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

**June 24, 2014
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:

Abrishami, Lori	Metro
Chandan, Meenu	Caltrans, District 8
Hosseini, Ehsan	Terry Hayes Associates
Louka, Tony	Caltrans, District 8
Panganiban, Rodrigo M.	Caltrans, District 8
Pham, Hoang	Caltrans, District 8
Silverman, Sam	Terry Hayes Associates
Sherwood, Arnie	TCA

SCAG

Asuncion, John
Kuo, Ryan
Lee, Maria
Luo, Rongsheng

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace	RCTC
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Castro, Fernando	Caltrans, District 7
Chang, Paul	Caltrans, District 12
Chu, Philip	SANBAG
Cooper, Keith	ICF
Elder, Jim	Caltrans Headquarters
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans, District 11
Garcia, Dan	SCAQMD
Lay, Keith	LSA Associates
McFall, Valarie	TCA
O'Connor, Karina	EPA, Region 9
Todaro, Ryan	Parsons
Sheehy, Erin	OCTA
Tax, Wienke	EPA, Region 9
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

Tony Louka, Caltrans District 8, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 TCWG March 25, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

3.2 TCWG April 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

3.3 TCWG May 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) 4H01001

A quantitative PM hot spot modeling protocol and analysis will be prepared and presented to TCWG for review.

2) ORA111207

It was determined that this is not a POAQC (FHWA concurrence received via email after the meeting)

3) 18790 Revised June 2014

TCWG discussed about the revised analysis and EPA will provide additional comments after the meeting.

4.2 Review of PM Hot Spot Quantitative Analysis

4) 1C0404/LA962212/LA0G665/SB20061702 Revised June 2014

It was determined via email before the meeting that the analysis is acceptable for NEPA circulation.

4.3 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2013 FTIP Amendment #13-19 had completed public review and was under state and federal review.

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- Draft 2015 FTIP would be released for a 30-day public review on July 1, 2014 and two public hearings would be held in July at SCAG Headquarters Office at downtown Los Angeles with video conferencing available in SCAG's regional offices throughout SCAG region.

4.4 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 would be released concurrently with Draft 2015 FTIP for a 30-day public review on July 1, 2014 and would undergo the same two public hearings.
- Same as 2015 FTIP, the RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 is scheduled to be adopted by SCAG's Regional Council in September 2014 and federal approval is anticipated in December 2014.

4.5 Draft Conformity Analysis for 2015 FTIP and Amendment No. 2 to 2012-2035 RTP/SCS

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- Draft 2015 FTIP conformity analysis is included as three sections in Draft 2015 FTIP Technical Appendix Volume II.
- Conformity analysis for Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 is included as a chapter in the Draft RTP/SCS Amendment document.
- The conformity analysis demonstrates that Draft 2015 FTIP and Draft Amendment No. 2 to 2012-2035 RTP/SCS meet all conformity requirements:
 - ✓ Consistency with 2012-2035 RTP/SCS as previously amended
 - ✓ Regional emission analysis
 - ✓ Timely implementation of TCMs
 - ✓ Financial constraint
 - ✓ Interagency consultation and public involvement
- SCAG's Transportation Committee authorized public release of Draft 2015 FTIP and Draft RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 on July 1, 2014.
- Draft conformity analysis will go through a public review and comment process as part of Draft 2015 FTIP and Draft RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 documents including a 30-day public review, two public hearings, posting on SCAG's website, noticed in newspapers and distributed to libraries across SCAG region.
- Transportation conformity determination for 2015 FTIP and RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 is scheduled to be presented to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee for recommendation to SCAG's Regional Council for approval on the same day on September 11, 2014.

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In response to a question, Mr. Luo confirmed that final conformity determination for 2015 FTIP and 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Amendment No. 2 will need to be approved by FHWA/FTA by December 14, 2014.

4.6 EPA Update

Wienke Tax, EPA Region 9, reported the following:

- Public comment period for EPA's proposed approvals of South Coast 1-hour ozone attainment demonstration and South Coast VMT offset demonstrations for 1-hour and 1997 8-hour zone standards concluded on June 23, 2014.
- Six comments were received regarding proposed approval of 1-hour ozone attainment demonstration while only one comment was received regarding proposed approval of VMT offset demonstrations.
- EPA staff will prepare response to the comments and EPA needs to meet a settlement deadline of August 13, 2014 to finalize both actions.

Karina O' Connor, EPA Region 9, commented that review of a quantitative PM hot spot analysis requires substantial time based on EPA's review of quantitative PM hot spot analyses inside and outside SCAG region; as a result, project lead should take it into consideration when scheduling a project; Ms. O'Connor recommended a modeling protocol be prepared for interagency consultation before modeling is performed.

In support of Ms. O'Connor's comment, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that substantial lead time is needed and highly recommended based on recent review and approval of the first quantitative PM hot spot analysis in SCAG region.

4.7 ARB Update

There was no new update.

4.8 Air Districts Update

Dan Garcia, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD Governing Board had approved two elements of 2016 AQMP: 2012 Baseline Emission Inventory and RACT Demonstration; these two elements were required to be submitted to EPA by July 20, 2014.
- 2016 AQMP Advisory Group had met twice in April and May 2014 respectively.
- Nine working groups had been established to prepare nine policy white papers for 2016 AQMP.
- Information regarding 2016 AQMP is available on SCAQMD website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/about/groups-committees/aqmp-advisory-group>.

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In response to a question, Mr. Garcia confirmed that the nine white paper working groups will have separate meetings and the meeting schedule can be found on SCAQMD website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/about/groups-committees/aqmp-advisory-group/2016-aqmp-white-papers>.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

As a follow-up to a request from Ian MacMillan, SCAQMD, at May 27, 2014 TCWG meeting, Andrew Yoon, Caltrans District 7, reported following environmental analysis status of Metro ExpressLanes:

- FHWA approved project-level conformity determination in May 2010.
- NEPA document was approved in June 2010.
- Not aware of any plan to update either project-level conformity analysis or NEPA document at this time.

In response to a request from Dan Garcia, SCAQMD, Mr. Yoon will clarify PM hot spot interagency review form status for Metro ExpressLanes at next TCWG meeting.

Lori Abrishami, Metro, reported following operational status of Metro ExpressLanes:

- FHWA granted permission per MAP -21;
- State granted tolling authority to Metro by law in 2008 and tolling authority expires January 15, 2015.
- After federal Demonstration period was completed in February 2014, Metro Board granted authorization in April 2014 to continue operation of ExpressLanes beyond January 15, 2015 pending state legislation.
- State legislation to remove current tolling term had already been introduced in Senate and will be going forward to Assembly soon.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, and Tony Louka, TCWG Chair, acknowledged and thanked Maria Lee, SCAG intern, for her staff support and contribution to TCWG over last six months.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.