

# KINGS COUNTY AREA PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCY

## Board of Directors

### Regular Meeting Agenda

610 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street - Hanford, California 93230 (559) 852-2692 [www.kartbus.org](http://www.kartbus.org)

**Meeting Date:** February 26, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**In Person:** Board Chambers-Admin Bldg 1, Kings Co Gov't Center      Avenal City Hall, Conference Room  
1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230                              919 Skyline Blvd.  
Hanford, CA 93230    Avenal, CA 93204

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82607652101?pwd=q80znuz4UXAJCdOVuJtfEyapb4sW40.1>

Meeting ID: 826 0765 2101

Passcode: Kart0226

Link to our Website: [www.kartbus.org](http://www.kartbus.org)

*If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or language assistance, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (559) 852-4623 by 4:00 PM on the Monday before this meeting. The 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. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Hanford, CA 93230.*

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## REGULAR HYBRID MEETING AGENDA

### 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](mailto:info@kartbus.org). To submit such comments by U.S. mail, please forward them to the Clerk of the Board, KCAPTA at 610 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Hanford, CA 93230.

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	CALL TO ORDER <i>Roll Call – Clerk of the Board</i>	
2.	UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCE <i>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.</i>	
3.	CONSENT ITEMS <i>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.</i>	<b>ACTION</b>
	A. Summary Minutes of Meeting January 22, 2025 B. Declare H.D.A. Lifts surplus and authorize the sale of items.	
4.	PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS (Open Hearing/Receive Testimony/Continue Hearing)	<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>
5.	APPROVE CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS	<b>ACTION</b>
6.	APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	<b>ACTION</b>
7.	APPROVAL FOR RELEASE SOQ & RFP FOR KART MAINTENANCE FACILITY DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT	<b>ACTION</b>
8.	APPROVE PURCHASE OF 2 E-JESTS FROM DAMERA BUS	<b>ACTION</b>
9.	APPROVE CLEAN ENERGY 10,000 HR SERVICE ON THE IMW CNG COMPRESSOR	<b>ACTION</b>
10.	MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS FROM STAFF	<b>INFORMATION</b>

**Attachments:**

- A – MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2025
- B – BUDGET APPROPRIATION-DAMERA BUS

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **3. CONSENT ITEM:**

#### ***A. Summary Minutes of Meeting January 22, 2025***

#### ***B. Declare H.D.A Lifts surplus and authorize the sale of the Lifts***

Staff is requesting that the Board declare two sets of Heavy-Duty Automotive (H.D.A.) lifts surplus and authorize the Executive Director to dispose of them. Both sets of lifts are currently non-operational, and replacement parts are no longer available due to Heavy Duty Automotive Lifts ceasing operations.

The lifts purchasing department will process the lifts for surplus disposal via public auction following standard procedures.

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

#### **Background:**

Each year, the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) conducts Public Hearings to gather testimony on any reasonable unmet transit needs within the service area. This meeting represents the first of two hearings hosted by KCAPTA, with the second scheduled for **March 26, 2025**.

The Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) will also hold two supplementary hearings. Following all hearings, KCAG staff will review and evaluate the testimony received and provide recommendations regarding any unmet transit needs.

#### **Public Notices:**

Hearing notices have been made available at:

- Hanford Transit Center
- KART Administration Office
- Local newspaper
- KART website

#### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Open the Public Hearing
2. Receive Public Testimony
3. Continue the Public Hearing to the **March 26, 2025**, Board Meeting

### **5. APPROVE CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS (Heather Corder):**

#### **Background:**

As staff prepares for the 2025 cycle of competitive grant applications, we have engaged with Walker Consultants, a recommended firm with whom we have successfully worked. Competitive grants require extensive technical data and well-crafted project narratives to effectively demonstrate the significance and feasibility of proposed projects.

#### **Proposed Projects for Competitive Grant Applications:**

- Complete street improvements to allow ADA access to existing and future bus stops.
- KCAPTA Maintenance Facility significant upgrades:
  - Phase II – Battery Storage.
  - Phase III – Demolition and construction of a new maintenance building.
- Implementation of a contactless payment system on all KART buses.
- Deployment of an Electric Bus Charge Management System.
- Purchase Battery Storage
- Upgrade of the CAD/AVL system on fixed-route buses to display the State of Charge.
- Purchase of four (4) 35' Battery Electric Buses.

**Consultant Services & Cost:**

Walker Consultants has extensive experience in writing successful competitive grant applications. Based on discussions regarding our projects and grant opportunities, they estimate that compiling the necessary technical data and drafting the application will take approximately 200 hours. Their hourly rate is \$245, bringing the estimated total cost to \$50,000.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval to engage Walker Consultants for technical data compilation and assistance in drafting the project descriptions for the competitive grant applications.

**Action Required:**

Motion to approve the engagement of Walker Consultants for grant application support and authorize the associated expenditure.

**6. APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Heather Corder):****Background:**

The Executive Director requests Board approval for out-of-state travel to attend the 2025 Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Legislative Fly-In, which will take place **from March 5 to March 7, 2025**, in Washington, D.C.

This event allows transit leaders to meet with policymakers on Capitol Hill, advocate for legislative priorities related to public transportation, and share the unique needs and successes of our community's transit system.

The Executive Director previously discussed this opportunity with the Board and looks forward to representing our organization at the event.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Executive Director's out-of-state travel request to attend the CTAA Legislative Fly-In in Washington, D.C., from March 5 to March 7, 2025.

**7. APPROVAL FOR RELEASE OF SOQ & RFP FOR THE KART MAINTENANCE FACILITY DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT (Heather Corder):**

**Background:** Staff has completed the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for the KART Maintenance Facility Design-Build Project. This project is divided into three distinct phases:

- **Phase I** – Funded by SB125 funds, SCE Charge Ready Transport Program, and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Community funds. This phase includes designing and constructing of bus charging infrastructure and a solar-covered bus parking area.
- **Phase II** – Installation of a battery storage system.
- **Phase III** – Design, demolition, and construction of a new maintenance building to support servicing the bus fleet, including electric buses.

At present, only Phase I has secured funding. When funding becomes available, Phases II and III will be incorporated into the Design-Build contract.

**Procurement Process:** Awarding a Design-Build contract involves a two-step process:

1. **SOQ Submission and Evaluation** – Interested proposers will submit responses to the SOQ. These submissions will be reviewed and ranked, with the top three proposers proceeding to the next step.
2. **Request for Proposal (RFP) Submission and Award** – The top three ranked proposers will receive the RFP and submit a proposal. Based on the RFP evaluations, the KCAPTA Board will award the contract to the proposer representing the Best Value to KCAPTA.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board approve the release of the SOQ and subsequently issue the RFP to the top three ranked proposers.

## **8. APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 2 E-JEST FROM DAMERA BUS (Heather Corder):**

### **Background:**

Since October 2024, staff has been actively seeking to purchase replacement 35-foot buses. We have contacted New Flyer and Gillig, the only two manufacturers producing large transit buses. New Flyer is currently not accepting new orders due to a backlog. Even when they resume taking orders, delivery is not expected until late 2027 or early 2028. Additionally, New Flyer requires progress payments, which poses a financial risk. Paying for components such as engines in advance is concerning, as the parts could become unusable if the bus is not built. Furthermore, progress payments reduce New Flyer's incentive to complete the buses promptly.

Gillig has not yet responded to our request, but their estimated delivery timeline is approximately 18 months from the order date.

### **Fleet Status and Replacement Needs:**

Buses reach the end of their useful life at 500,000 miles. One bus has exceeded this threshold and needs immediate replacement. Additionally, three more buses are projected to surpass 500,000 miles within the next year.

### **Electric Bus Transition Plan:**

As outlined in our Electric Bus Transition Plan, replacing a single 35-foot CNG bus requires procuring two electric buses. Staff has been exploring options to right-size our fleet based on maximum rider demand per route. This approach aims to reduce both capital and operational costs.

In 2022, we purchased an E-Jest bus from Turkey for testing in our On-Demand Service. The E-Jest is also well-suited for fixed-route service, given its low-floor entry design.

### **Proposal:**

Staff requests Board approval to purchase two (2) E-Jest buses for deployment and testing in fixed-route service. The E-Jest is currently manufactured in Turkey but is in the process of meeting the Federal Government's Buy America requirements through a three-year phased-in waiver. Several components of the E-Jest buses in our order will be sourced domestically, including the destination sign, camera system, seating, and ADA securement system.

### **Cost Breakdown:**

The total cost for one (1) E-Jest bus is \$387,123, which includes:

- E-Jest Bus: \$287,000
- CAD AVL System: \$31,000
- Radio: \$1,000
- Farebox: \$30,000
- Wrap: \$4,000
- Tax and Title: \$34,123

The total cost for two (2) buses is \$774,246.

### **Benefits of the Purchase:**

- Reduces mileage accumulation on our larger fleet.
- Tests the feasibility of using smaller electric buses in fixed-route service.
- Expands training opportunities for drivers to operate electric vehicles.
- Provides maintenance staff with hands-on experience servicing electric buses.
- Allows real-world testing of state-of-charge monitoring during fixed-route operations.

If approved, the two buses will arrive within six (6) months. Upon arrival, the farebox, radio, and CAD AVL System will be installed at our facility before the buses are put into service. The cost of these installations is included in the total budget.

This purchase was not included in the current year's capital budget, Board approval is also required for the associated budget appropriation.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board approve the purchase of two (2) E-Jest buses from Damera Bus and authorize the Executive Director to issue a purchase order not to exceed \$574,000. Additionally, staff requests approval of the associated Budget Appropriation of \$774,246.

**9. APPROVE CLEAN ENERGY 10,000 HR SERVICE ON THE IMW CNG COMPRESSOR (Mark Pedreiro):**

**Background:**

The IMW CNG Compressor was installed by Clean Energy in October 2016 and currently has 9,950 operating hours. Per the Preventive Maintenance Schedule, at 10,000 hours of operation, the valves should be repacked at every stage of the compressor, along with pistons, valve gaskets, o-rings, and the oil filter.

**Summary:**

Staff is seeking the Board's approval for Clean Energy work order 1492958, which covers the 10,000-hour scheduled maintenance service for the IMW CNG compressor. This service includes repacking valves at every stage of the compressor and replacing pistons, valve gaskets, O-rings, oil, and the oil filter.

To avoid service delays, staff will submit a purchase order promptly upon the Board's approval to ensure timely procurement of the required parts.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the \$37,069.91 quote from Clean Energy and authorize the Executive Director to issue the purchase order.

**10. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**