

California Transportation Commission

Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines 2010 Update Subcommittee

RTP Sequencing & Adoption Workgroup

Teleconference Meeting Notes – Summary

Monday September 14, 2009 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Facilitator: Michael Powers, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)

Summary of Key Comments:

The RTP Sequencing & Adoption (Workgroup) was convened to provide technical insight to ensure integration and efficiency of regional, state, and federal review cycles for the Regional Transportation Plan. Facilitator Michael Powers, SBCAG, welcomed all members and outlined the objectives of the Workgroup which is to solicit feedback from state and federal agencies regarding their RTP review processes and ultimately produce a flowchart which will illustrate the various review processes associated with RTP development and adoption. The Workgroup will also provide guidance on the incorporation of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) into the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

Michael asked that the state agency representatives think about their agency review process requirements and how RTP review and adoption will take place given the new requirements of SB 375. He then opened the discussion for specific comments and input regarding RTP Sequencing and Adoption.

Comments and input were noted by staff and are summarized below:

1. Linda Wheaton, HCD, commented that within 18 months of the adoption of the RTP (in non-attainment areas adoption equates to the date of the conformity determination, and in attainment areas adoption is synonymous with MPO board adoption of the RTP), housing elements must be adopted. She is concerned that the RHNA and housing element review process must go forward even if the RTP adoption process is lagging.
2. Michael Powers, SBCAG, noted that a major task of the Workgroup is to figure out how integrate the RHNA process within the RTP and SCS especially regarding scheduling. He asked Linda to provide a best estimate of the RHNA schedule.
3. Michael Powers, SBCAG, inquired as to the review protocol (review period, submittal requirements) that ARB will use to evaluate GHG reduction methodology and for acceptance/rejection of the SCS.
4. Justin Paddock, ARB, responded that given the extensive staff time currently devoted to the RTAC, there has been little internal discussion of the review protocol to be used besides the statutorily mandated 60 day review period of the SCS/APS which will focus on assessment of emissions reduction and an accept or reject decision. Internal discussions are likely to begin after the RTAC report is finished.

5. Garth Hopkins, Caltrans, commented that SB 375 specific language regarding the SCS public participation plan is going to be incorporated into the RTP Guidelines Public Participation section to provide guidance on integrating SB 375 public participation requirements into the existing federal public participation requirements.
6. Michael Powers, SBCAG, asked the Workgroup to weigh-in on how the SCS development process, air quality conformity assessment and CEQA review process need to be accounted for in the sequencing process.
7. Amanda Eaken, NRDC, commented that the SCS development/review process and the air quality conformity assessment process should be integrated as much as possible to incentivize the adoption of an SCS.
8. Michael Powers, SBCAG, commented that the interagency consultation process is a mechanism to ensure that an RTP moves toward approval with consensus from the various reviewing agencies.
9. Linda Wheaton, HCD, offered to research the schedule for MPO RHNA plan updates. Garth Hopkins, Caltrans, offered to research the RTP adoption schedule. Justin Paddock, ARB, offered to work with his agency staff to determine more details associated with ARB review. This information will be compiled and used to develop a RTP Sequencing and Adoption Flowchart.
10. David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF, suggested the development of two charts, a flowchart as well as a chart which displays the various timelines associated with each component of RTP review.

Michael concluded the meeting by asking all Workgroup members to please send any additional comments and suggestions to Caltrans staff. Based upon the substantial progress made at this Workgroup meeting, it was decided that the meeting scheduled for 9/21 would be cancelled to give staff sufficient time to meet with various agency staff.

Action Item Summary:

- Caltrans and Commission staff will meet with HCD, EPA, FHWA, and ARB staff to gather data and work on the development of a sequencing flowchart.

Next Meeting:

The next RTP Sequencing and Adoption Workgroup Teleconference will be held Tuesday September 29th from 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Meeting Materials Provided:

- RTP Sequencing and Adoption Workgroup September 14th Meeting Agenda
- RTP Sequencing and Adoption Workgroup Member List
- RTP Adoption Process Flowchart
- September 8th RTP Guidelines Draft SCS Chapter 3.40 with Comments