

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

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Wednesday
June 3, 2020
10:00 A.M.

Chairman Schlosser called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m A roll call was conducted by Ms. McCulloch for attendance.

I. ROLL CALL, MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Jay Schlosser | City of Tehachapi |
| Bard Lower | City of Ridgecrest |
| Joe West | NOR/CTSA |
| Bob Neath | County of Kern |
| Ed Galero | City of Delano |
| Alex Gonzalez | City of Shafter |
| Stuart Patteson | City of Bakersfield |
| Steve Barnes | GET |
| Lupita Mendoza | Caltrans |
| Kameron Arnold | City of Wasco |
| Shawn Monk | City of California City |
| Christine Viterelli | City of Arvin |
| Teresa Binkley | City of Taft |
| Mario Gonzales | City of McFarland |

STAFF:

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| Veronica Mcculloch | Kern COG |
| Rochelle Invina | Kern COG |
| Rob Ball | Kern COG |
| Ahron Hakimi | Kern COG |
| Raquel Pacheco | Kern COG |
| Bob Snoddy | Kern COG |
| Linda Urata | Kern COG |

OTHER:

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| Yolanda Alcantar | County of Kern |
| David Berggren | Caltrans |
| Susanna Kormendi | City of Bakersfield |
| Ryan Starbuck | City of Bakersfield |
| Tersa Penalozza | City of California City |

- 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.

Chairman Schlosser asked for public comments. There were none.

- III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARY: Minutes from meeting of May 6, 2020.**

Chairman Schlosser asked if there were any public comments regarding the minutes. There were none. Mr. Lower made a motion to approve. Mr. Monk seconded. Ms. McCulloch did the roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

At this time, Mr. Alex Gonzalez, representing the City of Shafter, joined the meeting.

IV. KERN COUNTY SAND CANYON RD PROJECT DELIVERY

On February 20th, the Kern COG Board approved CMAQ programming for Kern County's Sand Canyon Road project. On May 12th, Kern County provided a revised CMAQ application that proposes reduced project limits. This revision results in a decrease to CMAQ dollars, emissions reductions, cost effectiveness, and points scored. Since CMAQ is a competitive program, Kern COG seeks TTAC direction on two options. Option 1: Allow Kern County to proceed with the Sand Canyon project with reduced project limits. Option 2: Move the Sand Canyon project from FY 20/21 to the CMAQ Contingency List allowing existing CMAQ Contingency projects for the cities of Bakersfield and Ridgecrest to be advanced.

The action requested is that the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee recommend option 2 to the Transportation Planning Policy Committee. At this time, Yolanda Alcantar will provide a project status report.

Ms. Alcantar explained to the committee that during the initiation of environmental review, the County discovered it incorrectly scoped the right-of-way along Sand Canyon Road. There was a subdivision at the north end of Tehachapi included, which would have benefited an additional 300 residences, and at the time seemed like a good idea. The County did not have right-of-way because this is a private development. The County is proposing to reduce the project limits to remove this portion from the project, reducing the overall miles from 7.2 to 5.8, resulting in .96 kilograms reduction in overall emissions, with a reduction of 5 points overall in point scores. A field review with Caltrans District 9 staff done, and they assured the County that we can get through the process by September. The County could not confirm if there would not be a delay because studies are still being done. They are confident of the project completion within Kern COG guidelines.

Chairman Schlosser asked if there were any comments. Mr. Patteson stated that the City of Bakersfield would be able to complete a project within guidelines if option 2 was selected and was advanced to the contingency list. Mr. Lower stated that Ridgecrest had every reason to believe they would have the project ready, well before the end of the year. Mr. Neath, from County of Kern, added that everything else in the project remains unchanged and it would be an extreme move to remove the funding. Chairman Schlosser added that as a group, we need to make sure there is some integrity in our process of delivering projects, and that seemed to be staff's concern.

Bob Neath, from the County of Kern made the motion to keep the funding (option 1), Christine Viterreli seconded. There were 6 yes votes, 4 no votes and 4 abstained. The motion carried with a roll call vote, for option 1, the County proceeds with the Sand Canyon project with reduced project limits.

V. ITS MONITORING PROGRAM

Ms. Pacheco submitted the annual project status report.

It was submitted for information only.

VI. JUNE TDA PUBLIC TRANSIT AND STREETS AND ROADS CLAIM FOR BAKERSFIELD AND WASCO TOTALING \$914,683

Mr. Snoddy presented a staff report of June's TDA Public Transit and Streets and Roads Claim for Bakersfield and Wasco totaling \$914,683.

The action requested was for the committee to review TDA Public Transit claims and Streets and Roads claims received by May 22, 2020, for \$914,683 and recommend approval to the Transportation Planning Policy Committee.

Chairman Schlosser asked for comments or question regarding this item. There were none. Mr. Neath made a motion to approve, Mr. Patteson seconded. Ms. McCulloch performed a roll call for the vote, and motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

VII. POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) FUNDING AND THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S (FTA) CARES ACT (Snoddy)

Mr. Snoddy presented a staff report to the committee with the following information:

Since Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are generated from local sales tax and diesel sales taxes and local sales taxes and diesel sales taxes may have been reduced significantly due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Kern County transit operators may consider applying for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) CARES funds (**no local match required**) to offset losses from reduced TDA funds (estimated to be within 30% to 40% during the fourth quarter of FY 2019-20).

FTA is allocating \$25 billion to recipients of urbanized area and rural area formula funds, with \$22.7 billion to large and small urban areas and \$2.2 billion to rural areas. Funding will be provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Large and Small Urbanized transit operators may access CARES funds through FTA's Transit Awards Management System (TRAMS). Rural transit operators may access CARES funding through Caltrans. "BlackCat" electronic transit awards management system.

Operating expenses incurred beginning on January 20, 2020 for all rural and urban recipients, even those in large urban areas, are also eligible, including operating expenses to maintain transit services as well as paying for administrative leave for transit personnel due to reduced operations during an emergency. Please note: Kern COG will not prepare a regional program of projects for CARES. Each eligible member agency will interact with FTA Caltrans directly for the CARES program.

The FTA has prepared a website that provides further information about the CARES Act funding program. Kern County recipients of FTA Section 5307 (Large and Small Urban operators) and FTA Section 5311 (Rural operators) are eligible for this funding program. Further information about this program is available at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/frequently-asked-questions-fta-grantees-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19#CARES> Attached is a Caltrans FTA CARES Act guideline to assist rural transit operators apply for CARES funding through the Caltrans BlackCat electronic transit awards management system. **These funds are on a first come, first serve basis and will expire when the total funds have been apportioned by FTA.**

Please feel free to call Bob Snoddy, Regional Planner at 661-635-2916 or E-mail at bsnoddy@kerncog.org for additional information.

This item was for information only.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements from Kern COG.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS –

Lupita Mendoza from Caltrans spoke to the committee about the Regional Advancement Mitigation Needs Assessment which will be coming out in the next month or so. Caltrans will be seeking input from Kern COG and partnering agencies. Ms. Mendoza said they will be getting with staff at Kern COG to forward the draft form of the Advanced Mitigation Planning Process for the committee to look at.

X. ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m. The next meeting will be on July 1, 2020.

