



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Banuelos, Ryan

Gutierrez, Pablo

Heschmeyer, D'Ella

Hsi-Hwa, Hu

Luo, Rongsheng

Sun, Lijin

Via Zoom and Teleconference:

Bade, Rabindra

Becha, Karishma

Chan, Jenny

Cooper, Keith

Dorantes, Michael

Duncan, Dan

Espinosa, Erika Araiza

Galbreath, Holly

Garfio, Angel

Getachew, Eleni

Glasgow, Evelyn

Hendrawan, Kevin

Huddleston, Lori

Kalandiyur, Nesamani

Lay, Keith

Lee, Sang-Mi

Liptak, Zach

Lugaro, Julie

Maggioncalda, Emma

Masters, Martha

Morris, Michael

Raziani, Emon

Renga, Vaik

Sutherland, Anders

Tavitas, Rodney

Vaca, Erika

Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans District 12

Caltrans Headquarters

RCTC

ERP

U.S. EPA Region 9

City of Santa Clarita

Caltrans Headquarters

Ventura County APCD

OCTA

Impact Sciences

City of Santa Clarita

CARB

LA Metro Long Range Planning

CARB

ICF

South Coast AQMD

Dokken Engineering

Caltrans District 12

Caltrans Headquarters

RCTC

FHWA

Caltrans District 7

Caltrans Headquarters

Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc.

Caltrans Headquarters

Caltrans Headquarters

Caltrans District 7



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Rabindra Bade, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. January 23, 2024 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

- RIV151218, RIV151218 Memorandum: it was reaffirmed that this project is not a project of air quality concern.
- LA9919158, LA9919158 Maps: it was determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern.

4.2. RTP Update

Pablo Gutierrez, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG staff would present a summary of public comments and proposed changes to the draft Connect SoCal 2024 (Plan) based on the public comments received to SCAG's three Policy Committees at their joint meeting on March 7, 2024. At the same meeting, SCAG staff would seek action from the Policy Committees to recommend that SCAG Regional Council approve the final Plan at its meeting in April 2024.
- The proposed final Plan document would be published as part of the April Regional Council meeting packet on SCAG website on March 28, 2024.
- SCAG Regional Council would consider the final Plan for adoption at its meeting on April 4, 2024.

4.3. FTIP Update

Pablo Gutierrez, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG staff was reviewing 2025 FTIP project submittals from the County Transportation Commissions (CTCs).
- The 2025 FTIP development process was underway and currently on schedule. The draft 2025 FTIP was anticipated to be released for public review in July 2024. SCAG Regional Council would consider the 2025 FTIP, including the transportation conformity analysis for approval anticipated in Fall 2024 and federal approval by December 2024.

4.3.1 Status Update on Transportation Conformity Analysis for the Proposed Final Connect SoCal 2024 Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported the following:

- The public review and comment period on the draft Plan, including the associated draft transportation conformity analysis technical report ended January 12, 2024.
- SCAG staff received 21 individual and agency comments on the draft transportation conformity analysis technical report and provided a brief overview of the received comments:
 - Most of comments requested further enhancements to the reporting and documentation of the draft transportation conformity analysis to better demonstrate compliance with federal transportation conformity regulations.
 - Some comments requested updated information on the attainment or maintenance area designations for applicable criteria pollutants in the SCAG region.
 - Some comments requested references to other technical reports of the Plan.



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- Based on a review of these comments, SCAG staff believed that no significant issues on the draft transportation conformity analysis were raised by the received public comments. Written responses would be included as part of the proposed final Plan document.
- The proposed final transportation conformity analysis included as part of the proposed final Plan would be considered for recommended adoption to Regional Council by SCAG three Policy Committees on March 7, 2024 and then Regional Council consideration of as part of the final Plan adoption on April 4, 2024.

In response to CARB staff's questions on major technical changes such as those on the vehicle mile travel (VMT) estimation from the draft Plan and the proposed final Plan, Hsi-Hwa Hu, SCAG, stated the following:

- As with previous RTP/SCS development cycles, SCAG staff was making technical and modeling updates that included updates to the transportation network based on comments received from CTCs, updated data for estimation and projections of auto operating costs (AOC), updates to the bikelane network and associated bikelane density data, socioeconomic updates, and updates to the transit model based on CTCs input.
- Between 2019 to 2050, the AOC increased by approximately 36 percent in the draft Plan, and for the proposed final Plan, the AOC increase was down to 32 percent. The overall pattern was still consistent.
- In 2035 build scenario with the Plan, VMT in the proposed final Plan was 0.3 percent higher than that in the draft Plan. In 2050 build scenario with the Plan, VMT in the proposed final Plan was 0.1 percent lower than that in the draft Plan.
- SCAG staff would present updates on recent improvements to SCAG activity-based regional travel demand model that were used for the technical analysis and modeling of the proposed final Plan to the Modeling Task Force at its March 27, 2024 meeting. For more information, please visit SCAG website at: <https://scag.ca.gov/modeling-task-force>.

4.4. EPA Update

Michael Dorantes, EPA, reported the following:

- On February 7, 2024, EPA finalized the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) by revising the level of the primary (health-based) annual PM_{2.5} standard to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) from 12.0 µg/m³.
- Consequently, it started the promulgation of area designations process within two years from the promulgation date of the new NAAQS (Clean Air Act Section 107(d)(1)(B)(i)), which was February 7, 2024. Implications from the new standard on transportation conformity would begin after the area designations were completed and became effective.

4.4.1. Status Update on the SCAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 2:23-cv-02646)

Michael Dorantes, EPA, reported the following:

- EPA had received numerous comments requesting an extension to the public comment deadline for the proposed disapprove which was a follow-up to the proposed consent decree in response to a consolidated lawsuit filed by the SCAQMD and environmental organizations regarding the Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 1997 federal 8-hour ozone standard.
- EPA would grant a 30-day extension to the public comment period, which would have a new deadline of April 3, 2024.
- SCAQMD and CARB had the option to withdraw the said Contingency Measure SIP. However, if withdrawal occurs after the finalized disapproval, it would not have any impacts on sanction clocks or sanctions. In other words, sanction clocks and sanctions would still be active.



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In response to a question, Michael Dorantes, EPA, would confirm if a withdrawal before finalization of the disapproval would make the disapproval and any resultant consequences from disapproval moot.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, emphasized on the importance of timelines for EPA area designations under the new PM2.5 NAAQS. SCAG would need to make regional conformity redetermination within one year from the effective date of area designations to avoid a conformity lapse.

4.5. ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported the following:

- CARB staff was developing the next version of the EMFAC model, also known as EMFAC202Y. An alpha version for model testing purposes would be released in summer 2024. The final version would be released in spring 2025.

4.5.1 Draft Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEBs) for the SCAQMD 2012 Annual PM2.5 NAAQS State Implementation Plan for the South Coast Air Basin

Kevin Hendrawan, CARB, reported the following:

- The draft MVEBs were developed using SCAG's Connect SoCal 2020 (2020 RTP/SCS) consistent with the attainment demonstration for this SIP.
- EMFAC2021 model was used to produce emissions totals for NOx, ammonia, and PM2.5 from the 2020 RTP/SCS data before applying off-model adjustments from CARB recently adopted regulations such as the Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program Regulation.
- The MVEBs would become effective once EPA determines they are adequate or approved.
- Any comments on the draft MVEBs can be submitted by March 4, 2024.

4.6. Air Districts Updates

4.6.1. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for VCAPCD

Holly Galbreath, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- The revised Rule 71.1 package was submitted by CARB to EPA on January 10, 2024.

4.6.2. Status Update on EPA Proposed Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rules 1106, 1106.1, and 1107; Final Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rule 1118; Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for SCAQMD; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Coachella Valley Ozone Nonattainment Area; Failure to Submit the Required 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter State Implementation Plan Elements for the South Coast Air Basin; Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter in the South Coast Air Basin; EPA Proposed Disapproval of the Contingency Measure Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS in the South Coast Air Basin

Sang-Mi Lee, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- No new updates on most of the listed items since the last TCWG meeting in January 2024 as they had all been adopted by SCAQMD Governing Board and submitted to CARB for subsequent submittals to EPA.
- The Coachella Valley Contingency Measures SIP for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS was released for public review and comments and would be presented to SCAQMD Governing Board for adoption on March 1, 2024. Upon adoption, the said SIP would be submitted to EPA through CARB.



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- The draft 2012 PM_{2.5} SIP was under development and would be presented to SCAQMD Mobile Source Committee for discussion in March 2024. SCAQMD Governing Board adoption was anticipated in early summer.
- Information related to EPA proposed disapproval of the Contingency Measure Plan for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS in the South Coast Air Region would be available at SCAQMD website: <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/air-quality-management-plans/contingency-measure-plan-for-1997-ozone-standard>.

4.6.3. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1160; Final Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 315; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for San Bernardino County Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, and 1305; Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1157; and Proposed Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 401
No representative was present to provide an update.

4.6.3.1 Status Update on the MDAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1411)

- No representative was present to provide an update.

4.6.4. Status Update on EPA Final Disapproval of AVAQMD Rule 315; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Antelope Valley Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Final Limited Disapproval of AVAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, and 1309

Barbara Lods, AVAQMD, reported the following:

- The revised Rule 315 package had been submitted to EPA through CARB.
- The AVAQMD portion of the West Mojave Desert ozone nonattainment Contingency Measures Plan was under development and was scheduled for AVAQMD Board adoption in April 2024.

4.6.4.1 Status Update on the AVAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1614)

- No updates on the lawsuit were provided.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next TCWG meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 in-person, via Zoom, and by teleconference. Please submit PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting to Lijin Sun, sunl@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, March 12, 2024.