

SACOG Project Level Conformity Group Meeting

May 14, 2025

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Jackie Kahrs with SACOG started the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

Introductions:

- Jackie Kahrs – SACOG
- Miguel Mendoza – SACOG
- Shengyi Gao - SACOG
- Jasmin Amanin – FHWA
- John Kelly – EPA
- Michelle Ruan - FTA
- Rodney Tavitas – Caltrans HQ
- Nicole Lewis – Caltrans HQ
- Eden Winniford – Yolo Solano AQMD
- Aaron Bali – Caltrans D3
- Jerry Barton – EDCTC
- Rick Carter – PCTPA
- Christopher Dennis – Caltrans D3
- Kevn Hernandez Rios – Caltrans HQ
- Junior Magana – Caltrans D3
- Scott Foster – Caltrans D3
- Cameron Knudson – Caltrans D3
- Rich Muzzy – SMAQMD
- Sondra Spaethe- Feather River AQMD
- Zach Liptak – Dokken Engineering
- Amy Bakker – Dokken Engineering
- Jon Balzer – El Dorado County
- Matt Smeltzer – El Dorado County

2. 2025 Blueprint and 2025 MTIP Consistency Amendment Update

- SACOG provided an update on the schedule for the 2025 Blueprint (MTP/SCS) and MTIP #11 (consistency amendment). The draft documents will be released for public review in June and comments will be due in August.
- SACOG also provided an update on 2025 MTIP Amendment #5, a formal Type 2/3 amendment which was released for public review in April. The amendment relied on the current regional conformity analysis, therefore a new conformity determination was not needed. Caltrans has approved the amendment, and now it is awaiting federal approval.

3. Consultation to Determine Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC) Status

a. US 50/Ponderosa Rd/So. Shingle Rd Interchange Improvements (ELD19180)

- Zach Liptak provided a presentation on the project.
- Question: Are there any significant changes from when the project previously received a POAQC determination in 2011?
- Answer: No major changes. The only change is that there were previously four alternatives that were being considered at the time. Since then, one alternative was decided to move forward with and that alternative was included in the previous POAQC determination.
- Question: Please clarify if there are two or three phases for this project.
- Answer: Two phases. Phased 1 and 2 were combined into one phase, now captured in Phase 1.

- Question: With the phasing of the project, does each phase of independent utility?
- Answer: Yes.
- EPA determined the US 50/Ponderosa Rd/So. Shingle Rd Interchange Improvements (ELD19180) project is not a project of air quality concern. FHWA concurred.

b. SR 70 Roadway Rehab & Operational Improvements (CAL20715)

- Aaron Bali provided a presentation on the project.
- Question: Please confirm there were no significant project changes since the project was determined to not be a POAQC in 2019. What is the classification of the roadway?
- Answer: No changes to the scope. The description was re-worded from through lane to auxiliary lane to be more accurate.
- EPA determined the SR 70 Roadway Rehab & Operational Improvements (CAL20715) project is not a project of air quality concern. FHWA concurred.

4. Review of Regional Conformity Exemption Status

- SACOG shared a list of new exempt projects that need to be programmed in the MTIP. Confirming that the exemption categories for all projects are correct.
- Question: Is there more detail as to what is being proposed for the Russell Boulevard Safety Partnership project?
- Answer: Yes. Component 1: Removal or Alteration of Channelized Right-turns:
We propose to close channelized right-turns at two intersections using barriers, flexposts, signage, and other placemaking materials. The City has identified channelized right-turns as problematic for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, but the effects of removing these right-turn configurations has not been studied. The demonstration will be used to examine truck turning radii, bicyclist and pedestrian desire lines, changes to car turning speeds, and near-misses between cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians and these observations will be used to inform final intersection treatments. The demonstrations will last for an extended period of time (several weeks or months) to allow for travelers to get used to the change and normalize micro-level travel behavior.

Component 2: Development of a UC Davis Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Quick Build Demonstration Program

Led by Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Kari Watkins (PhD, PE), teams of graduate Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning and Design course students will design and implement infrastructure interventions such as separated bike lanes, curb extensions, mini traffic circles, pedestrian refuge islands, or parklets. The interventions will use materials such as cones, parking stops, spray chalk, stencils, paint, traffic tape, delineator posts and tuff curbs, traffic control barricades, planters, parklet furniture, signage, among others. In addition to standard mass-produced materials, industrial design students led by Design Professor Beth Ferguson (MFA) will design and build custom materials to meet each intervention's needs. Informational signage will be provided for each intervention.

Component 3: Piloting AI Cameras for All Mode Volume and Safety Evaluation:

The third component is a pilot of four AI video cameras (on-edge processing) for evaluation of traffic volumes and near-miss collisions. Several companies now offer AI-supported video and lidar sensors for the purpose of monitoring transportation systems, including active transportation. Rigorous study of these systems is lacking. The cameras will be temporarily installed in the areas of the removed channelized right-turns (component 1) and the infrastructure quick build demonstrations (component 2), and up to three elementary school pick-up and drop-off zones, allowing for piloting in a variety of conditions and configurations. The deployment of these novel sensors will offer a way to both evaluate the infrastructure installments and to evaluate the sensor equipment performance itself.

- No other comments.

5. Next Steps

- SACOG will send the meeting minutes.
- The next Project Level Conformity Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th at 10:30 am.