



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TTAC)

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Camarillo City Hall, Administrative Conference Room
601 Carmen Road, Camarillo, CA

AGENDA

- ITEM 1 **CALL TO ORDER**
- ITEM 2 **INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- ITEM 3 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Any member of the public may address the Committee for up to two minutes on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Committee that is not scheduled for a public discussion before the Committee.
- ITEM 4 **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**
- ITEM 5 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – For Action**
 - Recommendation: Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting.
- ITEM 6 **CALTRANS LOCAL ASSISTANCE UPDATES – For Information**
- ITEM 7 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS – For Action**
- ITEM 8 **PROPOSED 2017 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS – For Information**
- ITEM 9 **STATUS OF DELEGATION TO CALTRANS OF NEPA APPROVAL – For Information**
- ITEM 10 **CAMARILLO'S SANTA ROSE ROAD WIDENING PROJECT PRESENTATION – For Information**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Committee meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Committee at (805) 642-1591 ext. 111. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

ITEM 11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Bicycle Wayfinding Study Presentation (February)
- Ventura County Traffic Model Update (February)
- TTAC & TRANSCOM Joint Meeting to Discuss Funding Priorities (March)
- Issues or Topics for Caltrans Quarterly Meetings
- Periodic Highway Construction Updates
- Regional Transportation Funding & Planning
- Congestion Management Program – New VMT Standard

ITEM 12 ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Committee meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Committee at (805) 642-1591 ext. 111. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.



Meeting Summary

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TTAC)

CAMARILLO CITY HALL
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
601 CARMEN DRIVE, CAMARILLO, CA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Matsuoka, City of Camarillo
Shaun Kroes, City of Moorpark
Farhad Zaltash, City of Oxnard
Butch Britt, City of Port Hueneme
Joh Ilasin, City of Santa Paula
Tom Mericle, City of Ventura (Chair)
Cliff Finley, City of Thousand Oaks
David Fleisch, County of Ventura
John Demers, Port of Hueneme

Fred Bral, Caltrans
Ben Cacatian, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
Matt Miller, Gold Coast Transit District

MEMBERS ABSENT:

City of Fillmore
City of Ojai
City of Simi Valley
California Highway Patrol

VCTC STAFF PRESENT:

Peter De Haan, Program Director
Judy Johnduff, Program Analyst

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mericle called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. De Haan requested that those agencies that have not submitted membership designation letters to please do so at their earliest convenience.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Item 7 was taken before Item 6 and Item 11 was postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Finley moved, seconded by Britt, to approve the September 15, 2016 and October 20, 2016 meeting minutes. Fleish abstained from voting on the October meeting minutes. Kroes abstained from both votes.

ITEM 6 CALTRANS LOCAL ASSISTANCE UPDATES

It was requested that the City of Camarillo reserve the library on January 24, 2017, April 11, 201, and June 20, 2017 for the quarterly meeting.

Mr. De Haan said that there are PowerPoints for A&E trainings are available on the Department of Transportation website and that the links will be forwarded to the Committee.

The Federal Aid series will be held June 12 – 16, 2017 at 100 South Main Street, Room 01.037 in Los Angeles.

ITEM 7 SANTA PAULA BIKE PATH PROJECT FUNDING INCREASE – For Action

Mr. De Haan gave a brief history of the funding for the Santa Paula Bike Path. He said that the initial project included pedestrian and bike paths to traverse the railroad tracks, which were removed from the project due to a lack of funds but have been reintroduced and additional funding is requested since

Discussion

Mr. Fleish asked if it is policy to provide additional funding when bids come in higher than the estimates and funds available. He said that more than 1/3 of the project is being funded outside of the competitive Call For Projects process. Mr. Fleish said that the project scope

was reduced in 2011 because of the bid responses and a lack of funding but it is being resubmitted with the original scope. He would like to see a competitive process because other agencies also have projects that could benefit from the \$824,834. He asked if the scope of the project would be reduced if the funding was not approved by TTAC.

Chair Mericle asked if the crossing are for bicycles or vehicles and whether or not the project could wait until after a competitive Call For Projects in 2017

Mr. Demers asked if the project was located on a Right of Way and included maintenance.

Mr. Finely said that the project would likely get the funding through the Call For Projects process as it's an existing project.

Mr. Britt said this is a VCTC project and the City of Santa Paula should not be penalized for facilitating the project.

Mr. Ilasin responded that the City of Santa Paul is asking for \$824,834, which includes ten percent contingency. He said that there are ten crossing that are located on VCTC easements. He said that this is a VCTC project and that the City of Santa Paula is facilitating the project. He said that the City of Santa Paula wants to finish the project, which includes pavement approaches, concrete panels, and ADA elements. Mr. Ilasin said that although they are railroad crossings for vehicles, it is a bike path project to allow cyclist to cross the tracks without shifting into the road and that this is a priority project for the City of Santa Paula.

ACTION

Britt moved, seconded by Kroes to approve programming of \$824,834 in CMAQ funds to cover the unanticipated additional cost to award the contract to complete the Santa Paula Bike Trail project and that the City of Santa Paula will be precluded from competing for additional CMAQ funds during the next Call For Projects.

TTAC supported the staff recommendation but requested the following stipulations:

- That it be understood that VCTC will not consider any further cost increases to this project; and,
- That this project cost increase be considered to have been Santa Paula's top priority application for the upcoming call for CMAQ projects.

ITEM 8

CALTRANS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW INTERIM GUIDANCE

Mr. De Haan said that SB 743, passed by the Legislature in 2013, requires that environmental documents not use Level of Service (LOS) for measuring impact but instead use Vehicle-miles Travelled (VMT). He said that the Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) is currently developing guidelines to implement this legal requirement. He said that Caltrans has posted interim guidance governing its review of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents but the California Transportation Commission (CTC) objected to this regulatory action being taken without the opportunity for public input as well as the action being taken in advance of the OPR regulations. He said that the CTC will be sending a letter to Caltrans and there is no indication whether or not Caltrans will take in response to the CTC's letter. Mr. De Haan stated that the Caltrans guidance is currently in effect.

ITEM 9 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE 3 CALL FOR PROJECTS UPDATE/ INFORMATION ON ADVANCING FUNDS FOR ATP PROJECT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Ms. Johnduff updated the Committee on the ATP Cycle 3 Call for Projects. She said that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved the staff recommendation to fund 40 projects totaling approximately \$132M across the state. She said that several jurisdictions within Ventura County submitted a total of seven project application with five of them benefitting Disadvantaged Communities and six supporting Safe Routes to School. She said that although none of the projects submitted were awarded funds, they have been forwarded to Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for further consideration under the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Program in which Ventura County's population share is roughly \$2.4M.

Ms. Johnduff added that in an effort to improve the timely delivery of ATP project, the CTC will allow local agencies to receive an early allocation for the design or construction projects if they are programmed in a later year as long as funds are available. She said that local agencies are encouraged to submit an early allocation request in order to allow more time to complete the design work.

ITEM 10 STATUS OF DELEGATION TO CALTRANS OF NEPA APPROVAL

De Haan said that without the legislature it's not going forward... legislature resuming in January. Staff not able to review NEPA docs for California.

Mr. De Haan gave a status update on the delegation to Caltrans of NEPA approval. He said that on December 31' 2016, the legislative authority for the delegation of NEPA approval authority to Caltrans will expire. He said that the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans have posted a Memorandum of Understanding to extend the NEPA delegation but this MOU cannot become effective until the Legislature acts in January 2017.

FHWA has indicated that although years ago it approved all California NEPA documents it is no longer staffed for that purpose and therefore will be unable to certify any documents after it is given that responsibility on January 1st. Since the Legislature will not meet until after that date, any Caltrans NEPA document not certified by Caltrans by December 31st, will not get certified until there has been legislative action to address the issue.

Assembly Transportation Chair Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) has introduced a new bill, AB 28, to provide the required legislative authorization to extend the NEPA delegation. Caltrans executive staff has expressed confidence that this bill will be moved through the Legislature quickly enough to minimize project delays.

ITEM 11 A CAMARILLO'S SANTA ROSA ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

This item was postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ITEM 12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 2017 Meeting Calendar and Election of Officers (January)
- Bicycle Wayfinding Study (January)
- Issues or Topics for Caltrans Quarterly Meetings
 - o Review process of City of Thousand Oaks' projects
- City of Camarillo's Santa Rosa Road Widening Project
- Periodic Highway Construction Updates
- Regional Transportation Funding & Planning
- Congestion Management Program – New VMT Standard

ITEM 13 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mericle adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

This page intentionally left blank.



DATE: JANUARY 19, 2017

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Committee nominate and elect officers to the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from among the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee representatives by majority vote. Nomination and selection of the new officers will occur during this meeting. Below is a recent history of officers.

2016

Chair – Tom Mericle, City of Ventura

Vice Chair - Cliff Finley, City of Thousand Oaks

2015

Chair – Tom Mericle, City of Ventura

Vice Chair - Cliff Finley, City of Thousand Oaks

2014

Chair – Ken Matsuoka, City of Camarillo

Vice Chair – Tom Mericle, City of Ventura

2013

Chair – David Fleisch, County of Ventura

Vice Chair – Ken Matsuoka, City of Camarillo

This page intentionally left blank.



DATE: JANUARY 19, 2017

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

SUBJECT: 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the 2017 TTAC meeting schedule with meetings to be held at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month at Camarillo City Hall, with the exception that May 18 and November 16 in that these TTAC meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Camarillo Library immediately prior to the Caltrans Quarterly meetings.

DISCUSSION:

The following is the proposed 2017 Meeting Schedule for the Committee's consideration. This schedule will continue the practice of meeting the third Thursday of the month:

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18 – *Meeting will be held at the Camarillo Library.*
June 15
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16 – *Meeting will be held at the Camarillo Library.*
December 21

This page intentionally left blank.



DATE: JANUARY 19, 2017

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DELEGATION TO CALTRANS OF NEPA APPROVAL

RECOMMENDATION:

- Receive and file.

DISCUSSION:

As discussed last month, on December 31st the legislative authority for the delegation of NEPA approval authority to Caltrans expired. Although a bill had been introduced in the Legislature to make this approval authority permanent, that bill was not passed due to the incorporation of the bill into a larger package of transportation finance legislation which did not move forward. FHWA has indicated that although years ago it approved all California NEPA documents it is no longer staffed for that purpose and therefore will be unable to certify any documents after it is given that responsibility on January 1st.

Caltrans Local Assistance has issued the attached letter (Attachment A) notifying that environmental approvals have stopped. However, according to the letter there are certain types of Categorical Exclusions that still can be approved.

At the January meeting, the Commission adopted a "Support" position on AB 28 (Frazier), the urgency legislation to extend the NEPA delegation. Attachment B is the letter of support that was submitted by VCTC staff.

This page intentionally left blank.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

P.O. BOX 942873, MS-27

SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001

PHONE (916) 653-7136

FAX (916) 653-7757

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.
Help save water!*

December 22, 2016

California City and County
Environmental Transportation Partners

Dear Partner:

On January 1, 2017, California Streets and Highways Code Section 820.1 will sunset and Caltrans must stop performing federal responsibilities for environmental decisions and approvals under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on highway projects in California, funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Since 2007, Caltrans has performed these duties under the program known as NEPA Assignment, pursuant to two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed by the FHWA. The 23 USC 326 MOU allows Caltrans to approve 326 Categorical Exclusions (CEs); the 23 USC 327 MOU allows Caltrans to approve Environmental Assessments (EA), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and Categorical Exclusions that cannot be approved as 326 CE.

As a condition of each MOU, the FHWA requires California to consent to the jurisdiction of federal courts for actions taken by Caltrans under NEPA Assignment. To accomplish this, the Legislature added Section 820.1 to the Streets and Highways Code, waiving California's immunity under the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Legislature included a sunset clause to delete Section 820.1 on January 1, 2017.

On December 5, 2016, the Legislature convened the 2017-2018 Regular Session, and Assembly Bill (AB) 28 (Frazier) was introduced. AB 28 would add back Section 820.1 to the Streets and Highways Code, with provisions to waive immunity and consent to the jurisdiction of federal courts, but with no sunset clause. The Legislature will consider AB 28 when they reconvene in January. In the meantime, on January 1, Caltrans' NEPA Assignment authority will be suspended for up to 90 days. If by that time, the waiver of immunity is back in place, the suspension will lift automatically and Caltrans will again perform NEPA Assignment responsibilities.

During the suspension period, the FHWA will handle federal NEPA responsibilities. The FHWA is no longer adequately staffed for these duties, so project delay will likely result. Critical NEPA duties that Caltrans will **not** be able to perform include:

City and County
Environmental Transportation Partners
December 22, 2016

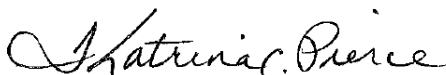
- signing Draft Environmental Documents, Findings of No Significant Impacts, Final Environmental Documents, and Records of Decision;
- approving federally required environmental reevaluations for EISs that were signed three years prior or reevaluations for a project with a substantial change;
- submitting Biological Assessments for formal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act; and
- approving 327 and some 326 CEs.

In order to minimize the impact to 326 Categorical Exclusion (CE) approvals, the FHWA and Caltrans have entered into a Programmatic CE (PCE) Agreement that will allow Caltrans to approve some 326 CEs. The PCE will be effective on January 1, 2017 and will be canceled when the waiver is back in place and the suspension lifts. The PCE is attached for your review and distribution. Please note, not all projects that were approved under the 326 MOU will be approved under the PCE, since the approvals are based on a project's environmental impacts, which must be considered on a case by case basis.

During the suspension period, Caltrans Districts will work through their respective Environmental Coordinators, who report to the Chief, Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA). The DEA NEPA Assignment team will also work with the Environmental Coordinators to monitor and minimize the extent of any project delays. The FHWA will coordinate directly with the DEA NEPA Assignment team.

Please consult with your respective Caltrans Districts, who have received direction through a memorandum similar to this informational letter. If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact Tammy Massengale, NEPA Assignment Program Manager at (916) 653-5157.

Sincerely,



KATRINA C. PIERCE
Chief, Division of Environmental Analysis

- c: Malcolm Dougherty, Director
Kome Ajise, Chief Deputy Director
Karla Sutliff, Chief Engineer
Deputy District Directors, Environmental
Coordinators, Division of Environmental Analysis
Office Chiefs, Division of Environmental Analysis
Rihui Zhang, Division Chief, Local Assistance
Germaine Belanger, NEPA Office Chief, Local Assistance
Tashia Clemons, Director, Program Development, FHWA

Attachment: Programmatic Categorical Exclusion Agreement



Ventura County Transportation Commission

January 9, 2017

The Honorable Jim Frazier
Chair, Transportation Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 28

Dear Chairman Frazier:

I am writing to inform you that the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) supports AB 28, your bill to extend the waiver of sovereign immunity required for federal delegation to Caltrans of responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This delegation of NEPA approval authority originally began in 2007, and the waiver of immunity originally extended until 2009, was later extended to 2012, and then to 2016.

The NEPA delegation to Caltrans has been found, over nearly 10 years of experience, to significantly reduce the processing time for NEPA approvals without reducing environmental protections. For example, Caltrans has found that the average time required for preparing and approving a NEPA Environmental Impact Statement document has been reduced by almost one year. VCTC supported the original NEPA delegation, and believes that the time has come for this arrangement to become permanent. Therefore, the Commission at its meeting January 6th meeting voted unanimously to support SB 28, which will provide the required waiver of sovereign immunity for Caltrans environmental approvals under NEPA.

Should you have any questions regarding VCTC's position do not hesitate to call me at (805) 642-1591.

Sincerely,

Darren M. Kettle
Executive Director