

California Rural Counties Task Force
September 15, 2023
Zoom/Teleconference

Draft Minutes

A. Introductions (All)

Chair Nephele Barrett, Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), called the meeting to order.

New or infrequent members introduced themselves: Melissa Raggio, Calaveras, Council of Governments, Don Hubbard, GHD, Jim Damkowitch, DKS, Melissa Cummins, Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission, Bob Baca, Caltrans Division of Local Assistance for Federal Programs, Felicia Bridges, Amador County Transportation Commission, and Mona Elbadawy, Caltrans District 3.

B. Approve Minutes (N. Barrett)

There were no comments on the meeting minutes. The July 21, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance (All)

There were no information sharing/topics of significance items.

D. Division of Transportation Planning Reorganization (M. Flournoy)

Marlon Flournoy, Caltrans, provided an update on the changes to the Planning and Modal Programs Division, including staffing changes. An updated functional organization chart and contact list will be ready in October.

E. Select Date for CSIS Meeting (N. Barrett)

Chair Nephele Barrett, MCOG, asked RCTF members to provide input in the chat on their preference for a CSIS meeting. The potential dates are October 3rd (afternoon) or October 5th (all day). Based on the input received, the CSIS meeting will be scheduled.

F. Rural Induced Demand Study Update (M. Woodman, D. Hubbard, and J. Damkowitch)

Mike Woodman, Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), provided background on the Rural Induced Demand Study. Don Hubbard, GHD, and Jim Damkowitch, DKS, provided a detailed overview of the initial study results and preliminary takeaways. The draft report is scheduled to be completed in late October/November 2023.

G. ER Program (B. Baca)

Bob Baca, Caltrans, provided an update on the Emergency Relief (ER) Program, including declared and recently proclaimed disasters and key dates.

H. CTC Updates

1. Legislative Update/IIJA (J. Behrens)

No report provided.

2. Active Transportation Program (B. Newman-Burckhard and E. Changizi)

Beverly Newman-Burckhard, CTC, reported that CTC began their workshops for Cycle 7. The southern kickoff workshop was in San Diego on August 16th and the northern kickoff workshop was in Chico on September 14th. CTC staff are not recommending any major changes to the program this cycle and will mainly focus on minor policy clarifications in the guidelines. Potential changes including comments from stakeholders will be discussed at an upcoming virtual workshop scheduled for September 28th. Erika Changizi, CTC, provided an update on branch workshops and site visits for Cycle 7.

3. SB 1 Programs (L. Ward)

Leishara Ward, CTC, reported that they are working with Caltrans on the baseline agreements for the Competitive Programs projects that were just awarded in June 2023. The baseline agreements must be finalized by December 2023. CTC staff are also getting started with Cycle 4 Guidelines workshops. The kickoff workshop will be held in December 2023. A save the date will be sent out next month. The individual programs will have guidelines workshops throughout the winter and into spring 2024.

4. Local Streets and Roads (A. Sequiera)

Alicia Sequiera, CTC, provided an update on the LSR Program. She thanked RCTF members for their assistance in helping local jurisdictions meet eligibility. CTC staff are getting ready for expenditure reporting with technical training being held in late October.

5. STIP (K. Ruggerio)

Kacey Ruggerio, CTC, provided a STIP update including actions at the August 2023 CTC meeting. Ms. Ruggerio reported that Caltrans' Draft ITIP is due to CTC by October 15th with a hybrid hearing scheduled for November 1st (Riverside) and a second hybrid hearing (Sacramento) scheduled for November 8th. She also reminded RCTF members that RTIPs are due on December 15th.

6. LTCAP (R. Light)

Rebecca Light, CTC, provided a quick LTCAP update. Ms. Light reported that 22 applications were received for the 1st Cycle of LTCAP. Staff award recommendations are scheduled to be released on November 3rd and scheduled for adoption at the December 2023 CTC meeting.

7. SB 1121 Needs Assessment (F. Dea-Sanchez)

Frances Dea-Sanchez, CTC, announced that the next stakeholder workshop is scheduled for September 21st. The public interim draft report is scheduled to be released on October 6th. The workshop on the public interim draft report is tentatively scheduled October 11th. The interim report will be submitted to the Legislature on January 1, 2024.

Ms. Dea-Sanchez also reported that the CTC will hold a meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee on September 26th in Stockton with a virtual option.

8. Other Grant Programs

No report provided.

I. Caltrans Updates

1. Local Assistance (S. Kalainesan/R. Nguyen)

Sujaya Kalainesan, Caltrans, provided a brief update on the status of the non-STIP/STIP CRRSAA funds. Ms. Kalainesan also provided updates on their innovative programs and key upcoming dates.

Robert Nguyen, Caltrans, provided an update on the OA. California received an extra \$718 million of additional August redistribution from FHWA. Mr. Nguyen encouraged project sponsors to submit invoices to not run the risk of fund de-obligation. Lastly, Mr. Nguyen reminded everyone that Caltrans just implemented a construction contract memo. These standards must be used on all projects submitted to Caltrans on or after July 24, 2023. The document is on the Caltrans website. Mike Woodman, NCTC, asked about the status of toll credit availability. Mr. Nguyen responded that there is currently about \$1 billion left and Caltrans is discussing how best to use the toll credits.

2. State Budget Update/STIP Fund Estimate (K. Duncan)

Keith Duncan, Caltrans, provided a budget update including the August redistribution and the adopted STIP fund estimate.

3. Planning/RTP Guidelines (E. Thompson)

Erin Thompson, Caltrans, provided an update on the RPA discretionary grant funds and Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants. Ms. Thompson stated that FY23-24 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants awards were announced on August 31st. The FY24-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants will be released in October 2023 with applications due in January 2024, and grant awards in June 2024.

J. Miscellaneous (All)

Chair Barrett, MCOG, announced that RCTF members can reach out to her on future agenda items.

K. Adjourn

Chair Barrett adjourned the meeting.