

California Rural Counties Task Force
November 17, 2023
Zoom/Teleconference

Draft Minutes

A. Introductions (All)

Vice Chair Aaron Hoyt, Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), called the meeting to order.

New or infrequent members introduced themselves: David Melko, Placer County Transportation Commission, Elizabeth Forte, Merced County Association of Governments, Chad Edison, CalSTA, Janki Patel, Caltrans Headquarters, Kelly Babcock, Caltrans District 2, Mona Elbadawy, Caltrans District 3, Priscilla Martinez, Caltrans District 1, and Felicia Bridges, Amador County Transportation Commission.

B. Approve Minutes (A. Hoyt)

There were no comments on the meeting minutes. The September 15, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance (All)

There were no information sharing/topics of significance items.

D. AB 744 (H. Walter)

Hannah Walter, CTC, provided an overview of AB 744 which focuses on local agency data and modeling needs, including key deadlines. CTC staff will be reaching out to MPOs/RTPAs to set up meetings to discuss existing data reporting requirements and data needs.

E. SB 125 Discussion (All)

Chad Edison, CalSTA, provided a brief overview of SB 125 and the key deadlines for the new funding. Tamera Leighton, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission (LTC), asked a question regarding guidance for the official submittal. Mr. Edison responded that there is a Google form/questionnaire that Caltrans staff has prepared that can be used but it is not required to be used. John Clerici, El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), commented that he participated in a meeting with Mr. Edison and stated that more state programs should be structured like this one in terms of ease and flexibility. Mr. Clerici also announced that the North State Super region partners have a meeting scheduled to further discuss SB 125 on December 1, 2023.

F. CTC Updates

1. Legislative Update/IIJA (J. Behrens)

Justin Behrens, CTC, provided a brief legislative update. Mike Woodman, NCTC, commented that they are looking at potential legislative changes related to flexibility for Caltrans in lowering the speed limit on state highways.

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

Beverly Newman-Burckhard, CTC, provided an update on recent and upcoming ATP workshops. Ms. Newman-Burckhard also provided an update on the minor changes being considered for the guidelines. Evelyn Espinosa, Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), asked a clarifying question on which new federal tools would be used for DAC qualifiers in the ATP. Ms. Newman-Burckhard responded that they are:

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool:

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

USDOT Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0920984aa80a4362b8778d779b090723/page/ETC-Explorer---Homepage/>

Elika Changizi, CTC, provided an update on engagement efforts for Cycle 7. In addition to the regular central ATP workshops, CTC is also offering branch workshops. The list of all branch workshops is on the CTC website at: <https://catc.ca.gov/programs/active-transportation-program>. Another engagement effort is virtual site visits between potential project applicants and CTC staff.

3. SB 1 Programs (A. Sequeira)

Alicia Sequeira, CTC, reported that the “Save the Date” for the Cycle 4 kickoff workshop scheduled for December 14, 2023 has gone out.

4. Local Streets and Roads (A. Sequiera)

Alicia Sequeira, CTC, reported that the expenditure reporting is underway and is due December 1, 2023 in CalSMART.

5. STIP (L. Waters)

Laurie Waters, CTC, reported that Kacey Ruggerio will be out until December 11, 2023 and that all STIP related items should go to Teresa Favila during this time. Caltrans will be accepting

comments on the Draft 2024 ITIP through November 28, 2023. RTIPs are due to CTC by December 15, 2023.

6. LTCAP (R. Light)

Rebecca Light, CTC, announced that the Cycle 1 LTCAP project recommendations have been posted to the CTC website and are scheduled to be adopted at the December CTC meeting. Cycle 2 is scheduled to be kicked off in January 2024.

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

Frances Dea-Sanchez, CTC, announced that the draft interim report was released on November 10, 2023 for a public review period. The close of the public comment period is December 8, 2023. The interim report public workshop is scheduled for November 30, 2023. The report will be submitted to the Legislature on January 27, 2024.

8. Other Grant Programs

No report provided.

G. Caltrans Updates

1. Local Assistance (R. Nguyen)

Robert Nguyen, Caltrans, provided an update on toll credits. Mr. Nguyen stated that there is currently about \$1-1.2 billion remaining. To minimize impacts, Caltrans is initiating the request for additional toll credits as well as asking the regions to temporarily hold off on programming new projects that are requesting toll credits in the FTIP until they reconcile the balance based on the projections. Finally, Caltrans has scheduled a meeting with the RTPA Toll Credit Committee to discuss how we can manage the remaining roughly \$1 million balance. Vice Chair Hoyt, NCTC, asked how long this temporary pause on programming projects would last? Mr. Nguyen responded about 2-3 months. Mike Woodman, NCTC, asked if there were rural RTPAs on the RTPA Committee and asked that he be added to the RTPA Toll Credit Committee list. Ivan Garcia, Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and Maura Twomey, Association of Monterey Bay Area of Governments (AMBAG) also requested to be added. Mr. Nguyen also provided an update on Buy America.

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

Keith Duncan, Caltrans, provided a state and federal budget update.

3. Planning/RTP Guidelines (E. Thompson)

Erin Thompson, Caltrans, reported that Caltrans District staff are talking with partners about potential projects that Caltrans can be the lead applicant for ATP Cycle 7. Please contact your Caltrans District active transportation planning staff if you have ideas for projects.

Ms. Thompson also highlighted the priorities/focus areas that the new Transit Planning office is focused on. If you have any questions, please contact the main point of contact, Josh Pulverman, Acting Office Chief at Caltrans Headquarters.

Ms. Thompson provided an update RPA excess carryover funds and stated that there is \$580,000 in funding available. The RCTF can nominate/propose project(s) to use the funding. If funding is remaining, Caltrans can move forward with a discretionary grant program.

H. Miscellaneous (All)

There were no updates.

I. Adjourn

Vice Chair Hoyt, NCTC, adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2024.