



Regional Planning Partnership

May 24, 2007

Action Summary Minutes

1. Attendance

Theresa Arnold, City of Sacramento	Susan Wilson, Caltrans
Barbara Bechtold, SACOG	Norman Hom, STA
Dean Blank, Sacramento County	Olin Woods, SACOG
Michael Brady, Caltrans	Matt Jones, YSAQMD
Jim Brown, SACOG	Jeremy Ketchum, Caltrans
Jose Luis Caceres, SACOG	David Young, SACOG
Matt Carpenter, SACOG	Dave Mason, Metro Chamber
Edward Coviello, SACOG	David Melko, PCTPA
Jason Crow, SACOG	Anne Novotny, El Dorado County
John Deeter, ECOS	Samson Okhade, SACOG
Azadeh Doherty, City of Sacramento	Rosa DeLeon Park, City of Elk Grove
Michael Dulude, YCTD	Larry Sherwood, SMAQMD
Pete Hathaway, SACOG	Cynthia Smith, Caltrans
Norman Hom, STA	Sharon Tang, Caltrans
Debra Jones, SACOG	Brigette Tollstrup, SMAQMD
Matt Jones, YSAQMD	Mark Thomas, City of Rancho Cordova
Pete Hathaway, SACOG	

- 2. Action Summary of the April 26, 2007, Meeting.** The summary was approved by consensus.
- 3. Information Sharing.** Steve Luxenberg announced that there may be an interim solution to meeting the SAFETEA-LU compliance requirements for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). FHWA has some flexibility in determining compliance if they find that the MPO is approximately 90% compliant with the SAFETEA-LU requirements. FHWA can issue a conditional compliance finding upon receipt of an updated gap analysis that reports the status of items not yet completed and includes a schedule for when all items in the analysis will be completed (must be by January 2008). This will require an adoption by the SACOG Board by July 1 in order to make a conditional compliance finding. Dean Blank asked how this impacts local jurisdictions. Jose Luis Caceres explained that it will allow us to include in any upcoming Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) amendments those projects that also require an amendment to the MTP. Azadeh Doherty announced the completion of the Streetcar Project Feasibility Study by the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento and the Sacramento Regional Transit District and Yolo County Transportation District. All four agencies have approved an alignment for the project, which is estimated to cost \$53m. Michael Dulude announced that transit service to Winters will start on July 1.

- 4. Effects of Carryover Projects on New Programming.** Jose Luis Caceres brought back this item which was carried over from last month's agenda. Because SACOG's MTIP is required to be financially constrained, the amount of funding for the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) in the MTIP is limited to the amounts apportioned to the region in each fiscal year. As SACOG programs the full apportionment for CMAQ and RSTP in each fiscal year, there is no capacity left to accommodate "carryover" projects that were programmed in a prior year, but have not yet been delivered. The result is that some projects have had to be shown in later years of the MTIP than they have been programmed. This does not present a problem, as SACOG's approved Expedited Project Selection Procedures allow projects to be advanced into the current year of the MTIP when ready. SACOG's annual delivery plan provides another opportunity to bring forward later projects for delivery in the current fiscal year. SACOG has been able to deliver its full annual apportionment of RSTP and CMAQ by borrowing Obligation Authority (OA) from the State. Dean Blank asked if there was any risk of becoming over-extended. This is not a risk, as eventually, the paybacks from local agencies will bring more local funding to compensate for advances of Federal funds. Pete Hathaway noted that we are well aware of the risks and are watching the situation closely. If every agency actually delivered their projects in the year of programming, then we could be in trouble. However, there has always been some delivery failure each year, and SACOG has limited borrowing to approximately half of the annual apportionment. Theresa Arnold added that there is a risk that in some year no Federal funds will be available to give out to important, regionally significant projects.
- 5. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Emissions Benefits Required for Obligations.** Jose Luis also brought back this item from the previous month's agenda. He noted that any agency obligating CMAQ funds this fiscal year will be required to provide emissions reduction numbers. Theresa Arnold asked if there will be any training opportunities for local agencies. SACOG uses the State Air Resources Board methodology. An e-mail will be sent out to gauge interest in a training workshop.
- 6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035 and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment Assumptions for Air Quality Conformity Determinations.** Jason Crow presented the assumptions to be used. The RPP voted unanimously to approve the assumptions.
- 7. PM₁₀ Qualitative Analysis for I-80 Project.** Jason Crow introduced this item, which was then followed by a brief report from Mike Brady. Mike noted that this portion of I-80 has a surprisingly low volume of truck traffic. Azadeh Doherty asked if the HOV lanes are open to all traffic in off-peak hours, and Mike responded that they are. Dean Blank noted that trucks are generally not permitted in the #1 lane. Pete Hathaway added that the addition of the HOV lanes in the median of the roadway will not put trucks any closer to sensitive receptors. Norm Hom asked if 10% should be considered a significant increase in traffic as opposed to 5%. Mike noted that EPA's guidance states 5%. Dean Blank noted that the project does not exceed this criterion. Azadeh Doherty asked how recent the traffic counts were. Mike responded that he thought they were from November 2005. Brigitte Tollstrup asked if they have looked at PM₁₀ for air quality NEPA analysis? Mike responded that very few projects have. Steve Luxenberg asked if we are going to see more of these in this committee. The answer is that, yes we are going to be seeing more of these. Mark Thomas asked what the process is for this. Projects will be brought to this committee by local agencies and be voted on by the committee. Pete Hathaway added that an HOV project is

unlikely to increase truck volumes overall, but may shift them off of nearby arterials. The Regional Planning Partnership voted unanimously that the I-80 HOV project is not a project of air quality concern for PM₁₀.

8. **2007 Delivery Plan.** Olin Woods reported that the Board approved the 2007 Delivery Plan –as endorsed by the partnership last month- on consent. The July 2 deadline is earlier than in previous years. Tier 3 projects still require payback agreements (this includes the Winters transit bus service and the US50 HOV Lanes). It appears that the loan from San Benito County will go ahead. Some delivery failure will also allow SACOG to bring forward projects from the “reserve” list. Azadeh Doherty asked if funds are obligated in FFY 2007, when must they be spent by? Some action (i.e. invoicing) must occur within a year under Federal guidelines; however, Caltrans says it must be within 6 months. The Federal deadline for closing out the project is 10 years from obligation; State law allows 3-5 years. Theresa Arnold asked why some Tier 3 projects did not have a cash payback. Olin noted that an exception was made for a very small project.
9. **“Vision” Element of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2035.** Matt Carpenter reported that a revised constrained project list will go to the Board in June. The Vision List consists of projects that would not be possible to include without additional financial resources. The project list is not yet fully defined, but the Transportation Committee set a “10% increase” budget for it. This guidance was chosen by the Committee rather than a source-specific assumption. Azadeh Doherty asked what the total funding is for the MTP. Matt noted that the constrained MTP is approximately \$45b and the Vision List would add about another \$6b. John Deeter asked if this list was going to be prescribed by County. Pete Hathaway noted that the \$6b will be going to a variety of projects. Azadeh asked if one-cent for transportation was a reasonable assumption. Pete responded that the MTP assumes $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent (which would go up to one-cent with the Vision List). State law limits a transportation sales tax to one-cent. Dean Blank asked for clarification as to whether this list would affect the projects on the constrained list. Pete responded that those projects would not come into play until funding sources become available. Mark Thomas asked if the Vision List gives projects some priority. No, the Vision List is merely illustrative of how the Board would like to see additional funding allocated at this time.
10. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2035 SAFETEA-LU Compliance Update.** Debra Jones provided an update of how the new MTP will comply with the requirements imposed under SAFETEA-LU. Edward Coviello reported on how SACOG plans to meet the safety and security requirements. Barbara Bechtold reported on the development of the Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan. Jose Luis Caceres reported on the development of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.
11. **Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan Amendment.** Aimee Hagen provided a brief report on the draft amendment to the Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan. The amendment has been released for a 30-day public review period which ends on June 20. Azadeh Doherty asked if it is consistent with local jurisdictions’ bike/ped plans. Aimee replied that it is, and that in the case of the City of Sacramento, Ed Cox has provided information for the plan.
12. **Other Matters.** Jason Crow announced that this would be Dave Young’s last RPP meeting, as he will be retiring from SACOG after 33 years of service. We wish him well!
15. **Adjournment.** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 28, 2007, at 2:00 PM.