

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting for April

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM  
1401 19<sup>TH</sup> STREET, THIRD FLOOR  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY  
April 18, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

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

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**II. ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:** Crump, Prout, Reyna, Mower, P. Smith, Lessenevitch, B, Smith, Couch

**Congestion Management Agency Ex-Officio Members:** Miller, Kiernan, Parra, Fitt

**Members Absent:** Krier, Gurrola, Vallejo, Scrivner, Cantu

**Others:** Ricardo Perez, Deekay Fox, John Pallares, Karen King, John Spaulding, Robert Williams, Dennis Fox, Catherine Carr, Jimmy Neman, Phil Rudnick, Denise Garcia

**Staff:** Ahron Hakimi, Rob Ball, Becky Napier, Veronica McCulloch, Bob Snoddy, Susanne Campbell, Raquel Pacheco, Joe Stramaglia, Rochelle Invina, Michael Heimer, Linda Urata, Greg Palomo, Pete Smith

**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 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**

Dennis Fox addressed the TPPC about what he believes to be a caveat of using environmental laws for your own benefit or issues. The city of Bakersfield, according to Mr. Fox, is building too many houses and is backed by the Sierra Club and the Audobon Society. Mr. Fox said there have also been a number of 'critter habitats' endangered by companies which are looking for open spaces to build in.

Karen King, CEO of GET, representing the Kern Transportation Foundation, addressed the TPPC. She provided information about the Spring Transportation Conference on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 from 10a.m. – 2p.m. where our own Rob Ball will be on a panel. The focus is Intermodal Transportation and Logistics and will be held at 201 New Stine Road.

Phil Rudnick addressed the TPPC about a new concept coming to Kern County called 'Startup Village'. This facility will co-work with people that want to start their own business. Mr. Rudnick also promoted his new business of driving people who commute to work in Los Angeles.

**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 – March 21, 2019**

- B. Response to Public Comments
- C. TDA BIENNIAL APPORTIONMENT REPORT
- D. AMENDED KERN REGION FY 2018-19 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATION PROGRAM (LCTOP) TO REFLECT THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF \$1,778,384
- E. APRIL TDA PUBLIC TRANSIT AND STREETS AND ROADS CLAIMS: CITIES OF MCFARLAND, RIDGECREST, WASCO AND COUNTY OF KERN (\$8,807,302)
- F. FINAL COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR KERN COUNTY (UPDATE)
- G. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2022 RTP
- H. AB 1149 – PILOT PROGRAM: CEQA STREAMLINING FOR SAFETY PROJECTS – LETTER OF SUPPORT
- I. 2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
- J. PROJECT ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM REPORT

\*\*\* END CONSENT CALENDAR - ROLL CALL VOTE \*\*\*

MOTION BY DIRECTOR CRUMP TO APPROVE SECOND BY DIRECTOR COUCH TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR. MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE.

**V. KERN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION BLUEPRINT (Urata)**

Ms. Urata addressed the committee with the following information:

The California Energy Commission's Alternative Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program awarded \$200,000 of Phase 1 grant funding to Kern COG in partnership with the Center of Sustainable Energy to develop a Kern Electric Vehicle Charging Station Blueprint. A draft document is posted to the Kern COG website. Kern COG invited comments to be submitted by April 9, 2019. This item was presented to the TTAC on April 3, 2019.

The purpose is to accelerate the deployment of zero emission transportation to help reach Kern COG's 2018 Regional Transportation Plan air quality goals. Phase 1 is the development of the blueprints by June 30, 2019 to identify the actions and milestones needed to proceed towards implementation. The second phase of funding, which is competitive will be issued either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure awareness and adoption would be a result of implementing this plan. EV Infrastructure affordability, or reducing the cost to install stations, is a goal.

An advisory working group will be meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> focusing on outreach. The final draft will be presented to the TTAC and RPAC on May 1, 2019 and the final will be presented on June 5, 2019 to the TTAC and RPAC then back to the board on June 20, 2019. Toolkits will be distributed throughout June and outreach information will be collected.

There were a few questions by the Board which Ms. Urata answered.

**VI. TRIENNIAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR FY 2016-2018 (Smith)**

Mr. Smith stated that:

On October 19, 2018, Kern Council of Governments entered into a contract with Moore & Associates, Inc. to conduct a Triennial Performance Audit of its activities and those of each transit

operator to whom it allocates funds under the Transportation Development Act. The contractor has presented its findings and recommendations in individual audits for Kern COG and each transit operator, which have been reviewed by Kern COG staff and the pertinent transit operator's personnel.

Mr. Smith presented Mr. Jim Moore from Moore & Associates presented his findings. He started with stating that this is a performance audit not a fiscal audit and its' prime purpose is to access compliance with the TDA Act. The PUC requires an independent performance audit be conducted of Kern COG as the RTPA (Regional Transportation Planning Agency as well as any entity it allocates TDA funds and to be conducted on an every 3 year basis. There are 2 types of findings, a compliance finding and a functional finding.

The action requested was to receive and file TDA triennial audit, direct staff to implement the recommendations, and direct staff to assist member agencies in their efforts to implement recommendations for their respective agencies.

Mr. Moore was happy to report that of the 12 transit operators, 3 had no compliance findings.

He said overall there are some compliance findings, many deal with improper or incorrect definition of full-time equivalent calculation, which is a fairly common finding. There are on-going challenges regarding farebox recovery as well.

Mr. Couch made a motion to adopt the staff's recommendations. Mr. Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

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

**District 6:**

Famoso SR 46/99 Bridge: Bridge replacement at the SR 46/99 Separation.

- Misc. shoulder and punch list work (HMA dike, erosion control, guard rail, etc.)

Traffic control related update(s):

- Shoulder closures are being utilized for completion of punch list items. However, Nightly closures (lanes and ramps) may be needed next week from Sunday to Thursday to complete the aforementioned work from Pacheco UC to just south of Union Ave OC.

SR 99 Taft Highway 2R Rehab: Pavement rehabilitation on SR 99 near the City of Bakersfield from north of the Herring Road overcrossing to the Pacheco Road undercrossing.

Work currently scheduled for the next 30 days (subject to change due to weather, equipment / labor availability):

- SB outside shoulder work (excavation, HMA, K-rail) at I-5 / SR 99
- NB median work (trimming vegetation, roadway excavation, HMA) from David/Copus Road to Old US 99 OC
- Possible panel replacements in lane 1 from I-5/SR 99 junction to SR 166 OC

Traffic control related update(s):

- Extended lane closure of NB lane no. 1 from David / Copus road to ond US 99 overcrossing
- Nightly closures (lanes and ramps) weekly from Sunday to Thursday to complete the aforementioned work from I-5/SR-99 junction to Old US 99 Overcrossing.
- Ramp closures are currently not anticipated

Route 46 Conventional Highway Segment 4A: Widen SR 46 from a 2-lane to a 4-lane conventional highway between Lost Hills Rd and I-5. Funding: RIP, Demo.

Deck pour is schedule week of April 22, 2019. Contractor has scheduled a 55-hour closure on April 26th for the Ker-5-SB-Off-ramp to construct new SB-Off-ramp. HMA and CRCP placement for should be completed at the end of June 2019.

SR 99 Rehab: Pavement rehabilitation on SR 99 in Kern County from 0.3 mile south of Palm Ave OC to Beardsley Canal Bridge and on Route 178 at Route 99/178 Separation.

Work currently scheduled for the next 30 days (subject to change due to weather, equipment / labor availability):

- NB Median work (HMA / JPCP) from just south of Palm Ave OC to Just north of SR 204 OC
- Possible panel replacements in lane 1 from Olive drive to Beardsley canal

Traffic control related update(s):

- Extended lane closures – these closures are currently in place and will not be reopened to traffic until 2021:
  - o Lane No. 1 NB has been closed from SR 58 OC to just north of SR 204 OC
  - o Lane No. 1 SB has been closed from Beardsley Canal to just south of Palm Avenue OC.
- Nightly closures of adjacent lanes may be needed weekly from Sunday to Thursday to complete the work from Palm Ave OC to Beardsley Canal. Only one closure will be permitted per direction
- Ramp closures are currently not anticipated

Cottonwood East Rehab: Pavement rehabilitation (2R) on SR 58 in Bakersfield from the Cottonwood Road undercrossing to just east of the SR 58/184 separation. Funding: SHOPP.

Median work is complete. Work is continuing EB on the #3 lane and shoulder. Excavation of the WB Lanes has started.

Cache Creek Bridge Replacement: Replace bridge on SR 58 8 miles east of Tehachapi, from the Sand Canyon overhead to 0.5 miles east of Cache Creek.

Contract Approval was on 3/21/19. Construction is anticipated to start in May 2019.

Summit OH Bridge Rails: Replace Bridge Rails on SR 58 near Tehachapi at Summit Overhead. Funding: SHOPP.

The pre-construction meeting was held on 2/12/19. Start of construction was moved to April 1, 2019 due to coordination with Union Pacific Railroad.

Lerdo Canal Median Gap Closure: Median deck closure near Bakersfield at the Lerdo Canal on SR 99.

Contract Approval was on 2/20/19. No work is currently scheduled due to migratory birds being present on the structure and a nearby raptor nest.

Belle Terrace Overcrossing: Construct Auxiliary Lane and Replace Belle Terrace Bridge on SR 99.

Bridge is down critical path is in delay due to soil conditions at the NB 99 nail wall. At the wall there are Non-Cohesive sandy conditions There are caving and sloughing issues. To address this the City is having the contractor perform a soil mixing stabilization.

CA Aqueduct Bridge Overlay: I-5/99 Freight Corridor Improve Load Rating in Kern County near the Grapevine.

We are still wanting on the contractor to start construction.

I-5/99 Bridge Separation and Pavement rehabilitation on SR 99 I-5/SR 99 junction to the Panama Lane overcrossing.(Old US 99 Overcrossing)

The project will rehab the NB outside lanes and shoulder from 5/99 split to Old US 99 with CRCP, and will improve bridge vertical clearance under the 99/5 Separation Bridge in both directions.

Mid to late April.

Stockdale/Enos Roundabout: Construct Roundabout at SR 43 and Stockdale Highway.  
Oversight Local funds

Start of construction in spring 2019.

119/43 Intersection Improvements: Construct a roundabout at intersection of SR 119/43.

Environmental received CDFW approval for the relocation plan and the Contractor will be starting the installation of the exclusion fence tomorrow (April 11th). Contractor anticipates finishing it by mid-week (next week). Our biologists are scheduled to start conducting the trappings/relocation for the protected species on April 22nd. If all goes well, actual roadwork could start as soon as May 1st.

Weather permitting construction should start in mid- April

## **District 9**

### **Brandon Fitt provided the following report:**

The monthly report was provided as well as a construction report. The District 9 Zero-emission vehicle project is planning on putting in class 3 chargers in the safety roadside rest in Boron. They will be public-free stations because they are in a safety roadside rest. The SB1 striping has started on the 58 freeway adding the 6-inch striping that's standard. Rosamond/Mojave on the 14 Freeway had a funding shortfall, but they were able to pick up funding from another district in Northern California. The vote will happen next month at the CTC. The truck climbing lanes project is in the environmental scoping phase. They are planning on having the feasibility study by the end of the calendar year. The ITS Study will be presented at the next TTAC meeting in May. Caltrans puts out the Mile Marker, a publication. There was an article in its' last publication about the Freeman Gulch widening project. Director Reyna asked about the SR 46/99 new traffic pattern. Going Eastbound at the onramp, will there be a railing added? He said it would be very easy for a vehicle to go off the side of it into oncoming traffic. There also is a bright light on the west side of that overpass that blinds drivers at night who are turning left going to Wasco on 46, he suggested facing the lights down rather than forward. Ms. Miller from District 6 said that she would have to refer to her safety/traffic engineer. She said it would be investigated.

**IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (Report on Projects and Programs in Progress)**

- Report on SR 46 Meeting – April 8; Follow-up Meeting April 26 with the Wonderful Co., Supervisor Couch and TJ Cox's office, Mr. Hakimi thanked all of the cities that have supported finishing 46. The resolutions have been forwarded to Caltrans. A meeting every month will be held with Kern COG, Caltrans, FHWA and the County of Kern. He also wanted to thank the County of Kern for hiring the city of Bakersfield's former right-of-way manager who will be dedicating to acquiring the right-of-way on this project. Progress is being made with meeting once or twice a month.
- Report on Joint ARB/CTC Meeting – Sacramento - April 9 – Mr. Ball was in attendance.
- April 29 – KCAC – Ridgecrest – Mr. Hakimi and Ms. Napier will be attending.
- CTC Transportation Funding 101 Workshop – April 30 – in Sacramento, if you're interested contact COG.
- KTF 2019 Spring Transportation Conference – May 1 Stockdale Affairs Events Center
- CTC Meeting – San Diego – May 15 & 16; Joe and City of Bakersfield Attending - there will be at least 4 items on the agenda affecting our member agencies.

**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.

Ms. Parra thanked her staff at GET for doing an excellent job with the RYDE Pilot Project. May is Bike Month. Look on the Kern COG, Blue Sky Partners, Bike Bakersfield or GET website about riding your bike with GET. There will be giveaways if you hashtag with a picture of your bike and the bus, you can win prizes.

Chairman Smith had a question regarding Item J on the consent calendar. The Buena-Vista Bike Project has been extended a year. He requested that staff follow up on that and check with county staff to see how it's going. Mr. Hakimi provided Chairman Smith with a quick update stating the county just received the environmental document allowing to move forward with the final piece of right-of-way that is required.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT- NEXT MEETING** – The meeting adjourned at 7:15. The next scheduled meeting will be held May 16, 2019.