

ATTACHMENT A
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024

**KCAPTA****Kings County Area Public Transit Agency**610 W. 7th St. • Hanford, CA 93230 • (559) 852-2692 • www.kartbus.org

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or please contact the Clerk of the Board at (559) 852-4623, by 4:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to this meeting. Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the board after the posting of the agenda for this meeting will be available for public review at 610 W. 7th Street, Hanford, CA. 93230

Action Summary Hybrid Meeting: Virtual or In-Person

Special Hybrid Meeting (Time and Place)

Meeting Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

In Person: City of Hanford Council Chambers
400 N Douty Street
Hanford, CA 93230

Avenal City Hall, Conference Room
919 Skyline Blvd.
Avenal, CA 93204

Virtual: Zoom Meeting

KCAPTA Board: Joe Neves, Kings County Supervisor
David Orth, Lemoore City Council
Doug Verboon, Kings County Supervisor
Alvaro Preciado, Avenal City Council
Diane Sharp, Hanford City Council

Staff: Heather Corder, Accountant/Auditor
Maria Ortiz, Fiscal Specialist II
Geneieve Morales, Transit Assistant
Oscar Gonzalez, Facilities and Fleet Specialist
Mark Pedreiro, Transit Manager

Legal Counsel: Ken Richardson, Legal Counsel

Visitors:
Craig Wilson, MV
Terri King, KCAG
Cynthia Echavarria, CPLO NASL

KINGS COUNTY AREA PUBLIC MEETING PROTOCOL

KCAPTA hereby provides notice that effective March 1, 2022, it will return to in-person and public meetings.

Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting can do so in one of the following three ways: (1) by attending the meeting in person, (2) via Zoom Meeting, or (3) by submitting written comments on any matter within the KCAPTA Board's subject matter jurisdiction, regardless of whether it is on the agenda for KCAPTA's consideration or action and those written comments will be entered into the administrative record of the meeting.

To submit written comments by U.S. Mail or email for inclusion in the meeting record, they must be received by the KCAPTA Office no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the noticed meeting. To submit written comments by email, please forward them to info@kartbus.org. To submit such comments by U.S. mail, please forward them to Clerk of the Board, KCAPTA at 610 W. 7th Street, Hanford, CA 93230.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Roll Call-Clerk of the Board

5 Present (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

2. **UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES:**

Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda or on any other topics of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Five (5) minutes are allowed for each item. No unscheduled appearances present or virtually.

3. **CONSENT ITEM:**

All items listed as consent items are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any discussion of any consent item will be removed at the request of any Board member and made a part of the regular agenda.

A. Summary Minutes of Meeting January 24, 2024.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

Regular Agenda Items

4. **PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS (Mark Pedreiro):**

Each year, KCAPTA holds Public Hearings to receive testimony concerning any unmet transit needs within our service area that are reasonable to meet. Today is the first of two hearings; the next hearing is scheduled for March 27, 2024. Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) will hold two additional hearings. After the final hearing is held by KCAG, staff will review, evaluate, and make recommendations on any needs identified during the public hearing timeframe.

Hearing notices are posted at the Hanford Transit Center, KART Administration Office, in the local newspaper, and on the KART website.

The Board to Opened the Public Hearing at 2:04 pm, Received two testimonies:

1. Emailed comment that Mark Pedreiro, KCPATA Transit Manager, read to the board and public from Sergio Sanchez who is a Hanford resident and a teacher in Visalia, CA testimony was received after agenda was posted, Sergio requested more daily runs and weekend service to Route 15-Visalia, that would benefit many Hanford residents trying to get to school in Visalia and to do shopping
2. In-person comment from Cynthia Echeverria Baruch, Committee Plans Liaison Officer in Lemoore was present on behalf of LNAS Executive Commander Officer Finley, presented comments to the board and the public, the stated the LNAS presently has no bus service. In 2023 they reached out to KART. Previously there was a route going to LNAS, and requested service to LNAS for students the requests was based on a active and civilian data that was collected. Based on this data there is a request for civilian transportation to the base to go to work as well as a need for after school transportation for students.

The public hearing will continue on the next public hearing on March 27, 2024, to present new comments on unmet needs to the Board and the public at this next scheduled Board Meeting March 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

5. **APPROVE REPLACEMENT OF THE E-JEST (Angie Dow):**

KCAPTA took delivery of the first E-Jest Demera Bus from Turkey deployed in the US Market in 2023. It operates in 20 countries. The E-Jest began operating in revenue service in April of 2023. Since then, other US transit operators have ordered and taken delivery of the E-Jest. Staff is also participating in a Buy America Waiver Request for the E-Jest that would allow the bus to be funded with federal funds. As a condition of getting the Buy America Waiver, Karsan commits to manufacturing the bus in the United States and meeting Buy America Requirements within a limited time frame.

After reviewing the performance of the bus with Damera and comparing it to the other buses deployed, we determined that although Damera was quick to respond to and repair issues with the bus, the higher-than-normal breakdowns made the bus “unreliable.” Per our discussion with Damera and their follow-up with the manufacturer, Karsan, Damera has concluded that the bus needs to be replaced.

Damera has picked up the bus and transported it to their facility in Canada for further testing and analysis of some of the issues we were experiencing. They will also be providing us with a replacement bus free of charge.

For KCAPTA to complete this transaction, KCAPTA will need to transfer the title of the E-JEST to Damera Bus and register the new Bus. They are currently working on a Buy America waiver. The compliance with FTA Buy America is expected to be done within 5 years. If this bus fails KCAPTA will not order any more. The question is whether the maintenance problems were something that was not our doing. 35’ fleet we only have two major manufacturers, so we are trying to transition into electric we need to secure the decision to which manufacturer is the best deal before KCAPTA buys buses in bulk to be in compliant with CARB requirements to have zero-emissions electric buses within a certain time frame specified in by CA CARB.

The Board authorized the Executive Director to execute documents to transfer ownership of the E-Jest to Damera Bus and execute documents to register ownership of the new Bus to KCAPTA. The is bus expected to be here April 2024.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

6. APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE KART TRANSIT CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJET

(Angie Dow):

In October 2023, KCAPTA awarded a Construction Contract to Quiring General LLC (Quiring) to construct the KART Transit Multi-Modal Transit Center. Quiring has submitted two Change Orders for the Board’s Consideration.

Change Order #001 is an administrative change order that clarifies the required Builder Risk for Earthquake & Flood Limits. It was determined that a \$5 million limit concerning flood and earthquake for the Builder’s Risk Insurance was acceptable.

Change Order #002 is related to the add Alt#3 Bulbous on the corners of 7th and Harris and 7th and Brown intersections. The City of Hanford made some changes to the Bulb-outs that were not included in the bid documents.

The Board to approved Change Orders #001 and #002 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Change Orders.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

7. APPROVE AMENDMENT # 3 WITH RRM DESIGN GROUP (Angie Dow):

In June of 2021, KCAPTA entered into Agreement 2104 with RRM Design Group (RRM) for the design and engineering services for the KART Multi-Modal Transit Center Project.

RRM is requesting additional funds, Amendment # 3, to redesign the sewer lines due to unforeseen circumstances that will mitigate the existing conditions of the City of Hanford’s sewer lines in the alley right of way.

Original Contract Award:	\$1,697,674
Amendment 1	\$ 68,400 April 26, 2023 Bulb outs required by the City of Hanford-one lane
Amendment 2	\$ 38,000 September 27, 2023, Re-bidding 1 st bid project resulted in a single bid
Amendment 3	\$ 8,600 Abandoned alley sewer line and into the street where is accessible
Total Contract Value	1,812,674

Staff and our Construction Management Firm, CM Construction, have reviewed RRM’s request for additional compensation of \$8,600 and determined the request is fair and reasonable.

The Board approved Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 2104 with RRM Design Group, Inc., increasing the total compensation to \$1,812,674 and authorizing the Board Chair to execute Amendment No. 3.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

8. APPROVE AGREEMENT 2405 WITH CALSTART (Angie Dow):

In 2022, KCAPTA Staff worked with Tulare County Regional Transit Agency and CALSTART to submit a competitive grant for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for funding for the KART Transit Center Project and electric bus purchases for both KCAPTA and Tulare County. CALSTART was a critical partner in writing the grant and calculating the required CARB calculation.

Collectively, we requested \$33,769,154 in TIRCP funds. Tulare County would receive \$10,052,716, KCAPTA would receive \$23,491,284 and CALSTART would receive \$325,000. In July of 2022, we were notified that our grant application had been successful. After the grants were awarded, we began working with TIRCP staff to get all the required documents executed. During this process, we were informed by TIRCP Staff that CALSTART could not apply for the funds directly. CALSTART would need to establish agreements with Tulare County and KCAPTA for their task.

KCAPTA staff worked with Tulare County and CALSTART to determine how CALSTART tasks and budgets would be distributed between Tulare County and KCAPTA. Tulare County will receive \$225,000 and KCAPTA will receive \$100,000.

For KCAPTA, CALSTART will be completing and supporting KCAPTA with the TIRCP reporting requirements related to the construction of the KART Transit Center. They will also provide additional support with route modeling needed for the deployment of the electric buses. The TIRCP grant fully funds CALSTART's tasks.

The Board approved Agreement 2405 with CALSTART in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and authorize the Board Chairman to execute the Agreement.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

9. BOARD TO APPROVE AMENDMENT 1 TO AGREEMENT #2305 WITH MV TRANSPORTATION (Angie Dow):

Staff has been working with MV Transportation (MV) to improve the Paratransit and GoKART services' efficiency. Since these two services use the same buses and reservation software for dispatch, the services would be more efficient if combined.

To combine the services, their billing rates and revenue hours are the same with this amendment. Amendment 1 to Agreement 2305 revises the Paratransit services billing rate and definition of revenue hours to the same as On-Demand (GoKART).

The Board approved Amendment #1 to contract #2305 with MV Transportation.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

10. APPROVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH BOTH CALTRANS AND THE SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO INCREASE SERVICE ON ROUTE 15, VISALIA (Angie Dow):

The San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) was formed in 2012 to protect and promote improvements on the San Joaquin Rail Service. During COVID-19, Amtrak San Joaquins reduced service due to low ridership, including eliminating several Thruway Bus Route Services. As Amtrak's ridership returned, we began discussions with SJJPA staff on how KCAPTA's Route 15 bus services between Hanford and Visalia could be increased and coordinated to serve riders transferring from the Rail system to the bus system. The SJJPA set aside \$115,000 to fund an increase in bus service between the Hanford Station and the Visalia Transit Center.

Caltrans Environmental Department evaluates its activities' environmental benefits and consequences and implements practices that minimize environmental impacts. Caltrans' Delano to Pixley 6-lane with Pavement Rehabilitation project is estimated to increase Vehicle Miles Traveled by 47,706,213, and mitigation measures must be considered to mitigate the

increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled. Off-system mitigation, outside Caltrans' right-of-way, required cooperation with local jurisdictions and transportation systems outside Caltrans' direct control.

Caltrans' mitigation measures must be incorporated into the project through a Cooperative Agreement with local partnership. KCAPTA worked with Caltrans staff to identify transportation mitigation measures. Caltrans mitigation measures included \$252,000 to subsidize the expansion of the KCAPTA vanpool program and \$2,215,422 to subsidize increased service on KCAPTA's Route 15 Visalia for 20 years. This increase in service would include one (1) additional trip during the week and two (2) weekend trips.

Tulare County is working on plans to begin operating trips between Visalia and Hanford (CVC). They propose to running three (3) trips during the weekday and two (2) trips on the weekend. Collectively, we have been discussing how both KCAPTA and Tulare County could use the funding to provide six (6) trips during the week, four (4) trips on Saturday, and two (2) trips on Sunday.

During KCAPTA's fiscal year 24/25 budget request, we will propose adding one (1) additional trip during the week and two (2) trips on Saturday, starting July 1, 2024. To fund the increase in service, staff will need to finalize funding agreements with the SJJPA and Caltrans. We anticipate the Cooperative Agreement between Caltrans and KCAPTA will be presented to the KCAPTA Board around August 2024.

If Tulare County cannot begin adding routes to Hanford starting July 1, 2024, KCAPTA will finalize a funding agreement with the SJJPA.

The board asked legal counsel, Ken Richardson if a 20-year mitigation plan is normal, and he stated yes, it is a normal contingency.

The Board approved the Executive Director to continue working with the SJJPA and Caltrans to finalize funding agreements that will subsidize an increase in services on Route 15, Visalia.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

11. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO OFFER FIXED ROUTE QUARTER PASSES AND FREE TRANSIT DAYS (Heather Corder):

KCAPTA has received notice from LCTOP that the 23/24 projects have been approved and funded. The 23/24 LCTOP projects are Quarterly Passes for \$300,000 and Free transit for \$31,923. Staff would like to start rolling out the quarterly passes beginning in April. The first pass will be for April 2024 – June 2024, then July 2024 – September 2024, and finishing the year with October 2024 - December 2024.

The free fares project have a balance of \$26,398 after the free fares in December 2023. KCAPTA would like to offer free fares for two weeks in March 2024 to cover the spring break. After March, if there are funds remaining, KCAPTA would like to provide "Free Fridays" until the grant funds are expended. KART will start in April 2024 and will evaluate the funding to see if more "Free Fridays" can be offered to the public.

The quarter passes will start in Spring break 2024 when students and other community members can take advantage of this transit grant-funded project and it will end in December 2024. This quarterly pass can be used fixed local and out of town. The first quarter pass will be the Spring 2024 (3 month pass) and will start selling on March 25, 2024.

The Board approved the start of the quarter pass in April 2024 and free fares for two weeks in March, followed by "Free Fridays" until grant funds are expended.

ACTION: APPROVED AS PRESENTED 5 IN FAVOR (DS,JN,DO,DV,AP)

12. Miscellaneous comments from Staff:

KCAPTA Staff:

Angie Dow, KCAPTA Executive Director: 1. Continue the work to complete the transit center! KCAPTA along with CM, and Quiring have weekly meetings.

Heather Corder, Accountant/Auditor: Nothing to report.

Mark Pedreiro, Transit Manager:

1. The next board meeting will be an item for Unmet Needs in March 2024, all notices have posted in the Hanford Sentinel, Administration window, buses, various public places, Transit Center, and KART website. KGAG will have meetings as well. In May KCAPTA will be reporting the results to the board.
2. There was an unmet needs outreach in Avenal, also KART staff has coordinated with Avenal community members to discuss the Avenal Shopping KART Project and ask if they have additional time for shopping. An extra hour has been added to the Avenal Shopping KART Project.
3. There were outreach events in Lemoore High School for the incoming 8th grade students and parents to give out transportation information as well inform them that there is a bus stop outside their campus.
4. KCAPTA has been working with Boys & Girls Club Central CA, start in end of March, getting transportation to Coed Park, Long Filed will be working with High School and Middle school, working conjunction with City of Hanford.

Legal Counsel, Ken Richardson: Nothing to report.

Council Members:

Diane Sharp, City of Hanford: Doing Rehab after the Winter Wonderland by the Civic Center Park area, it was a success! City of Hanford had a \$160, 000 Revenue over expenses. Now thinking of buying ice ring instead of renting. A large ring 80x100, as well working with lighting. Based on the sales on line data, the two areas more people are coming from is Fresno and Clovis, then Visalia. So it show it is a successful event.

Alvaro Preciado, City of Avenal: New police chief, Cecilio Velasco sworn in February 2024. Increase in traffic across Skyline to Hwy 33. Two charging stations along the I-5 one in Turlock-Ev Mega only minutes to charge and one Shafter-comply with CARB costs 600 million. Construction by a San Diego, exp with electric.

David Orth, City of Lemoore: Lemoore has an interim City Manager, the old resigned, there will be a brochure for the new position of City Manager, please apply if you are interested. Panda Express has lights next week, 1st week in March.

Doug Verboon, Kings County Brd of Supervisor: No comments , nothing to report.

Operator's Perspective: Craig Wilson, Gen Mngr:

1. MV hired a new C mechanic but is fully versed in GF. MV will be fully staffed with drivers and has 2 pending backgrounds. The maintenance staff is good, we need one utility person, one person pending background. The division from Madera and Hanford has collaborated to do a safety video. It is about 10 minutes. It shows our drivers and safety officer. And it was sent out to other divisions. Board member has asked to see it, and suggestion to have a link for anyone who would like to watch it.
2. The Avenal Route 12 since the HWY 41 construction and bridge project, the route has been about 20-25 minutes longer than normal, it goes from Laurel Ave to Avenal Cut off to Quail Ave coming back HWY 41.
3. The next project will be the Kettleman City Roundabout, but said they'll be making some by-pass roads. So it should it will be a delay in Route 12.

The next scheduled meeting will be on March 27, 2024, at 2:00 pm at the City of Hanford Council Chambers and will continue with the public hearing for unmet needs at this meeting.