

California Rural Counties Task Force
July 21, 2023
Zoom/Teleconference

Draft Minutes

A. Introductions (All)

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

New or infrequent members introduced themselves: David Melko, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, Lina Moeller, IBank, Kevin Tucker, Caltrans Headquarters, Jon Olson, Del Norte County, Benjamin Williams, CTC, Nieves Castro, Caltrans Headquarters, Sabrina Bradbury, CALCOG, Michael Casas, Caltrans Headquarters, and Mona Elbadawy, Caltrans District 3.

B. Approve Minutes (N. Barrett)

There were no comments on the meeting minutes. The May 19, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

C. Information Sharing/Topics of Significance (All)

There were no information sharing/topics of significance items.

D. Wayfinding Apps – Rural Point of Contact (T. Leighton)

Jon Olson, Del Norte County, provided a presentation on wayfinding apps in Del Norte County. Woody Deloria, El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), said they've experienced similar issues in El Dorado County and volunteered to work with Mr. Olson on some of these issues.

E. Planning & Modal Programs Reorganization (M. Flournoy)

Marlon Flournoy, Caltrans, provided an overview of the changes made in the Planning and Modal Programs Division. Mr. Flournoy will provide a new organization chart following the RCTF meeting. Maura Twomey, AMBAG, asked if the org chart would include staff phone numbers/emails. Mr. Flournoy responded that the org chart does not include contact information, but he will also include a staff roster when he sends the org chart.

F. CSIS 2.0 Development (K. Tucker)

Kevin Tucker, Caltrans, provided an update on the Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) 2.0. Chair Barrett, MCOG, suggested that we hold a standalone RCTF workshop rather than having

it as an item at a the regularly scheduled RCTF meeting. Mike Woodman, Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), supports a rural focus workshop(s) and stressed his continued concern with the CSIS using quantitative metrics as it negatively affects rural counties as compared to more urban counties. Mr. Tucker stated that he will follow-up with Chair Barrett on scheduling a CSIS 2.0 workshop for the RCTF in September 2023.

G. Statewide Local Streets & Roads Needs Assessment (D. Leamon)

Mr. Leamon provided an update on the statewide local streets & roads needs assessment and the status of roadways in rural areas. He will be providing an update to the CTC at its August meeting. Laura Pennebaker, CTC, reiterated the importance of local streets & roads and the importance of maintenance with transportation revenues not keeping pace. Ms. Pennebaker also mentioned that SB 1121 (Local and State System Needs Assessment) is kicking off in August 2023. This effort will be similar to what was done back in 2011.

H. California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) (L. Moeller and S. Wright)

Lena Moeller and Steven Wright, IBank, provided an overview of the IBank loan program. IBank is California's only general purpose financing authority. IBank provides financial assistance to support infrastructure and economic development in California.

I. CTC Updates

1. Legislative Update/IIJA (Z. Taylor)

Zach Taylor, CTC, gave a legislative update. He stated that the legislature is currently on recess until mid-August but they are still monitoring bills for any amendments. All the bills of interest have currently made it out of their policy committee and are now in the appropriation committee and have until September 1st to make it out and onto the floor. The Governor has until October 14th to sign or veto bills.

2. Active Transportation Program (B. Newman-Burckhard)

Beverly Newman-Burckhard, CTC, reported that staff are gearing up for Cycle 7 with the full level of funding. Ms. Newman-Burckhard announced that the CTC will be implementing a new online application portal called Submittable. Kickoff workshops are scheduled to be held in mid-August/early September 2023. Branch workshops and site visits will be held in Cycle 7.

3. SB 1 Programs (N. Habib)

Naveen Habib, CTC, reported that SB 1 Competitive Programs (Cycle 3) recommendations were adopted at the June 2023 CTC meeting. CTC staff is starting to think about Cycle 4 and coordinating workshops later this fall.

4. Local Streets and Roads (C. Aceves)

Celeste Aceves, CTC, provided a quick update for the LSR Program. As a reminder, the FY23-24 Annual Project Lists were due by July 1, 2023 for initial eligibility. If local jurisdictions were unable to meet this deadline, there is a subsequent eligibility deadline of September 2023.

5. STIP (K. Ruggerio)

Kacey Ruggerio, CTC, provided a STIP update. Ms. Ruggerio reported that they just held a workshop to discuss the draft guidelines/fund estimate on July 19. Adoption of the 2024 STIP Guidelines is scheduled for the August CTC meeting.

6. SB 671 Clean Freight Corridor Efficiency Assessment Publishing 8/4 (K. Giese)

Kayla Giese, CTC, provided an update on the SB 671 Clean Freight Corridor Efficiency Assessment. The draft report will be posted on August 4th with the other agenda materials.

7. Interagency EAC (S. Erasmus)

Sequoia Erasmus, CTC, provided an update on the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee, including the status ex-officio membership discussions. Ms. Erasmus encouraged members of the RCTF to attend the Interagency EAC meetings. The next Interagency EAC meeting will be a hybrid meeting and is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th at 1pm. Rachel Moriconi, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, asked if the EAC have discussed things that could impact how regions do business and what are the key things that came up at the first two EAC meetings? Ms. Erasmus responded that they haven't gotten too deep into policy discussions at the first two meetings but noted that EAC members have commented that community engagement is important and could identify best practices to use.

8. Other Grant Programs (R. Light)

Beverly Newman-Burckhard, CTC, reported on behalf of Rebecca Light, that the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) notification process instructions went out last week and are posted on the LTCAP page on the CTC website.

J. Caltrans Updates

1. Local Assistance (S. Kalainesan/F. Haslem)

Sujaya Kalainesan, Caltrans, provided a brief update on how the reorganization/integration will be implemented in phases. More details will be provided at the next meeting.

Felicia Haslem, Caltrans, provided a brief update on the OA. Ms. Haslem also reported that FHWA has a new requirement called Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Every E-76 authorization that goes through will need to have this number. There should be one UEI per agency. More information regarding the UEI can be found at: <https://www.localassistanceblog.com/2023/07/10/caltrans-authorization-of-federal-funds-unique-entity-identifier-requirements/>.

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

Keith Duncan, Caltrans, provided a budget update including the supplemental budget bill (AB 102). The draft 2024 STIP fund estimate was presented at the June CTC meeting. The fund estimate is scheduled to be adopted at the August CTC meeting. Mr. Duncan also provided information on SB 125 related to transit operations as well as funding for TICRP and ZEV programs. Guidelines will be established for these programs and workshops held. CALCOG released potential estimates for this new funding.

3. Planning/RTP Guidelines (E. Thompson)

Erin Thompson, Caltrans, provided an update on the RTP Guidelines. CTC and Caltrans staff will hold a workshop with RCTF on the RTP guidelines on August 30th at 1pm. The first draft of the RTPA RTP Guidelines and the 2nd draft of the MPO RTP Guidelines will be released on October 8th for a 30-day public comment period. The Guidelines will be finalized this fall and is scheduled for adoption by the CTC at its January 2024 meeting.

Ms. Thompson also stated that the awards for the FY 2023-24 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant awards will be announced on August 31st. The FY 2024-25 grant guide and call for applications will be released in early October with applications due in January 2024.

Ms. Thompson stated that the RPA carryover totals \$241,000 with \$25,000 for the CARL Program, leaving a balance of \$216,000. Ms. Thompson asked the RCTF what they wanted to do with the remaining \$216,000? Mike Woodman, NCTC, stated that he's a fan of the mini grant programs, however, the Rural Induced Demand Study could benefit from an additional \$25,000 - \$30,000 for increased post study engagement. Woody Deloria, EDCTC, supported the additional funding for the Rural Induced Demand Study and then using the remaining funding for a mini grant program. Chair Barrett agreed with Mr. Deloria's recommendation to use \$25,000 for the Rural Induced Demand Study and the remaining \$119,000 for mini grants. RCTF members were supportive and Ms. Thompson will quickly release the call for mini grants.

K. Miscellaneous (All)

A question was asked regarding a future Caltrans Planning Conference. Ms. Thompson responded that they are exploring having an in person conference in 2025.

L. Adjourn

Chair Barrett adjourned the meeting.