



August 24, 2015

Ms. Lucetta Dunn, Chair  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Mail Station 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: California Transportation Commission Adoption of 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines

Dear Chair Dunn:

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your staff for the past year on the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines. The regional agencies appreciate the cooperativeness and collaboration among the regions and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff in developing an improved, streamlined process for the submittal and approval of the regional agencies' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) projects to meet state and regional goals and priorities. An example of this work is the development of the RTIP template that will provide CTC staff and the public a more cohesive way of reviewing RTIP submittals.

We understand there have been late additions to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines and that CTC staff has made changes to the guidelines to address some of the issues raised. However, any more changes to the STIP guidelines at this late juncture would not be appropriate as the regional agencies, which are the intended users of the guidelines, would not have adequate time to review changes or new requirements that would directly impact them.

CTC staff included additional language in the guidelines reflecting the Governor's Executive Order B-30-15. It is important to highlight that STIP projects are analyzed at the regional level for air quality conformity, and for meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets established by California Air Resource Board. All projects included in RTIP submittals are consistent with the respective adopted Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. In addition, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires specific analysis at the project level regarding air quality and life cycle costs, and each project proposed for STIP funding is required to submit its CEQA document to the CTC for approval under the "Future Consideration of Funding" agenda item. Therefore, any additional language regarding consistency with Executive Order B-30-15 should be addressed as part of the development of the CTC's guidelines for the Regional Transportation Plan as that is the appropriate document that addresses a comprehensive approach on meeting regional, state, and federal goals related to air quality conformity and emissions targets.

The Chief Executive Officers from the Transportation Agencies within the Southern California Association of Governments region support the CTC staff recommendation to adopt the 2016 STIP Guidelines currently included in the August 27, 2015 CTC agenda with no further changes. Any additional changes should only provide clarification to the guidelines.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. As always, we look forward to our continuing partnership with the CTC.

Sincerely,



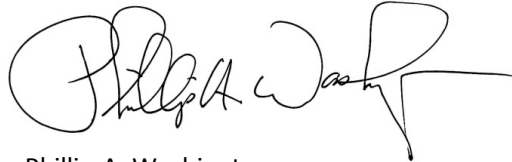
Anne Mayer  
Executive Director  
Riverside County Transportation Commission



Darrell Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Orange County Transportation Authority



Raymond Wolfe  
Executive Director  
San Bernardino Association of Governments



Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
Transportation Authority



Darren Kettle  
Executive Director  
Ventura County Transportation Commission



Mark Baza  
Executive Director  
Imperial County Transportation Commission



Hasan Ikhata,  
Executive Director  
Southern California Association of Governments

- c: Mr. Will Kempton, Executive Director, CTC  
Mr. Robert Alvarado, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. Darius Assemi, Commissioner, CTC  
Ms. Yvonne B. Burke, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. James Earp, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. Dario Frommer, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. James Ghielmetti, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. Carl Guardino, Commissioner, CTC  
Ms. Fran Inman, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. James Madaffer, Commissioner, CTC  
Mr. Joe Tavaglione, Commissioner, CTC



August 25, 2015

Lucy Dunn  
Chair  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, MS-52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Adoption of the 2016 STIP Guidelines**

Dear Chair Dunn:

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your staff for the past year on the development of the 2016 STIP Guidelines. AMBAG appreciates the cooperativeness and collaboration among the regions and CTC staff in developing an improved, streamlined process for the submittal and approval of our RTIP projects to meet state and regional goals and priorities.

Recent language that the CTC staff has included reflects compliance with the Governor's Executive Order B-30-15. It is important to highlight that STIP projects are analyzed at the regional level for air quality conformity, including meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets established by California Air Resource Board. All projects included in RTIP submittals are consistent with the respective adopted RTP/SCS that undergo extensive public outreach and participation as part of each RTP/SCS's multi-year development. In addition, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) also requires specific analysis at the project level regarding air quality and life cycle costs, and each project proposed for STIP funding is required to submit its CEQA document to the CTC for approval under the Future Consideration of Funding agenda item. Finally, STIP funding is one of many sources that regions use to deliver our suite of transportation programs and projects.

AMBAG supports the CTC staff recommendation to adopt the 2016 STIP Guidelines currently included in the August 27, 2015 CTC agenda with no further changes.

If you have any further questions, you may contact me or Heather Adamson, Director of Planning at (831) 264-5086.

Sincerely,

Maura F. Twomey  
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Robert Alvarado, Commissioner  
Mr. Darius Assemi, Commissioner  
Ms. Yvonne B. Burke, Commissioner  
Mr. James Earp, Commissioner  
Dario Frommer, Commissioner

James Ghielmetti, Commissioner  
Carl Guardino, Commissioner  
Ms. Fran Inman, Commissioner  
James Madaffer, Commissioner  
Mr. Joe Tavaglione, Commissioner  
Will Kempton, Executive Director

August 26, 2015

Ms. Lucetta Dunn, Chair  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Mail Station 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CTC Adoption of 2016 STIP Guidelines

Dear Chair Dunn:

The California Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Group (RTPA group) has appreciated the opportunity to work with California Transportation Commission staff for the past year on development of the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines. Regional Agencies utilize STIP funding along with other critical fund sources to deliver a suite of projects that address regional priorities and meet statewide goals. We appreciate the cooperativeness and collaboration among the regions and CTC staff in making improvements to the guidelines. An example of this work is the voluntary development of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) template by the Regional Agencies. The template will make RTIP submittals more consistent statewide and will present a visualization tool that provides information in an organized and transparent manner.

The RTPA group appreciates that additional language has been added to the STIP Guidelines to reflect the Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 on climate change. However, when considering the Executive Order, it is important to acknowledge that STIP projects are analyzed at the regional level for air quality conformity, and for meeting greenhouse gas emission reduction targets established by the California Air Resources Board. All projects included in RTIP submittals are consistent with the respective adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). In addition, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) also requires specific analysis at the project level regarding air quality and life cycle costs, and each project proposed for STIP funding is required to submit its CEQA document to the CTC for approval under the 'Future Consideration of Funding' agenda item. Therefore, any additional revisions to the guidelines regarding consistency with Executive Order B-30-15 should be addressed as part of the development of the CTC's Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines as that is the appropriate document that addresses a comprehensive approach on meeting regional and statewide goals. Per Item Number 9 of the Governor's Executive Order, the RTPA group would support convening a statewide technical advisory group to consider how the State and Regions can work cooperatively in further implementing the Governor's Executive Order. Lastly, any administrative impacts on regional agencies should be considered by the state when considering the Executive Order.

The RTPA Group supports the CTC staff recommendation to adopt the 2016 STIP Guidelines currently included in the August 27, 2015 CTC agenda, including the changes recommended by CTC staff per the 'yellow' meeting book item. However, it is important to note that the RTPA group highly discourages any additional changes to the guidelines at this late juncture on the premise that the regional agencies, which are the intended users of the guidelines, would not have adequate time to review and assess the direct and indirect impacts to the respective regions. Furthermore, additional changes to the guidelines may ultimately impact RTIP submittals that are due to the Commission by December 15 further impacting the potential to meet established regional and statewide goals.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 961-8900 or by email at [skhachek@sbcag.org](mailto:skhachek@sbcag.org).

Sincerely,



Sarkes M. Khachek  
Moderator  
Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Group

cc:

Commissioners, California Transportation Commission  
California State Transportation Agency Secretary, Brian Kelly  
California State Transportation Agency Undersecretary, Brian Annis  
California Transportation Commission Director, Will Kempton  
California Department of Transportation Director, Malcolm Dougherty