



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Introduction to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process COG 101

Adapted by
Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)
2026

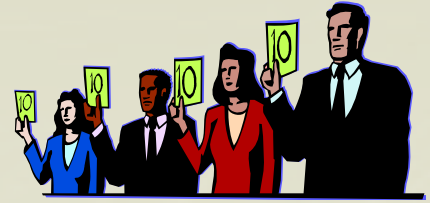
***Better Planning –
Better Transportation***



Kern Council of Governments (COG) Board



- 11 Elected City Council Member from the 11 Kern County cities
- 2 Members of the Board of Supervisors
- Ex-Officio Members from:
 - o Military Joint Planning Policy Board District
 - o Golden Empire Transit
 - o Caltrans District 6



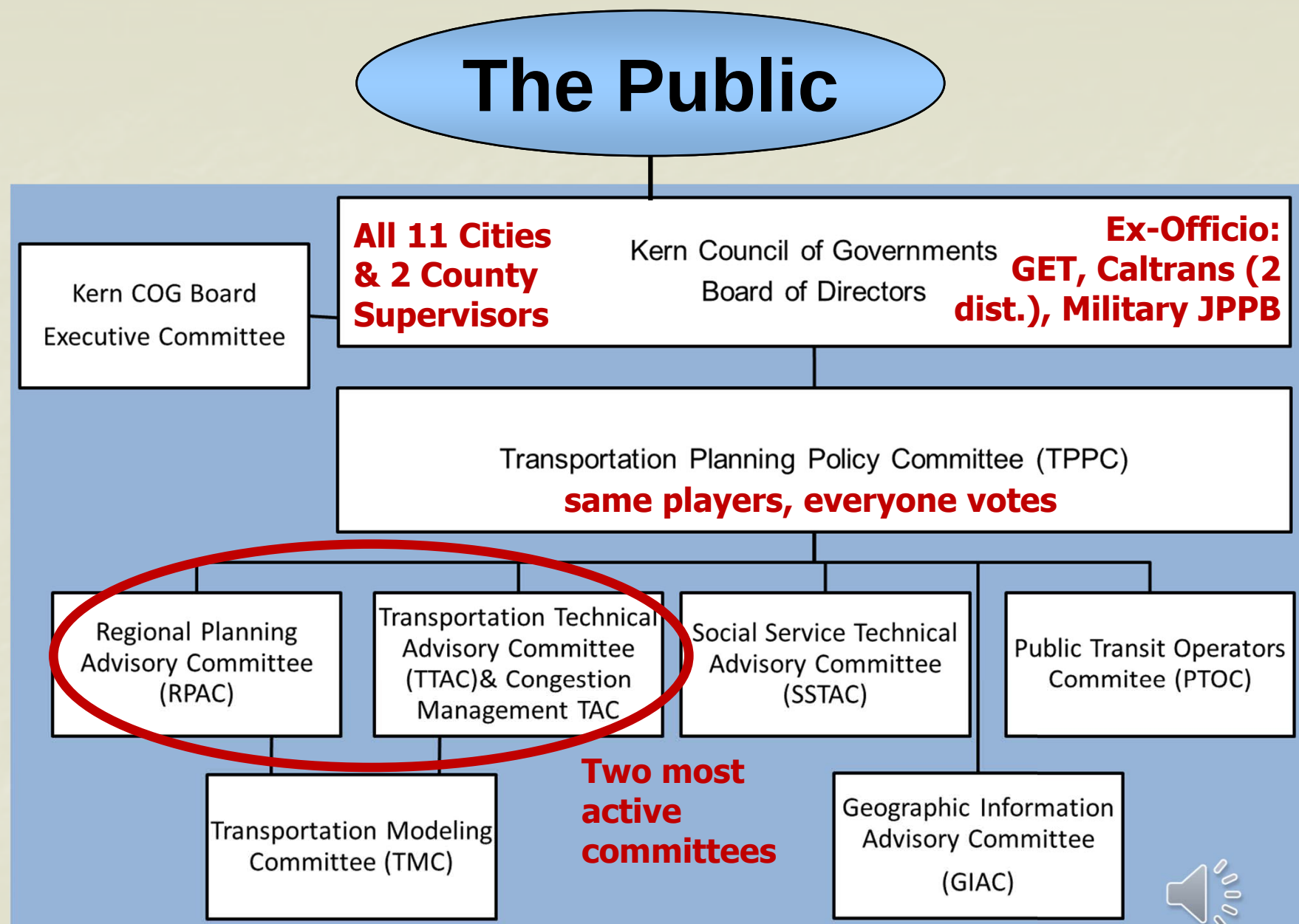
Voting Structure of the Board

- All Board members with voting privileges can vote
- 2-Hats: 1) Transportation Planning Policy Committee (TPPC) and 2) the Board
- Board can contain “ex-officio” members that participate but don’t vote



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Kern COG Committee Structure



**MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY**



Council of Governments (COG) Basics



DESIGNATED RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Federal **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**
- State Regional Transportation Planning Agency (**RTPA**)
- Locally established Joint Powers Authority (**JPA**) for Area-wide Planning
- Locally established Kern Motorist Aid Authority (**KMAA**) /511 program
- State/Federal designated Congestion Management Agency (**CMA**)
- State designated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (**RHNA**) lead agency
- State designated Affiliate Data Center – U.S. Census coordination/training
- State/Federal designated Local Clearinghouse for grant applications
- California Freight Advisory Committee member



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

The MPO as the Forum

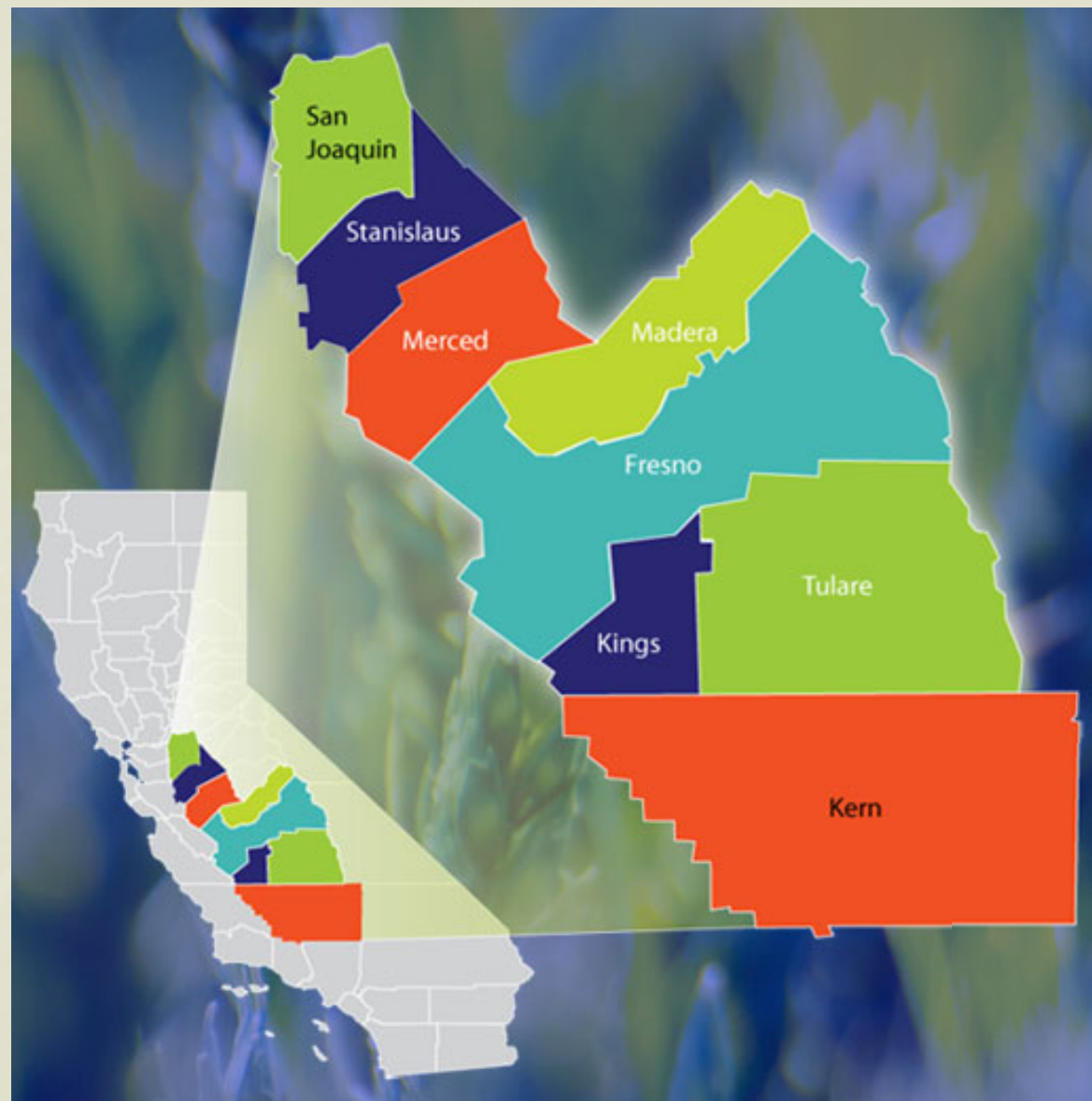


**MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY**



Working Beyond Jurisdictions

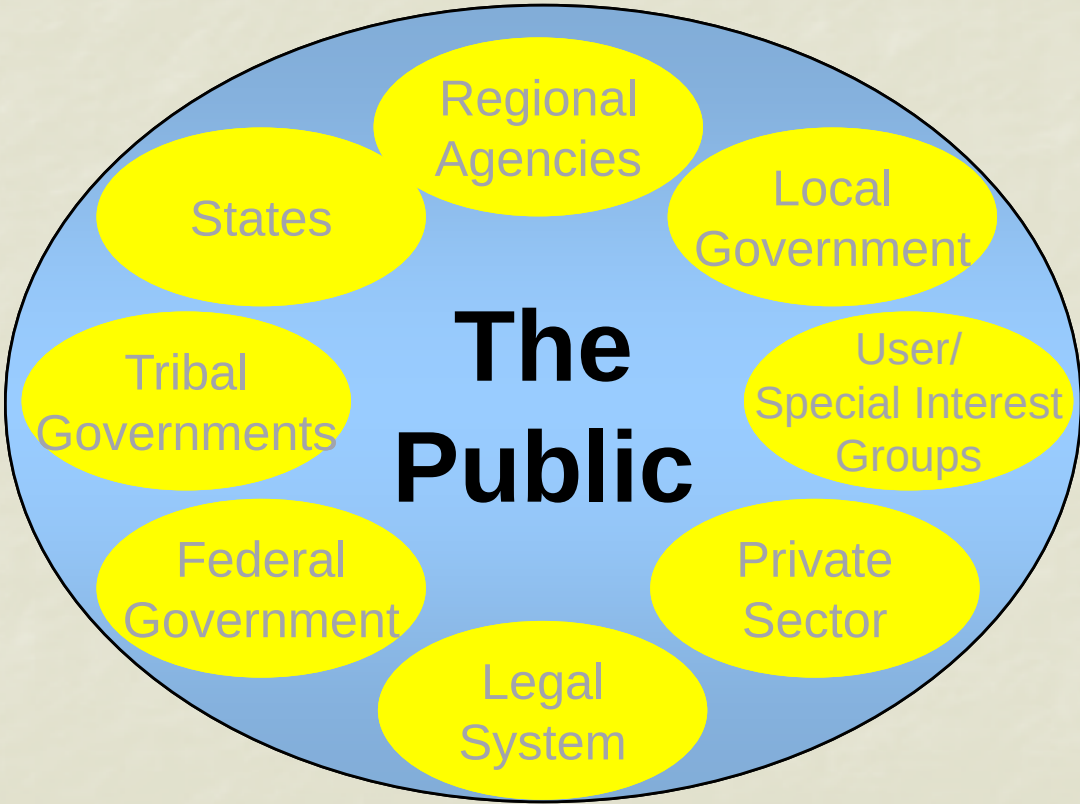
- MPO is the forum for discussion
 - Place to air issues
 - Find solutions that benefit all jurisdictions/regions
- MPOs work with adjoining regions
 - Consistency of projects
 - Multi-regional projects





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

The People at Center of the Process





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Key Decisions and Products



- Long-Term Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Short-Term Transportation Improvement Program/Plan (TIP)
- Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- Overall Work Program (OWP)



**MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY**





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

To be Eligible for Federal Funds:

**“... a project must be consistent with the
approved regional transportation plan.”**



The Long-Term RTP...

- Documents conclusions and decisions
- Includes long term and short-term policies, strategies, and actions
- Covers capital improvements and operations
- Addresses federal requirements including:
 - Movement of People and Goods
 - Environmental Mitigation
 - Environmental Justice
- Is financially constrained by reasonably available resources





Short-Term Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Allocates limited transportation funds to projects and programs
- List of transportation projects to be implemented in the short-term (no less than 4 years)
- Includes nearly all federally funded surface transportation projects
- Includes all regionally significant projects – regardless of funding source in air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas
- Identifies funding source for each project





3 Characteristics of a Successful Programming Process – Collaborative, Comprehensive, Continuous

- Early consensus on planning goals
- Effective communication among technical and policy leaders
- Continuous public involvement
- Qualitative as well as quantitative criteria





Federal Requirements for Public Involvement

- MPOs must prepare a public involvement plan
- Plan must be proactive and provide for:
 - Complete information and timely public notice
 - Early and continuing involvement
 - Full public access to key decisions
 - Explicit consideration and response to input





Overall Work Program (OWP)

- Lists the metropolitan area's program of planning studies
- Identifies sources of funding, schedules and responsible agencies
- Coordinates the planning by all regional participants
- Describes all Federally-funded studies
- Lays out MPOs Strategic Plan

**2026-2027
OVERALL WORK
PROGRAM**



Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, California 93301
www.kerncog.org
661-635-2900
Facsimile 661-324-8215
TTY 661-832-7433





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



Major Policy and Planning Issues

Funding



Safety



Freight



Emissions



**MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY**





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Funding



Federal Transportation Funding

- Each state is different (in California there is a statutory 60/40 split between Southern and Northern California, Kern is in the South)
- Earmarks - i.e. Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP)
 - U.S. Senate - Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
 - U.S. House - Community Project Funding (CPF)



Fed Funding is Subject to Change



- Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), aka. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) replaced the FAST Act in 2020.
- Federal Administration & Congressional priorities may change
- Future motor fuel revenues vary
- The Highway Trust Fund has been saved from insolvency by Congress multiple times





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Freight Movement

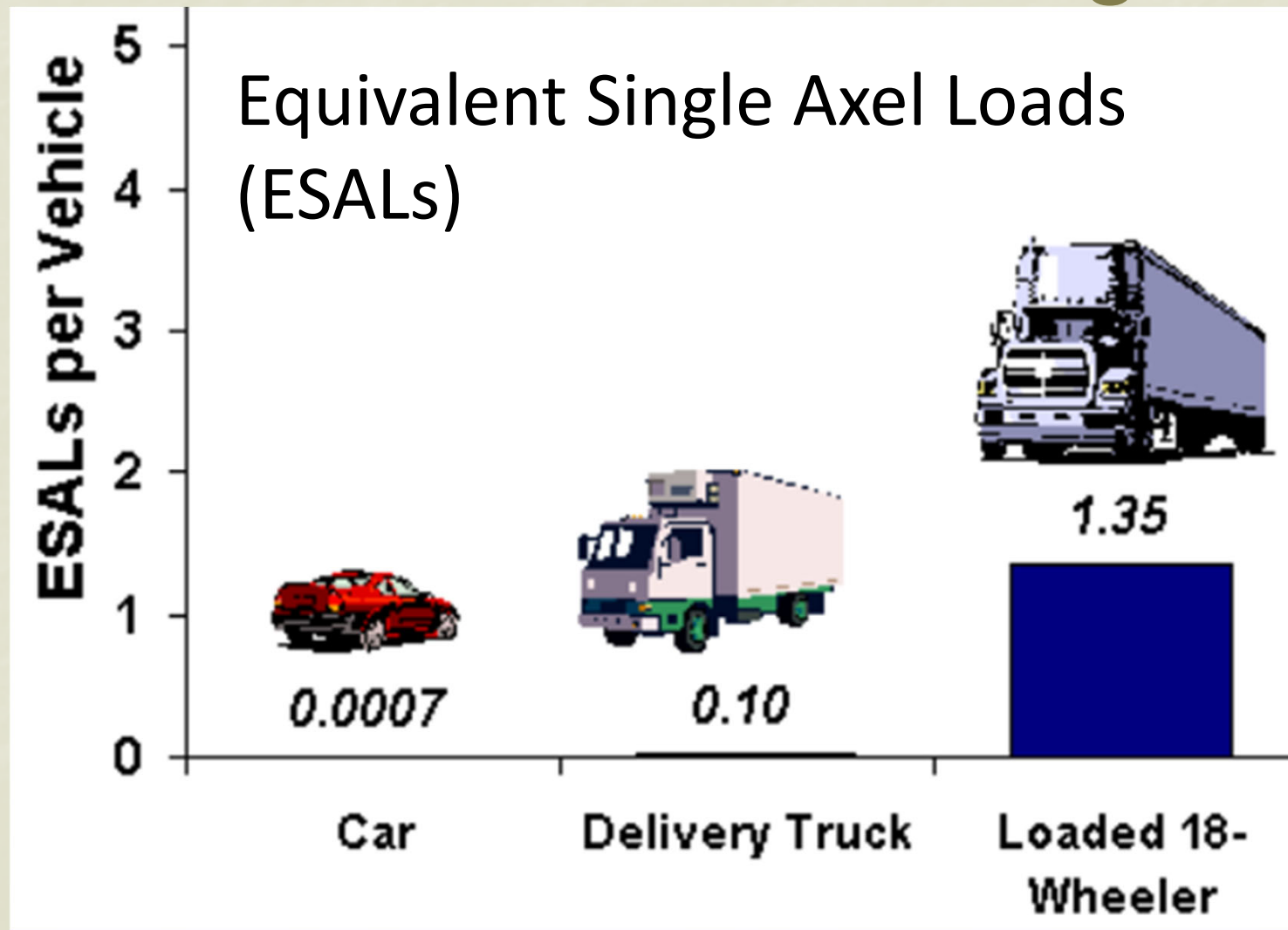
Freight



- Good freight movement is vital to a region's economy
- MPO should examine how freight moves in and out of its region
- Engage the freight community to find “win-win” solutions to problems

1 Loaded 18-Wheeler = 3k-10k cars of road-wear on the highways

Freight



Note that a 5-axle truck typically pays 48 times what a passenger car pays in federal fuel taxes. Consumers see lower store prices because of this apparent but disputed subsidy to trucking.

<https://cdllife.com/2021/ooida-ata-team-joins-to-combat-deeply-concerning-truck-only-0-25-vmt-tax-plan/>

<https://pavementinteractive.org/reference-desk/design/design-parameters/loads/>



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Safety

Safety



- MPO can examine system for trends and allocate resources to address safety related issues.
- MPOs can serve as a forum for safety related discussion with applicable agencies.
- Kern COG helped its member agencies develop Local Road Safety Plans to maintain eligibility to for Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds (HSIP)



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



Causes of Traffic Collisions

Safety

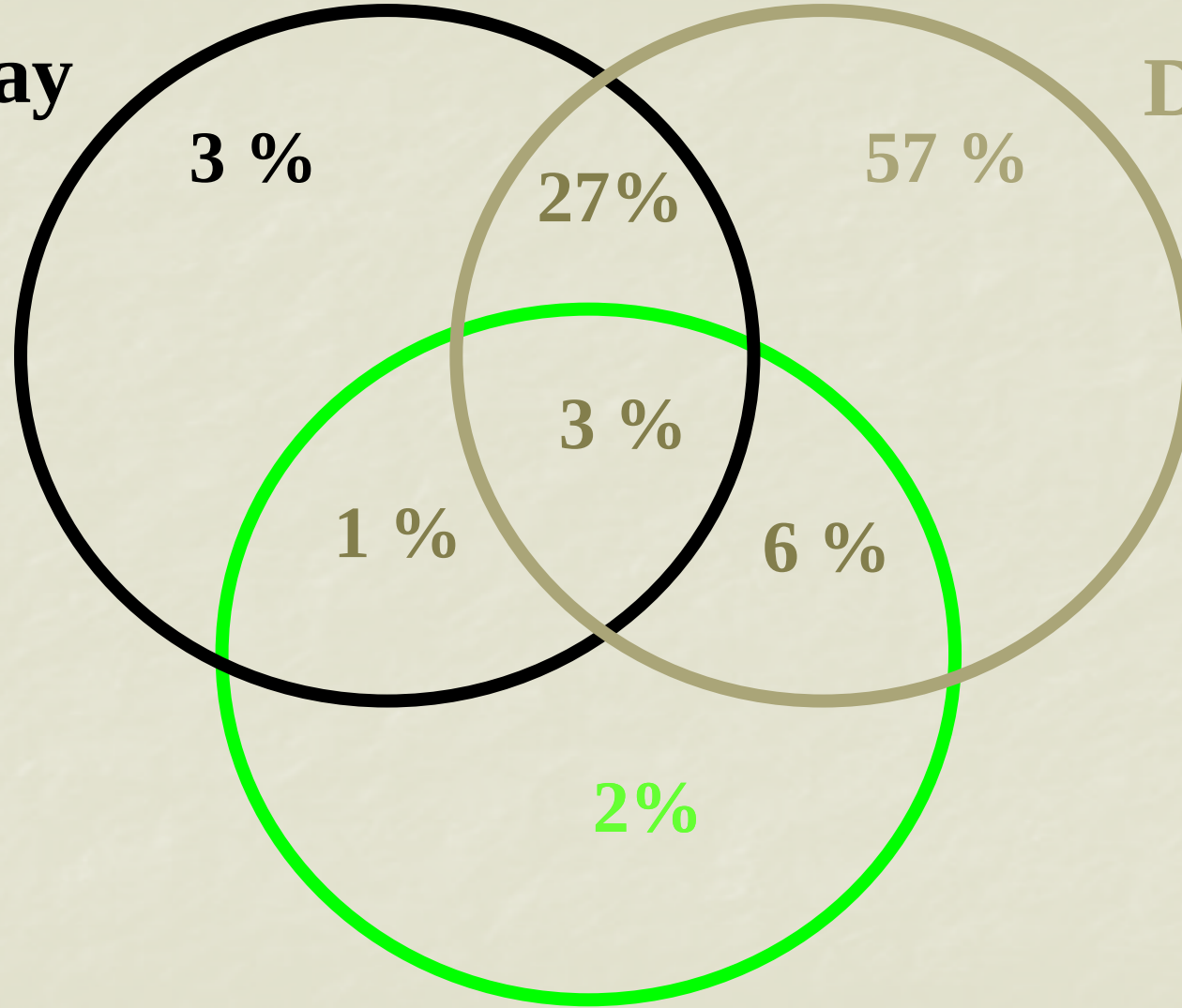


Roadway

34%

Driver

93%



Vehicle 12%



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

What is Air Quality Conformity?



- Established by the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
- Requires evaluation of emissions from transportation plans, programs, and projects **BEFORE** implementation;
- Applies in geographic areas where transportation-related pollutants violate or have violated national air quality standards in the past;
- Connects Air Quality and Transportation Planning.

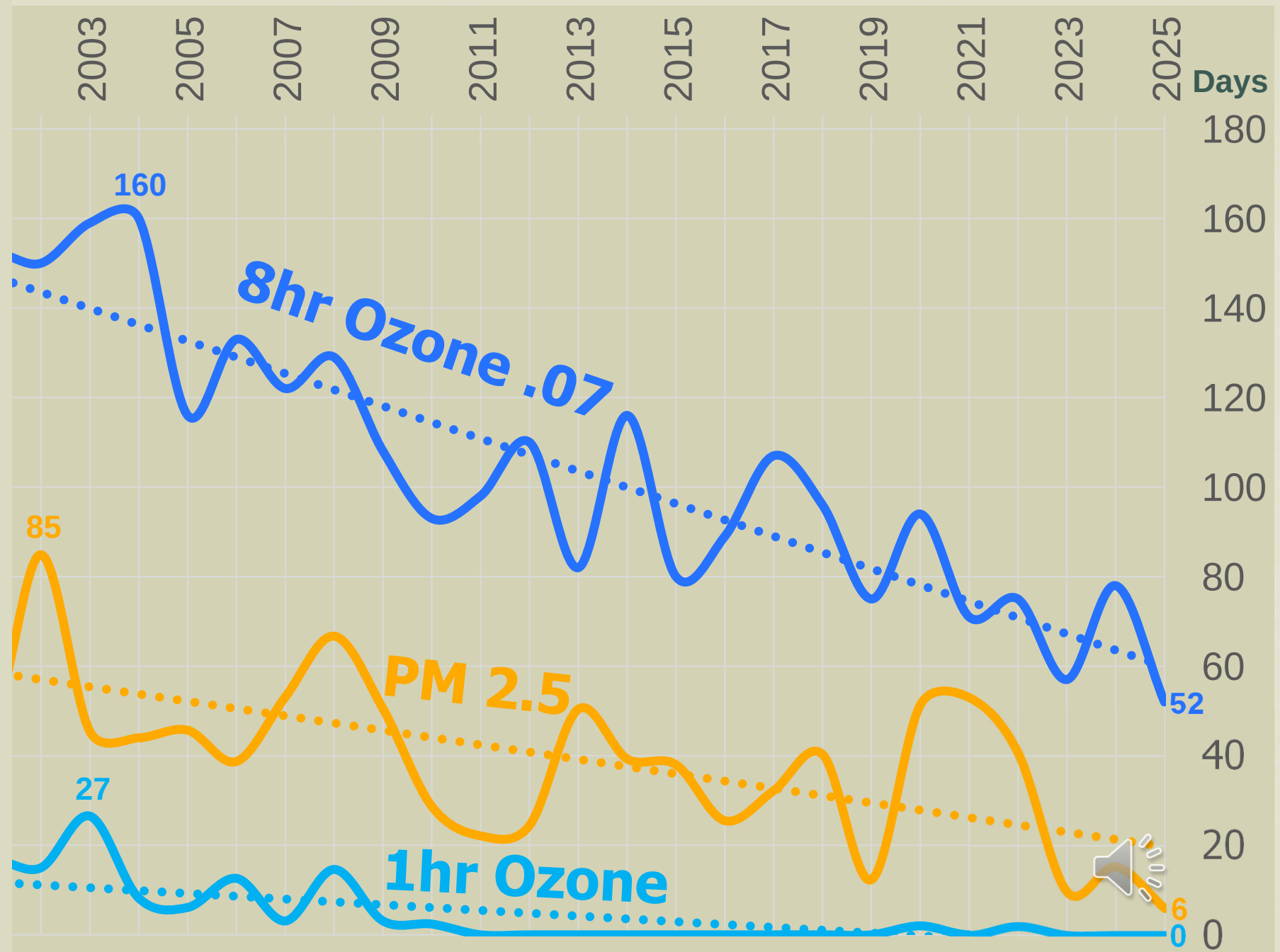


SJ Valley Bad Air Days

***8 hr. Ozone - 67%
drop in bad air
days from 160 to
52, 2004-2025***

***PM2.5 - 93% drop
in bad air days
from 85 to 6, 2002-
2025***

***1 hr. Ozone-100%
drop from 27 to 0***

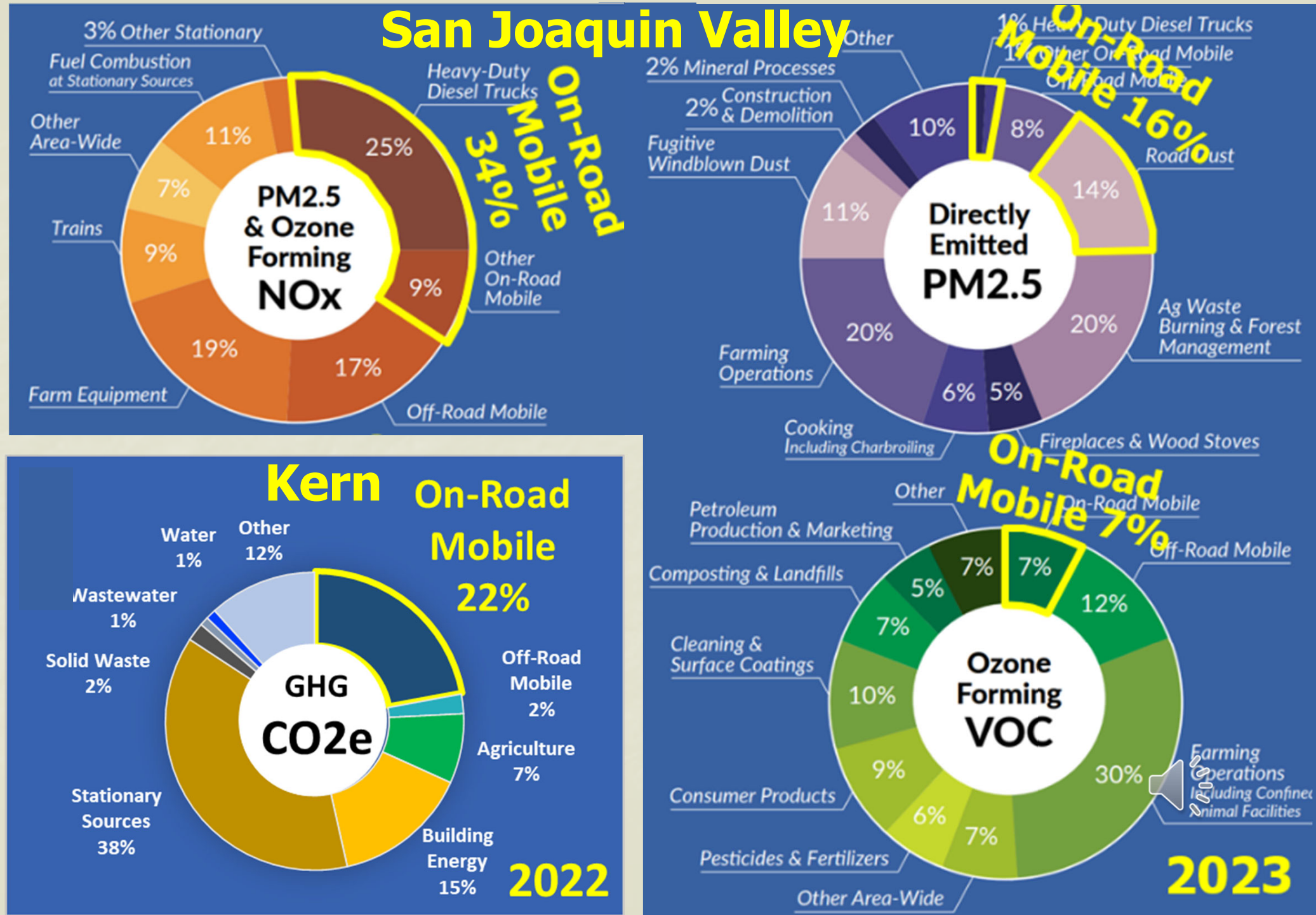


Note: From 2014-24, Kern Asthma hospitalization rates for kids 0-17 dropped by more than ½ from 9.4 to 4.2. Cleaner air may account for part. Other factors: better medical treatment techniques, reduced 2nd hand smoke, change in methodology.

Bad Air Sources:

NOx can help form Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM).

Diesel Trucks make up 25% of NOx sources.





Questions?



Additional Transportation Planning Background Info –

<https://www.kerncog.org/transportation-planning-background-information/>

- [A Guide to Transportation Decision Making](#) 2015, FHWA (24 pages)
- [The Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book for Transportation Decision Makers, Officials and Staff](#), 2019 (90 pages)
- [Transportation Funding in California](#) 2018, Caltrans (40 pages)
- [California Mobility Investment Opportunities](#) 2017, CTC (82 pages)
- [Transportation/Air Quality Conformity—A Basic Guide for State and Local Officials](#) 2017, FHWA (24 pages)
- [A Guide to Performance Based Planning](#), 2014 (188 pages)
- [Regional Planning & Climate Change – Understanding SB 375](#), 2009 (8 pages)





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Consider Kern COG an Extension to Your Local Government Staff



Jay Schlosser
Executive Director
661-635-2901
jschlosser@kerncog.org

661-635-2900
www.kerncog.org

Stephan Sanchez
Administrative Director
661-635-2910
ssanchez@kerncog.org

Rob Ball
Planning Director
661-635-2902
rball@kerncog.org

