

California Transportation Commission

Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines 2010 Update Subcommittee

Regional Targets Advisory Committee Workgroup

Teleconference Meeting Notes – Summary

Friday October 23, 2009 9:00am – 10:00am

Facilitator: Gordon Garry - Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

Participants: Justin Paddock - ARB, Dennis Wade – ARB, Tanisha Taylor – SJCOG, Sande George – APA, Tom Rosewall – California Energy Initiatives, SCAG, Kristine Cai – Fresno COG, Clint Daniels – SANDAG, Chad Baker – Caltrans, La Nae Van Valen – Caltrans, Laura Pennebaker – Caltrans, Susan Bransen – CTC.

Summary of Key Comments:

Facilitator Gordon Garry welcomed all workgroup members and identified the purpose of the RTAC workgroup: to identify key areas in the *Recommendations of the Regional Targets Advisory Committee Pursuant to SB 375* (the Report), as well as how and where that information can be incorporated into the RTP Guidelines, as appropriate.

Susan Bransen – CTC, went over the timeline associated with the RTAC workgroup's efforts. The workgroup should submit all written comments and suggested language to Caltrans staff by November 10th for inclusion in the next guidelines draft which will be released on November 23rd and will be considered as an informational item by the CTC in December. The CTC will hold hearings to formally consider the Draft Guidelines at their regularly scheduled meetings in February and April 2010.

Justin Paddock – ARB, went over the contents of the Report and noted that it is organized into two sections, recommendations to ARB for targets, and recommendations for implementation that are primarily contained in Section 3. He recommended that the workgroup focus efforts on information within Section 3 of the Report. He also noted that best management practices in the Report are referred to as Policies and Practices.

Gordon Garry opened the discussion by asking workgroup members to characterize the “burning issues” and topics from Section 3 of the Report that should definitely be included in the RTP Guidelines.

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

1. Gordon Garry, SACOG, noted that the RTP Guidelines should focus on how to prepare an RTP rather than the content, and that narrative and direction for the content of RTPs should be limited. The workgroup should focus its efforts on the SB 375 required process.

2. Clint Daniels, SANDAG, advised that the workgroup focus on the statutory requirements using “shall” language but also provide recommendations as appropriate as well.
3. Clint Daniels, SANDAG, identified Performance Monitoring language on p. 44 of the Report as helpful and would like to see recommendations on performance measurement incorporated into the Guidelines as appropriate. He identified the broad concept of performance monitoring for meeting congestion management, GHG reduction and other goals as useful information for the Guidelines.
4. Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG, commented that at some point ARB will be setting performance measures for achieving GHG targets, the Guidelines should incorporate that information when it is available.
5. Justin Paddock, ARB, advised that the workgroup should monitor the November 19th ARB meeting in which the board will accept and consider the RTAC Report.
6. Chad Baker, Caltrans, referenced comments submitted by Bob Johnston that recommend the inclusion of co-benefits language on p. 42 and model documentation language starting on p. 17 of the Report.
7. Gordon Garry, SACOG, commented that co-benefits have been very integral to the SACOG blueprint effort but that the term is broad and can be defined in many ways. It would need to be included in the Guidelines in a manner that it not overly prescriptive.
8. Sande George, APA, endorsed the RTAC Report co-benefits language on p. 42 as a good discussion on co-benefits and worth including in the Guidelines.
9. Clint Daniels, SANDAG, and Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG, indicated that everyone interprets co-benefits differently and that MPO boards should have the opportunity to choose their own set of regional priorities. Language regarding co-benefits should not be overly prescriptive.
10. Clint Daniels, SANDAG, and Gordon Garry, SACOG, suggested using the first paragraph of co-benefits language on p. 42 of the Report with some modifications made to the second sentence to offer flexibility in choosing types of co-benefits to emphasize. Clint offered to modify the paragraph and send to Caltrans staff for inclusion in the RTP Guidelines in Section 4.43.
11. Gordon Garry, SACOG, commented that the Incentives for Exceeding Targets information on p. 32 of the Report may be helpful and asked the workgroup to weigh-in on how this information could be included in the Guidelines.
12. Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG, commented that Incentives were also a policy decision for MPO boards and that sufficient flexibility should be provided to policymakers so that incentives can reflect regional priorities.
13. Clint Daniels, SANDAG, suggested that Incentives should be tied to Performance Measures (Section 4.29 of the RTP Guidelines).
14. Gordon Garry, SACOG, suggested that the Guidelines recommend MPOs use Performance Measures to make funding decisions, to encourage member agencies to utilize Performance Measures to achieve Incentives, including the consistency requirements for CEQA relief provided by SB 375. He offered to look at Incentives language on p. 32 of the Report and submit language to Caltrans staff.
15. Sande George, APA, commented that an explanation of CEQA benefits should be included in the Environmental Chapter of the RTP Guidelines.

16. Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG, commented that the realization of CEQA benefits will differ by region and this should be taken into account in the explanation of CEQA benefits.
17. Chad Baker, Caltrans, offered to incorporate Bob Johnston's comments regarding model documentation, include appropriate language from p.17 of the Report, and circulate to the workgroup for review.

Gordon Garry concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and asking that workgroup members send comments or language to him ggarry@sacog.org or Caltrans staff member La Nae Van Valen la.nae.van.valen@dot.ca.gov.

Next Meeting:

The next RTAC Workgroup Teleconference will be held Wednesday November 4th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.