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

**October 27, 2020
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 via teleconference.

SCAG

Asuncion, John
Calderon, Karen
Hu, Hsi-Hwa
Luo, Rongsheng

Via Teleconference

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Acebo, Mervin | FTA Region 9 |
| Acosta, Brooke | IBI Group |
| Anderson, Kelsie | TCA |
| Arellano, Lexie | Caltrans Headquarters |
| Bade, Rabindra | Caltrans, District 12 |
| Cacatian, Ben | VCAPCD |
| Huddleston, Lori | LA Metro |
| Kalandiyur, Nesamani | ARB |
| Lau, Charles | Caltrans, District 7 |
| Lay, Keith | HDR Engineering |
| Lugaro, Julie | Caltrans, District 8 |
| Lee, David | Caltrans, District 8 |
| Masters, Martha | RCTC |
| Miranda, Jude | Caltrans, District 12 |
| Morris, Michael | FHWA |
| Sanchez, Lucas | Caltrans Headquarters |
| Shankel, James | Caltrans, District 7 |
| Simpson, James | LA Metro |
| Vaughn, Joseph | FHWA |
| Whiteaker, Warren | OCTA |
| Yoon, Andrew | Caltrans, District 7 |

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**October 27, 2020
Minutes**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

Martha Masters, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Chair Masters welcomed Mervin Acebo as new representative of FTA Region 9 to TCWG.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 August 25, 2020 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

3.2 September 22, 2020 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) **ORA111207**

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

2) **RIV031215rev**

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

4.2 RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported that Final Connect SoCal was approved in its entirety by SCAG's Regional Council on September 3, 2020.

In response to a question, Mr. Asuncion, SCAG, stated that there was no schedule for Amendment No. 1 to Connect SoCal at this time but would notify TCWG when it is available.

4.3 2024 RTP/SCS Base Year

Dr. Hsi-Hwa Hu, SCAG, made a PowerPoint presentation on base year for 2024 RTP/SCS:

- Adoption year of current RTP is typically used as base year for next RTP.

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Minutes**

- Base year serves as first year of RTP analysis and base year data is used as target data for regional transportation model validation and calibration.
- COVID-19 pandemic has influenced travel patterns in 2020. As a result, it is not appropriate to use travel data in 2020 to validate and calibrate SCAG model for 2024 RTP.
- 2019 is proposed as base year for 2024 RTP/SCS, following applicable EPA regulation and guidance.
- Consensus was reached to use base year 2019 by SCAG Modeling Task Force on September 23, 2020.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported that Karina O'Connor, EPA Region 9, had concurred before the meeting that 2019 is appropriate as base year for 2024 RTP.

Joseph Vaughn, FHWA, also concurred that 2019 is appropriate as base year for 2024 RTP.

In response to a question, Dr. Hu, SCAG, stated that SCAG staff can only use most reasonable and available data given the uncertainty, but would evaluate near- and long term travel behavior impact from COVID-19 pandemic; In addition, updated VMT data from Caltrans over the next two years might be used for appropriate adjustments to short-term modeling.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, added that timing of model validation was another important factor in selecting 2019 as base year; In addition, RTP is updated every four years, so future RTPs would reflect any long-term impact of the pandemic.

4.4 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Draft 2021 FTIP was postponed due to uncertainties related to federal SAFE Vehicles Rule.
- Legislation AB 1200 allowed for 2021 FTIP to be approved in 2021.
- Draft 2021 FTIP was scheduled for Regional Council adoption in March 2021 and federal approval anticipated in April 2021.
- 2021 FTIP includes a total of over \$35 billion over a six-year period, a slight increase from 2019 FTIP.
- 2021 FTIP would include discussion of performance targets as required by FAST Act and how investments will support SCAG region towards achieving these targets.

TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

October 27, 2020
Minutes

- Project selection procedures from CTCs would also be included as part of 2021 FTIP.
- Two public hearings would be held on November 17, 2020 and December 2, 2020 respectively.

Highlights of Draft 2021 FTIP Transportation Conformity Analysis

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- As required by federal transportation conformity regulations, SCAG staff has performed conformity analysis for Draft 2021 FTIP.
- The conformity analysis was included as three sections of Draft 2021 FTIP Technical Appendix Volume II:
 - Section 1 – Summary of conformity requirements and findings
 - Section 2 – Detailed results of the regional emissions analyses
 - Section 3 – TCM timely implementation report
- The conformity analysis demonstrated that Draft 2021 FTIP passes all five required conformity tests:
 - Consistency with 2020 RTP/SCS including policies, programs, and projects
 - Regional emissions analysis including emission budgets and interim tests for all milestone, attainments, and planning horizon years for all nonattainment and maintenance areas in SCAG region
 - Timely implementation of TCMs in South Coast Basin and Ventura County
 - Financial constraint including identifying all available federal, state, and local revenues to meet region's programming totals
 - Interagency consultation via TCWG and extensive public involvement
- Draft 2021 FTIP including associated conformity analysis would be presented to SCAG Energy and Environmental Committee (EEC) and Transportation Committee (TC) on November 5, 2020 for recommended authorization of public release by SCAG Regional Council.
- Pending Regional Council authorization, transportation conformity analysis would go through an extensive public review process as part of Draft 2021 FTIP.
- After public review, transportation conformity analysis and determination would be presented to EEC and TC in February 2021 for recommended adoption by Regional Council in March 2021.
- Federal approval of conformity determination for 2021 FTIP was anticipated in April 2021.

In response to a question, Mr. Luo, SCAG, stated that because SCAG recently received federal approval of 2020 RTP/SCS, there would be no associated RTP consistency amendment for 2021 FTIP.

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
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**October 27, 2020
Minutes**

4.5 EPA Update
None

4.6 ARB Update
Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported the following:

- Western Mojave Desert VMT Offset Demonstration for 2015 8-hour Ozone Standards was approved by ARB Board in October 2020 and would be submitted to EPA.
- Beta version of EMFAC202X was scheduled to be released in November 2020.

4.7 Air Districts Update
Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of SCAQMD staff:

- SCAQMD was proceeding with development of 2022 AQMP, focusing now on emissions inventory and projections.
- SCAQMD was also forming three working groups for control measures development to focus on on-road mobile sources, off-road mobile sources, and residential and commercial buildings.
- Three working groups would meet throughout next year and are open to public.
- Release of Draft 2022 AQMP was anticipated by early December 2021.

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported that VCAPCD staff continued working on 2022 Ventura County AQMP/SIP including emissions inventory and control measures for RACM analysis.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

None.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 via teleconference and Zoom meeting only.