

**Rural County Task Force**  
**January 17, 2003, Meeting**  
*Draft minutes/notes*

Current Chair, Celia McAdam, opened the meeting, self-introductions and approval of minutes followed.

Mention was made of a “Small Transit Operators” workshop at the April CTC meeting in Redding. George D. handed out a description of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Award given to Alpine, Amador and Calaveras Counties regarding their “Tri-Counties Transportation Agreement.” A thanks goes to Charles Field for putting this agreement together.

**Agenda Item C. – Election of Officers for 2003**

- George Dondero was nominated to be the Chair and elected. The Chair’s term is a two-year term.
- Kathryn Mathews was nominated to be the Vice-Chair and elected. The Vice-Chair’s term is one or two years. The Vice-Chair is important in that the Vice-Chair will eventually become the Chair.
- Gerry Le Francois was nominated and elected to be this years Secretary. The Secretary serves a one-year term. Thanks to Celia for her years of hard work as the Chair and to Pam Couch for being the Secretary. A future event (luncheon?) will be held for Celia.

**Agenda Item D. – Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) and RCTF Coordination Activities**

- Celia and George met with RCRC Staff about collaborating on future issues that are important to various RCTF members. Coordination with RCRC could open up a whole range of possibilities. Some natural coordination activities include working on legislative issues and using RCTF expertise in transportation and transportation related issues. Mary Pitto is the assigned RCRC liaison to RCTF. She can be reached at 916 447-4806 or [maryp@rcrc.net.org](mailto:maryp@rcrc.net.org)

**Agenda Item E. – State Budget Crisis Transportation Issues**

- We hope everyone was able to attend the California Transportation Commission Workshop in the morning. The CTC committed to holding a future workshop regarding the budget and the evolving budget (stay tuned).  
Summary of issues discussed:
  - Cuts are being proposed across the state, currently they are just proposals
  - Don’t take anything for granted
  - Politics aside, if your jurisdiction needs a certain project, you may need to get creative to find the resources to complete it
  - Proposed cutbacks to Caltrans, may hurt project delivery
  - Second quarter TIP monies will not be withheld from cities and counties
  - What changes may our agencies have to make short-term and or long-term
  - If you have an approved allocation, keep your project moving forward
  - Project delays may make you vulnerable
  - Don’t let TCRP mess with the STIP (if TCRP projects are just dumped into the STIP, this will be a big RCTF issue)
  - Keep the STIP whole
  - Lets stick with the RTIP/STIP process that RTPA’s developed in the first place
  - We may need to work with RCRC sooner than we think
  - Let your elected officials know how important the STIP is to your organization
  - Consider how changes to the STIP will impact your projects
  - Projects that are further out in the programming process, could they be moved further out, what are the impacts if this happens

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- In the higher elevations, a delay of two months could push the project into the next construction season due to weather
- Does the RCTF want to write a letter to the CTC regarding how important it is to make some (?) allocations in February
- Will the CTC have some guidelines in the near term about what they will want to see from RTPA's and MPO's
- On TCRP's, will the SHA be paid back w/ interest from the General Fund, this hurts RCTF members because we are loaning money that will never be paid back, this reduces everyone's 2004 STIP shares
- Require the TCRP projects to repay the SHA
- What about Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds, are they funds frozen also
- What about State Only Funding (SOF) on current projects

Comments from Stephen Maller, Caltrans – CTC will probably not make any allocations at their February Meeting. Because TCRP contracts have been given out of the State Highway Account (SHA), and no funds will be repaid from the General Fund to the SHA. There cannot be a negative balance in the SHA, and until the State knows the amount of money coming in, all allocations are on hold. Stephen suggests you ask for your allocation in February and state why you need it (short construction season, etc.)

#### **Agenda Item F. – Proposed Changes to the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Program**

- Handout distributed at the meeting from the TEA Committee
- TEA program will be put back into the STIP. Currently 10% of the TEA goes to the SHOPP. This is currently staff's proposal. There are five take offs (of funds) proposed for TEA: 1) Administration, 2) Maintenance and Operations, 3) SHOPP, 4) Local Assistance and 5) EEM. This is only a proposal and the CTC may choose something different.
- Phil Dow as a member of the TEA Advisory Committee and after many meetings had these comments:
  - This proposal is not part of the process with 10% SHOPP off the top
  - End run on the state share issue
  - Putting the TEA back into the STIP may be a good idea, but 5 years ago TEA was taken out of the STIP because it did not work
  - The original proposal should be given a chance
  - The TEA advisory committee spent a great deal of time on the state share issue and will recommend this item be put off for the time being.
- SCAG stated that TEA is one of their most popular programs; delivery is almost 100% now that SCAG partners understand the program. Why are we are going to change it.

Questions came up about set aside funds for Planning, Programming and Monitoring. Stephen Maller suggested asking for your allocations just like you would for project allocations. It is recommended that you prepare your Overall Work Programs for PPM allocation as normal. Fiscal year 03-04 PPM allocations should be submitted before the end of the fiscal year.

#### **Agenda Item G. – Provision of Caltrans Liaison Staff**

Celia introduced Susan Tappan as the RCTF liaison person for the next few months working on short-term tasks. She will be developing a workshop on project charters and can be helpful for RCTF members on just finding the right person to talk with at Headquarters. Her phone is 916 803-0955 and email; [susan\\_tappan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:susan_tappan@dot.ca.gov)

#### **Agenda Item H. – Status Report on RCTF Issues**

- Delete ITSP from the list
- Rural Transit (FTA 5310) has been assign to Pam Couch
- At the next meeting, the status list should be reviewed

**Closing comments from RCTF members**

- Pam Couch mentioned the proposed TDA changes and Ric Morales should be invited to a future RCTF meeting.
- Comments are still coming up about the DBE program and the \$1,000 annual fee. RCTF should explore an alternative fee structure for DBE issues.
- 10% oversight committee, Caltrans is working on the criteria for this quality assurance fee, but RCTF members want this as an “expediting fee.”
- Phil Dow reports on Lake and Mendocino’s self help sales tax effort. STARR (Sales Tax Authorization for Road Repairs) should be on the June 3, 2003, ballot.

**Adjournment to March 21, 2003**