

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF THE
GREATER BAKERSFIELD SEPARATION OF GRADE DISTRICT

Held: January 8, 2024

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on January 8, 2024, at 1800 30th Street, Suite 260, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

President Mark J. Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Mark J. Smith
Steven M. Ruettgers
Jeremy Tobias
Jake Wood
Jeevan Muhar

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; and Ben LeBeau, District Legal Counsel.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
NOVEMBER 13, 2023)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2023, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a) \$3 billion in federal funding for California HSR
- b) CRISI: \$1 billion annually for next 4 years. The NOFO that was anticipated November/December 2023 was not published. Next NOFO is anticipated January/February 2024.
- c) Railroad Crossing Elimination Program: \$600 million available annually for next 4 years. The NOFO that was anticipated November/December 2023 was not published. Next NOFO is anticipated January/February 2024.
- d) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods: Next NOFO is anticipated July 2024.
- e) Other matters that may affect funding:
 - i. Projected California budget deficit \$68 billion – affect unknown
 - ii. Kevin McCarthy's exit from Congress – affect unknown

2. Assist County and City with Federal and State Grant Applications:

- a. Caltrans/County: Morning Drive/UPRR – design/construction funding.
- b. Caltrans/County/COB: Rosedale Highway
- c. COB:
 - i. E. Truxtun/BNSF
 - ii. Maybe Baker/UPRR
 - iii. Kratzmeyer/BNSF
 - iv. Reina/Renfro/BNSF

3. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination:

- a. Strategies
 - a. Multi-agency meeting approach – recent Enos Lane/7th Standard example
 - b. Professional team structure (non agency)
 - c. Past project precedence – district led team
 - d. Initiation and phasing
 - e. Emphasis on opportunity and value proposition

4. High Speed Rail Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:
 - a. HSR awarded \$3 billion in federal funding
 - b. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Discussions are on-going. Design is moving forward, including BNSF track elevation through shafter. \$200 million awarded for Shafter grade separations. Waiting for news on additional federal grants.
5. Specific Plan Lines:
 - a. Large warehousing and residential project in northwest Bakersfield/Shafter will drive needs and opportunities
 - i. See LA Times article on warehousing expansion in Kern County
 - b. Renfro – Jenkins – BNSF: increased importance for northwest traffic flow
 - c. Kratzmeyer – BNSF: increased importance for northwest traffic flow
 - d. West Beltway – BNSF: re-alignment is still under discussion between COB and Shafter
6. Morning Drive @ UPRR:
 - a. Cost estimate is \$53M.
 - b. County Coordination. Waiting for NOFO.
 - c. Caltrans Coordination. Received feedback on cost estimate. The current issue under discussion is 20% matching funds proposed for state and local.
 - i. Potential scenario:
 - a) Kern County - \$2 million
 - b) COB - \$1 million
 - c) Caltrans - \$5 million
 - d) HSR - \$5 million
 - ii. RTIF - \$15 million designated
7. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:
 - a. Working on COB support and extended contract w/Ty Lin for PSR Level documents.
 - b. Consider Joint Agencies Agreement COB/District. COB will do preliminary design study, District would perform traffic study in support of preliminary design
8. Baker Street @ UPRR:
 - a. City is coordinating with UPRR re crossing status in relationship to Sumner Depot redevelopment.
 - b. Potential link to Morning Drive/UPRR explored with COB Public Works.
9. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:
 - a. Discussed County and COB coordination.
 - b. Trip Program Documents – Widening. No change.

- c. PSR/PR funding updates. No change.
- d. Increased train activity recently.

10. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles Street/Beech Avenue @ BNSF:

- a. Element of potential West Bypass – SR 99 to I-5 in active development between Shafter and Wonderful.
- b. Shafter and Wonderful are pursuing State and Federal funding.
- c. Kern COG adding the project to the Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

11. PUC Nominations:

- a. Evidentiary hearings scheduled for March 2024 - virtual.

FINANCIAL REPORT: _____)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for November 13, 2023, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Ruettgers, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

Ayes: Mark J. Smith
Jeremy Tobias
Steven M. Ruettgers
Jake Wood
Jeevan Muhar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: _____)
_____)

- 1. Right of Way: None
- 2. Advance Planning: None
- 3. Budget: None
- 4. Regulatory & Audit: None
- 5. Government Relations: None

CORRESPONDENCE: _____)
_____)

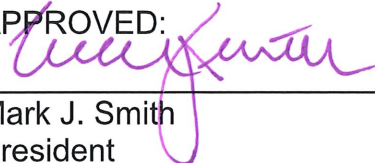
1. Letter from State Controller dated November 20, 2023, re: Special District Financial Transaction Report. On motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the letter was received and filed.
2. Registry of Public Agencies - updated filing dated December 15, 2023. On motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the updated filing was received and filed.
3. Letter from LeBeau Thelen LLP dated December 26, 2023, responding to request from DPVB for 2022-2023 Audit. On motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the letter was received and filed.
4. Letter dated January 5, 2024, from Robert G. Kuhs to Kern County Board of Supervisors recommending the reappointment of Jeevan Muhar to the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District for a four-year term. On motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the letter was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT: _____)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeremy Tobias,
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
President

EXHIBIT A

MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 2024

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - November 2023	\$ 541.50
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - 11/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 9,049.00</u>
		<u>\$ 9,590.50</u>