

California Transportation Commission

Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines 2010 Update Subcommittee

Public Participation Workgroup

Teleconference Meeting Notes – Summary

Monday September 14, 2009 10:00am – 11:00am

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

Summary of Key Comments:

The Public Participation Workgroup (Workgroup) was convened to further review how community members should be involved in the RTP development process. Susan Bransen, CTC, and Garth Hopkins, Caltrans, welcomed all Workgroup members and outlined the purpose of the meeting which is to identify how the public should be involved in the SCS development process and other SB 375 required public participation components. Garth Hopkins, Caltrans, explained that the Workgroup will first review SB 375 requirements, identify how public participation is addressed in the current RTP Guidelines, and determine how it may be enhanced in the Draft SCS Chapter and entire RTP Guidelines.

The document entitled California Statutes Impacting RTP Development was distributed to Workgroup members via email prior to the meeting. This document contains statutory language from SB 375. Pages 4 and 5 of the document outline requirements for MPO Consultation with Elected Officials as well as requirements for the SCS Public Participation Plan and Public Input.

Rusty Selix and Garth Hopkins opened the discussion for specific comments regarding how the RTP Guidelines should be updated to reflect SB 375 requirements.

Workgroup members provided numerous comments regarding how to update Public Participation Information in the Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy Chapter and RTP Guidelines. Comments were noted by staff and are summarized below:

1. Bill Davis, Southern CA Contractor's Association, stated that based upon his experience in Southern CA, he felt that there is something missing in how public outreach is conducted and would like to see fundamental requirements for how information gets out to the public and media. He cited ARB's comment response process mechanism as a good example.
2. David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF, stated that on page 44, in Section 3.10 of the existing RTP Guidelines, consultation process requirement #5 *Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input on the RTP (documentation)*, is a particularly weak part of the public consultation process.

3. Bruce Abanathie, Liz Brisson, and Coleen Clementson stated that their organizations (KCAG, MTC and SANDAG) include a section within the RTP dedicated to response to public comments.
4. Liz Brisson, MTC, suggested that in response to concerns expressed by Bill Davis and David Schonbrunn, the best practices of an MPO that addresses public participation should be inserted into sections 3.10 and 3.11 of the existing RTP Guidelines.
5. Liz Brisson, MTC, also suggested inserting the Development of the SCS Public Participation Plan and Input/Consultation with Local Elected Officials sections of the SCS Chapter into sections 3.10 and 3.11 of the existing RTP Guidelines to prevent confusion and duplication.
6. Garth Hopkins, Caltrans, agreed that combining these sections is the best course of action and stated that staff will work to integrate the public participation provisions of the SCS chapter into the existing RTP Guidelines.
7. Liz Brisson, MTC, suggested that section 3.11 of the existing guidelines provide more guidance on visualization techniques and suggestions of best practices such as those being used in the GO TO 2040 planning effort being conducted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).
8. Bruce Abanathie, KCAG, suggested that rather than addressing social equity and environmental justice as one section in the SCS Chapter, they should be addressed in each of the SCS areas – housing, land use etc. SANDAG endorsed this suggestion as well.
9. Coleen Clementson, SANDAG and Liz Brisson, MTC, offered to provide information links regarding the public participation efforts of their organizations.

Rusty concluded the meeting by asking all Workgroup members to please send any language comments and suggestions for best practices to Caltrans or CTC staff. Based upon the substantial progress made at this Workgroup meeting, it was decided that no further teleconferences were needed and that all additional correspondence for the Public Participation Workgroup will be conducted via email.

Action Item Summary:

- Caltrans staff will integrate the SCS Chapter public participation sections into sections 3.10 – 3.16 of the existing RTP Guidelines and distribute the updated sections to the Workgroup for review and comment.
- Caltrans staff will incorporate best practices for visualization techniques, public participation and coordination into sections 3.10 – 3.16 of the RTP Guidelines.

Meeting Materials Provided:

- Public Participation Workgroup September 14th Meeting Agenda
- Public Participation Workgroup Member List
- California Statutes Impacting RTP Development
- September 8th RTP Guidelines Draft SCS Chapter 3.40 with Comments