

**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
(831) 775-0903

Draft Minutes

September 19, 2025

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Aaron Hoyt welcomed participants and asked for new participants to introduce themselves.
- New attendees included James Haskel (Caltrans 5311 Branch Chief), Meenaxi Raval (Caltrans HQ CSIS Program Manager), Mike Costa (PCTPA), Varshar Kotla (Caltrans HQ Regional Coordination Branch Chief), Andy Carter (TCTC), and Ben De Alba (Caltrans HQ Division Chief of Transportation Planning), Shannon Thaggard (EDCTC), and Jeff Findley (MCTC).
- Aaron Hoyt announced agenda adjustments due to time constraints of speakers.

2. CalSTA Sustainable Communities Task Force (Allison Joe, CalSTA)

- Presenter: Allison Joe provided an overview of the Sustainable Communities Task Force mission to align transportation and land use strategies with climate goals.
- Key points: VMT reduction, statutory changes, equity considerations.
- AMBA, SRTA, and RCRC are members of the Sustainable Communities Task Force.
- Questions: Timeline for report completion and stakeholder engagement process?
- Action Item: Allison to develop policy recommendations; Aaron to invite Allison for future updates.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from the prior meeting were approved without objections.
- No questions or comments were received.

4. Information Sharing and Topics of Significance

- Aaron Hoyt and Heather Adamson shared an update on the California Waiver Recission and how it may impact air quality conformity determinations on environmental documents, RTPs, and project level analysis. The recission disallows the use of EMFAC 2021 for air quality modeling. The group discussed the efforts by

Caltrans, CARB, and CALCOG to get a better understanding of the impacts on projects and the timeline to update EMFAC and receive approval from EPA.

5. Presentations

- **CSIS Revised CAPTI Alignment Metrics (Meenaxi Raval, Caltrans)**
 - Presenter: Meenaxi Raval shared updates on CAPTI metrics revisions; public review ends October 10.
 - Discussion: Methodology changes and intake form deadlines.
 - Question: Aaron raised concerns about short turnaround for CSIS intake forms; Meenaxi agreed to relay feedback.
- **Director's Policy on Transit (Jessi Downing, Caltrans)**
 - Presenter: Jessi Downing outlined policy pillars and implementation plan
 - Policy release scheduled for December.
 - Caltrans will begin developing the implementation plan in early 2026 with the draft schedule for adoption in Summer 2026.

6. CTC Updates

- **Legislative Update (Vincent Ma)**
 - Vincent noted the California Legislature recessed on September 13, 2025 until January 5, 2026.
 - SB 470, the Bagley-Keen Open Meeting Act passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
 - SB 840 Cap and Invest Program passed and was signed by the Governor. SB 840 provides \$1 billion off the top for High-Speed Rail, \$800 million for Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, \$400 million for the Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program, and \$400 million for the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. SB 840 changes the amounts to individual program previously issued through Cap and Trade due to the \$1 billion off the top for High-Speed Rail.
- **Active Transportation Program (Anja Aulenbacher)**
 - Anja Aulenbacher reminded the RCTF that Cycle 8 engagement and guideline workshops are underway. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025.
 - Jaeden Gales shared that the Cycle 8 Site Visit and Branch Workshops Registration forms are available on the CTC webpage. The Site Visits are an opportunity to receive feedback on projects being considered for Cycle 8. The Branch Workshops are an opportunity to discuss ATP basics and provide guidance on applying. Registration Ends October 31, 2025.

- **Senate Bill 1 Programs (Matthew Yosgott)**
 - Matthew Yosgott shared that Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, and Local Partnership Program Guidelines Kick-off meeting for Cycle 5 is scheduled for November 2025.
 - Three to four workshops will be hosted for each program.
 - Draft Guidelines are anticipated to be brought to the Commission in June 2026 and the Final Guidelines are anticipated for Commission action in August 2026.
 - The AB 744 Transportation Data Proposal was submitted to the Legislature for consideration. Legislature action is necessary to identify funding to implement the proposal.
- **Local Streets and Roads (Celeste Almanza)**
 - Celeste Almanza stated that 15 agencies did not meet the initial submittal deadline and have until September 30, 2025 to submit for the FY 2025/26 RMA allocation.
 - Expenditure reports for FY 2024/25 are due December 1, 2025.
- **State Transportation Improvement Program (Anja Aulenbacher)**
 - Virtual office hours on the 2026 STIP development are scheduled for October 2nd and October 9th.
 - Reach out to Kacey Gutierrez-Moore if you have any questions.
 - ITIP Public Hearings are scheduled for October 30, 2025 and November 7, 2025. The Draft ITIP will be released on October 15, 2025.
 - Draft RTIPs are due December 15, 2025.

7. Caltrans Updates

- **Local Assistance (Zhongren Wang and Bob Baca)**
 - Zhongren Wang announced that Robert Nguyen is retiring.
 - Bob Baca provided updates on Federal Program; competitive grants and Community Project Funding/Congressional Directed Spending. Bob also shared details on obligation status by Caltrans District.
 - Wendy King announced that Kathy Pongrantz retired. James Haskell will be the Branch Chief for 5311 until December 2025.
 - Wendy also announced that FFY 2024 5311 Grants were approved by FTA. Caltrans will be issuing standard agreements once all projects are programmed.

- Sara Saad from Trinity County shared the challenges with cash flowing transit services due to delays in receiving FTA 5311 funding. Wendy indicated that Caltrans is trying to speed up the distribution of funds to local agencies.
- **Obligation Authority Status (Abhijit Bagde)**
 - Abhijit Bagde gave an update on Obligation Authority. Approximately \$27 million in August redistribution was received.
 - Obligation Plans for FY 2025/26 will begin in November or December.
- **State and Federal Budget Update (Keith Duncan)**
 - Keith Duncan clarified that about \$5 million of the \$27 million in August redistribution went to local agencies, the balance went towards Caltrans projects.
 - No new budgetary updates.
- **Planning (Varsha Kotla and Erin Thompson)**
 - Varsha Kotla thanked agencies for submitting FY 2024/25 Year-end close out reports. Caltrans will prepare and send out reconciliation letters.
 - Approximately \$38k of RPA discretionary funds is available, but not all Q4 invoices have been submitted.
 - Caltrans will continue hosting RTPA OWP Development & Coordination meetings for FY 2026/27 OWPs.
 - Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grants was released on September 8th. Grants are due November 21st.
 - John Clerici asked whether there is a threshold for carryover funds that need to be amended into a subsequent OWP. Erin Thompson confirmed that small amounts (e.g., \$4.13) can be rounded up or down.
 - Erin Thompson indicated that the final RPA discretionary funding will be presented at the next meeting.
 - FY 2025/26 will see an increase in RPA funding from \$6.5 million to \$9 million per year for rural RTPAs.

8. Miscellaneous

- No topics were brought up.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.