



MINUTES

KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Thursday, May 29, 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 10:05 a.m. on May 29, 2025 at the Kings County Association of Governments conference room and via Zoom.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leslie Corchado, Kings County Public Health
Brenda Tamayo-Pagan, Kings County Behavioral Health
Mark Pedreiro, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
Heather Corder, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
Jared Raper, MV Transportation

STAFF PRESENT: Teresa Nickell, Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT: Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans D-6
David Huff, Caltrans D-6

B. UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None.

C. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Tamayo-Pagan / Corchado) to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2025, as submitted. Motion approved.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. Kings Transit System Review

Ms. Nickell stated the KART ridership has increased since 2023 from 587,600 passenger trips to 725,235 trips in 2024 based on calendar year KART estimates. KART provides fixed route, paratransit, commuter route, flex route, and on-demand service. Paratransit service is offered to Hanford, Armona, and Lemoore residents. Avenal service for Saturday shopping and recreational needs is provided by KART. A flex route provides bus stop to bus stop service within Lemoore, and Hanford is served also with an on-demand route for curb-to-curb transport using the KART phone app to schedule. Ms. Nickell indicated the KCAPTA vanpool program with Enterprise has grown to 47 vanpools that provide trips for employment. The KART multimodal station on 7th Street is amidst construction with buildout expected by this December. KCAPTA is currently working on rerouting the fixed route buses to the new location.

Ms. Nickell stated the Corcoran Area Transit's ridership has decreased from 25,250 passenger trips in 2023 to 25,037 trips in 2024 based on calendar year estimates. The City continues to update the Corcoran Amtrak Depot building and parking lot as weather permits. Corcoran plans to purchase an electric passenger van, install solar panels on the bus canopy, and install a new bus shelter on 6 1/2 Avenue near the Whitley Gardens Apartments.

B. Unmet Transit Needs Testimony Analysis and Recommendation

Ms. Nickell reviewed the annual Unmet Transit Needs (UTNs) process by KCAG and the SSTAC's role to help identify and assess UTNs following the public hearings and to provide a recommendation to the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) with one of three findings: 1) That there are no unmet transit needs; 2) That there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; or 3) That there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet. As required by the Transportation Development Act, KCAG must annually identify and review unmet transit needs requested by transit dependent or disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled, and persons with limited means through the public hearing process

Ms. Nickell indicated the KCAPTA held public hearings in February and March, and the City of Corcoran held public hearings in January and February. KCAG held a public hearing in April and extended it to May 28th for unmet transit needs. The public hearing process is closed, so KCAG is submitting all testimony and analysis of unmet transit needs testimony received to the SSTAC for consideration to make a recommendation by letter to be considered at the June TPC meeting by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee. The resolutions to approve the TDA apportionments and allocation instructions to the County Auditor for the Local Transportation Fund and State Transit Assistance, along with the Unmet Transit Needs findings will be provided to the Committee by Staff as well.

KCAPTA received 5 transit requests, Corcoran and KCAG have received no requests. Mr. Pedreiro discussed the analysis of 5 transit requests, with 1 request that meets the 8 criteria to establish an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet: Add an on-route bus stop at the Costco on Lacey Boulevard. This request is planned for 2026. Findings from the review and analysis of the received Unmet Transit Needs testimony were determined and unanimously approved. It was moved and seconded (Corchado / Mendibles), motion approved.

C. Unmet Transit Needs SSTAC Recommendation Letter

It was moved and seconded (Corchado / Pedreiro) and staff provided the draft Letter of Recommendation to Ms. Corchado for signature to recommend the findings and determination for the 2025 Unmet Transit Needs to the KCAG TPC on behalf of the SSTAC at the June meeting.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the KCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned on May 29, 2025 at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Nickell

Teresa Nickell, KCAG Regional Planner