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

**September 25, 2012
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
Brotcke, Kurt	OCTA
Cooper, Keith	ICF
Garber, Natalya	Metro
Kulkarni, Anup	OCTA
Nord, Greg	OCTA
Sherwood, Arnie	ITS/OCTA
Smolke, Brian	OCTA
Young, Stephanie	VCTC

SCAG

Au, Anita
Luo, Rongsheng

Via Teleconference:

Behtash, Arman	Caltrans, District 12
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Chang, Paul	Caltrans, District 12
Chien, Kelly	RBF Consulting
Crow, Jason	ARB
Drummonds, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Ernie, Tim	AECOM
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans, District 11
Goodson, Jeff	AECOM
Malisos, Achilles	RBF Consulting
O'Connor, Karina	EPA, Region 9
Odufalu, Olufemi	Caltrans, District 8
Tax, Wienke	EPA, Region 9
Torres, Eddie	RBF Consulting
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Greg Nord, OCTA, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 TCWG July 24, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved via email after the meeting.

3.2 TCWG August 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved via email after the meeting.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) LA0C8046

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

2) ORA130061

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

3) RIV110122

The project sponsor will revise the hot spot review form to address TCWG comments and will resubmit a revised hot spot review form.

4) 2H0703 (SBD)

The project sponsor will revise the hot spot review form to address TCWG comments and will resubmit a revised hot spot review form.

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4.2 Review of PM Hot Spot Qualitative Analyses

1) LA0B951 (revised)

The analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation.
(FWHA and EPA concurrence received via email after the meeting)

2) ORA111801

The project sponsor will revise the qualitative analysis to address TCWG comments and will resubmit a revised analysis for review via email.

The revised qualitative analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation via email on November 13, 2012.

4.3 TCM Substitution Request

Kurt Brotcke, OCTA, presented a TCM substitution request to replace the purchase of 71 buses for bus service expansion with ten regional traffic signal synchronization projects throughout Orange County.

In response to comments, Mr. Brotcke stated that OCTA would provide TCWG with the necessary documentation, including emission analyses of all criteria pollutants for further discussion at the next TCWG meeting.

4.4 FTIP Update

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of John Asuncion, SCAG:

- 2013 FTIP had been approved by the SCAG Executive Administration Committee on behalf of the Regional Council and submitted to funding agencies for review. Federal approval of the 2013 FTIP was still anticipated to be in mid-December 2012.
- Project submittal for the last scheduled administrative modification to the 2011 FTIP was due to SCAG by October 2nd, 2012.

4.5 RTP Update

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of Ryan Kuo, SCAG:

- The six Subcommittees formed by the Regional Council to guide the implementation of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS begin their meetings this and next month, with the first Goods Movement Subcommittee meeting taking place on September 24.

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- Tentative schedule for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Amendment #1:
 - ✓ Solicit RTP amendment requests from all six county transportation commissions in November 2012.
 - ✓ Perform a completeness review of amendment requests, code the regional transportation demand model, and perform the conformity and the fiscal constraint analyses between December 2012 and February 2013.
 - ✓ Release the Draft RTP Amendment for public review and comment in March 2013, bring the proposed final RTP Amendment to the CEOs' AB 1246 Consultation Group for review and approval in April 2013, and adopt the Amendment and submit it to the federal reviewing agencies for conformity determination in May 2013.

4.6 EPA Update

Wienke Tax, EPA, reported the following:

- Two Federal Register notices were published on September 19th, proposing, respectively, a call for a 1-hour Ozone SIP and withdrawal of previous approval of the VMT emissions offset demonstration for the 1-hour and 8-hour Ozone standards in the South Coast. The comment period for the proposed actions would end on October 19th.
- Also released on August 30th was Guidance on the VMT emissions offset demonstration.
- The comment period for the Settlement Agreement for the Imperial County mediation ended last week. Two sets of comments were received concerning the proposed rule changes.

In response to questions, Ms. Tax reported that Imperial County Air Pollution Control District held two workshops last Monday and Thursday regarding Regulation VIII; the adoption public hearing was planned to be held on October 16th; these actions were on schedule as committed in the Settlement Agreement; EPA is committed to issuing a proposed rule on the revised dust regulations within 60 days after receiving the submittal; and the anticipated length of the highway sanctions remains about four to six months.

- A sanctions clock is running in South Coast because of the partial disapproval of PM 2.5 contingency measures last November. Unless approval is obtained, stationary source offset sanctions would start in July 2013 and highways sanctions would begin in December 2013.

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In response to questions, Ms. Tax stated that EPA was in the process of reviewing a PM2.5 SIP revision submittal but was not able to provide information about outstanding issues or EPA action timelines. Ms. Tax confirmed that public processes would be needed should SCAQMD be required to correct any discrepancies in the submittal and that EPA was aware of stakeholder concern for a timely resolution.

4.7 ARB Update

Jason Crow, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB and SCAQMD started working on developing new transportation conformity budgets for the 24-hour PM2.5 standard earlier this month.
- ARB would meet with EPA and Caltrans next week to finalize the Draft PM Hotspot Procedures for use with EMFAC 2011.

In response to a question, Mr. Crow stated that EPA approval of EMFAC 2011 is anticipated by December 31, 2012. Karina O'Connor, EPA, confirmed that EPA still hoped to meet the timeline and EPA would meet with FHWA as the next step.

4.8 Air Districts Update

Eyvonne Drummonds, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- The 2012 AQMP Socio-economic Report was anticipated to be released this week for a 45-day public review period.
- New regional hearings were being scheduled for mid-November 2012.
- SCAQMD Governing Board adoption of the 2012 AQMP is anticipated in December 2012.

In response to questions, Ms. Drummonds confirmed that the 2012 AQMP would be adopted by the AQMD Governing Board and then submitted to ARB in December 2012 and that the VMT emissions offset demonstration was expected to be released soon.

5.0 **INFORMATION SHARING**

In response to a question, Mr. Jason Crow, ARB, confirmed that ARB had started the process to develop new 8-hour ozone transportation conformity budgets for Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and Coachella Valley.

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In response to a question, Ms. Wienke Tax, EPA, confirmed that the VMT emissions offset requirement apply to extreme as well as severe ozone nonattainment areas; the EPA Guidance on VMT emissions offset covers both areas.

In response to a request, Mr. Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, confirmed that updates on the Imperial County Highway Sanctions, the South Coast Sanctions clock, the EMFAC2011 approval, and the new 8-hour ozone transportation conformity budgets for WDAB and Coachella Valley will be standing items on future TCWG agendas.

In response to a question, Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters, confirmed that the next Statewide Conformity Working Group Meeting would be held on October 16, 2012 from 9 am to 12 pm. Mr. Brady requested that any agenda items from TCWG members be sent to him as soon as possible.

6.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17am.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday October 23, 2012 at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.