

**CALIFORNIA
RURAL COUNTIES TASK FORCE**

Woodrow Deloria, Vice-Chair

El Dorado County
Transportation Commission
530.642.5263
wdeloria@edctc.org

Maura Twomey, Chair

Association of Monterey
Bay Area Governments
831.883.3750
mtwomey@ambag.org

Marcella Clem, Secretary

Humboldt County
Association of Governments
707.444.8208
marcella.clem@hcaog.net

January 26, 2018, 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. Approve Minutes of September 22 & November 17, 2017

M. Twomey

The minutes of September 22nd and November 17th, 2017 were approved by consensus.
The date on the September meeting minutes was corrected.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance

All

- In December, the California Air Resources Board considered revising their Clean Transit Rule requiring that all transit agencies will have to purchase battery electric powered buses beginning in 2029. Maura will forward information. (email was sent 2/1/18).
- Tamara requested that agencies send her “new and innovative” work element ideas to her.
- Woody requested grant ideas for inland climate change adaptation grants.
- RCTF website is being updated. He requested members to visit the website and send him comments. The Procurement Manual on the website has been updated.
- Maura updated the 2018 RCTF meeting calendar for March.

D. Emergency Relief Project Approval & Delivery

Division of Local Assistance

- Jaime Espinoza, Bob Baca and Lupe Jimenez gave an overview of the Emergency Relief (ER) Program. ER is a reimbursable program for Caltrans and local agencies. It is important to document the damage and meet notification deadlines to be reimbursed. The Local Assistance website walks you through the process and lists all of the necessary forms. <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/erp/apply.html> Additional guidance is provided on the Local Assistance Blog.
- Reimbursement delays are an issue.
- The intent of the program was to only allow replacement “in-kind” work but now upgrades are allowed but they must be justified. FHWA will be incorporating ‘resiliency’ into their program. Updated guidelines are expected late spring of this year.
- All requests for the last storm have been submitted to FHWA for reimbursement, the hold up now is Congress providing the funding.
- The ER program is greatly underfunded. California gets approximately \$2 million per

year. The last three storms resulted in a \$1.4 billion need.

E. Local Assistance Update

W. Emmett

- Winton clarified that if you schedule your PPM allocation at the May or June CTC meetings, you only have the remainder of that fiscal year in addition to two additional years for the timely use of those funds. If you wait until August CTC meeting or later, you get the remainder of that fiscal year, in addition to two years. In order to get three full years to spend the funds, regions should get on the August agenda with a letter requesting the application of SB 184, which allows you to use funds as of a certain date (July 1, ...) prior to the allocation. A sample SB 184 submittal will be posted on the RCTF website.
- Obligation Authority (OA) has been tricky with the continuing resolutions out of Washington D.C. The current continuing resolution is set to expire on February 8th or 9th. California has all of the apportionment for the entire year but is only getting chunks of OA in at a time to obligate those funds.
- Obligation Plans are due to Local Assistance on April 1st. Caltrans will then have to manage their way through the amount of OA they have vs. what they have been given. If the state runs out of OA for the year, Advanced Construction (AC) is the option to use for funding projects.

F. State Budget Update

Division of Budgets

- Garrett reported that Allocation Capacity is going as expected. There is nothing concerning at the moment. The recent federal shutdown was a “bummer” but large federal agencies like FHWA did not see an immediate impact.
- Governor Brown released his proposed budget on January 10th. The most interesting thing with respect to transportation is that it includes the first full year of expected SB 1 revenues.
- A Budget Summary chart outlines the projected revenues for 2017-18 and 2018-19. For 2018-19, there is \$4.5 billion projected with a near even split between the state and local agencies. For the Road Maintenance and Repair program alone, there is a 50-50 split of \$2.2 billion between state highways and local streets and roads.
- The budget also includes accelerated transportation loan repayments, thanks to SB 1. In 2017-18, repayment is estimated at \$235 million with \$75 million earmarked for loan repayments to cities and counties based on HUTA formulas. It is not clear how or when it will be distributed. The hope is that the \$75 million will be sent out by the end of the month.

G. CTC Update

L. Waters

- There are a lot of new CTC staff:
 - Robert Nelson, Programming Deputy Director
 - Jaqueline Campion, Legislative and Finance Deputy Director
 - Jofil Borja, Legislative Assistant Deputy Director
 - Matthew Yosgott, Programming Associate Deputy Director
 - Amy MacPherson, Public Information Officer
 - Teri Anderson, Programming Assistant Deputy Director
 - Christine Gordon, Programming Assistant Deputy Director
 - There are still two open programming positions and one ATP position unfilled.

- There have been two SB 1 Accountability and Transparency guidelines workshops. The guidelines are expected to be adopted at the January CTC meeting. The CTC is looking for volunteers to work on the baseline agreements and reporting documents. If interested in volunteering, let Maura know.
- Both STIP hearing have gone well.

H. ATP Guidelines & Application

L. Waters

- ATP workshops are ongoing through February. Public health was the main discussion at yesterday's ATP TAC meeting. No changes were made to the current draft guidelines.
- Laurie discussed the issue of including leveraging funds for small projects. The consensus of the RCTF was to not include points for leveraging for small projects.
- The issue of Caltrans increasing their participation in the program was discussed. All but Del Norte and Humboldt cited dissatisfaction with their Caltrans district in terms of outreach and partnership. It appears only to be an issue with some in District 1. It was suggested that something more than a support letter would be necessary for Caltrans applications.
- CTC staff is considering moving the ATP schedule out to allow for more evaluation time, to finish up the augmentation programming and digitizing all of the applications. If changes go through the Omnibus Bill, the call for projects will go out May 16th and will be due July 31st.
- ATP progress reports are required to be submitted every six months, then a year after the facility opens. The submittal rate is between 30% and 40% compliance. A list of non-compliant agencies was requested.
- The Active Transportation Resource Center is doing 3 or 4 trainings for disadvantaged communities. They are accepting applications. They are also planning on posting short on-line trainings. They will also be sending out an ATP needs assessment questionnaire sometime in February.
- Laurie encouraged RCTF members to volunteer to be reviewers in the upcoming cycle. An email looking for volunteers will go out soon.

I. Planning Update

E. Thompson

- Erin announced two new Caltrans appointments:
 - Giles Giovinazzi, Chief of Staff
 - Dara Wheeler, Division Chief of Rail and Mass Transportation
- The 2017 Regional Planning Handbook was released last fall. All changes are highlighted in gray.
- The 2019 California Transportation Planning Conference will take place February 19th, 20th and 21st in San Diego.
- Caltrans released the Sustainable Planning Grants Guidebook on January 1st. Applications are due February 23rd. This is the second out of three years for the Adaptation Planning Grants. The minimum ask is \$50,000 and the maximum ask is \$500,000.
- Caltrans are offering debriefings from the last round of grants. If interested on getting feedback, reach out to your districts to coordinate scoring results and comments.
- There have been workshops statewide. Upcoming workshops are scheduled in

Districts 1, 5 and 3. They are conducting a tribal webinar as well.

- All previous grant award and non-award lists are posted on the Caltrans website. Caltrans districts and headquarters are willing review all draft applications.
- A public review of the guidelines for the 2019-20 cycle of SB 1 grants will take place again beginning this summer.

J. RPA Carryover

E. Thompson

- There is approximately \$358,000 in RPA carryover this round. In addition to those funds there is approximately \$21,500 in RPA savings that will go to the San Benito project approved previously. Caltrans is looking for group project proposals. One suggestion was for a dedication of around \$15,000 available for rural scholarships and travel for the upcoming CALCOG leadership program. Caltrans will return to the March meeting to discuss ideas then the call for project for the remaining funds will go out soon after.
- In the future, Caltrans forms for multiple programs, including Overall Work Programs will be submitted electronically through BlackCat. Erin asked for feedback on BlackCat issues.

K. Legislative Update

J. Borja

- The deadline for submission of draft bills ended January 19th.
- There is one introduced bill that will require Caltrans to develop a plan to deal with graffiti and litter on the State Highway system.
- AB 1756, to repeal SB 1 has been introduced but not set for hearing yet.
- Jofil reported on a leaked version of President Trump's federal infrastructure plan. The official version is expected to be released by the end of January. The expectation is \$1.7 trillion budget and an increase in Public, Private Partnerships.
- The Travis Allen proposition repeal effort is over. He did not submit any signatures and has joined up with DeMaio and John Cox for the constitutional amendment repeal effort. This effort is backed by the Congressional Republicans in California.
- Kiana Valentine with CSAC and the Fix Our Roads Coalition reported that the DeMaio initiative has raised approximately \$600,000 to date. Although only 585,000 verified signatures are required, it is expected that they intend on collecting 900,000 to make sure enough are valid. The estimated budget required to collect so many signatures is between \$1.5 to \$2 million. It does not look like they have raised enough money, so far. Signatures are due at the end of April.
- Kiana encouraged everyone to join the Fix Our Roads Coalition and the Coalition to Protect Local Transportation Improvements. An email with information on joining was sent out to the RCTF on January 31st.

L. Mass Transit Update

B. Travis

- Brian informed the group of another Caltrans appointment:
 - Mark Barry, 5310 Programming Manager, Assistant Branch Chief
- Only 50% of transit agencies met the Transit Asset Management target setting deadline. The next call for projects will go out in February. If agencies do not complete their BlackCat TAM submittal, Caltrans will not process 5311 contracts.

There is a training manual in BlackCat to assist in setting targets. The targets set now will be your baseline information for the TAM plan due in October. Caltrans will send out the list of agencies that have not complied with the requirement.

- Brian also wants to hear of issues with BlackCat.
- FTA just release new Drug and Alcohol rules, so everyone's policies have to be updated again.

M. Miscellaneous

All

- Lisa Davey-Bates is looking for someone to take her position as a rural alternate assigned to the HSIP Advisory Council. The meetings are every other month at the Sacramento Airport. Woody is the alternate for the RTPA group. He will check to see if he can represent rurals for both agencies.
- Lake County is searching for a transit manger.
- The procurement training update will take place at a summer meeting.