

ruralcountiestaskforce.or

Heather Adamson, Vice Chair

Aaron Hoyt, Chair

Beth Burks, Secretary

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Nevada County Transportation Commission (831) 264-5086

(530) 265-3202

Humboldt County Association of Governments 707-444-8208

Draft Minutes

July 19, 2024 12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

A. Introductions. (All)

Chair Aaron Hoyt called the meeting to order.

New or infrequent attendees introduced themselves:

Kaylan Hall- Sierra County Transportation Commission, Skip Clark- Caltrans D2, Felicia Bridges-Alameda County Transportation Commission, Destiny Preston- CTC, Neil Dixon- Caltrans, Gregoria Ponce-Caltrans D10, Shiferaw D10 Caltrans, Vincent Ma-CTC, Wendy King-Caltrans, Leishara Ward-CTC

Approve Minutes (A. Hoyt)

The were no comments on the meeting minutes. The May 10, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance (All)

The following information was shared:

- Mike Woodman, Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC)- Rural Induced Demand Study draft coming next week.
- Beth Burks, Humboldt County Association of Governments- North State Hydrogen Fueling Siting Analysis has been funded with discretionary Rural Planning Assistance funds. Project will kick off in the next couple months.
- •Sabrina Bradbury, CALCOG- VMT Summer School has been a hit and includes topics relevant to rural areas. There are two sessions left and prior sessions are available online. CALCOG received a Strategic Partnership Grant from Caltrans to create educational videos for Elected Officials serving on Boards of RTPAs/MPOs.
- Aaron Hoyt, NCTC- Inland Empire CTC Commissioner Tavaglione has retired from CTC. Administration is looking to fill his seat.
 - CTC Commissioner Lee Ann Eager's term is up. NCTC is looking at letter of support to have her be appointed again. Also looking to send a RCTF coalition letter to support her reappointment. No objections/ concerns were raised regarding sending a letter. Each agency is also encouraged to write support letters.

D. CTC Updates

1. Legislative Update, Vince Ma

Legislature reconvenes August 5. Bills being tracked include SB 90- Requires Caltrans to include complete streets on projects on state highways under certain conditions. Passed and now with Assembly Appropriations Committee. SB1216/AB 2290- Would impose limits on Class III bike lanes on state highways. SB1216 has been amended to include some flexibility based on comments from RCTF. Must pass out of Appropriations Committee by August 16 or will be done for the year.

Mike Woodman, NCTC noted that NCTC along with a rural coalition submitted amendments on SB 1216 amendments were accepted. Amendments are similar to Active Transportation Program requirements allowing agencies to justify Class III depending on context.

2. Active Transportation Program Beverley Newman-Burckhard For ATP Cycle 7, 277 applications were received. Total project costs were \$4.1B and request to ATP is \$2.5B. 99% of requests benefit disadvantaged communities. Less projects than usual, but projects are getting larger.

State budget includes \$400M reduction to ATP. Reduction is to the one-time augmentation in cycle 6. Could be restored subject to future appropriations. Priority is to fund projects already programmed.

August CTC meeting will have an update on Cycle 7 and the proposed amendments to the 2025 Guidelines. The Total funds available for Cycle 7 is \$168.7M. The split for these funds is 50% Statewide, 40% MPO, 10% rural.

CTC is proposing additional tiebreakers in the guidelines. Some new tiebreakers include applicants that have applied for 2 or more cycles for the same project and were unsuccessful, applicant is a tribal government, and the highest score on the third highest point value question.

3. SB 1 Programs, Leishara Ward

All four programs will have guidelines adopted at the August CTC meeting. Draft guidelines are available on the website. No significant changes to guidelines are being proposed. Adoption of guidelines in August initiates the call for projects.

Due dates for competitive programs:

- Solutions for Congested Corridors- November 19, 2024
- Local Partnership Competitive Program- November 20, 2024
- Trade Enhancement Corridor Program- November 22, 2024

The Local Partnership Formulaic Program call for projects begins August after guidelines are adopted. November 15 – have your project in to CTC for initial program of projects. The list of projects will be presented at the January 22, 2025 CTC meeting. Submit documentation now to see if your agency is eligible, for the formulaic program.

4. Local Streets and Roads, Alicia Sequeira

Preparing a book item for initial eligibility for the August CTC meeting. Subsequent eligibility

closes September 30. The estimate is \$1.7 Billion this year, largest amount ever.

5. STIP, Kacey Ruggiero

Working on the 2024 Orange Book and will include projects from the 2024 STIP and will be available by August 5.

June 30, 2024 is the last chance to allocate COVID RIP shares. Some agencies have projects at risk of lapsing and all have been made aware.

6. SB 1121 Needs Assessment, Destiny Preston

An update will be provided at the August CTC meeting. Staff will be asking for feedback on the draft in August. Formalized draft will be released for October CTC meeting.

E. Caltrans Updates

1. Local Assistance, Wendy King

Federal Programs Office is looking for an RCTF member for local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Advisory Committee. RCTF will look to nominate a committee member at future meeting. Some familiarity with HSIP is really helpful.

TIRCP Cycle 7 Due July 23

SB125 Awards were announced last week. Over next 30 days CalSTA will be verifying bank information. There are still some questions on how to track TIRCP and ZETCP program funds once received. There is not a clear answer on this yet, but Keith Duncan will follow up with CalSTA staff.

LCTOP- Caltrans has completed their reviews and awards to go out in August.

FTA announced Low or No Emissions bus and bus facility awards program. Four rural projects were awarded. Next cycle will be due January or February 2025. Transit operators must have a fleet transition plan to apply for funding. For rural transit operators that don't have a plan, Caltrans has a contract to help rural transit agencies complete plans at no cost.

2. Obligation Authority Status, Robert Nguyen

Two months away from wrapping up the Federal Fiscal Year. Due to lack of delivery, this year there are more high-risk projects. Deadline for Caltrans Districts to submit projects to HQ is August 15. Local agency submittal deadline has already passed. Will need to keep building back up projects list.

If you have any outstanding active projects-submit invoices ASAP. If you run into an obstacle, submit a justification as to why funds should not be deactivated.

3. State Budget Update Keith Duncan (Mic wasn't working, so he provided the following in the chat)

"No important updates. I believe everyone is aware of the budget reductions in General Fund items and the GGRF backfills, and all other transportation related items in the Budget."

4. Planning, Brenda Caruso

RPA increase-received letter on behalf of RCTF. The planning team met with budgets teamwho seemed supportive of additional funding. Planning will continue conversations with budgets to find opportunities to increase the funding. Funding won't occur this fiscal year, the earliest additional funding could occur would be in FY 25/26.

2025 MFTA- Sent out draft MFTAs. No substantial changes. Have until August 12 to send in comments. RTPAs should anticipate a board meeting in October or November for approval.

Close out reports for FY 23-24 is due on July 31.

Sustainable Transportation Planning grants have been awarded. Caltrans is beginning conditional award meetings. Draft Guidelines for FY 25-26 will be out in a couple weeks, they hope to have them finalized in September.

RTPA Regional Planning Handbook 2024 draft is anticipated this fall.

F. Miscellaneous

Nothing additional was reported.

G. Adjorn

Chair Hoyt, adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2024.