
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**May 22, 2018
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Huddleston, Lori	Metro
Morris, Michael	FHWA

SCAG:

Asuncion, John
Luo, Rongsheng
Ng, Emily

Via Teleconference:

Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Kalandiyur, Nesamani	ARB
Kulkarni, Anup	OCTA
Lau, Charles	Caltrans District 7
Lugaro, Julie	Caltrans District 12
Masters, Martha	RCTC
Mortenson, Marilee	Caltrans Headquarters
O'Connor, Karina	EPA Region 9
Sanchez, Lucas	Caltrans Headquarters
Sheehy, Erin	OCTA
Sherwood, Arnold	UCB
Silverman, Sam	Terry A. Hayes Associates
Sun, Lijin	SCAQMD
Vaughn, Joseph	FHWA
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Walsh, Jason	Jacobs
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

Lori Huddleston, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1. March 27, 2018 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

3.2. April 24, 2018 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to the next TCWG meeting.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

1) **ORA2121002 (FTIP Project ID: ORA131301)**

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

At the request of Carla Walecka, TCA, below is a summary of next steps including rationales that the project needs to follow in order to receive final project-level conformity determination and NEPA approval based on TCWG discussion at the meeting and information provided by Lucas Sanchez, Caltrans Headquarters, after the meeting:

- PM hot spot interagency review is only one component of project-level conformity requirements. A non-exempt project cannot have final NEPA approval (CE, FONSI, ROD) until the project appears in both conforming TIP and RTP. The project is included in SCAG's 2016 RTP/SCS and 2017 FTIP but as an environmental and engineering project only. Some phase of work beyond environmental document must be programmed in TIP before NEPA document can be finalized, consistent with delivery (open to traffic) in RTP conformity analysis period where it's currently assumed. For projects that have long development periods, TIP may include only right of way and design work, with construction to come later (TIPs usually only include next 4-5 years of work), but work shown must be consistent with eventually delivering

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the project "on time" per conformity analysis period in which it's to be open. FHWA will not sign a conformity determination for a Section 327 project unless that kind of TIP and RTP listing exists, and without it Caltrans cannot sign a final NEPA action. Therefore, Caltrans District 12 staff will work with OCTA staff to properly program the project in the conforming TIP so that project schedule is consistent with programming.

- If three years would elapse since most recent major step to advance the project, project-level conformity will need to be re-determined for the project. According to EPA's Transportation Conformity Regulations, major steps include "NEPA process completion; start of final design; acquisition of a significant portion of the right-of-way; and, construction (including Federal approval of plans, specifications and estimates)." Project-level conformity also must be re-determined for any FHWA/FTA project upon a significant change in project's design concept and scope, or initiation of a supplemental environmental document for air quality purposes. As part of the project-level conformity re-determination, the project would need to be brought back to TCWG again for interagency review to re-affirm that it remains a POAQC.
- A conformity determination by FHWA and eventual NEPA approval by Caltrans is required for the project to move forward towards implementation.

2) **LALS04**

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

4.2 OCTA TCM Substitution

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG staff had reviewed OCTA's request to substitute SR-241/91 Express Lanes Connector committed TCM project (FTIP ID: ORA111207) with three traffic signal synchronization projects in Orange County, and concurred that the proposed substitution meets all requirements.
- SCAG staff had subsequently prepared and released a Draft OCTA TCM Substitution Report for a 30-day public review starting on April 30, 2018. After conclusion of public review, all public comments would be incorporated into final TCM substitution analysis as appropriate.
- Final TCM substitution analysis was tentatively scheduled to be presented to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee in July 2018 for recommendation to SCAG's Regional Council for adoption.
- Upon adoption by Regional Council, final TCM substitution analysis would be submitted to ARB and U.S. EPA for concurrence.

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- Adoption by Regional Council and concurrence from ARB and U.S. EPA would rescind original TCM project and new committed TCM measures would become effective.

In response to a questions, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that ARB and U.S. EPA review usually takes about one to three months.

4.3 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2019 FTIP was on schedule for public release by SCAG's Transportation Committee on July 5, 2018, adoption by SCAG's Regional Council in September, state approval in November, and federal approval in mid-December 2018.
- 2017 FTIP Amendments through #17-18 had received all necessary approvals.
- 2017 FTIP Amendment #17-19 was under review for federal approval.
- 2017 FTIP Administrative Modification #17-20 was anticipated to be approved by May 25, 2018.

4.4 RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of Daniel Tran, SCAG:

- SCAG staff was developing Draft 2016 RTP/SCS Amendment #3, following 2019 FTIP schedule.
- SCAG staff would present an overview of 2020 RTP/SCS at a joint meeting of SCAG Policy Committees on June 7, 2018 to officially kick off its development process.

4.5 EPA Update

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

- Mike Stoker, a former County Supervisor of Santa Barbara County in Southern California, is the new Regional Administrator for EPA Region 9.
- Federal Register Notice of final area designations for 2015 Ozone NAAQS was signed on April 30, 2018 and would be published soon.
- EPA did not yet have guidance on implementation of 1997 ozone standards in response to U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's recent decision striking down portions of EPA's 2008 Ozone NAAQS SIP Requirements Rule. It did not seem that the Court ruling would impact any areas in SCAG region.

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4.6 ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB Board was scheduled to consider adoption of Imperial County PM_{2.5} SIP for 2012 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS on May 25, 2018.
- Transportation conformity budgets in the Imperial County PM_{2.5} SIP had been developed collaboratively among Imperial County Air District, ARB, and SCAG and also in consultation with U.S. EPA staff. The budgets were developed with SCAG's travel activity data and EMFAC2014 covering on-road mobile sources for calendar years 2019 and 2022.
- EMFAC2017 had been updated and released early this year and also underwent a minor revision in March 2018. EMFAC2017 was planned to be submitted to U.S. EPA in next few weeks. EMFAC web database also had been updated for generating EMFAC2017 results with default travel activity data.

4.7 Air Districts Update

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported that VCAPCD staff would meet with U.S. EPA staff soon to start discussing aspects of Ventura County 2016 Ozone SIP submittal for 2008 ozone NAAQS.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Lijin Sun, SCAQMD, announced that she would be on an extended leave from June 15 through end of 2018. A newly hired SCAQMD staff would participate in TCWG meetings for remainder of 2018.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, announced and welcomed new SCAG intern Emily Ng and returning intern Amina Karwa who would assist in future TCWG meetings.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at the SCAG main office in downtown Los Angeles.