

**CALIFORNIA
RURAL COUNTIES TASK FORCE**

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**July 14, 2017, 12:30 pm-3:30 pm
Caltrans HQ Room 2116, 1120 N. Street, Sacramento, CA**

DRAFT MINUTES

A. Self-Introductions **All**
Introductions were made by all.

B. Approve Minutes of May 12, 2017 **M. Twomey**
Approval of the May 12 minutes was postponed to the September meeting.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance **All**

- Maura Twomey alerted the group that there is a lot of SB 1 information coming out and to carefully watch your email.
- Tamera Leighton requested information from colleagues regarding Assistive Listening Devices for public meetings in informal settings.

D. State Budget Update **A. Gliddon**
Athena Gliddon gave a brief update on state budget issues.

- The state budget was signed just prior to the last CTC meeting.
- There is a STIP fund estimate workshop on Monday. Changes resulting from SB1 and other changes will be discussed. There will be an explanation of advanced development for programming against future county shares for preconstruction only. Diesel projects will be reviewed: briefly, while diesel use is increasing it is being offset by freight fuel efficiency. Nearly all projections show that efficiency is overtaking increases. The aeronautics fund estimate will be reviewed. The fund estimate is likely to be adopted at the August meeting.

E. CTC Update **M. Weiss**
Mr. Weiss reviewed the results of the ATP Greenhouse Reduction Fund call for projects. It was opened up twice for applications. There are about 25 applications but about half don't meet the requirements. The most common reason for not meeting requirements was funding only available in 2017-18.

F. SB1 Implementation Update **M. Weiss**

- SB1 Guidelines for the SHOPP asset management plan were adopted in June and the ATP augmentation was adopted.

- Draft guidelines are out for the Local Streets and Roads programs: They are all HUTA apportionments and per SB1 the funds are now nearly doubled.
- The CTC is still working on TCIP, STIP, Local Streets and Roads, Congestion Corridors, Local Partnership Program. More information is on the website, including a schedule for the workshops. The workshop format is improved for calling in. Questions are accepted by email during the workshop.

Melissa White asked how public posting of projects will be managed. M. Weiss responded that the CTC is making the process as automated as possible and online posting will be available.

G. ATP Augmentation

L. Waters

- M. Weiss reported that the work burden for applying for ATP augmentation funds is minimal and applications are due July 30. Projects may be advanced and there is an opportunity for projects to be funded based on prior scores in the most recent cycle only.
- Projects can be advanced before higher scoring projects if their delivery is in the earlier years.
- Very low scoring projects will not be considered. The CTC staff will make this determination.
- Cycle 4: There will be four to five different levels of applications that will make the application less challenging. Plan, Non-Infrastructure, Small, Medium and Large project applications will be available in Cycle 4 with small at \$1.5 million as a starting point for discussion. The CTC is only funding about 15% of the applications with a complex application process.
- Set asides are not supported by the CTC at this time so they are not being explored.
- L. Waters recommended submitting alternative language if you see problems in any area of the applications for Cycle 4.
- Projects in 17-18 and 18-19 will be treated equally in Cycle 4 without preference to 17-18 projects.

H. STIP Guidelines

T. Favila

- The 2018 guidelines are and substantially the same as 2016. There is a meeting on Monday to discuss. The CTC will program up to the minimum and then will follow the CTC priorities. Projects deleted in 2016 will be considered without prejudice. We have about double the money in the program and therefore, there are corresponding increased responsibilities for accountability and transparency. The PPR format will be updated to capture data important to these efforts. Time extensions will no longer be considered for PPM. For other time extensions, requests for extensions need to be made before the funds expire.
- Athena: PTA has only \$15 million a year: It is like “a slow motion train wreck.” It's slowly reducing in funds and it runs out of money so far into the future that there is nothing to do at this time. The PTA for STIP is declining.
- APDE: Advanced Project Development Element has been implemented – it has not been in place since 2002. It is for PS&E and PA&ED only.

- The Orange Book will be coming out at the end of August.

I. Update on PPM Policy**B. Higgins**

The lump sum payment process has been extended for the 2017-18 year.

J. Planning Update**E. Thompson**

- RPA Grant: Nine applications were submitted and 3 were funded. Humboldt Mobility on Demand Strategic Implementation Plan, El Dorado/Placerville SB 743 Implementation Plan and Nevada County Active Transportation Plan were funded. Most of the projects are eligible for planning grants. Guidelines for SB1 Planning Grant fund guidelines are available and there will be a discussion draft available soon. After 30 days, workshops will be held and there will be an expedited grant process to accommodate the SB1 requirements. The 17-18 funds will be a shorter timeline for work completion. The 18-19 cycle will have the full three years for project completion. For SB1, \$17.5 million is available for Sustainable Communities and \$4.3 for Strategic Partnership grants. The new application will be similar and the evaluation process will be more transparent. Sustainable Communities grants will be state grants.
- Infrastructure for Building America federal funds information isn't available but more information will come. There is some rural set aside.
- Housekeeping: Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) guidelines in print are available. The 2019 Planning Conference is in February in San Diego; the Regional Planning Handbook will be released in early September, Overall Work Program meetings with RTPAs will be initiated this year for 1 to 1 in-person meetings. Expect a visit about 1 in 3 years in person to discuss the Overall Work Program.

K. Legislative Update**M. White**

- Top headline is the Cap and Trade deal is being considered to extend through 2030. It's set for a vote on Monday.
- There are two CTC membership bills that are being considered. The Cervantes bill will add a consideration for diversity and disadvantaged communities and AB 174 is now pulled.
- SB1 bills are moving forward but some details seem to be adding complications to the funds.
- There is a reauthorization of the Off Highway Vehicles program: SB 249. For more information, look up the Parks & Wildlife analysis, which is really well done. Senator Allen is also proposing SB 159 to help fund the fee structure. The OHV topic will continue.
- There was some discussion about the current opposition to SB1 – there are many steps necessary before this would be on a public ballot.

L. Local Assistance Update**W. Emmett**

- For 2017-18 PPM funds, there was a lump sum grace period. This grace period will be extended for the 2017-18 year. There is proposed legislation to permanently resolve the rural RTPA issue.
- Demo and Earmark funds repurposing were reviewed. There are projects and lists being assembled and the amounts are smaller compared to last year.
- We are approaching yearend and Obligation Authority is being considered. Project

inactivity is being reviewed. July 28 is the RFA deadline to districts, including FTA transfer requests. The district deadline is August to headquarters. It's first come first serve on the OA. Mike Woodman cautions that old apportionments are at risk for CMAQ so watch the carryover balances.

M. Miscellaneous**All**

- T. Leighton announced the launch of the Del Norte Commonplace community crowdsourcing tool.
- M. Twomey announced non-A&E procurements training will precede the September 22 RCTF meeting.