

**California Rural Counties Task Force  
November 18, 2022  
Zoom/Teleconference**

**Draft Minutes**

**A. Introductions (All)**

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

New or infrequent members introduced themselves: Don Gockley, Inyo County, Robin Van Valkenburgh, Nevada County Transit, Lara Justine, Caltrans Headquarters Landscape Architecture, Michael Villa, Mendocino Council of Governments, Alexis Pedrotti, Lake Area Planning Council/Mendocino COG, Rebecca Light, California Transportation Commission (CTC), and Leishara Ward, CTC.

**B. Approve Minutes (N. Barrett)**

There were no comments on the meeting minutes. The September 16, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

**H. Caltrans Updates**

**1. Local Assistance/Carbon Reduction Program (F. Haslem/S. Kalainesan)**

This item was taken out of order to accommodate a conflict.

Sujaya Kalainesan, Caltrans, asked if RCTF members had any comments or questions on the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) eligibility email that Caltrans sent out. For the most part, Caltrans has included all the eligibility from the federal guidelines. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) did ask that the propane and natural gas fueled vehicles be removed and Ms. Kalainesan indicated that was one eligibility criteria that is proposed to be removed.

Aaron Hoyt, Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), commented that the CRP included a broad range of eligible projects but was concerned about CARB's request to remove propane and natural gas fueled vehicles from the eligibility list. This may be an issue for some transit agencies who are still in the process of transitioning their transit fleets. Ms. Kalainesan stated that those comments should be included as well. Mr. Hoyt reiterated a couple of other concerns including when would the funding be allocated to the rural agencies and does that affect the timeframe that we have to deliver the projects? He stated that it will be important to have continued conversations regarding project delivery. Mr. Hoyt's last concern is the other monies that the state will allocate which includes the rural RTPAs and that this state controlled

funding may be more stringent and whether this will be reconsidered. Ms. Kalainesan stated that she will bring this up at the next workshop and encouraged others to submit comments as well.

Ms. Kalainesan provided a quick update on OA. She stated that the last fiscal year (federal), we delivered \$1.54 billion. Going into this year, we will have the same challenges and will need to come up with good strategies to deliver OA effectively.

### **C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance (All)**

Nephele Barrett stated that since the CA State of Emergency ended and our Boards/Committees are moving back to in person meetings, one of her Board members said that they need to do a three-year plan regarding Brown Act public meetings, has anyone else hear of this? RCTF members had not. Ms. Barrett asked if folks are going back to in person meetings or going to try to use the new emergency provisions in the Brown Act. Todd Muck, Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), stated that that a quorum of the Board must be in person so maybe the only flexibility would be to set up more than one location where the meetings would be held. Board members can only participate virtually 20% of the meetings each year. Bill Higgins, California Association of Council of Governments (CALCOG), stated that there is no legislation to change this currently and that a sponsor would need to introduce a new bill next year. Mr. Higgins stated that there is story to tell in the difference between regional agencies and cities/counties. Ms. Barrett asked a follow-up question regarding Committee meetings and easy systems to accommodate a hybrid meeting. Mr. Higgins stated that CALCOG has been using a system called the OWL that provides virtual attendees to see who's speaking in the meeting room but does not provide the in person attendees a way to see the virtual attendees.

### **D. SHSP Committee Representative (N. Barrett)**

Ms. Barrett stated that she attended the most recent SHSP Committee as the RCTF representative. She commented that she could continue attending as the representative unless someone else was interested in attending. She said at a minimum having an alternate identified is needed. Aaron Hoyt volunteered to be the alternate.

### **E. Main Street, California Update (L. Justine)**

Lara Justine, Caltrans Headquarters Landscape Architecture, provided an overview of the Main Street Guide, the update underway and recent survey results. Jim Grant, Loomis, commented that maintenance and snow removal is a huge issue when it comes to streetscape design. John Clerici, Lassen County Transportation Commission, (LCTC), echoed this same concern. The draft document will be going out for public review in early 2023. Nephele Barrett, asked if this document addresses the conflict between features that the community wants versus safety improvements that Caltrans wants or is that a different discussion that needs to occur? Ms.

Justine responded that it is a little of both. The document highlights the concerns from the community but can also help guide future discussions. Woody Deloria, El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), commented that we're seeing a lot of diversion of traffic to local roads from state highways/main streets due to mobile apps, is this sometime that the Main Street guide update can address? Jim Grant commented that there isn't a consistent parking policy between Caltrans districts and that there should be a uniformity across districts.

#### **F. Climate Adaptation Grant Program (R. Light)**

Rebecca Light, CTC, provided an overview of the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LCAP). This new program is funded through the federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program and SB 198. The primary objective of this program is to provide competitive grants to local agencies for the development and implementation of capital projects adapting local transportation infrastructure to climate changes. The program is scheduled to be adopted in August 2023. This 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle has \$296.5 million with roughly 50% each from PROTECT funds and state general funds. Ms. Light briefly highlighted the primary and secondary evaluation criteria. The discussion draft guidelines are scheduled to be released in mid-December 2022. The program guidelines are scheduled for adoption by CTC in March 2023 followed by a call for projects. Project applications would be due in June 2023 with program adoption by the CTC in August 2023. Please send any comments or questions to [Rebecca.light@catc.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.light@catc.ca.gov).

Nephele Barrett expressed concerns that the criteria and draft guidelines could prohibit rural projects, such as improvements to evacuation routes, that may not have other ways of being funded.

#### **G. CTC Updates**

##### **1. Legislative Update/IIJA (J. Behrens)**

Justin Behrens, CTC, stated that the Legislature wrapped up early this year and the Governor signed or vetoed the bills by the end of September 2022. The new session will start in January 2023.

To recap:

- SB 1121 (Gonzales) – requires CTC to conduct a statewide transportation needs assessment; was passed and was signed by the Governor
- AB 2514 (Dahle) – requires the SHSMP to include a needs assessment in underserved rural communities; was passed but was not approved by the Governor

In October 2022, the CTC adopted a policy on support letters. Please contact Justin if you have any questions.

## **2. Active Transportation Program (L. Waters)**

Laurie Waters, CTC, stated that the Statewide, Small Urban & Rural staff recommendations were released on October 20, 2022. The CTC is scheduled to adopt the ATP projects at its December 2022 meeting. Please contact Elika Changizi at [Elika.Changizi@catc.ca.gov](mailto:Elika.Changizi@catc.ca.gov) if you would like to set up a project debrief meeting. Nephele Barrett asked if there was another increase in project size? Ms. Waters stated that yes, there was an increase in project size. Todd Muck, TAMC, asked what the anticipated time for the public hearing on ATP project would be? Ms. Waters responded that it will be around 3pm on December 7, 2022. Woody Deloria, EDCTC, stated that the site visits were incredibly helpful and thanked CTC staff.

## **3. SB 1 Programs (M. Yosgott)**

Matthew Yosgott, CTC, provided an update on the SB 1 Programs (LPP, SCCP, and TCEP). The deadlines for the Cycle 3 competitive program applications for the SB 1 Programs are as follows:

- TCEP – November 18, 2022
- LPP Competitive – November 29, 2022
- SCCP – December 2, 2022

Receipt logs will be posted to the CTC website. A presentation from the Office of Emergency Services on evacuation planning and the nexus with the state's transportation system will be heard at the CTC meeting in December 2022. Finally, Mr. Yosgott introduced the new Local Partnership Competitive Program manager, Leishara Ward to RCTF members.

## **4. Local Streets and Roads (A. Sequeira)**

Alicia Sequeira stated that Local Streets & Roads FY 21-22 expenditure report is due to the CTC by December 1, 2022. She asked RCTF members to help spread the word and help the jurisdictions submit their annual reports by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## **5. STIP (T. Favila)**

Teresa Favila, CTC, provided an updated on the STIP Program. She stated that there was a high balance on STIP funds and she encouraged requests to advance projects. Mike Zeller, TAMC, asked if CTC staff would consider moving projects forward from later years in the STIP in addition to project advances? Ms.Favila said that this could be done and suggested they follow-up to discuss.

## **H. Caltrans Updates**

## **2. State Budget Update/IIJA (K. Duncan)**

Keith Duncan, Caltrans, stated that they're starting to get a lot of inquiries relating to the recent Legislative Analyst Office's report regarding the state's general fund facing a potential deficit of \$25 billion. Mr. Duncan stated that they're not being asked to slow down on any general fund augmentations that were received. They are starting to receive initial data related to transportation revenue with the upcoming January 2023 budget release. Revenues continue to recover from the pandemic.

## **3. Planning (E. Thompson)**

Erin Thompson, Caltrans, provided a few updates. The RTP Guidelines are moving forward with both MPO and RTPA RTP guidelines. Caltrans is planning to have the first workshop in late January 2023 on the baseline guidelines. The baseline will include the proposed changes and changes since 2017. The adoption date is scheduled for December 2023. In addition, the different RTP Guidelines technical advisory committees will be announced.

Ms. Thompson also announced the Draft FY23-24 Overall Work Program (OWP) Guidelines are expected to be completed in December 2022 with the Draft OWPs due to Caltrans by March 1, 2023. The Caltrans Transportation Planning grants call for projects is scheduled for January 2023.

Ms. Thompson is also looking at the RPA carryover and if there is potential for discretionary grants. She will provide an update on any available funding at the next RTCF meeting. Ms. Thompson also announced a new Senior Planner, Janki Patel, in local development review. Tamara Leighton, Del Norte LTC, asked what were some of the ideas to use the RPA carryover if we did not move forward with discretionary grants? Ms. Thompson responded that it would be more "counter based" as an as needed basis was one idea. Another option is to not do anything, and the carryover could be redistributed by formula. John Clerici, LCTC, suggested a potential exchange/donation from some agencies who may not use their annual RPA funds to other agencies who may need more.

## **I. Miscellaneous (All)**

Nephele Barrett announced the 2023 meeting schedule. The meetings dates will be added to the RCTF website.

## **J. Adjourn**

Nephele Barrett adjourned the meeting.