



May 8, 2026

To: Interagency Consultation Partners and Public  
From: Raquel Pacheco, Regional Planner  
Subject: **Availability of Draft 2026 RTP/SCS, Draft 2027 FTIP, Corresponding Draft Conformity Analysis, and the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Interagency Consultation and Public Review**

---

Kern COG is proposing a Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2026 RTP/SCS), Draft 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), corresponding Conformity Analysis as well as Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Associated documentation is attached as indicated below:

- The 2026 RTP/SCS is a long-term coordinated transportation/land use strategy to meet transportation needs out the year 2049 (Attachment 1). The draft RTP checklist is also provided in Attachment 1.
- The Draft EIR document provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts related to the implementation of the 2026 RTP/SCS as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (Attachment 2). This document will be released on May 18, 2026.
- The 2027 FTIP is a near-term listing of capital improvement and operational expenditures utilizing federal and state monies for transportation projects in Kern County during the next four years (Attachment 3). This document will be released on June 1, 2026.
- The Conformity Analysis contains the documentation to support a finding that the 2027 FTIP and 2026 RTP/SCS meet the air quality conformity requirements for ozone and particulate matter (Attachment 4). The Conformity Analysis Documentation Checklist is included as Appendix A of the document. This document will be released on June 1, 2026.
- Public Involvement: Attachment 5 includes the Draft Public Notice and Adoption Resolution.

The public review and comment period is open for 55 days for the Draft 2022 RTP/SCS commences on May 8, 2026 and ends on July 2, 2026. The public review and comment period is open for 45 days for the Draft EIR commencing on May 18, 2026 and ending on July 2, 2026. The

public review and comment period is open for 30 days for the Draft 2027 FTIP and corresponding Draft Conformity Analysis commencing on June 1, 2026 and ending on July 2, 2026. Public hearings will be held at 6:00 P.M. June 1, 2026 and 6:30 P.M. June 18, 2026 as indicated in the Public Notice; comments are due by 5:00 P.M. July 2, 2026. These documents can also be viewed at the Kern Council of Governments' website at [www.kerncog.org](http://www.kerncog.org).

The Kern Council of Governments Board of Directors will consider adoption of the Draft 2026 RTP/SCS, Draft EIR, Draft 2027 FTIP, and the corresponding Draft Conformity Analysis 6:30 P.M. August 20, 2026. The meeting will be at the Kern Council of Governments' office, 1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

In conclusion, the Draft 2026 RTP/SCS, Draft 2027 FTIP, and Draft Conformity Analysis meet all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450, 40 CFR Part 93, and conforms to the applicable SIPs. The 2026 RTP/SCS is compliant with the requirements of Senate Bill 375.

If you have questions or would like to submit comments, please contact:

Ben Raymond 661/635-2911 or [braymond@kerncog.org](mailto:braymond@kerncog.org), for the 2026 RTP/SCS and EIR;

Vincent Liu 661/635-2913 or [vliu@kerncog.org](mailto:vliu@kerncog.org), for the Conformity Analysis;

Cesar Valle 661/635-2917 or [cvalle@kerncog.org](mailto:cvalle@kerncog.org), for the 2027 FTIP

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**DRAFT 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

<https://www.kerncog.org/category/docs/rtp/>

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**(to be released May 18, 2026)**

<https://www.kerncog.org/category/docs/rtp/>

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**DRAFT 2027 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
(to be released June 1, 2026)**

<https://www.kerncog.org/category/docs/ftip/>

**ATTACHMENT 4**

**DRAFT CONFORMITY ANALYSIS  
(to be released June 1, 2026)**

<https://www.kerncog.org/conformity/>

**ATTACHMENT 5**

**DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE AND ADOPTION RESOLUTION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**DRAFT 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY**  
**STRATEGY, DRAFT 2027 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT**  
**PROGRAM, CORRESPONDING DRAFT CONFORMITY ANALYSIS, AND**  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**SCH#: 2025041115**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kern Council of Governments will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. June 1, 2026 at the City of Tehachapi Council meeting, 220 West C Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561 and at 6:30 p.m. June 18, 2026 at the Kern Council of Governments office building at 1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301 regarding the Draft 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (2027 FTIP), the Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (2026 RTP/SCS), the corresponding Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2027 FTIP and 2026 RTP/SCS and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on these documents.

- The 2026 RTP/SCS is a long-term coordinated transportation/land use strategy to meet Kern County transportation needs out to the year 2049.
- The EIR document provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts related to the implementation of the RTP/SCS as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.
- The 2027 FTIP is a near-term listing of capital improvement and operational expenditures utilizing federal and state monies for transportation projects in Kern County during the next four years.
- The corresponding Conformity Analysis contains the documentation to support a finding that the 2027 FTIP and 2026 RTP/SCS meet the air quality conformity requirements for ozone and particulate matter.

The public participation efforts for the 2027 FTIP satisfies the program of projects (POP) requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area Formula Program Section 5307 and FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Program Section 5339. If no comments are received on the proposed POP, the proposed transit program (funded with FTA 5307 and FTA 5339 dollars) will be the final program.

Individuals with disabilities may call Kern Council of Governments at 661-635-2900 or email [administrative@kerncog.org](mailto:administrative@kerncog.org) (within three-working-days advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the public hearing. Translation services are available (with three-working-days advance notice) to participants speaking any language with available professional translation services.

A 55-day public review and comment period commenced on May 8, 2026, and concludes July 2, 2026 for the Draft 2026 RTP/SCS. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) will be released for a 45-day review and comment period commencing on May 18, 2026, and concludes July 2, 2026. The Draft 2027 FTIP and the corresponding Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2027 FTIP and 2026 RTP/SCS 30-day review and comment period will commence on June 1, 2026, and conclude on July 2, 2026. The draft documents are

available for review at the Kern Council of Governments office, located at 1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301 and on the Kern COG website at [www.kerncog.org](http://www.kerncog.org).

Public comments are welcomed at the hearing, or may be submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. July 2, 2026, to Jay Schlosser, Executive Director, at the address below.

After considering the comments, the documents will be considered for adoption, by resolution, by the Kern Council of Governments at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held on August 20, 2026. The documents will then be submitted to state and federal agencies for approval.

Contact Person: Mr. Jay Schlosser, Executive Director  
Kern Council of Governments  
1401 19th Street, Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: 661-635-2900  
E-mail: [jschlosser@kerncog.org](mailto:jschlosser@kerncog.org)

BEFORE THE KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN

RESOLUTION NO. 26-XX

In the Matter of:

Resolution Adopting the 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and Corresponding Conformity Analysis

---

WHEREAS, the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is a Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a Metropolitan Planning Organization, pursuant to State and Federal designation; and

WHEREAS, federal planning regulations require Metropolitan Planning Organizations to prepare and adopt a long range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for their region; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg, 2008) requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of the 2026 RTP that demonstrates how the region will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from automobiles and light trucks to achieve, if there is a feasible way to do so, the applicable greenhouse gas emission reduction targets approved by the California Air Resources Board (ARB); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SB 375, the applicable ARB per capita GHG emission reduction targets for the Kern Council of Governments are 9% below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2020 and 15% below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2035; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SB 375, the SCS must: (1) identify the general location of uses, residential densities, and building intensities within the region; (2) identify areas within the region sufficient to house all the population of the region, including all economic segments of the population, over the course of the planning period of the regional transportation plan taking into account net migration into the region, population growth, household formation and employment growth; (3) identify areas within the region sufficient to house an eight-year projection of the regional housing need for the region pursuant to Government Code Section 65584; (4) identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region; (5) gather and consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas and farmland in the region as defined in subdivisions (1) and (b) of the Government Code Sections 65080 and 65581; and (6) consider the statutory housing goals specified in Sections 65580 and 65581, (7) set forth a forecasted development pattern for the region which when integrated with the transportation network, and other transportation measures and policies, will reduce the GHG emissions from automobiles and light trucks to achieve the GHG reduction targets, and (8) allow the RTP to comply with air quality conformity requirements under the federal Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 RTP/SCS has been prepared in accordance with state guidelines adopted by the California Transportation Commission; and

WHEREAS, a 2026 RTP/SCS has been prepared in full compliance with federal guidance; and

WHEREAS, federal planning regulations require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations prepare and adopt a short range Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for their region; and

WHEREAS, projects submitted in the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP must be financially constrained and the financial plan affirms that funding is available; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (2027 FTIP) has been prepared to comply with Federal and State requirements for local projects and through a cooperative process between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), principal elected officials of general purpose local governments and their staffs, and public owner operators of mass transportation services acting through Kern COG forum and general public involvement; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 FTIP program listing is consistent with: 1) the 2026 RTP/SCS; 2) the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program; and 3) the corresponding Conformity Analysis; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 FTIP contains the MPO's certification of the transportation planning process assuring that all federal requirements have been fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 FTIP meets all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450; and

WHEREAS, Kern COG has established performance targets that address the performance standards per 23 CFR Part 490, 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) 5326(c), and 49 U.S.C. 5329(d) to use in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the region of the MPO; and

WHEREAS, Kern COG has integrated into its metropolitan transportation planning process, directly or by reference, the goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets described in other State transportation plans and transportation processes, as well as any plans developed under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 by providers of public transportation, required as part of a performance-based program; and

WHEREAS, the MPO must demonstrate conformity per 40 CFR Part 93 for the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP includes a new Conformity Analysis; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP conform to the applicable SIPs; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP do not interfere with the timely implementation of the Transportation Control Measures; and

WHEREAS, the documents have been widely circulated and reviewed by Kern COG's advisory committees representing the technical and management staffs of the member agencies; representatives of other governmental agencies, including State and Federal; representatives of special interest groups; representatives of the private business sector; and residents of Kern County consistent with public participation process adopted by Kern COG; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted on June 18, 2026 to hear and consider comments on the 2027 FTIP, 2026 RTP/SCS, and corresponding Conformity Analysis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Kern COG adopts the 2026 RTP/SCS, 2027 FTIP, and corresponding Conformity Analysis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Kern COG finds that the 2026 RTP/SCS and 2027 FTIP are in conformity with the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments and applicable State Implementation Plans for air quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Kern COG also finds that the 2026 RTP/SCS meets the SB 375 GHG reduction targets of 9% below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2020 and 15% below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2035.

AUTHORIZED AND SIGNED THIS 20TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

---

Bob Smith, Chairman  
Kern Council of Governments

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the Kern Council of Governments duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 20th day of August 2026.

---

John Schlosser, Executive Director  
Kern Council of Governments

---

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 26-XX  
2027 FTIP/2026 RTP/SCS/Conformity Analysis  
Page 3