
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**August 25, 2015
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Nord, Greg
Sherwood, Arnie

OCTA
UC Berkeley

SCAG:

Asuncion, John
Luo, Rongsheng
Zhou, Yanlin

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace
Cacatian, Ben
Castro, Fernando
Cheng, Jack
Christian, Shalanda
Chung, Jeeseong
DeHate, Eric
El Harake, Maureen
Gallo, Ilene
Hudson, Kerrie
MacMillan, Ian
Tavitas, Rodney
Tax, Wienke
Vaughn, Joseph

RCTC
VCAPCD
Caltrans District 7
SCAQMD
Caltrans Headquarters
LA Metro
RCTC
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans District 11
Caltrans District 8
SCAQMD
Caltrans Headquarters
EPA Region 9
FHWA

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, welcomed Greg Nord, OCTA, as new TCWG Chair for this fiscal year.

Greg Nord, OCTA, called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 TCWG July 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms TCWG Discussion

1) **LAF7131**

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

In response to a question regarding review status of SR-710 Modeling Protocol, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that SCAG has received EPA's initial comments and EPA staff would like to have a small group discussion among Caltrans, SCAQMD and EPA. Mr. Luo will follow up with SR-710 project lead after the meeting. Ian MacMillan, SCAQMD, stated that the Air District's comments on conformity analysis in Draft SR-710 EIR/EIS apply to the modeling protocol and additional District comments are forthcoming.

4.2 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported three main changes in Draft 2017 FTIP Guidelines excluding Chapters 3 and 4:

- Previous project threshold of \$50 million for CMP has been removed. Project threshold now applies to federally funded projects that increase Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) capacity by one mile or more. CMP measures and a copy of Environmental Analysis Document are now required to be submitted to SCAG's FTIP Database.

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- SCAG is requiring additional information, i.e., program code and type of ATP project, from large scale projects that include an ATP component because it is needed for reporting purposes.
- Previous financial plans were maintained through Excel spreadsheets. To reduce errors and increase efficiency, financial plan is now part of SCAG FTIP Database. It enables automated reports necessary for submission to state and federal funding agencies.

In addition, Mr. Asuncion reported that SCAG is accepting comments on Draft 2017 FTIP Guidelines through September 3, 2015; 2017 FTIP Guidelines is scheduled to be presented to SCAG's Transportation Committee (TC) as an information item in October 2015, and then to the TC and Regional Council for approval in November 2015.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, provided an overview of two conformity chapters in Draft 2017 FTIP Guidelines (Chapters 3 and 4) and highlighted the following proposed major changes in these two chapters:

- Only Section 3 of Chapter 3 has substantial changes. Specifically, all nine tables in this section have been updated. These changes are made to remove years that have passed, to add new 2016 RTP/SCS horizon year 2040, and to change or add years in response to court rulings regarding 2008 8-hour ozone or 2012 annual PM_{2.5} standard.
- Revisions in Chapter 4 are mainly for clarifications. The first clarification, under list of Non-Reportable TCMs, is to clarify that an individual project with three or fewer stand-alone HOV ramps is considered a non-reportable TCM. This clarification was previously discussed and determined by TCWG. The remaining three clarifications are all at end of *Section D. TCM Project Categories for the SCAB and SCCAB*: (1) A project to convert HOV lanes from limited access to continued access only is not a transportation project as defined by the transportation conformity regulations and is therefore not a TCM project; (2) An extension of completion date for an ongoing project is not considered delay; and (3) A committed TCM is considered complete if it is open for service even though it may need to stay in the FTIP database for other purposes.

4.3 RTP Update

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, on behalf of Daniel Tran, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG staff had concluded a series of 2016 RTP/SCS workshops throughout SCAG region and received valuable feedback from stakeholders, partner agencies, and the public.

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- SCAG staff was still in process of modeling for Draft 2016 RTP/SCS and anticipated modeling results in August or September 2015. Draft 2016 RTP/SCS is currently scheduled to be released this coming fall or winter.
- Meeting calendar on SCAG's website includes a list of upcoming Joint Policy Committees and Regional Council meetings as related to 2016 RTP/SCS.

4.4 EPA Update

Wienke Tax, EPA Region 9, reported the following:

- EPA Administrator signed a proposed rule on August 19, 2015 to reclassify a number of Marginal nonattainment areas under 2008 8-hour ozone standard.
- Only area affected in SCAG region is Imperial County which will be reclassified from Marginal to Moderate once EPA finalizes proposed action.

In response to questions, Ms. Tax, clarified the following:

- Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) will need to prepare a SIP because of the bump-up classification; and EPA is proposing January 1, 2017 as SIP due date.
- Court-order deadline for finalizing 2015 8-hour Ozone national standards is October 1, 2015.

4.5 ARB Update

None.

4.6 Air District Update

Jack Cheng, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- Next AQMP Advisory Group meeting would be held on August 26, 2015.
- SCAQMD had released eight of the ten White Papers. Last two White Papers, Energy Outlook and Facility Modernization, were expected to be released soon.

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported that VCAPCD is still working on emissions inventory and anticipates to start generating Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM) list in September 2015 for its AQMP.

In response to a question regarding Draft AQMP/SIP release date, Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported that Draft SIP for VCAPCD is anticipated to be released in February or March 2016; Jack Cheng, SCAQMD, reported via email after meeting that Draft 2016 South Coast AQMP is anticipated to be released in Fall 2015 and Final 2016 South Coast AQMP is scheduled to be ready for Board approval in April 2016.

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5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

None.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.