

California Transportation Commission
Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines
2010 Update Subcommittee

Meeting Notes – Summary

Tuesday July 14, 2009 10:00am – 12:00pm

California Energy Commission, Hearing Room B
1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA

Facilitator: Rusty Selix, California Association of Councils of Government (CalCOG)

Summary of Key Comments:

Pursuant to Government Code 14522.1(a)2, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) is convening this subcommittee to obtain input and formulate language for the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines. This update will incorporate the statutory provisions of Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) as well as other relevant issue areas determined by the subcommittee into the guidelines for RTP's.

The proposed timeline for the RTP Guidelines update process involves subcommittee input and development of draft RTP Guidelines to be presented as information to the Commission by December 2009. Subsequent public review and hearings will be conducted by the California Transportation Commission in January and February 2010, followed by CTC adoption of the final 2010 California RTP Guidelines. While this is the anticipated timeline, it is understood that there may be unforeseen issues that may affect this proposed schedule.

Commission staff requested help in ensuring that local representation is included in this subcommittee. A suggestion was made to contact the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties regarding local representation.

The purpose of the first subcommittee meeting was to 1.) Provide background information on the RTP Guidelines update process, 2.) Obtain input from subcommittee members regarding issues that should be addressed in the 2010 RTP Guidelines update and 3.) Identify areas that are not relevant to the guidelines update at this time.

Ron West provided a brief overview of the work the Modeling Subcommittee will be undertaking. He explained that the subcommittee will begin with the 2008 RTP Guideline addendum that was adopted in 2008 by the Commission.

Air Resources Board staff provided information on the efforts of the 21 member Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC), which was established to recommend methods and factors to ARB for setting regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The next RTAC meeting is scheduled for July 22 in Sacramento followed by a meeting on August 8 in Los Angeles.

Caltrans staff provided a presentation (see PowerPoint presentation) which outlined the purpose of the RTP Guidelines update and emphasized the function of the Guidelines to ensure consistency among regional transportation planning efforts. The RTP Guidelines are not intended to be overly prescriptive, but should provide sufficient guidance to address regional needs and circumstances while clearly identifying state and federal requirements for RTP's. The 2010 RTP Guidelines update is based upon new requirements for RTP's pursuant to statutory provisions of SB 375. In addition to SB 375 requirements, the update will also need to address provisions of AB 1396 regarding the California Coastal Trail, integration of Corridor System Management Plans and how rural areas and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies can address climate change pursuant to AB 32.

Some of the SB 375 statutory provisions that Caltrans presented for the 2010 RTP Guidelines update include:

- Provision of new modeling guidance in addition to that provided in the 2008 RTP Guidelines Addendum (this is to be completed in coordination with the RTP Guidelines Modeling Subcommittee).
- Description and guidance regarding what constitutes a sustainable communities strategy (SCS).
- Identification of what is included in an alternative planning strategy (APS). Guidance regarding the APS will be included as an Appendix to the RTP Guidelines.

Some of the major issues related to SB 375 raised by subcommittee members for incorporation into the RTP Guidelines update process included:

1. A flow chart which illustrates the sequencing of RTP (and SCS/APS) development, review and adoption (including illustration of ARB and CEQA review and the RHNA allocation process). Caltrans will prepare this flowchart for discussion at the next subcommittee meeting.
2. ARB staff was requested to provide a summary of the policy areas identified by the RTAC that have implications to the RTP Guidelines.
3. Clarification regarding the exemption of transportation projects pursuant to Government Code 65080(K). The guidelines should provide a definition of exempt projects. An example of an issue requiring clarification with respect to a sales tax measure project, was the question if the project is only funded partially with sales tax, is the entire project still exempt?
4. Guidance which takes into account a region's resources and needs. For example, providing options and solutions that will serve both large and small MPO's, similar to the approach used in the modeling guidelines addendum.
5. Guidance and clarification regarding the contents of a sustainable communities strategy including but not limited to: explanation of how the SCS will address (regional and inter-regional) population and housing, housing affordability,

- reasonable planning assumptions and use of local plans, identification of farmland and resource lands etc.
6. Clarification and guidance regarding the financial constraint requirements for the SCS and APS.
 7. Clarification of whether the no project alternative considered in the review of an environmental impact report associated with a Regional Transportation Plan should be allowed to contain existing proposed projects. Should guidance be provided on this issue within the RTP Guidelines or is this better suited for inclusion in the CEQA guidelines?
 8. As we update the RTP Guidelines, should the guidelines recommend an SCS for the rural areas?
 9. As we start this process, a recommendation was made to use the last addendum as the basis for moving forward.
 10. Congestion relief is a primary area that should be addressed in the update.
 11. It is likely that there will be changes to federal law that will require an update to the guidelines. However, we will recognize this but continue our update knowing that additional updates may be needed in the future.
 12. Should include/consider the smart mobility framework that Caltrans has developed.
 13. Performance measures should be addressed in both committees. This committee will focus on the performance measures that are needed. The Modeling subcommittee to look at how to measure the performance. ARB staff informed the subcommittee that the RTAC is developing performance measures that can be shared with the subcommittee.
 14. Concern as to whether the RTP should be based on allocations in anticipation that the housing element will be amended or should the housing element already adopted form the basis for the RTP.
 15. Agriculture and resources may be new to the RTP process and the guidelines will need to address this.
 16. Question was raised whether the RTP guidelines should take into consideration fuels and technology through corridor planning techniques.

Action Item Summary:

- Caltrans staff will prepare an outline, for discussion at the next meeting, which proposes suggested update areas to the RTP Guidelines and justification for any update areas that are not included.
- ARB Staff will provide performance and policy areas under consideration by the RTAC that have implications to the RTP Guidelines.
- Caltrans and Commission staff will confer with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to clarify the intersection of the RTP Guidelines and the CEQA Guidelines for discussion at the next meeting.
- Caltrans will prepare a draft RTP Guideline Update for discussion at the August 25, 2009 Subcommittee meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next subcommittee meeting will be held Tuesday July 28, 2009 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the California Energy Commission Hearing Room B.

Meeting Materials Provided:

- California Statutes Impacting RTP Development – Prepared & Discussed by Garth Hopkins, Caltrans
- 2009 RTP Guidelines Update – Prepared & Presented by Garth Hopkins, Caltrans
- Pre-Meeting Handout – Regional Transportation Plans General Overview – Prepared & Presented by La Nae van Valen, Caltrans