

## **California Transportation Commission**

### **Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines 2010 Update Subcommittee**

#### **Housing and Land Use Workgroup**

#### **Teleconference Meeting Notes – Summary**

Monday September 14, 2009 11:00am – noon

Facilitators: Rusty Selix, California Association of Councils of Government (CalCOG) and Garth Hopkins, Caltrans

#### **Summary of Key Comments:**

The Housing and Land Use Workgroup (Workgroup) was convened to review how the update of the RTP Guidelines document should address the impacts to the RTP process regarding housing and land use as a result of SB 375. The Workgroup should focus on the statutory requirements of SB 375 relating to RTP changes regarding housing and land use.

Rusty Selix, CalCOG, welcomed all Workgroup members and outlined the purpose of the meeting which is to identify specific changes that need to be made to the SCS Chapter of the RTP Guidelines as well as discussion of suggested changes to the entire RTP Guidelines document regarding Housing and Land Use.

Workgroup and Subcommittee members expressed concerns that the release date of the RTAC recommendation report on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the ARB consideration hearing of the RTAC report on November 19<sup>th</sup> provide constraints in commenting on RTP guidance. Susan Bransen, CTC, explained that she relayed the subcommittee concerns that were raised with respect to timing for developing this guidance to the Commission at the September 9<sup>th</sup> CTC meeting. She informed the Commission that a statewide teleconference was scheduled to discuss the timing for the update with the MPOs for the purpose of determining whether the schedule should be adjusted. Rusty Selix stated that the RTP Guidelines update process should continue despite the RTAC and ARB target setting process. It was decided that the RTP Guidelines Subcommittee and Workgroups will move forward with updating the Guidelines and that CTC and Caltrans staff will continue to work on development of a timeline that takes into consideration the target setting process, MPO need for guidance in a timely manner and plans to convene a Full RTP Guidelines Workgroup during the fall.

Rusty Selix and Garth Hopkins opened the discussion for specific comments regarding the Draft SCS Chapter of the RTP Guidelines related to housing and land use.

Workgroup members provided numerous comments regarding Land Use and Housing issues in the Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy Chapter and RTP Guidelines which were noted by staff and are summarized below:

1. Linda Wheaton, HCD, identified two key issues that should be addressed by the Workgroup prior to consideration of draft language in the SCS chapter:
  - 1.) Clarification of federal review of reasonable land use assumptions and 2.) The geographic scale at which consistency of RHNA with the SCS development pattern is determined.
2. Linda Wheaton, HCD, also stated that EPA has issued new guidance regarding the use of latest planning assumptions in transportation conformity determination. HCD would like input regarding how the assumption process is conducted in different regions and specifically how differences in assumptions between local plans is reconciled.
3. Paul Fassinger, ABAG, reported that their local planning assumption process involved extensive local agency input, the use of local general plans for modeling input and monitoring reports submitted to FHWA which monitored consistency with local general plans.
4. Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported that MTC was the first MPO to use land use assumptions that were not historical trends. Monitoring reports were used to report on this process however, monitoring is not a federal requirement. MPOs are required to consult with FHWA and EPA, the use of monitoring reports is not mandatory.
5. Joseph Vaughn reported that FHWA defers to the individual MPO to prove that realistic land use assumptions are used in the development of the RTP.
6. Linda Wheaton, HCD, expressed additional concern that land use and zoning changes necessary to accommodate the RHNA for a region are not always reflected in current general plans.
7. Rusty Selix suggested that the guidelines provide language stating that in making land use assumptions, anticipated land use and zoning changes are incorporated to address the RHNA.
8. Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG, explained that the RHNA is a common land use assumption which goes into base and future year assumptions. This process is very specific to each MPO based upon their modeling capability.
9. David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF, expressed concern that the connotation associated with “realistic” planning assumptions implies a “business as usual” attitude toward the use of land use assumptions and doesn’t challenge MPO’s and jurisdictions to change land use patterns.
10. Amanda Eaken, NRDC, and Linda Wheaton, HCD, raised the concern that many local general plans are out of date and therefore cannot be relied upon to provide realistic land use assumptions.
11. Mark Stivers, Senate Housing and Transportation, stated that “realistic” should include any reasonably foreseeable land use change and cited that there are constraints in federal law regarding land use assumptions.
12. Bill Higgins, League of CA Cities, and DeAnn Baker, CSAC, cautioned against characterizing “realistic land use assumptions” in a negative manner citing that air quality conformity determination should be made based upon feasible assumptions and that there needs to be a proper nexus between regional transportation investments and expected future land use.

13. Karina O'Connor, EPA, suggested that the term “reasonable” be used rather than “realistic.”
14. Garth Hopkins, Caltrans, suggested that staff prepare a Land Use Assumptions section for the RTP Guidelines that can provide some guidance and best practices for small, medium, and large MPOs.
15. Rusty requested that Caltrans and HCD work together to develop questions that need to be answered with respect to land use assumptions. Caltrans agreed to contact several MPOs of varying sizes to prepare a summary of land use assumption processes used in the RHNA and RTP preparation. Staff will also consult with FHWA, EPA and HCD as needed.

Rusty concluded the meeting by asking Workgroup members to focus on specific language suggestions for the SCS Chapter and RTP Guidelines. Caltrans staff will incorporate all comments received and specific language suggestions are appreciated.

**Action Item Summary:**

- Caltrans staff will prepare a Land Use Assumptions section for the RTP Guidelines.
- Caltrans staff will work with HCD, contact several MPO's of varying sizes and have them prepare a summary of their land use assumption methods used in the federal conformity process.
- Caltrans and Commission staff will consult with FHWA, EPA, and HCD as needed.

**Next Meeting:**

The Workgroup requested that the next Workgroup meeting be postponed given that many of the workgroup members are participating on the RTAC recommendations efforts due September 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the next Workgroup teleconference scheduled for Monday 9/21 was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

**Meeting Materials Provided:**

- Housing and Land Use Workgroup September 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda
- Housing and Land Use Workgroup Member List
- California Statutes Impacting RTP Development
- September 8<sup>th</sup> RTP Guidelines Draft SCS Chapter 3.40 with Comments