

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of May 19, 2016

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

MAY 19, 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:**

**II. ROLL CALL:**

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

**Members Absent:** Wilke, Cantu, P. Smith, Kiernan

**Alternates:** None

**Others:** 5

**Staff:** Hakimi, Collins, Ball, Phipps, Pacheco, Snoddy, Flickinger, Smith, Napier, Palomo and Bradley

**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.**

Mr. Sal Moretti with the City of Bakersfield Solid Waste Division said that he's glad two minutes is all he gets as he's on his way to see Leonard Skynaard tonight. He wanted to come out every so often to say thanks, you are a big part of our freeway litter program. You contributed about \$150,000 to the program which takes care of a crew for a year, and that along with Caltrans funding and some private sponsors and even some city money that's been put into that, has allowed us to put together 8 crews is what we have now working. Most recently two new crews have started downtown Bakersfield and the bike trails. It's putting people to work, it's putting people into housing, one of the exciting things he found out is that we're stretching out our HUD dollars. All of our crew members as they work long enough are able to qualify for housing and a lot of them are in housing now. We are changing the cycle of homelessness for those people and we're growing the program so even more people are getting a chance to break out of that cycle. So thank you very much. Chair thanked him as well for all that he has done.

Director Smith wanted to say it's a great program, works well all the way around, for the homeless and the freeways and he'll see him at Leonard Skynaard.

**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 – April 21, 2016
- B. Response to Public Comments (None)

- C. May TDA Public Transit and Streets and Roads Claims Totaling \$2,013,304
- D. Kern COG Proposition 1B Transit Project Update
- E. Project Accountability Team Report
- F. CMAQ Policy Update
- G. SB 375 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Setting Timeline
- H. Call for Projects: Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program
- I. Environmental Justice Meeting Update
- J. Draft Regional Transportation Monitoring System Program Update
- K. Regional Traffic Count Contractor Use of Cameras – Citizen Privacy Measures
- L. Shafter, Wasco SR-43 Transportation Development Plans

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

MOTION BY DIRECTOR WEGMAN, second by Director Flores, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

**V. TIMELINE FOR: 2014 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 1; 2017 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND CORRESPONDING AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**

Ms. Pacheco stated that Kern COG staff is providing the update schedule for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 1, the 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, and the corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis. This schedule will be used to move the documents through the review process with final approval by federal agencies in December 2016. The action requested is that the Transportation Planning Policy Committee approve the development timeline.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR SCRIVNER, second by Director Couch, TO APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**VI. FEDERAL AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY UPDATE**

Mr. Ball stated that this is an information item. In follow-up to a presentation that was made to Congress by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Director on April 14<sup>th</sup>, he testified there to the Energy and Commerce Sub-Committee on HR 4775 Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016 proposing needed changes to the Federal Clean Air Act that hasn't been amended in over 25 years. He then gave an excerpt from his testimony. "The reality that we face today sets up regions such as the San Joaquin Valley for failure leading to costly sanctions and severe economic hardship." These costly sanctions actually land right here with the Regional Transportation planning process and Federal Air Quality Conformity. If a region is not achieving the National standards for air quality, the action is called a conformity lapse and that means that we can no longer advance projects that are expanding our transportation capacity within the region until we can demonstrate that we are going to continue to achieve the air quality goals. The Director goes on to say "We face these dire consequences despite having already done all of the following: Toughest air regulations on stationary sources in the nation, spent more than \$40 billion by businesses on cleaning the air; and over \$1 billion of public/private investment on incentive-based measures reducing over 100,000 tons of emissions, which reduced emissions by 80%, but we need another 90% reduction in emissions to meet the new standard. The background ozone concentration in the San Joaquin Valley is estimated to be greater than 50 parts per billion (ppb) with some estimates as high as 60 ppb. The new ozone standard set at 70 ppb leaves little or no room for man-made local emissions. Additionally, the latest Federal PM2.5 standards of 35 micro program per cubic millimeter (ug/m3) for 24 hour standards and 12 ug/m3 on annual standards also approach natural background levels. He pointed out a couple of charts that show the distance from where we are now, even though we have made tremendous reductions in our air quality, and where we have to get to. This issue is one that we will be watching very closely. He then went through a PowerPoint presentation to further explain.

Director Bob Smith asked if we have written a letter of support for HR 4775. Mr. Ball said that we haven't but we will with the board's request. Chair asked the board if they would like this done and they said that they would.

**VII. BOARD MEMBERS MEETING REPORTS (None)**

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

Ms. Miller stated that the on Lost Hills lane replacement on I-5 between Lerdo overcrossing and I-5/SR 46 separation, the contractor is laying continuous reinforced concrete pavement with completion this month. Concrete curing will follow, which usually takes 14-21 days. There is also going to be some shoulder backing, some electrical work and other repairs as needed. This project is anticipated to be completed January 2017. On the Bakersfield bridge preventative maintenance on SR 204 between SR 99 and SR 178 at various locations, the work that's been completed is scaffolding and containment at Calloway canal as well as heating and straightening of girder and painting. They started the scaffolding work and painting at Kern River. The bridge removal work has been delayed until May 23<sup>rd</sup> due to some unforeseen issues. Once they resume, it will require nightly closures which will last until June or even into July as well as two weekend closures to complete the paving. There is some existing damage on various piers on the Kern River that will be addressed during construction. Caltrans is currently working on attaining some various permits from the regulatory agencies. The Sunny Lane pedestrian overcrossing is almost done, the contractor is continuing to install the bridge fence, it is at 95% completion and should be completed by the end of this month. The eastbound Sand Canyon project on SR 58 at the Sand Canyon Road overhead to Cache Creek Bridge, the bridge construction has been completed and it is open to traffic, however the contractor is currently doing some reconstruction on the ramps. The Cherry Avenue truck climbing lanes project is to construct truck climbing lanes and widen shoulder on SR 119 near Taft, from Elk Hills Road to Tubin Road. The contractor has installed the environmental fence, removed stripes and then restriped, placed temporary K-rail and is removing aerial deposit lead soil which started this week on the roadway excavation and embankment. Work scheduled for upcoming weeks is more roadway excavation and embankment work and it should be completed by the end of this year. Future SHOPP projects that are getting ready to go to advertising and awards are: Shafter/Wasco ADA ramp, which is constructing ADA curb ramps on SR 43 in Shafter and Wasco and is schedule for a June CTC vote, advertise this summer and awarded October/November. SR 46/99 Bridge at Vermoso to replace that bridge, they will advertise this summer and award this fall. The Kern County seismic restoration at SR 99 Airport Drive overcrossing and at SR 99/Golden State Avenue separation is scheduled for a June CTC vote and awarded by the end of the year. The Kern Avenue pedestrian overcrossing is to make it ADA compliant and upgrade the overcrossing on SR 99. It is scheduled for CTC vote in June, advertise in July and award by the end of the year. Hopefully we should have new projects in construction after the winter season, starting next year.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Hakimi stated that the 2016 Active Transportation Plan applications are due to the state and Kern COG on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The TDA Article 3 applications are due July 15<sup>th</sup> for bicycle and pedestrian type projects. The CTC met in Stockton yesterday and today and they adopted the 2016 STIP and all three of Kern's projects were safe, but delayed because of the funding crisis. Also at the CTC, Bakersfield, Tehachapi and Kern County had positive votes on their ATP projects. Congratulations to all of them. The High Speed Rail meeting in town was a packed house, there were representatives from Shafter, Wasco, Bakersfield and Kern County as well as other cities and counties throughout the state. All very interested in the HMF facility and other facilities. We need to all get on the same page if we want a facility here in Kern County. The HSR staff listened as they have over the last few years. He went over the Local Assistance Delivery report, in the past he's told you and your staff it pays to deliver projects early. When we deliver projects early we are rewarded and we can get more federal funds for the region. This chart shows that the agencies in Kern County are in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the state for delivering our federal projects. We have delivered 44% of our projects, that may not sound that good, but there are many counties in our state that are at 0%. That is the good news and you should congratulate your staff for delivering often and early, but he said he would like to see us be number one. We have a lot of work to do to become number one, but we can capture money from all these other counties shown on this chart that are not delivering on time. With the help of your staffs and by cooperating with Kern COG, the CTC and Caltrans he's confident we can move up by next year. Let's do better as the year closes out to get your projects done.

Chair thanked him for that information and said to always let us know how we can even be better at this.

**XIV. 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 Parra wanted to remind everyone that this is bike month and we're only halfway through the month, so if you haven't got on your bike yet this month, there's still plenty of time. Public transit is a great way to ride your bike and get to work or where you need to go. GET has a great transit center at BC if you live in that area and need to get downtown. Another great thing to do is Regional Transit has a bus that goes up to Tehachapi that you can put your bike on and get up there and ride around and it's \$4 round trip and they have a 3 rack, so it would be great fun for you and a friend to go up there and ride around for bike month. Also the Full Moon Ride for Bike Bakersfield is this Sat. We meet at Beech Park at 8 pm.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director

ATTEST:

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Jennifer A. Wood, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_