



Regional Planning Partnership

March 22, 2007

Action Summary Minutes

1. Attendance

Michael Brady, Caltrans	Ann Mahaney, Caltrans
Jim Brown, SACOG	David Melko, PCTPA
Jose Luis Caceres, SACOG	Anne Novotny, El Dorado County
Matt Carpenter, SACOG	Refugio Razo Jr., Sacramento County
Jason Crow, SACOG	Benjamin Tam, Caltrans
John Deeter, ECOS	Sharon Tang, Caltrans
Michael Dulude, YCTD	Mark Thomas, City of Rancho Cordova
Tom Garcia, City of Folsom	Brigitte Tollstrup, SMAQMD
Daren Grilley, City of Galt	Patrick Tyner, Caltrans
Pete Hathaway, SACOG	Karen Wilcox, SACOG
Mike Higgins, EDCTC	Olin Woods, SACOG
Debra Jones, SACOG	David Young, SACOG
Matt Jones, YSAQMD	Eric Zapf, City of Live Oak

- 2. Action Summary of the February 22, 2007, Meeting.** The summary was approved by consensus.
- 3. Information Sharing.** Dave Young, SACOG, updated the partnership on the court case challenging the revocation of the 1-hour ozone standard. The EPA issued a letter on March 19, 2007 regarding the case. The letter largely restates what is already known and encourages agencies to continue to develop their 8-hour ozone SIPs. Dave also mentioned that EPA had until March 22 to act, and that it will ultimately be up to EPA to figure out how to implement the final court decision.
- 4. Draft Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2007-08.** Karen Wilcox provided an overview of the upcoming year's work program and asked the partnership for input. She noted that the OWP had been reorganized to more closely resemble the work that is actually done, and it now includes several activities related to SAFETEA-LU compliance. SACOG's annual intermodal planning group (IPG) meeting to discuss the OWP with FHWA and FTA is scheduled for April 17. The SACOG Board is scheduled to adopt the OWP at their May 17 meeting. Mike Brady commented that we might want to think about including a discussion on greenhouse gas emissions in the OWP.
- 5. Adoption of Schedule for Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2035.** Matt Carpenter reported that the SACOG Board had received a new schedule for the MTP showing adoption of the plan this Fall. SACOG staff will continue to work through May to refine the MTP project list, and a draft project list will be published for review this Summer. A preview of the project list was distributed at the meeting. One of the key tasks ahead will be to match projects commencing after 2011 with projected revenues. The SACOG Board will have the opportunity to provide input on key regional investments at their April and May meetings. Mike Higgins asked that the full project list be provided in addition to the smaller "regional vision" list. Refugio Razo wanted to make sure that information was provided on what projects were not going into the plan and that discussions be held to explain the reasons behind the actions. Mark Thomas asked if there would be other categories of projects not in the MTP vision list. Jose Luis Caceres asked if there will be a Tier 2 list. Pete Hathaway provided an answer to these questions by noting that there will be three types of projects: those that are included in the MTP, those that would be included if more revenue were to become available and those projects that are simply beyond possibility or don't fit with the MTP vision. Mike Higgins asked how we would decide whether projects go into the second or third category. Pete responded that it would be a combination of local input and some regional priorities. Tom Garcia asked how this would affect developer funded projects. Pete noted that if there were more projects than revenue, we would talk to the jurisdiction and determine which projects would be next in line to be constructed.

- 6. California Transportation Plan Update for SAFETEA-LU Compliance.** Patrick Tyner introduced Ann Mahaney from the Caltrans Office of State Planning. Ann provided some background information on the development of the California Transportation Plan (CTP) and then described Caltrans' efforts to bring the CTP into compliance with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU. They have convened a public participation plan subcommittee to develop a process to update the plan. They have contracted with a private consultant to help them with this process. Caltrans started this process in December 2006 and expects to complete it by August 2007. FHWA has also commented that SANDAG's public participation plan process could be viewed as a model for other MPOs. Debra Jones provided some information on SACOG's process: Luz Maria Rodriguez is leading the process here at SACOG, and the first meeting of the advisory group will be on April 4th. SACOG has already submitted its SAFETEA-LU gap analysis to FHWA/FTA, and expects to have a compliant MTIP by the July 1, 2007 deadline. Debra reported on the progress to date with the "linking planning with NEPA" process that SACOG has been involved with. The advisory group for this project meets every other month (the next one is scheduled for mid-April), and they've had great success in getting the resource agencies involved –with the exceptions of SHPO and the Army Corps of Engineers. One of the benefits of this process is that we expect our MTP statement of purpose and need and the regional and cumulative impacts to help streamline the process at the individual project level.
- 7. Qualitative Hot Spot Analyses in PM10 Nonattainment Areas.** Michael Brady from Caltrans introduced this item. The EPA rule went into effect in April 2006 and applies to any PM10 nonattainment areas. In the SACOG region, this designation only applies to Sacramento County. One of the requirements of the rule is that project sponsors (in Sacramento County) must document that their projects have gone through the consultation process for a qualitative hot spot analysis for PM10. Both the San Joaquin Valley Air District and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) have developed a process to help determine if projects meet the requirements of a "project of air quality significance" as defined in the EPA rule. SACOG, through the Regional Planning Partnership, will need to implement a similar process for projects in Sacramento County. Michael provided a copy of the form used by SCAQMD that we could use in the near term. If projects are determined to be of "significance" for PM10, conducting an analysis could be problematic because of the requirement to include re-entrained road dust. Caltrans has provided the first project to be reviewed by the partnership under this rule, which will be taken up on next month's agenda.
- 8. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Schedule.** Jose Luis Caceres provided an update on the schedule for the MTP and MTIP that was developed last August. For the MTIP, there will be a total of four formal amendments: an "emergency" amendment (#4) that was just recently approved by FHWA/FTA, a "no model-run" amendment (#5) that was just approved by the SACOG Board this month, a "model-run" amendment (#7) which will be acted on by the Board in May and will be the last amendment before the new MTP is adopted this Fall.
- 9. Exempt Status of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles.** Although Jose Luis Caceres intended to bring this item to the partnership to determine if neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) projects could be considered exempt, Steve Luxenburg of FHWA had already notified Dave Young that these projects would not fit within any of the existing categories of exempt projects. NEV projects will remain as non-exempt (even though they cannot be modeled and have no emissions associated with them).
- 10. 2007 Project Delivery Plan Update.** Olin Woods provided a copy of the receive and file item that went to the SACOG Board. We have received a modest response as of the stated deadline. More projects are expected by tomorrow. The region has a total of \$40-46 million to obligate by the end of the federal fiscal year. There is a possibility of borrowing CMAQ from other agencies. The primary goal of this year's delivery plan is to deliver everything in the 2007 program, but we would also like to deliver any 2008 projects that will be ready this year. This process is open to all agencies, including Caltrans. Tom Garcia asked if partial advances were allowable, and Olin noted that they would be. Michael Brady also clarified that the noted "air quality lockdown" would be more accurately described as a "SAFETEA-LU" lockdown.
- 11. Other Matters.**
- 12. Adjournment.** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 2:00 PM.