phase last fall;
4. SR 46 Widening – Segment 4B: this project is in the design phase; and
5. SR 58 Centennial Corridor – Mainline: this project will start construction in a few months.

Chairman Schlosser asked about the RTIP Chapter 3 concerning evaluation of projects and all the changes will culminate soon. Mr. Stramaglia stated that the Policy Update is overlapping with the STIP process more than he would like. For discussion sake, Mr. Stramaglia will try to keep the two issues separate.

This item is for information only.

#### **VII. KCOG REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM POLICY UPDATE**

Mr. Stramaglia stated that new projects of regional significance introduced into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) require analysis using new performance measures to meet regional, state and federal transportation asset management goals.

The RTIP policy document is now in the final draft stage of development. This past November, comments were received from the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Chair and Kern COG staff regarding the process narrative, ranking point system and need for a screening process to assess a financially constrained listing of projects. A significant part of the proposed draft policy update now identifies performance measures, associated metrics, and project outputs required for regional prioritization, project analysis and reporting. A tiered process currently described in the proposed draft policy lists various levels of required project information and describes the project selection and prioritization process from project development to updates of the capital improvement program in the regional long-range plan.

Mr. Lower stated that the likelihood that Ridgecrest will ever see another project is slim and that is disturbing. Chairman Schlosser stated that these projects are regionally valuable projects and that the millions of dollars that this agency has spent on State Route 14 benefit Ridgecrest residents. Chairman Schlosser also stated that projects on State Route 58 benefit Tehachapi, Ridgecrest and California City just as projects on State Route 99 and 46 benefit Shafter and Wasco.

Chairman Schlosser stressed that this is the last month to review and comment on this policy update.

This item is for information only.

#### **VIII. PROJECT DELIVERY POLICY LETTERS – ATP, CMAQ, RSTP**

Ms. Pacheco addressed the committee with the following statement:

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

The Kern COG Project Delivery Policy states that projects in the current fiscal year need to be submitted for funding authorization by January 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the presentation of project delivery letters for Active Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program, and Regional Surface Transportation Program. 24 projects have not yet submitted for funding authorization representing \$24 million in federal programming.

In recent conference calls with state and federal staff, agencies have been asked to spend down all available balances to avoid any rescission that could affect project delivery in the coming year. The upcoming rescission will be calculated based on all unauthorized CMAQ and RSTP balances left at the end of September 2019. As a reminder, regions can only use their own obligational authority until May 1<sup>st</sup>, then it is “first-come-first-served” until the obligational authority is gone. Last year Caltrans moved the date to April. Due to the rescission, this year Caltrans is expected to move the date to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Agencies are encouraged to deliver CMAQ and RSTP projects from this year and future years.

Chairman Schlosser requested that each City comment on the status of their projects and the time frame for delivery.

This item is for information only.

#### **IX. CONFORMITY ANALYSIS AND AMENDMENT TO THE 2019 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FTIP)**

Ms. Pacheco addressed the committee with the following statement:

The draft documentation was circulated to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee via email on January 4, 2019. The amendment to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program includes revisions to the State Highway/Regional Choice Program, State Highway Operations and Protection Program, Safety Program, and Transit Program. The Conformity Analysis update covers the 2015 ozone conformity demonstration. The public review period for this amendment ended on February 5, 2019. One comment was

received. A summary of comments and responses is attached to the staff report. The public review process has been completed.

On February 4, 2019, Kern COG staff was made aware that the Environmental Protection Agency requested the regional approval of the conformity be delayed until the March 21, 2019 Kern COG Board meeting to allow for direct reference to the publication of the final budgets in the Federal Register in the resolution.

Originally, the Kern COG Board was expected to approve the final documents at their February 21, 2019 meeting. Due to the government shutdown, the Environmental Protection Agency had to delay action on revised conformity budgets. Final budgets will not be published until at least the first week of March. Therefore, federal approval of the conformity will be delayed.

The staff report discusses the possibility of moving the amendment forward without the conformity document to avoid a project delivery delay; however, the best option, as of today, is to keep the amendment with the conformity. The federal agencies are aware of the delays and will be asked to expedite approval.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee's action today will be forwarded to the February and March Transportation Planning Policy Committee meetings.

Finally, the action requested is that the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis and the 2019 Federal Transportation Program Amendment #2 to the Transportation Planning Policy Committee.

Mr. Patteson made the motion to recommend approval of the 2015 Ozone Conformity Analysis and 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2 to the Transportation Planning Policy Committee. Mr. Lower seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **X. RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Ms. Pacheco addressed the committee with the following statement:

It was brought to Kern COG staff's attention that projects in the Regional Surface Transportation Program should not include reconstruction projects. No action is required at this time. Moving forward, if a Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment is required for record KER180403, reconstruction projects in the group listing will be correctly labeled resurfacing and/or rehabilitation. If a project is indeed a reconstruction project, that project will be split from the grouped listing and identified as a separate record.

This item is for information only.

#### **XI. COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE VIA TELE-COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Smith stated that at the last TTAC meeting Mr. Lower requested an item be placed on the agenda to discuss meeting attendance and voting by tele-communications.

Mr. Lower stated that this does not mean that he will not be attending the meeting in person, but there are times that he has a city meeting either before or after the TTAC meeting and that he would like to be able to attend via tele-communications to keep consistency on the committee.

Mr. Patteson stated that in his opinion it comes down to voting. As long as the person voting can be recognized and the vote tallied correctly this could be accomplished. Chairman Schlosser stated that the person running the meeting would need to be in attendance in person.

Mr. Patteson made a motion for staff to bring back Draft By-Laws to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lower. Motion carried.

**XII. FEBRUARY TDA PUBLIC TRANSIT AND STREETS AND ROADS CLAIMS: CITY OF TEHACHAPI FOR \$732,522**

Mr. Snoddy stated that this item was for review and recommendation of Tehachapi's TDA Public Transit Claims and Streets & Roads Claims for \$732,522.

Mr. Clausen made a motion to recommend approval of Tehachapi's TDA Public Transit Claims and Streets & Roads Claims to the Transportation Planning Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion carried.

**XIII. MEMBER ITEMS**

Ms. Urata announced the 2019 Transit Symposium and discussed the agenda.

Mr. Snoddy discussed the Low Carbon Transit Operators Program (LCTOP) and that there is a short turn-around to apply for the Grant which is due March 15, 2019.

Ms. Pacheco stated that she usually does the Timelines for the Call for Projects for RSTP and CMAQ in April but this year she will do it in March. Also per Ahron during the State of the Union Address, Trump talked about an infrastructure bill and that there may be more RSTP and CMAQ money.

**XIV. ADJOURMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01. The next scheduled meeting will be March 6, 2019.