



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2021

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
Barajas, Agustin
Calderon, Karen
Ekman, Annaleigh
Gutierrez, Pablo
Luo, Rongsheng
Milner, David
Sangkapichai, Mana

Via Teleconference:

Anderson, Kelsie
Arellano, Lexie
Bagde, Abhijit
Bade, Rabindra
Blanco, Stephanie
Brugger, Ron
Cacatian, Ben
Chan, Jenny
Cooper, Keith
Espinoza Araiza, Erika
Firger, Mark
Gaschot, Bertrand
Huddleston, Lori
Hendrawan, Kevin
Hester, Nisa
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Kulkarni, Anup
Lay, Keith
Mar, Sheldon
Masters, Martha
Miranda, Jude
Mohai, Amie
Moran, Nohemi
Nord, Greg
O'Connor, Karina
Odufalu, Femi
Phan, Paul
Richmai, Michael
Sanchez, Lucas
Shelley, Scott
Smolke, Brian
Tavitas, Rodney
Thomas, David
Vaughn, Joseph
Whiteaker, Warren
Yoon, Andrew
Zhou, Diwu

TCA
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans District 12
RCTC
LSA
Ventura County APCD
RCTC
ERP
Caltrans Headquarters
Parsons
Mojave Desert AQMD
LA Metro
CARB
Bechtel
CARB
OCTA
ICF
Stantec
RCTC
Caltrans District 12
Caltrans Headquarters
SBCTA
OCTA
US EPA Region 9
Caltrans District 8
Caltrans District 8
LA Metro
Caltrans Headquarters
Caltrans District 12
OCTA
Caltrans Headquarters
RCTC
FHWA
OCTA
Caltrans District 7
Fehr & Peers



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MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Paul Phan, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. June 22, 2021 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were deferred to September TCWG Meeting.
- 3.2. July 27, 2021 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were deferred to September TCWG Meeting.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms
 - **RIV071267B (Interim I-15 Express Lanes Project Shoulder Lane Project):** This project was determined to be not an exempt project via email after the meeting.
- 4.2. Review of Conformity Exemption Request
 - **Revised ORA001103 Exemption:** The project was determined to be an exempt project.
- 4.3. Proposed OCTA TCA TCM Substitution
Anup Kulkarni, OCTA, presented draft methodology and findings of proposed substitution of three Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) committed TCM projects (FTIP Project IDs: 10254, ORA050, & ORA051) with 33 miles of new traffic signal synchronization projects.

Karina O'Connor, US EPA Region 9, noted that TCM substitution requests had become less detailed over time and requested a detailed comparison of funding and timing between the original and substitute projects, justification for the delay of the original projects, and whether these projects are in the FTIP.

Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, requested detailed documentation on how the traffic signal synchronization projects were modeled (e.g., change in traffic volumes with and without the projects and number of intersections included in the projects) and the emissions changes between the existing and replacement projects.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, proposed the following steps forward:

- OCTA would update and resubmit the TCM Substitution request to SCAG with additional information requested by the TCWG.
- SCAG would prepare a Draft TCM Substitution Report for interagency consultation by the TCWG and for a 30-day public review concurrently.
- SCAG and OCTA would then address comments from the TCWG and the public at the same time.
- SCAG would bring the request to SCAG's Policy Committee for recommendation to Regional Council for adoption and submit it to ARB and EPA for their respective concurrences.

4.4. RTP Update

4.4.1. Connect SoCal-2020 RTP/SCS Amendment #1 Update

Agustin Barajas, SCAG, reported the following:

- The 2020 RTP/SCS Amendment No. 1 was approved for draft release by SCAG's Regional Council on July 1, 2021, and then released for a 30-day comment period, which ended on Friday July 31st.



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- SCAG received 3 minor comments requiring minor project modifications with no substantive changes to the Amendment or changes that had an impact on transportation conformity.
- It was expected that the Amendment would be approved by SCAG's Regional Council in November 2021 and receive Federal Conformity Determination in January 2022.

4.4.2. Concurrent 2021 FTIP Modeling Amendment/2023 FTIP/Connect SoCal Consistency Amendment #2 Modeling Status Update

Mana Sangkapichai, SCAG, reported the following:

- All 14 Regional Travel Demand Model runs had been completed and EMFAC2014 emissions model runs were started before August 15, 2021.
- Regional Emissions Analysis (120+ model runs) was expected to be completed by September 30, 2021.

4.5. FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported that 2021 FTIP Amendment #21-06 had been approved and SCAG staff was analyzing 2021 FTIP Amendment #21-09 and Administrative Modification #21-10.

4.5.1. Draft 2023 FTIP Guidelines

Pablo Gutierrez, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG was preparing biennial 2023 FTIP update.
- 2023 FTIP would be due to Caltrans and the federal agencies by September 2022. It was expected that 2023 FTIP would receive FHWA certification by December 2022.
- SCAG transportation conformity and modeling staff had updated 2023 FTIP Guidelines to serve as a resource for CTCs to ensure that submittals of their respective adopted county TIPs to SCAG would be compliant with all applicable State and Federal guidelines.
- In July 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted [Resolution 20-623-2](#), affirming its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California. On May 6, 2021, SCAG's Regional Council adopted [The Racial Equity Early Action Plan](#). As a result, 2023 FTIP would include a section on racial equity prepared at the regional level. SCAG staff would be working with CTCs to develop an equity statement.
- The following Administrative Modification Procedures updated by Caltrans in December 2019 had been included in the Draft 2023 FTIP Guidelines:
 - Projects with cost increases less than or equal to 50% of the total project cost, or \$20 million, are allowed in administrative modifications.
 - There will be no cap on the cost increase for group projects in administrative modifications.
- Draft 2023 FTIP Guidelines included a new section on the state's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).
- SCAG sent the Draft 2023 FTIP Guidelines to the CTCs on June 23, 2021 and subsequently held a meeting on July 28, 2021 to review key changes and address questions received from the CTCs.
- The 2023 FTIP Guidelines were not required to go through a public review process.
- The next step was for SCAG staff to take the 2023 FTIP Guidelines to SCAG's Transportation Committee for approval and recommended adoption by SCAG's Regional Council.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, clarified that Chapter III. Transportation Air Quality Conformity and Modeling and Chapter IV. Transportation Control Measures had no major changes. The primary change was updated modeling years.

In response to a request to clarify the approach for interim pilot demonstration projects and in reference to the interim I-15 project discussed under Item 4.1, Karina O'Connor, US EPA Region 9, suggested that the temporary nature of these projects may require a different approach. Karina also suggested that the most effective approach might be to review these projects on a case-by-case basis. Karina cautioned against relying on future actions that



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are not yet defined or concluded.

Joseph Vaughn, FHWA, added that there would need to be a definition for an interim project and asked if maintenance projects could be considered interim or if the project would have independent utility and logical termini. Joseph would defer to Caltrans on the definition of an interim project.

Rongsheng stated that SCAG would continue to move forward with assessing temporary projects on a case-by-case basis and revisit this discussion in the future if necessary.

4.6. US EPA Update

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

- EPA was expected to sign the adequacy finding for the 2020 post-attainment year transportation conformity budgets from the South Coast AQMD attainment plan for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard by September 2021. This should not impact the conformity budgets that SCAG uses.
- EPA continued to work with CARB on EMFAC2021 and off-model adjustment factors for EMFAC2017, and expected to share more updates concerning the timing at the September 2021 TCWG meeting.

In response to a question, Karina stated that EPA was proceeding on reviewing several air plans in SCAG region, including plans from Mojave Desert AQMD and Imperial County APCD.

4.7. CARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, CARB, reported the following:

- ARB continued to work with EPA on EMFAC2021 and off-model adjustment factors for EMFAC2017, and expected to share more updates concerning the timing at the September 2021 TCWG meeting.
- ARB requested feedback from agencies that were testing EMFAC2021.
- ARB was working with SCAG and South Coast AQMD on emissions budgets development for South Coast 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Maintenance Plan and expected to present the proposed budgets at the September 2021 TCWG meeting.

4.8. Air District Updates

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- VCAPCD continued work on its 2022 AQMP/SIP update for the 2015 8-hour Ozone standard.
- It was expected that a preliminary draft of the 2022 AQMP would be completed by November 2021, a final draft in February 2022, District adoption in April 2022, ARB submittal and adoption in July 2022, and final submittal to US EPA by August 3, 2022.
- The preliminary draft 2022 AQMP would be sent to SCAG for review.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported that the South Coast AQMD's 2022 AQMP Advisory Group Meeting would be held on Friday, August 27, 2021 at 1 PM.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

Rodney Tavitias, Caltrans Headquarters, announced that the next Statewide Conformity Working Group Meeting was being planned for November 2021 to share the outcomes of the discussion on EMFAC2017 off-model adjustment factors and EMFAC2021.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next TCWG meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 via teleconference and Zoom meeting only.