

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting for March 19, 2020

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

THURSDAY
March 19, 2020
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman/Director Orchel Krier at approximately 6:30 p.m. This meeting was held by teleconference due to COVID-19.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Gurrola, Lessenevitch, Crump, P. Smith, B. Smith, Krier, Mower, Alvarado, Garcia, Vallejo, Couch, Scrivner

Congestion Management Agency Ex-Officio Members: Gordon, Parra

Members Absent: McFarland

Others: John Pallares

Staff: Ahron Hakimi, Rob Ball, Becky Napier, Veronica McCulloch, Bob Snoddy, Raquel Pacheco

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

Acting Chairman Krier asked if there were public comments. There were no public comments.

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 – February 20, 2020

B. Response to Public Comments

**C. FY 2019-20 KERN REGION LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATORS PROGRAM (LCTOP)
CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR \$1,795,982**

D. 2020-2050 GROWTH FORECAST REPORT

E. 2022 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

F. FY 2020/2021 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT APPORTIONMENT ESTIMATE

**G. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER
VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2022 RTP**

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

MOTION MADE BY DIRECTOR CRUMP TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR. SECONDED BY DIRECTOR VALLEJO. MOTION CARRIED WITH ROLL CALL VOTE.

V. 2019 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – DRAFT AMENDMENT NO. 11

Ms. Pacheco addressed the committee with the following information:

Amendment No. 11 includes revisions to the Regional Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program, Transit Program, and Non-motorized Program. The public review period ends March 20. The Kern COG Executive Director will consider approval of the amendment on March 23. State and federal approval is required. At this time, I ask that the Chair please open the public hearing, allow for public comment, and then close the public hearing.

Acting Chairman/Director Krier opened the public hearing.

No comments were received. He closed the public hearing.

VI. BOARD MEMBER’S MEETING REPORT: (None)

VII. CALTRANS’ REPORT: (Report on Projects in Progress)

Laura Gordon provided the following District 6 update:

Traffic Control: Ramps may be closed during paving operation. Aloma Street is closed (South Side only)

Anticipated Completion: June 2020 Current Activities: Smoothness, Signs, Curb and Dikes, MGS Installation, HMA Paving

Traffic Control: WB, Cottonwood On-Ramp is closed. Lane may be closed at night from 10 pm to 5 am for roadway ex or CRCP paving Current Activities: Roadway Excavation, CRCP Paving, Wide Flange Beam Construction

Anticipated Completion: December 2020

STAFFING UPDATE:

Nabeelah Abi-Rached: Deputy District Director Project Management and Asset Management. Interviews completed for the new DDD of Planning and Local Assistance – hope to announce by early April.

COVID-19

I wanted to provide you a status update from the District 6 Planning and Local Assistance Office in the midst of this rapidly unfolding nationwide health emergency. Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency, Caltrans District 6 staff are preparing to work remotely. While there may be some delay in our response times, we continue to be available via email and are committed to project delivery and maintaining quality customer service. As you know, this is a very fluid situation and conditions may change. If they do, I will send out additional communication if and when conditions change.

Here is a current status as of this hour:

- FHWA CA Division: Local Assistance has reached out to FHWA CA Division, they indicate they are working on a response to address the need for allowing flexibility currently and will let us know. Nothing so far.
- CTC Allocation and Extension requests: The March meeting is still currently scheduled to take place later this month via some sort of remote participation method. We will see what happens from the commission as things evolve. So far no word of any process changes or time extensions to current schedules.
- Caltrans Local Assistance HQ: With Ray Zhang's recent retirement, there is new management at HQ and things are very much in flux with providing real direction and answers so far, but the focus is on keeping core functions going and providing information on flexibility allowances as things are known and other agencies/departments inform us. I assume there will be flexibility on project delivery, but not sure how that plays out and how it would impact August redistribution funds later this year. Shelter in place orders might affect functions here in the District as well as in Sacramento.
- Invoicing: we should be able to process your invoice submittals on our end at the District, but not sure what the functionality of HQ Accounting and the State Controller's Office (SCO) will be.

All of our Planning staff will have access to their email and will be responding in a timely manner. We will also be available if needed for conference calls. As always feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance. I will be available by cell phone and/or email. Thank you all in advance for your patience and understanding. As more information becomes available, we will continue to share. Be safe.

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

March 25 & 26 - California Transportation Commission Meeting Held Via Teleconference
 April 29, 2020 - Joint CTC/CARB Meeting in Sacramento Still Listed on Website
 May 13 & 14 - California Transportation Commission Meeting in San Diego Still Listed on Website
 All Caltrans In Person Trainings have been Postponed through May 30, 2020.

IX. 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.

X. ADJOURNMENT- NEXT MEETING – The next scheduled meeting will be held May 21, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

 Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director

 Bob Smith, Chairman

DATE: _____