



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference. A digital recording of the meeting is available for listening in SCAG's office.

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

*Asuncion, John
Ekman, Annaleigh
Gutierrez, Pablo
Luo, Rongsheng
Milner, David*

Via Teleconference:

*Acebo, Mervin
Arellano, Lexie
Bade, Rabindra
Bagde, Abhijit
Blake, Michelle
Brugger, Ron
Cacatian, Ben
Carpio, Wellvin
Espinoza Araiza, Erika
Fogerson, Michele
Gaschot, Bertrand
Hendrawan, Kevin
Huddleston, Lori
Islam, Fatima
Kahrs, Jacqueline
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Kulkarni, Anup
Lay, Keith
Lee, David
Lugaro, Julie
Marroquin, Nancy
Masters, Martha
Miranda, Jude
Moran, Nohemi
O'Connor, Karina
Odufalu, Femi
Richmai, Michael
Sanchez, Lucas
Simpson, James
Smolke, Brian
Sun, Lijin
Tavitas, Rodney
Whiteaker, Warren
Yoon, Andrew*

*FTA Region 9
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans District 11
LSA
Ventura County APCD
LA Metro
Caltrans Headquarters
SBCTA
Mojave Desert AQMD
CARB
LA Metro
Caltrans District 8
Caltrans Headquarters
CARB
OCTA
ICF
Caltrans District 8
Caltrans District 12
LA Metro
RCTC
Caltrans District 12
SBCTA
US EPA Region 9
Caltrans District 8
LA Metro
Caltrans Headquarters
RCTC
OCTA
SCAQMD
Caltrans Headquarters
OCTA
Caltrans District 7*



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Rongsheng thanked Paul Phan, Caltrans District 8, as the immediate past TCWG chair and notified the TCWG that a new chair would be brought on in alignment with SCAG's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. January 25, 2022 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.
- 3.2. February 22, 2022 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.
- 3.3. March 22, 2022 TCWG Meeting Minutes – Deferred to May TCWG Meeting
The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG Meeting.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms
 - **EA#1M190Rev:** It was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern. (FHWA provided concurrence via e-mail after the meeting)
 - **EA#1M860:** It was determined via e-mail after the meeting that this is an exempt project.
- 4.2. Proposed Substitution of Placentia Metrolink Station (ORA030612) and Paratransit Vans Purchase (ORA130099) TCM Projects with The Main Street BRAVO! Bus Line
 - Anup Kulkarni, OCTA, presented the proposed TCM Substitution to replace two transit TCM projects (FTIP Project IDs: ORA030612 and ORA130099) with the new Main Street Bravo! Express Bus Service to be completed by the end of 2022.
 - Brian Smolke, OCTA, presented the details of the Emissions Analysis Methodology and Modeling, including details on OCTA's transportation analysis model (OCTAM), running EMFAC2017, and application of the CMAQ Toolkit methodology to calculate emissions reductions benefits of both the transit projects and the proposed substitute express bus service project.
 - The analysis results showed the proposed substitute project would yield less than or equivalent amounts of emissions for all criteria pollutants for all milestone years compared to the original two transit TCM projects.
 - For next steps, SCAG staff planned to release a Draft TCM Substitution Report for a 15-day public review and address any comments in the proposed final Report to be presented to SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee (EEC) on June 2 for recommended adoption by SCAG's Regional Council on July 7. SCAG staff expected to submit the final adopted Report to ARB and US EPA for expedited respective review and concurrence since the substitute project will be implemented by December 2022, which is the completion date for the original two transit TCM projects.



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4.3. RTP Update

Combined updates for Items 4.3 and 4.4 are below.

4.4. FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2023 FTIP and Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2 development continued with the expectation for SCAG's Regional Council adoption in Fall 2022 and Federal Approval by mid-December 2022.
- Two public hearings for the Draft 2023 FTIP and Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2 were expected to be scheduled in July 2022.

4.4.1. Status Update on OCTA TCA TCM Substitution (FTIP IDs 10254, ORA050 & ORA051)

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The public review and comment period for the Draft OCTA TCM Substitution Report concluded on March 22, 2022; no comments were received.
- On April 7, SCAG's EEC recommended adoption of the TCM Substitution to SCAG's Regional Council. The next Regional Council meeting was scheduled for May 5.
- Upon adoption by the Regional Council, the final adopted OCTA TCM Substitution Report would be submitted to ARB and US EPA for their respective concurrence.
- Upon the concurrence by both ARB and US EPA, the original TCM projects would be rescinded and the new TCM measures would become effective.
- The substitute TCMs would be processed through an FTIP amendment as committed TCMs into the conforming FTIP.

4.5. US EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, US EPA Region 9, reported the following:

- US EPA staff were on hold with the EMFAC2021 Federal Notice while they waited on CARB's revisions to EMFAC2021 and EMFAC2017 adjustment factors to account for a technical bug.
- US EPA staff would move forward with the Federal Notice once they receive CARB's revisions and comments on the notice.

4.6. CARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported the following:

- CARB staff found a NOx idling emissions bug in the EMFAC2021 model that affects newer, heavy-duty vehicles because the low NOx emissions standards were not included in the original version; fixing the bug would yield emission benefits, resulting in an additional 2 to 3 percent reduction in NOx emissions.
- CARB staff were in the QA/QC process and expected to release the revised EMFAC2021 model, including updating the web platform version of the model, by mid-May.
- CARB would release a memo describing the bug.

4.7. Air District Updates

Lijin Sun, South Coast AQMD, provided the following updates:

- Development of the proposed South Coast AQMD's 2022 AQMP continued with staff review of the written chapters of the AQMP, and initiation of the CEQA analysis.
- South Coast AQMD expected to conclude their review in May 2022.



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Ben Cacatian, Ventura County APCD, provided the following updates:

- Staff continued developing the Ventura County APCD's 2022 AQMP to attain the 2015 8-hour Ozone Standard.
- Ventura County APCD expected to release a draft AQMP in May 2022, dependent on emissions and modeling data from South Coast AQMD and CARB.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, shared that Caltrans would be revising the Conformity Exemption Form to emphasize that projects need to meet an acute safety need to be streamlined. Rodney intends to update the Form for the next Statewide Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting. Karina O'Connor, EPA, agreed with this approach as the Form has been used recently for projects that do not have clear safety needs.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.