



Climate & Air Quality Committee

Item #09-12-4 Information

November 25, 2009

Updating the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines and Regional Greenhouse Gas Targets

Issue: The California Transportation Commission is updating the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines including the requirements for regional greenhouse gas targets.

Recommendation: None, this item is for information only.

Discussion: The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) guidelines since 1978 to provide guidance to Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. The RTP (in our region, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan) is a long-range planning document that is required for the CTC to fund projects throughout the state and required by federal transportation planning regulations.

The purpose of the RTP guidelines is to assemble the Federal and state requirements on transportation planning and programming, plus recommendations and best practices gathered from Federal and state regulations and from stakeholders. To this extent, there is nothing new in the guidelines that are required, all requirements are drawn from other statutes and regulations. The recommendations are suggestions only.

The current update is focused on the new requirements due to SB 375 for greenhouse gas (GHG) targets and to coordinate with the state Department of Housing and Community Development's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). There has been a large group of stakeholders involved in the process from state agencies, MPOs, RTPA, cities, counties, and interest groups (environmental, housing, transportation, business, etc.).

The requirements to add a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) to a RTP have been taken from the SB 375 legislation in order to keep to the guidelines convention of a clear source of these requirements. There are differences in the draft recommendations that have not been resolved yet. They have come from published work such as the final report of the Regional Targets Advisory Committee and from stakeholder comments. In particular, there are two options on how local government development policies should be incorporated into the SCS/RTP. The RHNA process must be consistent with the RTP process on the update schedule and on the housing growth assumptions.

Staff will provide an update at the Committee meeting on this issue and other remaining issues. Attached is the Table of Contents from the draft guidelines.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:GG:le

Attachment

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2010 Regional Transportation Plan **Guidelines**

Adopted by the California Transportation Commission
on _____, 2010

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 14522

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Table of Contents

Page #

Chapter 1 -- Introduction

1.1	Why Conduct Long-Range Transportation Planning?	11
1.2	Background and Purpose of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines	11
1.3	Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies in California	14
1.4	Purpose of the Regional Transportation Plan	16
1.5	California Transportation Planning and Programming Process	18
1.6	SAFETEA-LU Items Impacting the Development of RTPs	18
<u>1.7</u>	<u>Key Additions to the 2010 RTP Guidelines</u>	<u>20</u>

Chapter 2 – Regional Transportation Plan Process

2.1	State Requirements	25
2.2	<u>Background on</u> Regional Blueprint Planning <u>and Climate Change Legislation</u>	26
2.3	Federal Requirements	27
2.4	Relationship between RTP, OWP & FTIP	28
2.5	Consistency with Other Planning Documents	29
<u>2.6</u>	<u>Coordination with Other Planning Processes</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>RTP Development Sequencing Process</u>	<u>34</u>
2.8	Adoption - Update Cycles and Amendments	36
2.9	RTP Checklist	38

Chapter 3 – Modeling

<u>3.1</u>	<u>Transportation Modeling/Projecting Future Demand</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>3.2</u>	<u>RTP Modeling Requirements and Recommendations</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>Regional Economic and Land Use Model Requirements and Recommendations</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>3.4</u>	<u>RTP Modeling Quality Control and Consistency</u>	<u>56</u>

3.5	RTP Modeling as a Policy Tool	61
---------------------	---	--------------------

3.6	Modeling References	61
---------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------

Chapter 4 – RTP Consultation and Coordination

4.1	Consultation and Coordination	65
-----	-------------------------------	----

4.2	Participation Plan	66
-----	--------------------	----

4.3	Private Sector Involvement	71
-----	----------------------------	----

4.4	Consultation with Interested Parties	72
-----	--------------------------------------	----

4.5	Input/Consultation with Local Elected Officials on SCS Development	73
-----	--	----

4.6	Interagency Coordination (IAC) on SCS Development	73
-----	---	----

4.7	Native American Tribal Government Consultation & Coordination	74
-----	---	----

4.8	Consultation with Resource Agencies	75
-----	-------------------------------------	----

4.9	Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plans	77
-----	--	----

Chapter 5 -- RTP Environmental Considerations

5.1	Introduction	81
-----	--------------	----

5.2	Environmental Documentation	81
-----	-----------------------------	----

5.3	SAFETEA-LU Environmental Requirements	83
-----	---------------------------------------	----

5.4	SAFETEA-LU Environmental Recommendations	84
-----	--	----

5.5	Key Environmental Considerations for Best Practices	84
-----	---	----

5.6	Project Intent Statements/Plan Level Purpose and Need Statements	87
-----	--	----

5.7	Air Quality and Transportation Conformity	87
-----	---	----

Chapter 6 – Regional Transportation Plan Contents

6.1	Summary of RTP Components	94
-----	---	----

6.2	Financial Overview	97
-----	--------------------	----

6.3	Fiscal Constraint	99
-----	-------------------	----

6.4	Listing of Constrained and Un-constrained Projects	100
-----	--	-----

6.5	Funding Identification and Forecasting	100
6.6	Estimating Future Transportation Costs	101
6.7	Asset Management	130
Modal Discussion		
6.8	Highways, Local Streets and Roads	105
6.9	Transit	105
6.10	Goods Movement (Maritime/Rail/Trucking/Aviation)	106
6.11	Regional Airport System	107
<u>6.12</u>	<u>Bicycle & Pedestrian – Including AB 1396</u>	<u>108</u>
Programming/Operations		
6.13	Transportation System Operations and Management	109
6.14	Coordination with Programming Documents	109
<u>6.15</u>	<u>Transportation Projects Exempted from SB 375</u>	<u>111</u>
6.16	Regionally Significant Projects	112
6.17	Regional ITS Architecture	112
6.18	Performance Measures	113
6.19	Transportation Safety	116
6.20	Transportation Security	117
6.21	Congestion Management Process	118
<u>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Requirements and Considerations in the RTP</u>		
<u>6.22</u>	<u>Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>6.23</u>	<u>Contents of Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>6.24</u>	<u>Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Process, Review and Acceptance</u>	<u>130</u>
<u>6.25</u>	<u>Land Use and Transportation Strategies to Address Regional GHG Emissions</u>	<u>131</u>
<u>6.26</u>	<u>Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) Overview</u>	<u>132</u>

6.27	Non-MPO Rural RTPA Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions	132
6.28	Adaptation of the Regional Transportation System to Climate Change	133

APPENDICES

A	Federal and State Transportation Planning Process Flowchart	137
B	State and Federal Programming Process Flowchart	140
C	Regional Transportation Plan Checklist	144
D	Title 23 CFR Part 450 Appendix A – Linking Transportation Planning and NEPA Processes	150
E	Integration of the Planning and NEPA Processes	166
F	Air Quality Conformity Checklists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MPO Conformity checklist 2. Rural Area Conformity checklist 	184
G	Senate Bill 375 Statutory Language	196
H	Senate Bill 375 - Impacts to the RTP Process	198
I	Alternative Planning Strategy (APS)	200
J	Land Use and Transportation Strategies to Address Regional GHG Emissions	203
K	CEQA Information	207
L	RHNA and RTP Development Coordination	209
M	Caltrans Regional Planning Staff Contacts	212
N	Glossary of Transportation Terms	215