



MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 10:05 a.m., on December 10, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Nancy Howze, Patricia Matthews, Joe Neves, Alvaro Preciado, Robert Thayer

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Shane Gunn

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jeanette Zamora-Bragg

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Joel Gandarilla, Jennifer Morales, Kayley Clay, Julio Gonzalez

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Via Zoom: Cynthia Baruch, NAS Lemoore

A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances

None.

B. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

C. Unscheduled Appearances

None

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of October 22, 2025

A motion was made and seconded (Preciado / Matthews) to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2025, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Thayer
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Final 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Kayley Clay stated that The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has adopted Guidelines and a Fund Estimate for the upcoming 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) are required to submit an adopted 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) to the CTC by December 15, 2025. The overall statewide capacity for the 2026 Fund Estimate identifies a net new capacity, mostly in the two years added to the STIP, 2029-20 and 2030-31. The 2026 Adopted STIP Fund Estimate shows that Kings County has a balance of (\$4,129,000) in advanced regional shares from prior STIP periods and a formula distribution of \$2,737,000 in new STIP capacity through FY 2030-31. This leaves a balance of (\$1,392,000) in net shares through FY 2030-31. The Maximum for Kings County in advanced regional shares from prior STIP periods and a formula distribution of \$4,743,000 in new STIP capacity through FY 2031-32. This would leave a balance of \$614,000 in net shares through FY 2031-32. Due to the lack of regional share funds to program the next phase of the SR 198 and 9th Avenue Interchange, development of the 2026 RTIP consists of programming new PPM funds in the amount of \$150,000 in FY 2026-27. The Draft 2026 RTIP was released for a 30-day public comment period from October 8, 2025, and concluded on November 7, 2025. No comments on the Draft 2026 RTIP were received.

Commissioner Thayer inquired about the recent scoping meeting for the SR 198 and 9th Ave interchange with eminent domain concerns. The response was that there should be no eminent domain issues regarding housing with this project. There was further discussion regarding other projects near the area.

A motion was made and seconded (Preciado / Thayer) to approve the Final 2026 Kings County RTIP with the adoption of Resolution No. 25-14. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Thayer
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

2. FFY 2024-25 Annual Federal Funds Obligation Report

Kayley Clay stated that Federal regulations require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) make available to the public an annual listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the proceeding federal fiscal year. As the MPO for the Kings County region, KCAG has prepared the annual report of obligated projects for the Federal Fiscal Year FFY 2024-25. The 2025 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects report is available on the KCAG website and at the KCAG office. The listing of federally funded projects that were obligated during FFY 2024-25 shows that KCAG Member Agencies and state agencies on behalf of the region obligated approximately \$38 million for streets, roads, and highway projects and approximately \$6.5 million for transit projects within Kings County.

3. FY 2024-25 Transportation Development Act Audits Extension

Jennifer Morales stated that the California Administrative Code requires that each claimant of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds annually and within 180

days after the end of the fiscal year, submit a report of the fiscal and compliance audit of the financial statements to the State Controller. The audit is to determine if there are any problems or unauthorized use of TDA funds and if these agencies follow all applicable TDA laws. It is anticipated that the auditor will not be able to submit draft audit reports in time so that KCAG can accept and submit them to the State Controller. In accordance with the California Administrative Code, KCAG may grant an extension of up to 90 days for the submittal of the audit reports.

Commissioner Matthews asked the reason for the delay. The reply was that KCAG had a late start in preparing the recent RFP. In addition, KCAG is still waiting for the completion of the FY 2023-24 Audit reports from the previous Auditor. New year audits cannot start without the complete previous year's audit.

Commissioner Preciado stated that audits are time consuming and it can be difficult to continually contract with auditors experienced in government accounting.

A motion was made and seconded (Preciado / Howze) to approve an extension for the submittal of the FY 2024-25 TDA audits be granted and that the State Controller be notified of the extension. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Thayer
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

4. Consultant Selection – FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 Transportation Development Act Financial and Compliance Audits

Jennifer Morales stated that KCAG invited proposals from qualified independent certified public accountants licensed in the State of California to conduct annual financial and compliance audits. These include audits of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds and Single Audit Reports for federally funded programs in accordance with the requirements of the California State Controller's Office (SCO) and federal OMB Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F). The budget shown in the RFP provided \$47,400 for the cost of the project. One consultant proposal was received from the firm Hudson & Company, Inc. The Review Committee believes that Hudson and Company, Inc. is qualified to accomplish the goals of the project and recommends this consulting firm to prepare the Kings County Fiscal and Compliance Audits FY 24-25 through FY 25-26 with a two year extension option.

Commissioner Matthews inquired about penalties if the auditor does not meet the deadline. The reply was that there are no specified penalties in the agreement. However, KCAG staff endeavor the work with the auditor to meet the deadlines. There was further discussion regarding methods to ensure a timely audit and difficulties with establishing the reasons for the delay.

A motion was made and seconded (Matthews / Howze) to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Hudson & Company, Inc. to conduct and prepare the Kings County Fiscal and Compliance Audits FY 24-25 Through FY 25-26 With Two-Year Extension Option at a proposed cost of \$43,670. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Thayer
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

5. FFY 2024-26 Federal Transit Act Section 5310 - Regional Priority List of Projects

Terri King stated that the Federal Transit Act (FTA) Section 5310 provides grant funds to private nonprofit corporations, federally recognized tribes, and certain public agencies. The Kings County region received four applications from the Kings Rehabilitation Center to purchase four replacement vehicles at an estimated cost of \$440,000 plus \$66,000 in local match funds. KCAG staff has scored the applications based on project-scoring criteria. The Statewide Review Committee (SRC) will rescore the applications and submit a Final Statewide Prioritized List to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), that will hold a public hearing and adopt a statewide prioritized list.

A motion was made and seconded (Matthews / Preciado) to adopt Resolution No. 25-15 to approve the FFY 2024-26 FTA Section 5310 Regional Prioritized Project List, which includes projects for the Kings Rehabilitation Center for submittal to the State Review Committee to be considered for funding. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Gunn, Howze, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Thayer
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

6. FY 2026-27 Overall Work Program Activities

Terri King stated that each year KCAG is required to develop an Overall Work Program (OWP) for its transportation planning activities, including funding sources and a work schedule. The draft FY 2026-27 OWP is to be submitted by March 1 to Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for review and comment. KCAG will receive an estimated \$846,301 in new FHWA, \$59,252 in FTA, and \$168,000 in SB 1 Formula apportionments, along with other local funds. A summary of the work activities expected to be conducted during the next fiscal year was provided.

Commissioner Matthews recommended an additional project for an additional entry and exit route near the Lemoore Community College. The response was that such a project is listed on the long-range project list in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Commissioner Thayer inquired about the proposed mileage tax, and a possible expansion of SR 43. The response was that a State Task Force has been studying alternatives to the gas tax for years, but a decision has not yet been reached. Regarding SR 43, it is not listed as eligible for interregional improvements with state funding. There was further discussion regarding unsuccessful efforts to make this route eligible for interregional improvements.

Commissioner Preciado inquired about the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement program unused funds. The response was there is no cap on the funds amount. However, the funds cannot be used for any other purposes.

B. Caltrans Report

Shane Gunn mentioned the road users tax discussion goes back 15 years. Regarding announcements, Alec Kimmel has left to work in District 6, and John Liu is retiring from District 6. The State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) has increased costs and projects had to be moved to future years; the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program application window closed last month, with awards being

announced in spring of 2026; and the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) notice of funding opportunity was released in October.

Regarding projects, the SR 41 Kettleman City roundabout construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2026; the CAPM project on SR 41, from Nevada Avenue to SR 198 is expected to be completed this winter; the temporary roundabouts at Bush Street permit issuance is anticipated for January 2026; the SR 41 Excelsior Expressway segment of unfinished two lane project in Fresno County is scheduled to start construction in April 2026; a notice of preparation/scoping meeting for the SR 198 and 9th Ave interchange was held in October 2025; the Hanford SR 198 CAPM project construction is anticipated to start in 2028.

Commissioner Preciado inquired regarding safety along SR 33 and SR 269 near Avenal, since there continues to be accidents. The response was there are no updates at this time.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

Terri King reported that the Draft 2026 State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) project list was released that included two carryover projects for Kings County on SR 198 and SR 43; Fresno COG is seeking letters of support for funding their SR 41 widening project; and the Caltrans quarterly meeting is January 5, 2026.

E. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Matthews expressed gratitude for Shane Gunn's help with setting up meetings with Lemoore College and Caltrans.

III. KCAG COMMISSION

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on December 10, 2025

A motion was made and seconded (Matthews / Howze) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on December 10, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Howze, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Thayer
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

2. FY 2025-26 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Jennifer Morales stated that KCAG staff submitted the quarterly financial report for the period of July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, to Caltrans. A total of \$363,855.52 in federal funds will be received as reimbursement for eligible

activities. Total expenditures for FY 2025-26 Quarter 1 were \$272,013 and total revenues received were \$307,207.

3. 2026 KCAG Meeting Calendar

Terri King presented the 2026 KCAG Meeting and stated that starting in January 2026, the KCAG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings will be held in the new Transit Center first floor training room. The KCAG Transportation Policy Committee and Commission will continue to meet in the Kings County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers. KCAG anticipates that the new Board Room at the Transit Center will be available for use in mid 2026. Bylaws will need to be updated to reflect this, and any other changes decided by the Commission.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King stated that the Sacramento Valley Voice Trip is scheduled for March 4, 2026. Commissioners should notify KCAG Executive Director if they will be attending so travel accommodation can be made in advance. The CalCOG Regional Leadership Forum is scheduled for March 9-11, 2026, in Long Beach, CA. Commissioners should notify KCAG Executive Director if they will be attending. KCAG Offices are moving at the end of this month. The new Transit Center Dedication is December 13, 2025.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Howze stated that the Hanford Winter Wonderland is open nightly. The City Manager recruitment is moving forward, and on January 5, 2026, there will be a "meet and greet" event with the three candidates and interviews will be on January 6, 2026.

Commissioner Matthews said that the annual "sweets for seniors" event in Lemoore is Friday; on December 13, 2025, the Lemoore Police Department will hold their "Reason for the Season" shopping event; there will be at "Breakfast with Santa"; "Reach across America"; and grand opening for Miguel's Grill.

Commissioner Preciado wished all a happy Christmas and New Year; the city had their Christmas Parade last Saturday; there was a meeting with several agencies regarding the Avenal Regional Landfill and the landfill is being monitored for Low and High-risk temperature and air quality, large truck traffic issues at the landfill entrance are being monitored; and an additional truck scale has been installed to speed up entry times; and the Community Center should be open in February 2026. Commissioner Preciado recommended that the Board submit a courtesy letter to the City of Corcoran regarding the no show issue with Commissioner Jeanette Zamora-Bragg. KCAG Staff noted that the City of Corcoran has not appointed an alternate. Commission Neves suggested that legal council review the bylaws to allow for the presence of additional alternate appointees.

Commissioner Thayer wished all a Merry Christmas.

Legal Council, Kris Peterson, stated that the Request for Proposals regarding the Executive Director Recruitment is being sent to the Ad-Hoc Committee for review.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2026

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director