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Draft Minutes

January 17, 2025

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

A. Introductions

- **Chair:** Aaron Hoyt, NCTC
- **Participants:** Approximately 29 participants, including representatives from various counties and agencies.
- **New Participants:**
 - **Tamera Blankenship:** Introduced herself as the new Executive Director for the Tuolumne County Transportation Council.
 - **Debbie Egger:** Introduced herself as the Interim Executive Director for HCOG.
 - **Jerry Barton:** El Dorado County Transportation Commission, reintroduced himself to the group.

B. Approve Minutes

- **Status:** No minutes were available for approval from the November meeting due to a transition of the secretary. Approval deferred to the March meeting.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance

- **Aaron Hoyt, NCTC:**
 - Discussed the Director's Policy on Transit and Senate Bill 960 and that Caltrans is hosting a series of district-specific workshops on this topic. Mentioned the need for additional funding and the importance of including both urban and rural transit needs, and raised concerns about how this will fit into the SHOPP as an asset management plan.
 - Announced that CalSTA released guidelines for the Senate Bill 125 funding program.
- **Tamera Leighton, Del Norte LTC:**
 - Inquired about the Carbon Reduction Program and trying to get information but not receiving responses.
 - **Comments:**
 - **Aaron Hoyt:** Suggested that there might be a change in staff and promised to follow up to get contact information.

- **Keith Duncan, Caltrans:** Confirmed that a new staff member, Barbara, has been hired to oversee the program and promised to share contact information.

D. California Transportation Plan Update

- **Presenter:** Mike Jones, Caltrans
- **Overview:**
 - Provided an update on the California Transportation Plan (CTP), highlighting the vision, goals, and the importance of including rural challenges in the plan.
 - Comments heard by Caltrans regarding the plan included:
 - Need for early inclusion and considerations for the needs of rural areas;
 - System resiliency to support evacuation and emergency relief efforts;
 - Funding inequalities; and
 - Challenges with addressing GHG emissions (limited public transit options, long travel distances, limited EV infrastructure).
 - Discussed the timeline for the CTP, with a draft expected in March and final approval in December.
 - **Comments:**
 - **Aaron Hoyt:** Emphasized the need for evacuation planning and wildfire resiliency in the CTP. Suggested a separate offline conversation to dig deeper into these topics.
 - **Mike Woodman:** Discussed the misconceptions related to induced demand on rural highway corridors and the importance of context in these discussions.
 - **Jerry Barton:** Inquired and seeking guidance about the RTP Guidelines that refers to the California Transportation Plan Policy suggesting strategic investments that optimize performance as well as sustainable preventative maintenance and rehabilitation maintenance strategies.
 - **Mike Jones:** Offered that the guidelines may be suggesting that the strategies put forth in the RTP are in general alignment with the CTP because the plans build iteratively off each other and that RTPs should choose the strategies that are cost effective and offer the best cost benefit. The CTP emphasizes asset management and sustainability. We may want to reach out to Mike Johnson at Caltrans for more insight on preventative maintenance and its relationship to the SHOPP.

E. CTC Updates

1. Legislative Update

- **Presenter:** Vince Ma, CTC

- **Overview:**
 - Provided a brief overview of the state budget, which was released January 10th, and its implications for transportation. There are not a lot of significant changes from last year, but there will likely be a significant set aside for disaster relief and the budget number will likely be very different for the May revise.
 - **Comments:**
 - **Aaron Hoyt:** Asked about the avenues within the existing funding programs to aid in the emergency response and rebuilding efforts for the LA wildfires.
 - **Keith Duncan, Caltrans:** Explained the process and potential funding sources for emergency relief and recovery efforts. Senate Bill 1 funding is locked into those programs, the SHOPP does have some emergency projects. In the budget, funds could be appropriated as necessary for emergency transportation purposes.

2. Active Transportation Program

- **Presenter:** Jaeden Gales, CTC
- **Overview:**
 - Provided updates on the Active Transportation Program (ATP). Mentioned ongoing debriefs with applicants from the most recent cycle, reach out to Jaeden to schedule. Also, the MPO programming spreadsheet is due to the Commission on February 21st.
 - **Comments:** None.

3. SB 1 Programs

- **Presenter:** Matthew Yosgott, CTC
- **Overview:**
 - Discussed the SB1 programs and the timeline for staff recommendations in June (staff recommendations released on June 6th, with Commission approval at the June CTC meeting).
 - Introduced the new Transportation Data Program and shared a link to the program's website.
 - **Comments:** None.

4. Local Streets and Roads

- **Presenter:** Alicia Sequeira, CTC

- **Overview:**
 - Reported on the Local Streets and Roads Program, highlighting a 100% reporting compliance and significant project expenditures.
 - **Comments:** None.

5. LTCAP

- **Presenter:** Laurie Waters, CTC (filling in for Rebecca Light)
- **Overview:**
 - Provided an update on the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) program and the upcoming release of staff recommendations on February 7th with program adoption at the March CTC meeting.
 - **Comments:** None.

6. SB 1121 Needs Assessment

- **Presenter:** Destiny Preston, CTC (filling in for Frances Dea-Sanchez)
- **Overview:**
 - Announced the release of the draft report for the 2025 State and Local Transportation System Needs Assessment on February 3rd.
 - **Comments:** None.

7. EAC Membership and Ex Officio Update

- **Presenter:** Matthew Yosgott, CTC (filling in for Sequoia Erasmus)
- **Overview:**
 - Discussed the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) and the upcoming adoption of new membership recommendations.
 - **Comments:** None.

F. Caltrans Updates

1. Local Assistance

- **Presenter:** Wendy King, Caltrans
- **Overview:**
 - Provided updates on the Highway Bridge Program, Emergency Relief Program, and various transit programs.
 - **Comments:**
 - **Mike Woodman:** Emphasized the importance of clear communication regarding the intent of Senate Bill 960 in the Director's Policy on Transit workshops on its applicability to the SHOPP and SHSMP.

2. Obligation Authority Status

- **Presenter:** Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans
- **Overview:**
 - Shared statistics on obligation authority and project delivery trends, urging local agencies to expedite project delivery this FFY.
 - **Comments:** None.

3. State and Federal Budget Update

- **Presenter:** Keith Duncan, Caltrans
- **Overview:**
 - Discussed the state and federal budget updates, including the impact of the wildfires and the redistribution of TIFIA funds.
 - **Comments:** None.

4. Planning

- **Presenters:** Erin Thompson and Brenda Caruso, Caltrans
- **Overview:**
 - Presented that there is \$79,000 of leftover RPA funds available to budget (\$25,000 for the CARL program; \$12,000 for updating the RTPA manual; leaving \$35-40,000). The group discussed using the balance of funds to complete the Rural Induced Demand Study. Aaron Hoyt will bring back a proposal at the next meeting.
 - Announced an increase in RPA funding from \$6.5 million to \$9 million a year beginning in FY 2025/26.
 - Discussed the upcoming Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants and the timeline for OWP submissions.
 - **Comments:** None.

G. Miscellaneous

- **Lisa Davey-Bates:**
 - Inquired about pavement management program updates and the use of AI in these updates.
 - **Comments:**
 - **Tamera Leighton:** Shared her experience with updating the pavement management program and handing it over to the city and county for maintenance.
 - **Jerry Barton:** Mentioned using NCE as a consultant for pavement management updates.

H. Adjourn

- Time: 2:30 PM PST