

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 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

Shafter City Hall

336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, CA 93265

California City City Hall

21000 Hacienda Blvd., California City, CA 93505

Offices at:

1234 O Street, Fresno, CA 93721

901 East Main Street, Visalia, CA 93292

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 April 1, 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. TIMELINE FOR: DRAFT 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN; DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT; DRAFT 2027 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; AND CORRESPONDING DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS (Pacheco/Ball/Raymond)

Comment: Update schedule for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan; Environmental Impact Report; 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program; and corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis. All draft documents will be available at www.kerncog.org when each respective public review period begins.

Action: Information.

VI. DRAFT REPORT - KERN AREA REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT (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 draft study report is available online at <https://www.kerncog.org/kargo/>

Action: Information and feedback: Comments from member agencies on the draft final report are due to Karl Davisson kdavisson@kerncog.org or (661)635-2919 by May 6th 2026.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2026

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

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

Acting Chairman Ricardo Perez called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Isiah Medina	Arvin
	Roque Nino	Bakersfield
	Jose Lara	Delano
	Brianahi DeLeon	McFarland
	Clarisa Olaquez	Shafter
	Luke Risner	Taft
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
	Ricardo Perez	GET
	Andrea Nason	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Ben Raymond	Karl Davisson
	Rob Ball	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri
	Jay Schlosser	Melody Saberon Ybarra
OTHERS:	Rick Franz	Caltrans
	Katherine Rzepczynski	Caltrans
	Christine Viterelli	Arvin
	Ashley Knight	Bakersfield
	Lynette Guzman	
	Ed Noriega	

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.**

There were no comments.

III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARIES

- Meeting of November 5, 2025
- Meeting of February 4, 2026

There were no comments or questions. Committee Member J. Lara made a motion to approve the minutes of November and February; seconded by Committee Member K. Cobb, unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Raymond provided an update on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) development and coordination with CARB on review of Kern's technical methodology for meeting SB375

targets. The public engagement process for the RTP 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/> .

There were no comments or questions. This item was for information only.

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

Mr. Ball presented a summary of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Success Stories highlighting how our local agencies and communities have been successfully implementing strategies that support the SCS.

Mr. Perez commented that GET is moving toward zero emission with hydrogen fleet busses which started in 2019 and is targeted for completion by 2029.

This item was information only.

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

Mr. Davisson discussed the availability of the Draft KARGO study report and invited member agencies to review and comment on the draft document. He also mentioned that there is a workshop scheduled for May 6th and that the comment period had been extended to May 6th also. GET asked if this will benefit HWY 99 HOV lanes. Rob talked about Caltrans high-level plans. No additional benefit for Car/Van pool; Other solutions rather than HOV lanes. Mr. Ball commented on increase of truck traffic on I-5 impacted Kern so we need to identify “green” pass to get trucks out of using inside streets in town; especially downtown.

Comments on the draft final report are due to Karl Davisson kdavisson@kerncog.org or (661) 635-2919 by May 6th, 2026. This item was information only.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Raymond informed the committee that it was time for the committee to elect officers to serve for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, he asked the committee to begin my nominating a committee member to serve as Chair.

Ricardo Perez was nominated by L. Risner and seconded by K. Cobb. With no other nominations, a motion was made to elect Mr. Perez to serve a chairman. Roll call vote was unanimous to elect Mr. Perez as chairman.

R. Perez nominated Keri Cobb. Brianahi DeLeon nominated herself, Keri Cobb withdrew. A motion was made by J. Lara and seconded by K. Cobb. Brianahi DeLeon was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair by Roll Call Vote.

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 May 6, 2026.

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IV RPAC

May 6, 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 AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

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.kerncog.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.

April 7th, 14th & 15th, 2026 – Coordination calls with California Air Resource Board staff (CARB) to further discuss the Technical Methodology submitted by Kern COG in February.

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.kerncog.org/2026-rtp/> Kern COG will be presenting on the Draft 2026 RTP/SCS at local city council meetings and at the Kern County Supervisors meeting, see attached flyer.
- August 20, 2026 – Kern COG Board scheduled to adopt the 2026 RTP/SCS and associated documents

ACTION: Information.

Attachment: 2026 RTP/SCS Presentation Schedule Flyer



**Kern Council
of Governments**

Join us and share your input!

The Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) public comment period begins May 8, 2026. Kern COG staff will be presenting information about the RTP/SCS at local city council meetings and the Kern County Board of Supervisors meeting, with public hearings scheduled in Tehachapi and Bakersfield.

DATE	LOCATION
May 12 @ 5:00PM	California City Council Meeting
May 12 @ 6:00PM	Maricopa City Council Meeting
May 13 @ 6:00PM	McFarland City Council Meeting
May 18 @ 5:00PM	Delano City Council Meeting
May 19 @ 6:00PM	Shafter City Council Meeting
May 19 @ 6:00PM	Taft City Council Meeting
May 19 @ 6:00PM	Wasco City Council Meeting
May 20 @ 6:00PM	Ridgecrest City Council Meeting
May 26 @ 6:00PM	Arvin City Council Meeting
June 1 @ 6:00PM	*Tehachapi City Council Meeting
June 16 @ 2:00PM	Kern County Board of Supervisors Meeting
June 18 @ 6:30PM	*Kern COG Transportation Planning Policy Committee Meeting
June 24 @ 3:30PM	Bakersfield City Council Meeting

**Public Hearing*

Important dates:

- May 8 55-day public review period begins for Draft 2026 RTP/SCS
- May 18 45-day public review period begins for Draft 2026 RTP/SCS Environmental Impact Report
- June 1 30-day public review period begins for Draft 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program & Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis
- July 2 **Public review period ends for all documents**



Visit our website or scan the QR code for more details:
kerncog.org/2026-rtp/



V
RPAC

May 6, 2026

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director

By: Rob Ball, Deputy Director / Planning Director
Ben Raymond, Regional Planner
Ceasar Valle, Regional Planner
Raquel Pacheco, Regional Planner
Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri, Regional Planner
Vincent Liu, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda Item: V.

TIMELINE FOR:
DRAFT 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN; DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT; DRAFT 2027 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM; AND CORRESPONDING AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION:

Update schedule for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan; Environmental Impact Report; 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program; and corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis. All draft documents will be available at www.kerncog.org when each respective public review period begins.

DISCUSSION:

The Federal Transportation Improvement Program (programming document) is a near-term list of transportation projects, while the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan is a long-term blueprint for transportation projects. The Air Quality Conformity Analysis demonstrates that both the near- and long-term lists will not delay the region's efforts to improve the air. The federal programming document is being developed and was distributed for technical review (prior to the public review period). The programming years reflected in the programming document will be: federal fiscal years 2026/27 through 2029/30. Final documents will be sent to the California State Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration at the end of August. The tentative schedule will be used to move these documents through the review process with final approval by federal agencies in December 2026.

Timeline for Review of all documents

Date	Event
May 6, 2026	Timeline presented to Transportation Technical Advisory Committee/Regional Planning Advisory Committee
May 8, 2026	55-day public review period begins for Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Plan
May 18, 2026	45-day public review period begins for Draft Environmental Impact Report
May 21, 2026	Timeline presented to Transportation Planning Policy Committee
June 1, 2026	30-day public review period begins for Draft 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis
June 1, 2026	Public hearing at City of Tehachapi Council Meeting
June 3, 2026	Public review draft documents presented to Transportation Technical Advisory Committee/ Regional Planning Advisory Committee
June 18, 2026	Public review draft documents presented to Transportation Planning Policy Committee (public hearing)
July 2, 2026	Public review period ends for all documents
August 5, 2026	Present to Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and/or Regional Planning Advisory Committee to recommend approval
August 20, 2026	Present to Transportation Planning Policy Committee for adoption
August 27, 2026	Send final documents with response to comments to state and federal agencies for approval
December 2026	Anticipated federal approval of Conformity, the near-term and long-term documents

The noted schedule is a work in progress and subject to change. The San Joaquin Valley planning agencies must work cooperatively through this process, and ongoing discussions with state and federal agencies may alter this timeline.

All draft documents will be available at www.kerncog.org when each respective public review period begins.

ACTION: Information only.



VI RPAC

May 6, 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.

DRAFT REPORT - KERN AREA REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT (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 draft study report is available online at <https://www.kerncog.org/kargo/>

DISCUSSION:

The objective of this project has been to assess the climate change vulnerabilities throughout transportation corridors in 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. The report includes cost estimates and up-to-30% conceptual designs for the projects prioritized by the TTAC in November 2024. Comments on the draft are due May 6 to be incorporated into the final draft.

The final draft will be presented to the RPAC and TTAC on June 3 with an anticipated action to recommendation that the Transportation Planning Policy Committee (TPPC) receive and file the Final Study Report. The TPPC's action is expected to include a resolution requesting that member agencies consider incorporating the study's projects into their General Plan Circulation Elements, supporting implementation of AB 98/SB 415, which require truck routes to be included in Circulation Elements.

Staff recommends review and comment on the Draft Final Study Report.

ACTION: Information and feedback: Comments from member agencies on the draft final report are due to Karl Davisson kdavisson@kerncog.org or (661)635-2919 by May 6th 2026.