



MINUTES

KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Thursday, January 30, 2025

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Ms. Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner, at 11:07 a.m. on January 30, 2025 at the Kings County Association of Governments' conference room and via virtual meeting.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brenda Tamayo-Pagan, Kings County Behavioral Health
Mark Pedreiro, Alternate for Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
Jared Raper, MV Transportation
Eric Ramirez, Alternate for Valley LEAP
Bobbie Wartson, Kings County Commission on Aging
Barbara Lemos, Kings County Health and Human Services Agency
Rebecca Donabed, Resources for Independence Central Valley

STAFF PRESENT: Teresa Nickell, Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT: None

B. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None.

C. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Donabed / Tamayo-Pagan) to approve the Minutes of May 30, 2024 as submitted. Motion approved.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. Introductions

B. Appointments and Reappointments to SSTAC

Ms. Nickell reviewed that every December to January, KCAG will recruit new members with applications and conduct reappointments to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). New recruited members include Brenda Tamayo-Pagan of Kings County Behavioral Health, Leslie Corchado of King County Public Health, and Jerad Raper of MV Transportation. Continuing members include Dorothy Callihan-Weiss for senior riders, Rey Leon of Valley LEAP, and Angie Dow of KCAPTA.

C. SSTAC New Member Orientation

Ms. Nickell reviewed that member representation must consist of transit users who are aged 60 years or older; transit users who are disabled; social service providers for seniors, social service transportation providers; social service providers for the disabled; social service providers for persons with limited means; and additional members as appointed by the RTPA.

The SSTAC helps to identify unmet transit needs of the transit dependent or transit disadvantaged person, including the elderly and persons with disability and/or limited means. The SSTAC will review all testimony and assess individual requests and provide a recommendation to the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) with one of three findings: 1) There are no unmet transit needs; 2) There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; or 3) There are unmet transit needs, including those that are reasonable to meet.

Each RTPA/MPO is responsible for conducting the annual Transportation Development Act (TDA) process of determining any unmet transit needs within the region in conjunction with administering the TDA funds, comprised of the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and the State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. These two funds are provided to the public transit agencies. The LTF is allocated to the transportation planning agency and to the transit agencies. Following the unmet transit needs public hearings, and, subsequent to any payments for unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet with prioritized funding as determined by the TPC, the jurisdictions and the County will receive remaining LTF for bicycle, pedestrian, and streets and roads projects.

The SSTAC serves as an advisory body to the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee regarding the transit needs of the elderly, disabled and low-income. The council participates annually in identifying transit needs, in reviewing the analysis of any unmet transit needs in compliance with the TDA, and to recommend action to the TPC regarding transit needs, following the region's annual Unmet Transit Needs public hearing process, which commences in January/February for City of Corcoran, in February/March for KCAPTA, and April/May for KCAG.

D. Transit Agency Updates

Mr. Pedreiro of KCAPTA commented the Kings Area Regional Transit (KART) multimodal center is currently under construction on 7th Street, between Harris and Brown Streets, slated for completion September of 2025. SoCal Edison is preparing to power up the Kings View building, and MV Transit is redesigning the Hanford routes with KCAPTA. Mr. Raper added two Karsan eJEST mini-buses are on order for the new fixed route services, a total of 3 EV buses will be operable during start-up.

Ms. Nickell indicated that KCAG is updating the Regional Active Transportation Plan (RATP) with regional bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements for jurisdictions and the County. The plan will include connectivity with the City of Hanford and future HSR station. Also, KCAG is conducting Triennial Performance Audits with a consultant, including the transit operators.

E. Unmet Transit Needs

No unmet transit needs have been received to date. The City of Corcoran will hold public hearings in January and February, KCAPTA will hold public hearings in February and March, and KCAG will hold public hearings for unmet transit needs testimony in April and May, 2025.

F. Transit Meetings

The next meeting of the SSTAC is scheduled tentatively for May 29, 2025, and staff will send out the agenda packet the week prior to the meeting.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned on January 30, 2025 at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Nickell

Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner