

**CALIFORNIA  
RURAL COUNTIES TASK FORCE**

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**November 17, 2017, 12:30 pm-3:30 pm**

**Caltrans HQ Basement Board Room, 1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**A. Self-Introductions**

**All**

Introductions were made by all.

**B. SB1 Funding Considerations**

**Susan Bransen, CTC  
Commissioner Alvarado, CTC**

- Susan Branson, CTC, thanked all for the work done in partnership with the Commission on SB1. The CTC has adopted guidelines for all programs under the CTC's purview except for the Congestive Corridors Program which are scheduled for the December meeting. She expects a staff recommendation for programming in the Spring. By May, all projects associated with SB 1 should be adopted. This year it comes to approximately \$18 billion in programming across the state. Susan expressed the importance to get the word out about the benefits of SB 1 to local communities.
- Bob Alvarado, speaking as the Executive Officer of the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, spoke to request continues partnership and assistance. He discussed the success of Proposition 1B in terms of developing fund, leveraging other funds and project delivery but highlighted the poor job of communicating these successes to the public. He discussed the impetus behind the two repeal efforts being about generating voter turnout in November. At least one association has pulled support for the republican caucus and will fund the fight against the repeal instead. Recent polling came out with 54% in favor of repeal, so there is a lot of hard work ahead. Of the RCTF, he is asking patience with the guidelines and initial programming. We need to continue our partnership with everyone getting along, showing the impact of the funds on the street, and working together to support the legislation.
- A roundtable discussion stressed the importance of putting your regional and local perspective on public outreach materials. The CTC will provide talking points for us to build on. Adriann Cardozo from the Orange County Transportation Authority is more than willing to share source materials that they used. The California League of Cities and the California State Association of Counties have tools and templates as well. Garth Hopkins is working on press releases directed at regions in the state. Rebuildingca.ca.gov is a website providing information on the statewide level. An important fact is the 80% of the funding is allocated through formula. There is a real danger that if the repeal is approved, we will be in another STIP shortfall and will have to once again delete programmed projects. The most important thing for all is to get the word out about the benefits of SB 1 and tailor the message to your area.

### **C. Approve Minutes of May 12 & July 14, 2017**

**M. Twomey**

This item held until January meeting.

### **D. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance**

**All**

- The RCTF 2018 meeting schedule is posted on website.
- Brian Travis, Mass Transportation Department, forwarded a reminder that Transit Asset Management Plan targets need to be reported in the electronic grants management system prior to January 1, 2018.

### **E. State Budget Update**

**A. Gliddon**

- FHWA released \$127M of emergency funds. 50% was for past emergencies, and 50% is for storm damage received last winter.
- The current federal continuing resolution ends December 8, we should expect another one after the next CTC meeting.
- The federal government is looking at increases. Before SB 1 federal funding made up about 38% of our funding. With SB1 it is about 26%. As the same with California prior to SB 1, the federal gas tax has not increased for a quarter of a century. Even with SB 1, federal funds make up 50% of SHOPP funding.

### **F. CTC Update**

**CTC Staff**

There are two new CTC staff members recently hired. One has been assisting with ATP and the other will work on legislative and finance issue.

### **G. ATP Guidelines Update**

**L. Waters**

- ATP workshops are ongoing. Both the guidelines and draft applications are being discussed. Laurie is looking for feedback from RCTF members. The draft guidelines and draft applications are posted on the CTC website.
- There will not be a set aside for transformative projects (projects over \$10 million). Instead there will be some language that reflects the commission's encouragement. As with all other cycles, no one will be precluded from submitting transformative projects and agencies will not be limited to the number of applications it submits.
- New to this year are 'heat maps', required to illustrate safety data. It has been presented at the ATP TAC meeting and at the Los Angeles workshop. Maura has requested that a presentation be given to the RCTF at a future meeting.
- It is important for RCTF members to review and comment on the draft documents. One issue already submitted to Laurie by Maura is the restriction on word count. For rural areas, without good data, sufficient word count is necessary to explain the issues. RCTF members are also encouraged to review previously awarded applications that are online. Maura also offered to review anyone's application prior to submittal.
- A workshop for tribes will be held in Humboldt County. The workshop may be restricted to tribes only (not sure). The date has not been set yet.

### **H. Legislative Update**

**M. White**

- The Transportation Assembly Committee is going through big personnel changes this year. The main focus for next year will be SB1 and the repeal initiatives. The Committee is required to have a hearing if the recall initiatives gather 25% of needed signatures. The hearing will happen in the Spring. The Travis Allen recall only requires 365,000 signatures. The DeMaio recall requires 585,000 signatures as it is a constitutional amendment that will require a vote of the public on any gas or car fees or increases. We are not sure if this effort will affect the Road Charge study currently underway.

- The 2018 Rail Plan was put out for comment and is set for approval this year.
- A major discussion is regarding the safety standards for autonomous vehicles. The federal government is coming out with their safety standard regulations. The question is if the federal or state governments have jurisdiction for the standards. The state's localities are concerned that there is not enough protections for safety. The Chairman as always concerned with freight, and ARB, may continue hearings on those.
- The Committee may be looking at the ATP to see what works and what doesn't work. Melissa will look to the RCTF for the rural.
- AB 1640 (Garcia) is still active. There should be some movement in the coming week. This bill will require a 25% minimum set aside for disadvantaged communities for STIP programming. Melissa thanked MCOG for their comment letter. The hearing is set for January 8<sup>th</sup>, and feedback is helpful and appreciated.
- SB 760 (Weiner) is tailored to SHOPP requiring that a bike and pedestrian component be added to every project. There are a lot of changes going on.
- If anyone is sponsoring a bill, please contact Melissa (melissa.white@asm.ca.gov).

#### **I. Caltrans Planning Grants**

#### **P. Martinez-Velez**

- Priscilla gave an update on the current 2017-18 SB 1 planning grants. A total of 157 applications were submitted, seeking \$44.6 million. Announcement will go out mid-December. Caltrans will provide technical assistance to unsuccessful grant applicants.
- The next call for projects will begin in January. For the Sustainable Communities program there is \$17.38 million available and for the Strategic Partnerships program there is \$4.3 million available. \$2.8 million from the Strategic Partnership program will focus on transit and complete streets projects. Applications will be due at the end of February and awards will be announced in May.
- Priscilla clarified that disadvantaged community designations does not affect scoring.

#### **J. Local Assistance Update**

#### **W. Emmett**

- The responsibilities associated with AB 1012 (Use it or Lose It Requirements) are now handled by Winton's office. Please contact his office with issues related to using allocations. Final CMAQ amounts should be posted next week. Any unused funds will be deducted from the new amounts.
- Obligation Authority numbers have been posted.
- Agreement end dates were established two to three years ago for federally funded bridge and safety projects. These dates are now very relevant, some have been missed and some are close. Winton asked to remind your local agencies of these dates that are in their agreements. Local Assistance has also been notified.
- PPM agreements will be updated to reflect the lump sum distribution.

#### **K. Miscellaneous**

#### **All**

- Design-Build process worked very well for a Trinity County Bridge project.
- The next FLAP call will be less than the previous year.
- Call your congressman to support the Secure Real Schools" fix.
- Don't forget the ATP workshops next month. There are have call in options available.

