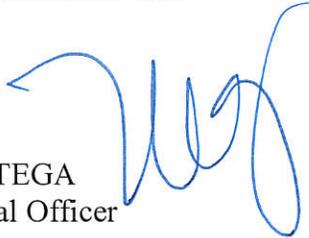


Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
CALIFORNIA ROAD CHARGE TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TAC Meeting: November 20, 2015

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer



Reference No.: 6.a.
Information Item

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Subject: **Follow-Up Questions from October 23, 2015 Meeting**

ISSUE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the project team's responses to questions that were posed by the committee members during the October 23, 2015 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.

UPDATE:

Q – Compare questions 7 and 8 from the TAC telephone survey to other surveys that asked similar questions, and explain to the extent possible variations in responses.

A – The phrasing and results of questions 7 and 8 from the TAC telephone survey are summarized below:

Q7: How would you rate the quality of streets and roads in your neighborhood?

- Excellent: 14%
- Good: 58%
- Poor: 22%
- Very Poor: 5%

Q8: How would you rate the quality of state highways in your area?

- Excellent: 9%
- Good: 64%
- Poor: 21%
- Very Poor: 4%

Survey #1: Earlier this year, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) published results of a comprehensive poll *Californians and Their Government*. It covered statewide public policy issues and was conducted in March 2015. Among the results was the following: “Would you say the condition of roads, highways, and bridges is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?”

- Big problem: 34%
- Somewhat of a problem: 33%
- Not much of a problem: 32%

The results of the TAC survey and the PPIC survey are not necessarily inconsistent, depending on how the term “somewhat of a problem” is interpreted. Notice that the TAC survey offered “good” and “poor” as choices, but no midpoint option such as “fair.” This framing forced participants to make a judgment between “good” and “poor.” The PPIC pool allowed a midpoint response with the answer “somewhat of a problem.”

- “Poor” plus “Very Poor” from the TAC survey is very similar to “Big problem” from the PPIC survey.
- “Good” plus “Excellent” from the TAC survey is very similar to “Somewhat of a problem” plus “Not much of a problem” from the PPIC survey.

It is important nonetheless to note differences in the questions asked.

- The TAC asked separately about “*quality of streets and roads in your area.*” The PPIC, on the other hand, framed the question in terms of the degree of the *problem*. These two terms – quality and problem – elicit distinct responses.
- The TAC asked specifically about streets and roads “in your neighborhood,” which is distinct from the PPIC’s question about transportation problems “in your part of California.” It seems reasonable to wager that most respondents assumed a broader geography in response to the latter question, which may have influenced their thinking.
- Finally, the TAC survey separated “streets and roads” from “state highways,” while the PPIC survey asked about “roads, highways, and bridges” as a single question. While statistically there was little difference among the two distinct TAC survey questions, the mere separation of the question and starting with “streets and roads” may have influenced the respondents to think with a localized perspective, while the PPIC survey may have influenced respondents to think with a more regional perspective.

Survey #2: In April 2015, the California Alliance for Jobs commissioned a survey that asked two questions, summarized below, which are very similar to the TAC’s questions 7 and 8:

How would you rate the quality of local streets and roads in your area?

- Excellent + Good: 47%
- Fair + Poor: 52%

How would you rate the quality of state highways in your area?

- Excellent + Good: 58%
- Fair + Poor: 40%

In addition to the fact that the TAC survey did not offer “Fair” as a choice, as discussed above, a big difference between the TAC survey and this survey is the sample. This survey appears to use a likely voter model, which would be appropriate given the subject. As an example of the consequences of this distinction, the age profile of the sample is older (40% age 60+, and 60% age 50+), compared to the TAC survey (only 20% age 65+ and 29% age 55+). This could also have impacted the results.

Survey #3: In June 2015, Professor Asha Weinstein Agrawal and co-author Hilary Nixon of the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University published results of their sixth annual national survey *What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads?* Among the results was the following: “In the community

where you live, would you say that roads and highways are in very good condition, somewhat good condition, or bad condition?"

- Very good condition: 21%
- Somewhat good condition: 55%
- Bad condition: 24%

Although a national survey in scope, these results are similar to the results of the TAC survey.