

**California Transportation Permits Advisory Council (CTPAC)
Steering Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, August 3rd, 2023
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Location: Port of Long Beach Maintenance Facility
725 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802**

Meeting Summary

Item #1 – Welcome, Agenda and Purpose of Meeting.

CTPAC chairperson Eric Sauer, Chief Executive Officer of the California Trucking Association (CTA), welcomed attendees. Eric appreciated everyone for participating in the meeting, including the trucking industry, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) representatives.

Item #2 – Caltrans Updates

Thomas Schriber, Chief of Caltrans' Office of Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO), thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thomas introduced Devinder Sandhu, the lead for single trip and variance permits, Xinyue Yang, the Permit Policy Engineer, Michael Lee, the leading bridge design engineer in Structure Maintenance & Investigations (SM&I), and Raha Hezar, the senior bridge engineer in SM&I in the meeting.

The Transportation Permits Office has been moved to the N Street building since last October and most boxes have been unpacked. Since most employees are teleworking most days, there are only 14 cubicles with a few hoteling cubicles for those employees who come to the office one or two days per week.

Caltrans Information Technology (IT) staff are still working on implementing the electronic interface for annual and repetitive permits, similar to STARS2, and creating a searchable repository of inspection reports.

A customer service survey was shared with the members in the last CTPAC meeting and Thomas thanked everyone for providing feedback. In response to the feedback, a new virtual call center is being developed to better assist the need of the customers.

Thomas also pointed out that there are multiple vacancies in the Permits Office and the Office is struggling with permit turnaround times. Thomas asked for members' patience and understanding while backfilling the vacancies.

CA Truck Networks and Truck Weigh Stations have been added to QuickMap. Thomas thanked everyone's assistance for testing the application.

Transportation Permits Manual (TPM) Chapter 1 indicates that STAA vehicles will not be considered for an exception to use California Legal routes unless the load they will carry cannot be hauled on a California legal vehicle, which is consistent with approved TPPM 2002-03.

However, the practice has been to issue permits based on exceptions to STAA on CA Legal routes (including restrictions) on a case-by-case basis, depending on whether load and combination could fit. Per TPPM 2002-03 and updated TPM Chapter 1, the only exceptions should be when the load cannot be hauled on CA Legal vehicle. Thomas asked members what impact there will be if policy and practice are applied consistently.

A few members responded there is no need to revise the policy but provide constant and additional training to permit writers to enforce the policy. Sometimes denials are given even when the load cannot be carried on a California legal vehicle. It was suggested to add a note on the permit application explaining that load cannot be hauled by a California legal vehicle.

Michael J Lee, the Office Chief and leading bridge design engineer in Structure Maintenance & Investigations (SM&I), shared some information regarding bridge goods movement rating, the funding source for bridge goods movement and the prioritization of bridge goods movement projects.

Item #3 – CHP Updates

Captain Nick Doko shared that CHP has maintained a great working relationship with the industry, Caltrans, local agencies, etc. and please feel free to reach out to CHP if there is any concern.

Sergeant David Kelly said CHP is committed to uniform enforcement. If there is an issue, try to resolve the issue on the local level first. If the issue still exists, then bring the issue to headquarters' attention. Sergeant David Kelly also shared that the 2023 Commercial Vehicle Safety Summit (CVSS) will be held on October 4, 2023, in Garden Grove, California. It is a great platform to talk to CHP informally and Sergeant David Kelly encouraged members to register and attend the meeting. <https://www.chp.ca.gov/programs-services/programs/commercial-vehicle-section/commercial-vehicle-safety-summit>

Item #4 – POLB Heavy Haul Route Update

Matthew Lyman, Intermodal Operations Coordinator from Port of Long Beach (POLB), shared some latest updates regarding the 9th Street closure and the heavy haul route improvement project.

The 9th Street railroad crossing was closed on March 9, 2019, in a move that will improve rail operations and promote the speed of moving goods through the Port. During the time of closure, oversize trucks and cargos utilize alternative routes to transport goods. For certain oversize trucks that are unable to utilize the alternative routes, the Port offered special permits to traverse the crossing with approval from the City of Los Angeles (LA), the County of LA, and Caltrans.

The Heavy Haul Route Improvement Project will allow 300' long, 20' wide oversize loads to transit the 9th Street at-grade crossing. The Project is essential to provide transport options for Oversize/Overweight (OS/OW) loads.

POLB urged members to provide support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue in the last CTPAC meeting. Los Angeles Planning Commission approved the expansion project in June 2023 and POLB thanked members for continued support.

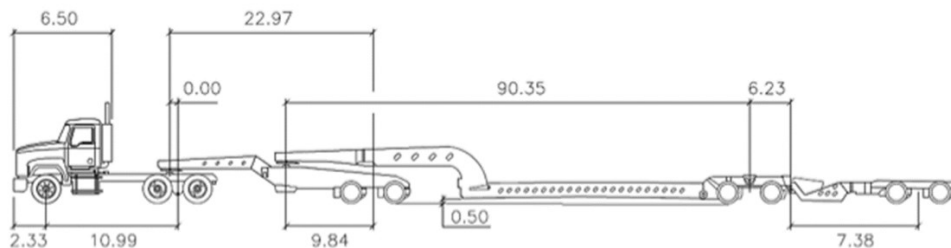
POLB shared that the first phase of the Long Beach Pier B rail facility project is 50% done with the design phase and is expected to be completed in 2025. The second phase of Long Beach Pier B's early rail west expansion project that adds additional tracks inside the existing Pier B yard is expected to be completed in 2027.

Item #5 – Roundabouts on State Highway System (SHS)

Caltrans staff from the Division of Design were unable to attend the meeting. Thomas Schriber shared that a new oversize-overweight (OS/OW) Design Vehicle Template has been added in Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM) Section 405.10 and Figure 405.10B (see below). After that, designers have been using it statewide when they are designing a roundabout, modeling truck movements and making adjustments (for example: adding truck blisters on entries and exits or modifying the truck apron around the central island, etc.) for accommodations. Caltrans Design encouraged the use of the steerable trailer when the OS/OW vehicle is modeled.

Figure 405.10B

Oversize/Overweight Design Vehicle-CALTRANS OS OW HEAVY HAUL



Item #6 – Workgroup Updates

a) Crane

No update.

b) Annuals

No update.

c) Fixed Loads/Tow Trucks

No update.

d) Variance

Several topics were discussed during the workgroup meetings.

1. Variance transportation permits turnaround time (one variance permit writer out long term, new one in training).
2. TPPM proposal to eliminate inspection reports, "All previous verbal agreements have not been honored, so written policy is necessary, and industry proposes elimination of inspection reports all together". IR's benefit permit writers.
3. Incorrectly denied permits (STARS) vs. correctly denied permits.
4. Customers submit Variance permit applications for pre-approval but permit never gets issued. Caltrans cannot capture the cost and the resources could have been spent on pending permits needing issuance.
5. Coordinate with construction on temporary restrictions and detours.
6. No coordination between Caltrans and local jurisdictions to mitigate these mainline closures and restrictions, CVC Caltrans and Local Cities and Counties jurisdiction.
7. Caltrans districts not updating construction restrictions that are no longer in effect.
8. Construction projects causing "pinch points" for industry (I-5 (Waldon OC) and I-15 (City of Hesperia)).
9. Upgrade structures for transportation permits.
10. Heavier weights due to batteries for electric trucks.
11. Variance permits could be broken down into a combination of STARS and Variance Permit, i.e., one bridge weight violation on entire route.
12. CVO: IT proposal to automate structures review routing and bridge list.

Lorin Sabin said that the permit turnaround time is the top priority, and the variance workgroup will continue to work with Caltrans to address the issue.

e) Inspection Report

No update.

Item #7 – Caltrans Action Items Updates

Xinyue Yang, Permit Policy Engineer, shared some updates.

Caltrans shared the draft revision of the Transportation Permits Manual (TPM) Chapter 1 in the last CTPAC meeting and received comments from CHP and CTPAC members. Caltrans incorporated the comments and sent the revised draft to CHP and CTPAC members for concurrence. TPM Chapter 1 is now published on the Caltrans website for public use.

In addition to TPM Chapter 1, two new Transportation Permits Policy Memorandums (TPPMs) were shared with the group in the last meeting as well. TPPM 2023-01 Concrete Panels and TPPM 2023-02 Legal Size Vehicle with Telemetry Data Gathering Systems are also published on the Caltrans website.

Xinyue provided an update on the route classification request of Route 70 in Plumas County from Chandler Road West to Greenville Wye. The request was to change the current brown classification to red requiring CHP escorts for safety reasons. The office of CVO continued to work with District 2 for route reclassification and red route summary modification.

Regarding CTPAC Work Group's Proposal of Inspection Report, Caltrans agreed to create a searchable database for inspection reports with the approval from the management team. An IT project has been created and is in the queue. The project will be worked on in the order received.

CA Truck Networks and Truck Weigh Stations have been added to QuickMap and both web version and mobile (iOS and Android) versions are available to the public as well. Free feel to explore and utilize QuickMap.

<https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

Item #8 Caltrans Construction Project/Local Route

CTA has reached out to the City of Hesperia and the County Supervisor to discuss Ranchero Road Widening Project and the need to develop a compromise solution to resolve the issue.

Item #9 Public Comment

No public comment.

Item #10 – Summarize Action Items from Meeting

Eric summarized the following action items.

- 1) Eric will meet with Caltrans Director to discuss automated transportation permits.
- 2) Caltrans will touch base and coordinate with construction on temporary restrictions and detours.
- 3) Caltrans will continue to work with the variance workgroup to improve permit turnaround time.
- 4) Caltrans will follow up with District 2 regarding Plumas Route 70 Red Route Request.

Item #11: Next Meeting

The next CTPAC meeting will be held at Long Beach and tentatively scheduled for November 2023.

Item #12 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Eric Sauer.

CTPAC Action Items

No.	CTPAC Meeting	Item	Due Date	Status/Notes
1	2/18/2016	Roundabout presentation - create advisory committee of CTPAC representatives (Leon F., Tim M., Lorin S., Curt W.)		<p><u>06/17/21</u>: Eric will include roundabout discussion to the agenda at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design presented. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design presented. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design presented. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: Brian Frazer retired. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: See Item 5 below.</p>
2	4/22/2019	Annual electronic copy of truck permit to replace hardcopy permit		<p><u>01/16/20</u>: Kien stated that there are no reasons that annual electronic copy of truck permit should replace hardcopy permit given the frequency of usage. Kien fully supported the electronic copy of the single trip permit, but not annual permit. The haulers should always keep the permit in possession.</p> <p><u>06/17/21</u>: Caltrans is working with IT Division to develop an online system that allows the customers to submit the permit</p>

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				<p>applications electronically, including annual, repetitive and sea container.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: On-going.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: Three information technology staff are currently working on an online interface system for applying and issuing annual, repetitive, and sea container transportation permits.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: on-going.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: on-going.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: on-going.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: on-going. Eric will meet with Caltrans Director to discuss automated transportation permits.</p>
3	9/12/2019	<p>Framed Load Bed Permit Issue from Oversize Transfer Trucking Inc.</p> <p>Greg Sanden emailed regarding permit for framed load bed container that typical sits at 4' high on framed flat rack to travel in the LA/LB Heavy Corridor.</p>		<p><u>9/22/2019</u>: Greg Sanden will contact Caltrans' Permit Office to resolve the issue. The sizes of the loads are vary widely – Will look into details. Single trip permits might be issued.</p> <p><u>01/16/20</u>: Greg Sanden was not present at the meeting.</p> <p><u>10/01/20</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>02/16/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>06/17/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: No update.</p>

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				<u>08/03/23</u> : No update.
4	10/01/2020	Port of Long Beach asked members to provide support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue.		<p>On-going</p> <p><u>02/16/21</u>: No update. <u>06/17/21</u>: No update. <u>10/06/21</u>: Port of Long Beach asked members to provide support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue. <u>02/10/22</u>: No update. <u>06/30/22</u>: No update. <u>11/17/22</u>: No update. <u>04/17/23</u>: Port of Long Beach asked members to provide additional support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue. Eric will send the sample letter to members.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: Los Angeles Planning Commission approved the expansion project in June 2023.</p>
5	10/06/2021	Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design - Roundabouts - Described industry role in providing feedback. Discussed possible changes to CVC and CA Commercial Drivers Handbook.		<p>On-going</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: Eric will reach out to DMV to discuss the possible updates of Commercial Driver Handbook. Eric will follow up with possible changes to CVC. <u>06/30/22</u>: Follow up meeting by CHP, CTA, and Caltrans on possible vehicle code changes</p>

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				<p>and changes to Commercial Drivers Handbook related to commercial vehicles in roundabouts. Industry will review the locations of where the roundabouts are being planned and provide comments. <u>11/17/22</u>: DMV is agreed to include roundabouts info in the July 2023 update. <u>04/17/23</u>: New OS/OW design vehicle template has been added in Caltrans HDM and DMV will update roundabouts info in the next issuance. <u>08/03/23</u>: New OS/OW design vehicle template has been added in Caltrans HDM and DMV will update roundabouts info in the next issuance.</p>
6	10/06/2021	<p>Inspection Report Requirements:</p> <p>Permits Processing 1. Inspection report requirements for California haulers – CT Permits will issue clarification MEMO and update permit writers via training. 2. Two tiered variances. Brad Tuttle will follow up with</p>		<p><u>10/27/2021</u>: Caltrans issued clarification memo regarding inspection report requirements. <u>02/10/22</u>: 1. Caltrans met with industry virtually on 6 January 2022 to clarify the inspection report requirement memo. Work group is formed to review vehicle inspection requirements. Eric will provide a list of inspection</p>

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		Permits Manager Devinder Sandhu via Webex, on or before week ending 10/22/2021		<p>report work group members.</p> <p>2. Caltrans met with Bragg Heavy Transport virtually in October 2021 to discuss the issues related to two tiered variances and issues resolved.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: Work group submitted inspection report proposal. Caltrans will review the proposal and provide feedback.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: Caltrans provided feedback and is working with IT to develop a searchable database for inspection reports. Eric and Lorin will work on a band-aid solution while Caltrans develops a searchable database for inspection reports.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans management approved the IT project, and the Permits Office is working closely with IT staff to develop the database.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: The IT project is in the queue and will be worked on in the order received.</p>
7	06/30/2022	1) Additional \$50 charge on variance permits when the work was already done on a previous permit.		<p><u>06/30/22</u>: Caltrans will clarify with the variance team on additional charges and provide feedback.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: No update.</p>

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		2) Variance permits turnaround time.		<p><u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans variance permit team will work with the industry to clarify issues related to variance permits.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: Caltrans will continue to work with the variance workgroup to improve permit turnaround time.</p>
8	06/30/2022	SR 70 Red Route		<p><u>06/30/22</u>: Caltrans HQ will follow up with the district and CHP regarding SR 70 red route.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: Stakeholders and CTA will follow up with District 2 DTAM to provide relevant information regarding Plumas Route 70 red route request.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans will follow up with District 2 regarding Plumas Route 70 Red Route Request.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: Caltrans will follow up with District 2 regarding Plumas Route 70 Red Route Request.</p>
9	11/17/22	TPM Chapter 1 revision		<p><u>11/17/22</u>: CTPAC members and CHP will review the TPM Chapter 1 revision and provide comments by January 16, 2023.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans will finalize and publish TPM Chapter 1.</p>

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				<u>08/03/23</u> : TPM Chapter 1 is now published on the Caltrans website.
10	04/17/23	TPPM 2023-01_ Concrete Panels – Single Trip Permits; TPPM 2023-02_Legal Size Vehicles equipped with Telemetry Data Gathering Systems		<p><u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans shared two draft TPPMs with the group. CTPAC members and CHP will review the draft TPPMs and provide comments by May 17, 2023.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: Two TPPMs are published on the Caltrans website.</p>