



Board Actions

Kern COG is an association of city and county governments primarily created to address regional transportation issues. Its member agencies include the County of Kern and its 11 incorporated cities.

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Golden Empire Transit
Howard Silver
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Neil Bretz

Kern COG meetings are broadcast at 7 p.m. each Monday on Kern Government Television.

At its May 17, 2012 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

KERN COG

Final FY 2012-13 Overall Work Program - Adoption

The Board adopted the FY 2012-13 Overall Work Program (OWP), an administrative document developed annually to meet local, state and federal regulations and service requirements. The OWP includes \$7 million for projected funding for various projects.

Final Kern Council of Governments FY 2012-13 Financial Plan

Board members approved the Final Kern COG FY2012-13 financial budget plan estimating revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year. There is \$7 million in estimated operating revenues and \$6 million in estimated operating and capital expenditures.

Final Kern Motorist Aid Authority (KMAA) FY 2012-13 Financial Plan

The Board adopted the final Kern Motorist Aid Authority (KMAA) 2012-13 financial plan with estimated revenues of \$715,641 and expenses of \$1,575,358. KMAA administers the call box program as well as the new 511 traveler information service expected to launch in 2013. The one-time, one-year deficit is proposed to be covered with \$859,717 in reserves.



Kern COG Legislative Advocacy Program

The Board authorized staff to release bids for legislative advocacy services in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. but stopped short of approving budget for the three-year-old program. The item was tabled until bids are presented in July.

Caltrans' Report

Neil Bretz, Acting Deputy District Director for Planning, Caltrans District 6, reported on the following items:

⇒ The Centennial Corridor, which will connect State Route 58 to the new Westside Parkway in Bakersfield, is expected to have its draft environmental document released by this summer with a preferred route alternative. Construction on this projected is expected to begin in 2016.



⇒ The Freeman Gulch widening project along State Route 14 in eastern Kern is in the design phase. Construction to widen the first phase from two to four lanes is anticipated to begin in 2015.

⇒ Design work is progressing on passing lanes near Elk Hills on State Route 119.

⇒ A new, grade-separated interchange at State Route 178 and Morning Drive is also in the design phase, with construction expected in 2015.

⇒ Construction should begin this fall on widening State Route 99 from six to eight lanes from Wilson Road to State Route 119.

Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Robert Ball briefed Board members on the following items:

⇒ The draft 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program; 2011 Regional Transportation Plan amendment No. 3; including addendum No. 3 to the subsequent environmental impact report, and the corresponding air quality conformity analysis are available for public comment. These major transportation planning documents provide a short- and long-term listing of capital improvement and operations expenditures through 2025.

⇒ Kern COG will present Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 23 to the California Transportation Commission later this month. ACA 23 would lower the voter threshold for local transportation sales tax measures to 55 percent.



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At its June 21, 2012 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

KERN COG

Contract Approval — Kern COG's 2014 Preliminary

Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Board members approved a \$73,404 contract with Pacific Municipal Consultants to develop the preliminary 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a master plan of new transportation projects throughout the region extending through 2040. The 2014 RTP, dubbed "Directions to 2050," will be the first version to contain a sustainable communities strategy (SCS), as required under SB 375. The SCS is a list of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within transportation plans.



"Kern COG Presents: Kern County"

The Board previewed a new, half-hour television series exploring many of Kern County's cities and communities. In June, new episodes of "Kern COG Presents: Kern County" began airing at 6:30 p.m. every other Monday on Kern Government Television. The program examines the history of Kern's incorporated cities and unincorporated areas, as well as present-day challenges and residents' hopes for the future. The program relies on interviews with local historians, city and county staff, long-time residents and others to tell each story.

Kern COG Legislative Advocacy Program

Board members rescinded two requests for proposals for state and federal legislative advocacy services and voted not to contract for lobbying services over the next fiscal year.

Caltrans' Report

Caltrans District 6 Director Sharri Bender-Ehlert reported on several construction projects in Kern, including:

- ⇒ Reconstruction along Interstate 5 between State Route 119 and Seventh Standard Road to replace reinforced concrete. A similar project is under construction on State Route 99 between State Route 46 and Olive Drive.
- ⇒ The Centennial Corridor, which will connect State Route 58 to the new Westside Parkway in Bakersfield, is expected to have its draft environmental document released by 2013 with a preferred route alternative. Construction on this project is expected to begin in 2016.
- ⇒ The Freeman Gulch widening project along State Route 14 in eastern Kern is in the design phase. Construction to widen the first phase from two to four lanes is anticipated to begin in 2015.
- ⇒ Design work is progressing on passing lanes near Elk Hills on State Route 119. Construction is scheduled for 2016.
- ⇒ A new, grade-separated interchange at State Route 178 and Morning Drive is also in the design phase, with construction expected in 2013.



Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ahron Hakimi briefed Board members on the following items:

- ⇒ The City of Bakersfield will host a public workshop on June 26 at the Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield for the 24th Street widening project.
- ⇒ Kern COG has completed the first round of outreach meeting for its "Directions to 2050" Regional Transportation Plan.



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At its July 19, 2012 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

2011 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment No. 3; 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Analysis

The Board adopted amendment No. 3 to the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan — a long-range program of capital improvement projects for the Kern region — along with the 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and the corresponding air quality conformity analysis. The amendment contained changes to numerous capital improvement projects throughout the region.



Consideration of membership with CalVans

Board members approved joining the CalVans joint powers authority, a public vanpool service based in Hanford that operates throughout the San Joaquin Valley, leasing vans to riders who wish to operate vanpools.

Caltrans' Report

Caltrans District 6 Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance

Gail Miller reported on several construction projects in Kern, including:

- ⇒ Reconstruction on Interstate 5 is under way from the Los Angeles County line near Fort Tejon to just north of the Grapevine Creek bridge. The project is scheduled to be finished by December.
- ⇒ Caltrans is expected to advertise for construction bids in spring 2013 for the State Route 58 widening project between State Route 99 and Cottonwood Road in Bakersfield. The project will increase highway capacity from four to six lanes.
- ⇒ Construction will be completed in summer 2013 on the Woollomes Interchange improvements in Delano.



KERN COG

2012 community survey final report

The Board received the 2012 Community survey, a statistically valid telephone survey conducted annually since 2006 that measures more than 1,200 Kern residents' attitudes about a variety of quality-of-life issues, including transportation, housing, air quality and a variety of other issues. The survey results are part of Kern COG's ongoing public outreach campaign to gather input for its transportation and air quality plans.

Change in meeting time

Board members agreed to change the regular meeting time for the Transportation Planning Policy Committee and Kern COG Board to 6:30 p.m., moving the meeting up from 7 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ahron Hakimi briefed Board members on the following items:

- ⇒ The Kern region was awarded \$31 million for widening State Route 99 in Bakersfield from Wible Road to State Route 119, along with an additional \$26 million for the sixth and final phase of the Westside Parkway, which represents 30 years' of work by the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, Caltrans and Kern COG.
- ⇒ The California High-Speed Rail Authority released its revised environmental impact report for the Fresno-to-Bakersfield segment.
- ⇒ On July 6, President Obama signed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) bill, authorizing two years of federal transportation expenditures.



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At its September 20, 2012 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Draft comments on high-speed rail environmental impact report

Board members reviewed Kern COG staff comments on the Fresno -to-Bakersfield segment of the California High-Speed Rail project, which acknowledges a need for the statewide system but questions the level of traffic congestion stated in the report for the San Joaquin Valley.



2014 Regional Transportation Plan development status

The Board was updated on a variety of transportation studies and outreach efforts that will be included in the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan. In addition, Board members learned how new federal air quality standards may affect transportation funding in the future. Kern COG is scheduled to adopt its "Directions to 2050" Regional Transportation Plan in October 2013.

2012 Unmet Transit Needs public hearing

The Board conducted a public hearing to consider any unmet transit needs claims for public transportation service throughout the region. Kern COG refers unmet transit needs that are considered reasonable to individual public transportation agencies responsible for service.

Caltrans' Report

Caltrans District 6 Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance Gail Miller reported on several construction projects in Kern, including:



⇒ Bids to replace Redrock Canyon bridge on State Route 14 are expected in early 2013 with construction beginning in spring 2013.

⇒ A construction contract is expected to be awarded in June 2013 for widening on State Route 99 in Bakersfield between Wilson Road and State Route 119, including a new auxiliary lane at Panama Lane.

⇒ Developer fees will pay for a widening project on westbound State Route 119 between Gosford and Ashe roads in Bakersfield. A requests for bids has already been advertised.

KERN COG

2009-10 and 2010-11 financial and compliance audit reports

Board members received the results of Kern COG's 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial compliance audits, which included six material weaknesses related primarily to a lack of staff training and unfamiliarity with Government Accounting Standards Board requirements.

2011-12 financial and compliance audit contract award

The Board approved a \$140,000 contract with accounting firm Brown Armstrong to conduct its 2011-12 financial and compliance audit. The report will be completed by December 2012.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ahron Hakimi briefed Board members on the following items:

⇒ Stakeholder Roundtable meetings supporting the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan will be held at Kern COG on Oct. 16 and 17.

⇒ Kern COG has a public information booth at the Kern County Fair during its entire run from Sept. 19-30.

⇒ The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Fall Policy Conference will be held in Lemoore Oct. 11-12.



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At its October 18, 2012 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE



Kern County Bicycle Plan and Complete Streets Recommendations

Board members adopted the Kern County Bicycle Plan and Complete Streets Recommendations, which calls for 664 miles of new bikeways — including 30 miles of new Class I bike paths — bike share programs and street improvements to better accommodate bicycle travel over a 30-year timeframe.

Commuter Rail Feasibility Study

The Board received the Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, which considered commuter system expansion options. The study analyzed potential employers along the Burlington-Northern Santa Fe corridor in Kern that could benefit from a service to replace Amtrak should it move to grade-separated high-speed rail track and recommended a long-term strategy for Amtrak. In addition, the study found that a potential extension of Metrolink in the Antelope Valley to Rosamond in Kern was technically feasible under certain conditions.

Caltrans' Report

Caltrans District 6 Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance Gail Miller reported on several construction projects in Kern, including:

- ⇒ Bids opened October 9 for the south Bakersfield widening of State Route 99 from four to six lanes between State Route 119 and Wilson Road.
- ⇒ Bids are expected to open in December for the Kern SR 99 north widening project from six to eight lanes between SR 204 and the Beardsley canal.
- ⇒ The Gosford Road westbound three-lane widening project in Bakersfield is under construction; completion is expected in January 2013.



KERN COG

Electronic agendas

The Board directed staff to investigate hardware and software preferences for transitioning to electronic-only agendas. The agendas will be delivered to Board members and the public by email links to Kern COG's website. Tablets, laptop computers and other electronic devices capable of displaying agenda information will be considered, as will the experiences of other public agencies that have already moved away from providing printed materials for each meeting. Kern COG committees are already using the new electronic agenda format.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ahron Hakimi briefed Board members on the following items:

- ⇒ Kern will receive more than \$14 million to replace a bridge on SR 14 at Red Rock Canyon after the California Transportation Commission reallocated more than \$300 million in unused transportation funds from other regions.
- ⇒ The California Air Resources Board has scheduled its January meeting in Bakersfield.
- ⇒ More than 3,600 people participated in the Directions to 2050 Regional Transportation Plan outreach during the Kern County Fair. Input is still welcomed at www.directionsto2050.com.
- ⇒ Last week, staff and Mayor Wegman attended the Fall Policy Council in Lemoore; Mayor Cantu attended the Regional Policy Council meeting following the Conference.
- ⇒ November is Take 5 for Energy Efficiency month.



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At its November 15, 2012 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Draft Passenger Vehicle Travel Emissions Target Recommendations and Timeline

The Board was briefed on new, San Joaquin Valleywide air quality modeling results that demonstrated a reduction in air pollutants from transportation sources over the course of the next 20 years. The results suggest Kern may be able to meet the state Legislature's demand to reduce pollutants 10 percent by 2035.



2014 Regional Transportation Plan—Environmental Document

Board members approved a \$497,669 contract with Impact Sciences, Inc. to prepare the environmental impact report for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) — a master plan for all transportation modes in Kern covering the next 30 years. The RTP is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act and must be reviewed for potential negative effects to the environment.

Caltrans' Report

Caltrans District 6 Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance Gail Miller reported on several construction projects in Kern, including:

⇒ A construction bid has been awarded for the south Bakersfield widening of State Route 99 from four to six lanes between State Route 119 and Wilson Road. Construction is expected to begin in March 2013.



⇒ Bids are expected to open in December for the Kern SR 99 north widening project from six to eight lanes between SR 204 and the Beardsley canal.

⇒ The westbound San Canyon bridge replacement on State Route 58 near Tehachapi should begin construction in February 2013.

⇒ Caltrans is recommending Alternative B for the Centennial Corridor in Bakersfield, which will connect State Route 58 to the new Westside Parkway. A public meeting from 4-7 p.m. on Dec. 6 in Bakersfield will address the recommendation and its implications.

KERN COG

Public Comment Policy

The Board voted unanimously to retain its unofficial policy of allowing two minutes of public comment per speaker on any agenda item or under a meeting's public comment segment. The Board chairman or chairwoman will continue to exercise the right to allow for additional time on a case-by-case basis.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ahron Hakimi briefed Board members on the following items:

⇒ Kern COG will host a Caltrans Division of Rail public meeting on Nov. 29 regarding an environmental impact report for proposed Amtrak improvements within the San Joaquin Valley.

⇒ On Jan. 24, 2013 the California Air Resources Board will meet at the Kern County Board of Supervisors chambers in Bakersfield.

⇒ Kern COG staff is in its second cycle of outreach meetings for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and will be offering presentations throughout the county. The public is encouraged to offer its input via an online game at www.directionsto2050.com.

⇒ Kern Energy Watch is hosting an "Ugly Sweater Contest" through Nov. 29.