

**Heather Adamson, Vice Chair**Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments  
(831) 264-5086**Aaron Hoyt, Chair**Nevada County Transportation Commission  
(530) 265-3202**Michael Zeller, Secretary**Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
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## Draft Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2026 | 12:30 – 2:30 PM | Zoom

### Leadership

Chair: Aaron Hoyt

Vice Chair: Heather Adamson

Secretary: Michael Zeller

### A. Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting with introductions of Task Force members and participating staff from Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission (CTC), and regional transportation agencies. Several presenters introduced themselves, noting recent staffing changes, new program assignments, and ongoing coordination roles supporting rural agencies.

### B. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Presenter:** Aaron Hoyt

The minutes from the previous RCTF meeting were presented for approval.

**Action/Outcome:**

- Previous meeting minutes approved without objection.

### C. Information Sharing / Topics of Significance

Daniel Burke, Caltrans Division of Local Assistance, provided information on current federal and state initiatives affecting rural transportation agencies. Discussion focused on the USDOT Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative Request for Information (RFI). Caltrans highlighted that the RFI is intended to gather input to inform future federal rural transportation policy, technical assistance needs, and potential legislative proposals. Members discussed the importance of rural perspectives being clearly articulated, particularly related to capacity constraints, safety, and project delivery challenges.

**Comments/Questions:**

- **Aaron Hoyt** asked whether the RFI is intended to inform the next federal surface transportation authorization.

- **Response:** Daniel Burke confirmed that the effort appears intended to shape future federal legislation and program design.
- Members were encouraged to coordinate comments with Caltrans if submitting independently.

## **D. AB 251 Vehicle Weight Safety Study Report**

**Presenter:** Cayla McDonnell, California Transportation Commission

CTC staff presented an overview of the draft AB 251 Vehicle Weight Safety Study Report. The presentation reviewed study objectives, research methodology, and preliminary findings related to increasing vehicle weights, traffic safety outcomes, infrastructure wear, greenhouse gas implications, and equity considerations. Staff explained potential policy considerations evaluated in the report, including a vehicle weight-based fee structure. Members acknowledged the relevance to rural road systems, which often experience higher maintenance costs and safety risks.

### **Comments/Questions:**

- No substantive opposition was raised during the meeting.
- Members acknowledged the importance of rural considerations in the findings.

### **Action/Outcome:**

- Public comments are due **April 1, 2026**.
- The final report is scheduled for presentation and adoption at an upcoming CTC meeting, followed by transmittal to the Legislature.

## **E. California Transportation Commission (CTC) Updates**

CTC staff provided comprehensive program updates. The Legislative Update summarized transportation-related bills under consideration and their potential impacts. The Active Transportation Program update reviewed Cycle 8 guideline development, outreach efforts, application timelines, and the Submittable application platform. Updates on SB 1 Competitive Programs outlined upcoming workshops and emphasis areas. The Local Streets and Roads report highlighted full statewide compliance in expenditure reporting and record levels of funding deployment. The STIP update reviewed the release of staff funding recommendations and next steps for adoption. The FTA 5310 presentation explained program structure, eligibility requirements, and the adoption schedule for the Program of Projects.

### **1. Legislative Update**

**Presenter:** Benjamin Williams (on behalf of Justin Behrens)

An overview of key transportation-related legislation was provided, including AB 2560, AB 2679, SB 1087, and SB 1250.

**Comments/Questions:**

- **Mike Woodman (Nevada County Transportation Commission)** stated that NCTC is likely to oppose AB 2560, citing concerns that codifying CAPTI goals could limit flexibility for future administrations.
- CTC staff noted no formal commission positions are currently recommended on the bills.

**2. Active Transportation Program (ATP)**

**Presenter:** Anja Aulenbacher

An update was provided on **ATP Cycle 8 (2027)** guidelines, scheduled for adoption at the March CTC meeting. The application deadline is **June 22, 2026**, using the Submittable portal.

**Comments/Questions:**

- **Aaron Hoyt** thanked the ATP team for their extensive outreach and site visits, noting improved transparency and collaboration.

**Action Items:**

- Submittable training scheduled for **March 25, 2026 (10 AM – 12 PM)**.

**3. SB 1 Competitive Programs**

**Presenter:** Matthew Yosgott

Matthew Yosgott outlined upcoming **Cycle 5 workshops** for the SB 1 competitive programs, including workforce development, transportation equity, and community engagement sessions.

**Comments/Questions:**

- Rural agencies were encouraged to attend and provide feedback during guideline development.

**4. Local Streets and Roads**

**Presenter:** Alicia Sequeira

Alicia reported **100% compliance** statewide for expenditure reporting, with **\$1.5 billion spent**, the highest total in a single fiscal year.

**Comments/Questions:**

- No questions were raised; members acknowledged the achievement.

**Action Items:**

- FY 2026–27 eligibility training scheduled for **April 2, 2026**.

**5. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

**Presenter:** Sheila Ennes

Sheila Ennes reported that **2026 STIP staff recommendations** were posted on February 27, 2026, and are scheduled for adoption at the March CTC meeting.

**Comments/Questions:**

- **Aaron Hoyt** asked whether RCTF support was needed at the meeting.
  - **Response:** Sheila Ennes welcomed comments but did not request specific action.

**6. FTA 5310 Program Adoption**

**Presenter:** Kat Kim

Kat Kim provided an overview of the **FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program**, including funding structure, eligibility, and the appeals process.

**Comments/Questions:**

- No objections or concerns were raised.

**Action/Outcome:**

- Public hearing and adoption of the final 2025 Program of Projects scheduled for the March CTC meeting.

**F. Caltrans Updates**

Caltrans staff provided updates on Local Assistance delivery, Obligation Authority availability, and toll credit policy considerations. Discussion included challenges related to Carbon Reduction Program eligibility for small rural communities and pending federal guidance. State and federal budget updates addressed anticipated funding levels, federal reauthorization discussions, and impacts on planning programs. Planning staff also reviewed Overall Work Program schedules, coordination expectations, and transit planning updates.

**Local Assistance & Obligation Authority (OA)**

**Presenters:** Zhongren Wang; Misty Bradshaw; Abhijit Bagde

Updates were provided on statewide OA delivery, toll credit policy changes, and program delivery strategies.

### **Comments/Questions:**

- **Mike Woodman** asked whether toll credits for non-MPO areas would be first-come, first-served.
  - **Response:** Misty Bradshaw indicated coordination is required and encouraged early engagement.
- **Nephele** and **Aaron Hoyt** raised concerns about Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) requirements in communities under 5,000 population.
  - **Response:** Zhongren Wang confirmed clarification is pending from FHWA.

### **State & Federal Budget; Planning**

**Presenters:** Keith Duncan (via Garrett Franklin); Erin Thompson; Brenda Caruso

Presentations covered ATP fund estimates, federal reauthorization efforts (including the proposed BASIC Act), transit planning updates, and Overall Work Program (OWP) schedules.

### **Comments/Questions:**

- **Heather Adamson** asked when the revised Caltrans Transit and Rail reorganization chart would be posted.
  - **Response:** Angel Pyle indicated updates would be incremental as positions are filled.

### **G. Miscellaneous**

Additional announcements included upcoming Caltrans technical assistance presentations, conference opportunities, training resources, and scholarship availability for rural staff. Members were encouraged to participate in scheduled workshops and outreach events.

### **H. Adjourn**

The Chair thanked presenters and participants for their engagement. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.