



Regional Planning Partnership

September 18, 2013

Call for Conformity-Related Project Changes to the 2013/16 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Issue: SACOG is now accepting project changes for the next conformity related amendment to the 2013/16 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Recommendation: This is for information.

Discussion: On September 11, 2013, SACOG solicited project changes for the next “Type 5, model-run” amendment to the 2013/16 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). A Type 5 amendment is one where SACOG models the regional conformity impacts that result from changes to the list of regionally significant air quality non-exempt projects. Such changes may include a change in scope or completion year, or an addition to the MTIP that is consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) 2035. (See Attachment A for descriptions of MTIP revision types.) SACOG will accept project change submittals via SACTrak (<https://sactrak.sacog.org>) through **5 p.m. Friday, October 25.**

Process and Schedule: SACOG conducts a Type 5 revision periodically to keep the project list and project information in the MTIP current. The process begins with sponsors submitting revisions during September and October. During this period, SACOG staff will coordinate with sponsors to include any changes resulting from the SACOG 2013-14 Flexible Funding Programming Round draft project list recommendation. Next, staff will review the revisions for financial constraint and consistency with the MTP/SCS. Following that review, SACOG will run the revisions through an emissions modeling process to determine whether the proposed changes would impede the ability of the SACOG region to attain air quality goals and standards. In February 2014, the air quality conformity analysis and MTIP amendment will circulate for public review. When circulating for public review, SACOG will also include an amendment to the MTP/SCS reflecting the MTIP revisions. This is to ensure that the two documents meet the federal requirement that they remain consistent in terms of project scopes, open to traffic dates, and costs. During February and March, the items will go before the various committees, including the RPP. Final federal approval is anticipated by May 30.

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) helps determine SACOG’s public involvement process for the five types of MTIP revisions. (The PPP is available online at: <http://www.sacog.org/mtp/ppp.cfm>.)

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Attachment

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MTIP Processes and Amendment Types

For more detail, see SACOG's Public Participation

Plan: <http://www.sacog.org/mtp/ppp.cfm>

There are four processes for the various ways to change/update the MTIP:

1. Adoption
2. Administrative Modification
3. Amendment
4. Technical Revision

Adoption

SACOG generally adopts a new MTIP every two years, although federal guidelines only require a new MTIP every four years. As part of the adoption, SACOG removes the two prior years and adds two additional years of funding. SACOG also reports projects that were completed from the prior MTIP. The MTIP is accompanied by either a new air quality conformity determination and analysis or a determination that relies on a previous analysis.

Administrative Modification

Regulations describe this action as a minor revision to the MTIP which does not require public review. An Administrative Modification may take one or two weeks to process and may include minor changes to the cost of a project or phase, and changes to funding sources of previously-included projects. SACOG has defined the processing of an Administrative Modification as a Type 1 Action. (See below for types of MTIP actions)

Amendment

Regulations describe this action as a significant change to the MTIP. An Amendment is a revision that involves a major change to a project included in a metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) or MTIP. An Amendment (often referred to as a Formal Amendment) may take several months to process.

Types of Revisions

SACOG has ranked Administrative Modifications and Amendments into five different revision types which require different levels of public review and processing actions:

Type 1: This is an Administrative Modification. The criteria for Administrative Modifications and Amendments are defined in Title 23, CFR part 450.104. Also, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Caltrans agreed on California-specific administrative modification procedures on June 3, 2011. Those procedures are posted online at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/federal/proc_guide.htm. SACOG received delegated approval authority from Caltrans for Administrative Modifications, such that no other action is required once SACOG has approved an Administrative Modification. (Approval required by SACOG management.)

Type 2: This is an Amendment that makes a funding change that is greater than what is allowed as an Administrative Modification. The projects in a Type 2 revision do not change in design concept or scope and the conformity analysis years as assumed for the regional emissions analysis

of the currently conforming MTP and MTIP remain unaltered. (Approval required by SACOG management, Caltrans and Federal Department of Transportation.)

Type 3: This is an Amendment that significantly revises, or adds, or deletes an exempt or non-regionally significant project or project phases to/from the MTIP. (Approval required by SACOG management, Caltrans and Federal Department of Transportation.)

Type 4: This is an Amendment that requires a conformity determination but relies on a previous regional emissions analysis. This type of amendment is used when adding a regionally significant project to the MTIP that has already been appropriately accounted for in the regional emissions analysis. (Approval required by SACOG Board, Caltrans and Federal Department of Transportation.)

Type 5: This is an Amendment that requires a conformity determination and a new regional emissions analysis. This type of revision is used when adding a non-exempt, regionally significant project that has not been accounted for in the regional emissions analysis. This type of amendment is also used when a non-exempt, regionally significant project makes a change to either the design concept or scope or conformity analysis completion year which is not consistent with the existing regional emissions analysis. (Approval required by SACOG Board, Caltrans and Federal Department of Transportation.)

Technical Corrections and Advancement or Delay of Funds using Expedited Project Selection Procedures

No public review is necessary for edits to parts of the MTIP that are shown for informational purposes only or for fixing obvious typographical errors. Similarly, no public review is necessary for SACOG to use agreed-upon Expedited Project Selection Procedures (EPSP). EPSP is used to advance projects from later years of the MTIP and delay the implementation of other projects from earlier years. These changes occur without modification or amendment, based on agreements between SACOG, Caltrans, local transit operators, and local transportation agencies. Even so, SACOG typically modifies or amends the MTIP at the end of the fiscal year to reflect advances and delays.