



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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At its January 15, 2015 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

### Draft Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Project Selection Policy



Board members approved a project selection policy for the state's Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) in order to distribute \$310,270 this funding cycle. Eligible projects include: those that support new or expanded bus or rail services; expanded intermodal transit facilities and; equipment acquisition, fueling, maintenance and other expenses to operate those services or facilities. Each project is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policy establishes the criteria for project scoring and selection.

### 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) draft amendment No. 2

The Board held a public hearing to take comments on the 2014 Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment No. 2, which adds more than \$59 million in projects across multiple programs, including: the State Highway Operation and Protection Program; Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program; and Non-motorized program. This amendment has been in public review since Jan. 2 and will end Jan.20. Federal approval is expected in March.

### Caltrans' report

Caltrans District 6 Planning Director Gail Miller provided an update:

- ⇒ Pedestrian countdown crosswalk signals are being installed at various locations in Kern County. Projects will be ready to list in February.
- ⇒ The Interstate-5 (I-5)/Grapevine escape ramp message sign upgrade near Fort Tejon is about 53 percent complete. Work to place electrical conduit continues.



## KERN COG

### 2014 Regional Awards of Merit ceremony

Board members voted to host the 2014 Regional Awards of Merit ceremony at the Seven Oaks Country Club in Bakersfield, moving the event away from the Petroleum Club due to a date conflict. The Regional Awards honor individuals, organizations and programs that make major contributions to Kern County's quality of life through innovative and cooperative efforts. The ceremony will be held on March 5, 2015

### Executive Director's report

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

- ⇒ Beginning in 2015, the Kern County Association of Cities will begin meeting four times a year on the fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is April 27.
- ⇒ On Feb. 6, the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council will meet in Fresno. The Council's annual Valley Voice-Sacramento trip is scheduled for March 4.
- ⇒ The next joint Kern COG/Southern California Association of Governments meeting will be held on Feb.17 in Santa Clarita.
- ⇒ California Council of Governments will be host its annual Regional Issues Forum April 8-10 in Monterey.



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At its March 19, 2015 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

### 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)— Final Amendment No. 4

Board members adopted the 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 4. The 2015 FTIP programs federal, state and local transportation funding for capital projects between 2014-2018. Amendment No. 4 adjusts \$114 million among various projects in the Thomas Roads Improvement Program in Bakersfield.



### Rural Transit Operations Federal Assistance Annual Program of Projects

The Board approved Kern COG's slate of 2014 Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Section 5311 projects for rural transit systems. Nine local rural agencies that provide public transportation services throughout the Kern region may apply for as much as \$1.4 million for capital improvements and operations.

### Caltrans' report

Caltrans District 6 Planning Director Gail Miller provided an update:

- ⇒ Rumble strips are being added on State Route (SR) 99 south of McFarland from south of Sherwood Avenue overcrossing to south of the Whistler Road overcrossing.
- ⇒ The Freeman Gulch Expressway is being widened from two to four lanes near Ridgecrest between the SR 178 West/SR 14 interchange and 1.7 miles north of SR 178 East.



## KERN COG

### 2015-16 Preliminary Overall Work Program and Draft Financial Plan

The Board received a preliminary version of Kern COG's 2015-16 Overall Work Program (OWP), which details every task and product that agency staff will complete for the fiscal year. The OWP tracks closely with Kern COG's annual Financial Plan, which proposes a total of \$4.7 million in revenues and \$4.6 million in expenditures for 2015-16.

### Litter Removal and Enforcement Contracts

Board members approved a Kern County Sheriff's Department request to transfer funds from a litter removal contract to a litter enforcement contract and also to continue with the litter removal contracts. Kern Motorists Aid Authority (KMAA) signed three highway litter contracts — two with the Sheriff's Department and one with the City of Bakersfield. Two contracts provide \$100,000 each for litter clean-up. The third contract provides another \$100,000 for litter enforcement. Each contract ends in June of 2015 and the Sheriff's Department currently has excess money for litter removal but needs more money for litter enforcement through June 30, 2015.

### Executive Director's report

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

- ⇒ CalCOG will hold its annual Regional Issues Forum in Monterey April 8-10.
- ⇒ The American Lung Association—Lung Force Walk will be held on April 11.
- ⇒ On April 15, Kern COG is hosting the Statewide Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) Meeting.



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At its April 16, 2015 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

### 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) — Final Amendment No. 6

The Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment No. 6 includes revisions to the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, the Highway Bridge Program and the Highway Safety Improvement Program. There is also an introduction of new transit program projects throughout the Kern region; with this, more than \$16 million will be allotted for operating assistance to transit agencies. The expected federal approval date is June 2015.

### Caltrans' report



Caltrans District 6 Planning Director Gail Miller provided an update:

- ⇒ New interchange paving at State Route (SR) 178 and Morning Drive is complete and has been reopened from Panama Drive to Auburn Street.
- ⇒ The Gap Closure to widen SR 58 from four to six lanes between SR 99 and Cottonwood Road is complete.
- ⇒ Faux work at the SR 99 and Hosking Avenue interchange will be erected in early May and performed at night under freeway closure. It is 20 percent complete and will be finished in late 2015.

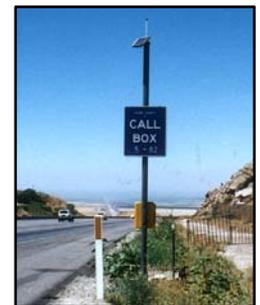
## KERN COG

### 2015-16 Preliminary Kern COG Financial Plan

The Board received Kern COG's 2015-16 preliminary financial plan. The \$4.5 million budget is a 20 percent reduction compared to the current year, due in large part to fewer consultant projects. May 21, 2015 has been set for a public hearing prior to adoption.

### 2015-16 Kern Motorist Aid Authority (KMAA) Financial Plan

Board members reviewed the 2015-16 Kern Motorist Aid Authority (KMAA) budget. KMAA administers the 5-1-1 traveler information system, highway litter removal programs and roadside call box program. Its proposed budget for 2015-16 is \$808,780, with an operating deficit of \$412,806, which is covered through reserves. There will be \$450,000 appropriated for maintenance of the traveler information system and litter removal programs. The public hearing for approval of will take place in May.



### Executive Director's report

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

- ⇒ On April 27, the Kern County Association of Cities (KCAC) dinner will be held in McFarland at the Veterans Hall and feature the cross-country team profiled in the movie "McFarland USA."
- ⇒ April 25 is Celebrate CSUB, the Greater Bakersfield Green Expo and the Arvin Wildflower Festival.
- ⇒ May is Clean Air Month and National Bike Month.



# Board Actions

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At its May 21, 2015 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

### Godbe Research 2015 Community Survey

Survey designer Brian Godbe presented the Board with the results of the 2015 Community Survey. The 1,200 person, random telephone survey examined attitudes about community growth, transportation habits, housing, bike and pedestrian matters and other quality-of-life issues throughout Kern County. More than 43 percent of residents cited "small town atmosphere" as the thing they like most about where they live, and 34 percent of them believe that quality of life in their city or town will be "better" over the next 20 years. When asked about alternate means of transportation, 32 percent of solo drivers indicated that they would continue to drive alone regardless of alternatives, and 26 percent said that they would carpool if it were available.



### Caltrans' report

Caltrans District 6 Planning Director Gail Miller provided an update:

- ⇒ The interchange project on State Route (SR) 178 at Morning Drive is 71 percent complete and will be finished in July.
- ⇒ Broom Road intersection improvements at SR 58 and the Broom Road overcrossing near Tehachapi were completed on May 1.
- ⇒ Construction to widen SR 178 from Morning Drive to Masterson Street will begin at the end of summer.

## KERN COG

### Kern Motorist Aid Authority (KMAA) 2015-16 Final Financial Plan

Board members approved the final KMAA 2015-2016 Financial Plan, which proposes operating revenues totaling \$819,616, operating appropriations totaling \$1,221,586 and a net operating deficit of \$401,970, covered through reserves. The plan covers the operation and maintenance of the call box system, the traveler information system and the litter removal and enforcement contracts. The Board also directed staff to remove call boxes in the metro Bakersfield area; after consultation with Caltrans, 47 call boxes have been removed.

### Overall Work Program (OWP) 2015-16 Final adoption

For 2015-16, the OWP, a detailed work plan for the year, proposes 21 studies/audits totaling \$1,410,377 in consultant contracts, of which are 15 planning studies totaling \$1 million supporting development of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan, Congestion Management Program, Environmental Document, Air Quality Conformity and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Many of these studies will be multi-year consultant contracts.

### Executive Director's report

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

- ⇒ The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will meet in Fresno on May 27.
- ⇒ June 1 is the application deadline for California's Active Transportation Program.
- ⇒ The Sustainable Energy Roadmap for the San Joaquin Valley is sponsoring a summit on June 2 at Fresno State —"Tools and Solutions to Help Valley Jurisdictions Deal with Energy and Water Challenges."



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At its June 18, 2015 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE



### 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

The 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is a five-year program for regionally significant projects. The following projects are expected to begin construction: State Route 58 Centennial Corridor Connector, State Route 46 widening Segment 4A and State Route 14 Segments 2 and 3. Kern COG expects to submit its

regionally approved project requests to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by December 2015.

### Caltrans' report

Caltrans District 6 Planning Director Gail Miller provided an update:

- ⇒ The Rosedale Highway rumble strips on State Route (SR) 58 between Gaston Street and SR 43 is 95 percent complete and should be finished by July.
- ⇒ Construction of the median shoulders and crossover south of Merced Avenue for the Lost Hills Lane replacement on SR 5 between the Lerdo Highway overcrossing and SR 5 and SR 46 separation is complete. Work on the total project is 14 percent complete.



## KERN COG

### Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

The Board approved a 4 percent cost-of-living adjustment for Kern COG staff, resulting in an annual operating budget increase of \$87,323. The increase is effective July 1, 2015 and will be amended into Kern COG's 2015-16 budget in the fall.

### Litter and Debris Removal

Kern COG has approved Memorandums of Agreement with both the Kern County Sheriff's Office and the City of Bakersfield. There are two contracts with the Sheriff's department, one for litter removal and one for litter enforcement, totaling \$100,000. The Sheriff's Office uses inmate labor through the Lerdo Detention Facility to carry out the removal contract. The City of Bakersfield's contract totals \$150,000 and use clients from the Bakersfield Homeless Center, which also provides employment opportunities.

### Executive Director's report

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

- ⇒ July 20-24 is Transportation Week at the Shafter Youth Center. Kern COG staff, CHP, Caltrans and many other transportation related firms will be attending.
- ⇒ The next California Transportation Commission meeting is June 25 in Sacramento.
- ⇒ July 15 is the Transportation Development Act-Article 3 program application deadline.
- ⇒ August 20 is the Rideshare Week kickoff luncheon.
- ⇒ The San Joaquin Valley Policy Council's Washington D.C. trip is September 8-11.



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At its October 15, 2015 meeting, Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors was briefed or took action on the following items:

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE



### 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Kern COG staff is circulating the Draft 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Capital Improvement Program for information. The draft Capital Improvement Program reflects a request of \$59.7 million of state formula funding for five capital projects, all of which are programmed in the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program. Once regionally adopted at the November Board meeting, Kern COG staff will forward the 2016 RTIP Capital Improvement Program to the California Transportation

Commission no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>

### Active Transportation Program

Six Kern regional projects received nearly \$6 million from California's Active Transportation Program (ATP) at the October California Transportation Commission meeting. ATP provides funding for non-motorized transportation projects, Safe Routes to Schools projects and active transportation planning programs. Mojave, Lamont, Bakersfield and the County of Kern will use the grant funding to help pay for major sidewalk improvements, while Tehachapi will use its \$2 million grant to help pay for pedestrian infrastructure across rail lines in the city. Kern COG also received a \$250,000 grant for a plan to inventory active transportation projects throughout the region, identify deficiencies and prioritize future projects. Kern COG will award its \$3.54 million regional share of the program in November.

### Caltrans' report

Caltrans District 6 Planning Director Gail Miller provided an update:

- ⇒ Construction will begin Oct. 19 on the eastbound Sand Canyon overpass at State Route 58. Closures of the eastbound on- and off-ramps will take place.
- ⇒ The Cherry Avenue truck climbing lanes project on SR 119 in Elk Hills is scheduled to begin December 8.



### Executive Director's report

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

- ⇒ The City of Shafter transitioned all three of their transit vans from gas to electric operation using Proposition 1B funds.
- ⇒ Kern COG staff has recently participated in the High Speed Rail Authority's technical working groups and public workshops in the Cities of Shafter, Bakersfield, Edison, Tehachapi, Mojave and Rosamond.
- ⇒ CommuteKern concluded Rideshare week on October 9 and surpassed last year's pledges with 1,142.