

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of January 21, 2016

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 21, 2016
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jennifer Wood at approximately 6:30 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair welcomed Council Member Mower, the new Representative from Ridgecrest, and also retired Congressman Thomas for being here tonight.

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Flores, B. Smith, Wood, Pascual, Mower, Prout, Krier, P. Smith, Wegman, Couch, Scrivner, Parra, Miller, Kiernan

Members Absent: Wilke, Cantu,

Alternates: None

Others: 10

Staff: Hakimi, Collins, Ball, Phipps, Stramaglia, Pacheco, Snoddy, Invina, Urata, Jones, Banuelos and Hall

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, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIR TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR CONDUCTING THE MEETING. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.** None heard.

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 – November 19, 2015
- B. Response to Public Comments (None)
- C. FY 2015-16 TDA Public Transit Claim – City of Shafter for \$176.677
- D. FY 2015-16 TDA Streets and Roads Claim – City of Shafter for \$672.973
- E. FY 2015-16 Public Transit Claim – City of Tehachapi for \$186.356
- F. FY 2015-16 Kern Region Low Carbon Transit Operators Program (LCTOP) Call for Projects for \$919,042
- G. Project Accountability Team Report
- H. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) – Draft Program of Projects
- I. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) – Workshop Follow-up
- J. Progress Report: Projects of Regional Significance – January 2016
- K. 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Draft Table 5.1 Constrained Capital Improvement Program
- L. 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)– Draft Table 5.2 Unconstrained Capital Improvement Program
- M. Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement with the City of McFarland
- N. Fund Transfer Agreement – STIP Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM)
- O. Resolution Approving the Participation and Allocation of Funding for Staffing the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance Pilot Program Awarded by the California Strategic Growth Council to the San Joaquin Council of Governments on behalf of the Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Partners

***** END CONSENT CALENDAR*****

MOTION BY DIRECTOR P. SMITH, second by Director Couch, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR INCLUDING ADDENDUM ITEM IV. O. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

V. 2015 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FTIP) AMENDMENT NO. 15

Ms. Pacheco stated an amendment has been processed that includes revisions to the Safety Program, Regional Surface Transportation Program, Transit Program, and Non-motorized Program. The amendment documentation is available on the Kern COG website. The public review period began January 8th and ends January 22nd. One correction is needed for the Non-motorized Program project to make it consistent with the Active Transportation Program project list that was approved at today's California Transportation Commission meeting. The correction will be submitted as part of the summary of comments for the amendment. The Kern COG Executive Director will consider approval of the amendment on January 25th. State and federal approval is required. At this time, she asked that the Chair please open the public hearing, allow for public comment, and then close the public hearing.

Chair opened public hearing, no comments heard, Chair closed public hearing.

VI. PROJECT DELIVERY POLICY LETTERS – ATP, CMAQ, RSTP AND TRANSIT

Ms. Pacheco stated that the Kern COG Project Delivery Policy states that projects in the current fiscal year need to be submitted for funding authorization by January 31st. If agencies plan to submit projects for funding authorization beyond January 31st, lead agencies are asked to submit a letter with a revised submittal schedule, those letters were due by January 15, 2016. A revised project list and letters received to date are provided in your folders. This item is for information only

VII. 2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTIP)

Mr. Stramaglia stated that this item is going to include a speaker – Mr. Steven Keck from Caltrans will give us a presentation. Before that he wanted to say that today the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved a negative revised 2016 Fund Estimate for revenue that finances capacity increasing transportation projects of regional significance. New funding for the next five years is non-existent and programming in the current 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will have to be reduced by approximately \$750 million statewide. Instead of re-spreading or deferral we are having to pull projects. Therefore, our regionally adopted 2016 RTIP Capital Improvement Program will be revisited in the month of February and this Board will be asked to approve a revised Capital Improvement Program in which projects that are not yet delivered are deleted from the current 2014 STIP. The Kern COG staff recommendation in February will be consistent with the established regional priorities that are a part of that original project list that was presented to this Board.. Based on the estimated deprogramming need of \$750 million statewide, it is expected that Kern COG will be asked to deprogram approximately \$15 million based on the status of the project and the priorities adopted by the Commission. Commission staff will do the work, staff will review it and decide if we agree with or not. Based on our region's priorities and the state's inability to finance the 2016 STIP we expect to see a deprogramming of at least two projects including 1) US 395 Orland Cartago which is our partnership project with our neighbors to the north as well as 2) SR 14 Freeman Gulch Segment 1 also ready for construction, the total of those two projects is approximately \$22 million. The remaining two projects on the Capital Improvement Program include SR 58 Centennial Corridor and SR 46 could be and are likely to be subject to additional delay and future deprogramming should the STIP continue to be void of a revenue stream. There is not enough revenue to deliver projects even now in this state fiscal year and into next year. Mr. Keck will be helping us to understand why that is. While the current circumstances surrounding the 2016 RTIP process suggest that a portion of our program is at risk, the reality is that our entire program is at risk of being lost, including \$350 million plus of other funding that is associated with those STIP dollars that are slated to be invested with the state's revenue to deliver all of these projects. Mr. Keck's presentation is in your folders so you can follow along and this is an information item only.

Mr. Steven Keck said that he is the Chief Budget Officer for Caltrans so transportation revenues is his game and that makes him a very unpopular person right now. Unfortunately the message that he is giving tonight is not very rosy. He gave a PowerPoint presentation to show the Board how we got to where we are today. (His presentation as well as Mr. Stramaglia's are included with these minutes.) Congressman Thomas shared some thoughts and Mr. Craig Pope, Kern County Road Commissioner, also spoke to help explain to the Board this problem.

VIII. KERN COG PARTICIPATION IN KERN4HMF COALITION (ITEM IV. O. ADDENDUM)

Mr. Ball stated that Kern COG's participation in the Kern4HMF Coalition is an action item requesting direction to staff as well as the Chair to sign a support letter. Last Thursday, Kern COG staff received a request for Kern COG to sign a coalition letter supporting the siting of the High Speed Rail (HSR) Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) in Kern. This is the control center for the new proposed facility, also a request for staff to support the effort of this Kern4HMF group. The HMF has the potential for 1,500 permanent jobs and over \$25 million per year in tax revenue for the region. Kern has 3 HMF sites under consideration by the HSR Authority, one is in Wasco and two are in Shafter. The group has strong evidence that Kern sites are by far the best sites in the state based on technical merit, but the other sites more proactive in their marketing could be selected. The action is to 1) Authorize Chair to sign the letter of support for siting the HMF in Kern; 2) Direct staff to assist the Kern4HMF coalition in winning the HMF for Kern; and 3) Authorize Kern COG's logo to be included on the Kern4HMF website and letterhead. Director Scrivner said how important this is to bring jobs to the city and county. Director Prout said that all the cities will benefit if this comes about and there is no reason that they shouldn't consider this area for a maintenance station. It would bring in a great deal of change for the economics. We need to take advantage of the jobs and the technology that's going to be involved in this project. It is most important that we have the support of all the cities before it goes before the Authority. Director Bob Smith asked what the timeline is on this. Mr. Ball said that the first one is a possible presentation of a selection criteria at the next HSR board meeting in February. Then by the end of April there would be a release of an analysis that would have a preferred HMF location that would be incorporated into an environmental document that would go out for public review and that document is scheduled to be completed by September. Then the final decision for the HMF would not occur until after September.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR PHIL SMITH, second by Director Scrivner, to 1) Authorize Chair to sign the letter of support for siting the HMF in Kern; 2) Direct staff to assist the Kern4HMF coalition in winning the HMF for Kern; and 3) Authorize Kern COG's logo to be included on the Kern4HMF website and letterhead. MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOICE VOTE.

IX. BOARD MEMBERS MEETING REPORTS (None)

X. CALTRANS' REPORT: (Report on Projects in Progress)

Ms. Miller stated that you've heard a lot tonight on what may not happen but I'm reporting on what is happening. The first is the Lost Hills Lane replacement between Loreda overcrossing and SR 5/46 separation. The north bound traffic switch was put into place, concrete removal and road excavation has been completed as well as sub-grade compaction. This is 45% complete with it finished June of 2017. The Bakersfield Bridge Preventative Maintenance on SR 204 between SR 99 and SR 178. It is in winter suspension and will resume in early spring and completed fall 2017. The Sunny Lane Pedestrian Overcrossing on SR 178, the freeway may be closed during the night hours , it is 80% complete and should be finished in March. The East Bound Sand Canyon Bridge on SR 58 is a bridge replacement near Tehachapi. Off-ramps are closed and will remain closed until project is complete which should be in June. She said that Caltrans publication The Mile Marker is out and you will find it in your folders.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hakimi stated that we needed a new Federal Transportation bill, the President signed a new one in December called Fast Act was passed and we now have Federal funding for the next five fiscal years – handouts are in your folders. Today the CTC approved \$1.6 million in Active Transportation Program allocation votes for two City of Tehachapi projects and two County of Kern projects.

The Kern County projects are Highland Elementary Pedestrian Improvements of \$275,000 and the Stiern Middle School Pedestrian Improvements of \$125,000. The Tehachapi projects are Valley Boulevard Bikeway Facilities Project of \$1,156,000 and the Safe Routes to School Project for Right-of-way of \$50,000.

For those of you who travel in metropolitan Bakersfield, both incorporated and unincorporated you may have seen some improvements around GET bus stops. This is being funded mostly by GET transit funds and there are lots of positive feedback on them. The County of Kern and the City of Bakersfield have partnered together with GET to make improvements around the bus stops.

- XII. 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.

Director Scrivner wanted to thank Mr. Hakimi and his staff as Mayor Wood and himself have been working with Caltrans and Mr. Pope to find a solution for the California City Blvd. connection to the Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) interchange on SR 58 which is a left turn across four lanes of highway. There is a Defense Access Road Program that Mr. Hakimi identified and we met with General Schaefer at the AFB and COG staff put together the application to help the AFB to submit for this interchange. He wanted to thank Mr. Hakimi for taking the initiative and hopefully will hear some good news soon.

Mayor Wood said she was so impressed with the reports she got back from the AFB on the meetings. She so appreciates staffs efforts, it's a win-win for the area and for the future.

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director

ATTEST:

Jennifer Wood, Chair

DATE: _____