

# Memorandum

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To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 17-18, 2016

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Information

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Subject: **DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

## **SUMMARY:**

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 14512, 14522, and 14524.3, the Commission has requested the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to prepare an update of the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines and to develop the first ever guidelines for the California Transportation Plan (CTP). Commission staff is currently working in collaboration with Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning to undertake a stakeholder-driven process to concurrently update the RTP Guidelines and develop CTP Guidelines.

A Kick-off Meeting to initiate the RTP and CTP Guidelines effort was held June 30<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. in Sacramento. Approximately 250 people either attended the meeting in person or watched via webcast. The kick-off included robust dialogue amongst State and Federal Agencies, Tribal Governments, Regional and Local Agencies, as well as organizations representing environmental, equity, land-use and business perspectives, and interested stakeholders. The kick-off identified important issues for consideration in the development of both regional and statewide transportation planning guidance. Draft Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) RTP Guidelines and CTP Guidelines were released for public comment on July 8<sup>th</sup> with comments requested by August 5<sup>th</sup>. Draft Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) RTP Guidelines were released July 15<sup>th</sup> with comments requested by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Draft CTP and RTP Guidelines and comment forms are available online at:

Draft RTP Guidelines and comment forms are available at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/rtp/>

Draft CTP Guidelines and comment forms are available at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/osp/ctp-guidelines.html>

Workgroups have been formed to convene subject matter experts and address various policy areas in the guidelines. Approximately 130 individuals representing a variety of stakeholder perspectives have expressed interest in the RTP and CTP Guidelines' workgroups. The workgroups met July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento where they provided feedback on the development of guidance for areas including Public Health, Active Transportation, Social Equity, Environmental Considerations, Performance Measures, and Freight. Over 100 stakeholders participated in the workgroups either in person or via teleconference. The workgroups are scheduled to meet again on August 11<sup>th</sup> in Los

Angeles and will continue to meet on an as needed basis through October. Caltrans is in the process of receiving and addressing comments and will be issuing the next iteration of Draft RTP and CTP Guidelines in September. Staff anticipates presenting final 2016 RTP and CTP Guidelines to the Commission for consideration in December 2016 or January 2017.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Update of the 2010 RTP Guidelines**

The RTP Guidelines are intended to set forth a uniform, statewide long-range regional transportation planning framework; promote an integrated, multi-modal, and cooperative planning process; and facilitate the efficient delivery of transportation projects that meet local, regional, and state goals. The RTP Guidelines were last updated in 2010 to address new requirements for RTPs resulting from the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg, 2008). This update was an inclusive, transparent effort which brought a variety of interested stakeholders together to achieve consensus on complex technical and policy areas related to the development of SB 375 compliant RTPs.

Since the last major overhaul of the RTP Guidelines in 2010, there has not been a large-scale change in the requirements for RTPs. However, an update to the 2010 RTP Guidelines is necessary in light of changes to State statute resulting from the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 441 (Monning, 2012) which requires the incorporation of best practices for public health into the RTP Guidelines, as well as changes to federal statute resulting from the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. Additionally, updates to the 2010 RTP Guidelines are needed to reflect advances in the practice of long-range transportation planning including improvements in the areas of modeling, public health and active transportation, goods movement, climate adaptation planning, and performance measurement.

Commission staff, in collaboration with Caltrans, has established a strategy and timeline for conducting the RTP Guidelines update. Utilizing recommendations from the 2015 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) RTP Review Report, Caltrans subject matter experts have prepared an initial draft of the RTP Guidelines to present to stakeholders for feedback. The guidelines update process will take place in direct consultation with staff from the Air Resources Board, Caltrans and other state agency partners as appropriate. A stakeholder kick-off meeting was conducted in Sacramento on June 30<sup>th</sup> to engage stakeholders, explain the guidelines update process and release the initial draft guidelines for comment. Building on the process that was utilized for the update of the 2010 RTP Guidelines, stakeholder workgroups will be formed as needed to bring stakeholders from a wide variety of subject matter areas and representing local, regional and state perspectives to the table to address updates to important technical and policy areas within the guidelines. The update will continue to emphasize the current RTP guidelines format which focuses first on the inclusion of statutory requirements for RTPs, followed by permissive best practices information as appropriate.

Stakeholder engagement through workgroup meetings and public comment is anticipated to take place from July – October with informational updates to the Commission at the August Commission meeting in San Diego and the October Commission meeting in San Jose. Staff anticipates presenting final 2016 RTP Guidelines to the Commission for consideration in December 2016 or January 2017.

### **Development of CTP Guidelines**

Pursuant to Federal regulations (23 CFR 450.214) and State statute (Government Code Section 14000.6 and 65071 *et al*), Caltrans is required to prepare a statewide long-range transportation plan – the California Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP serves as the transportation policy plan designed to meet California’s mobility needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 20 years. The plan envisions a fully integrated, multi-modal, and sustainable transportation system that supports economic vitality, protects environmental resources, and promotes the health and well-being for all Californians. The CTP provides a common policy framework that will guide Caltrans modal plans and programs as well as inform transportation investments and decisions by all levels of government, the private sector, and key transportation stakeholders.

SB 486 (DeSaulnier, 2013) authorized and encouraged the Commission, in cooperation with Caltrans, to prepare guidelines for the development of the CTP. Commission staff, in collaboration with Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning staff, has established a format, strategy, and timeline for the development of CTP Guidelines which will serve to clearly outline the state and federal requirements for the plan and will help inform preparation of the CTP 2045 which is due in 2020. The CTP Guidelines will be developed concurrently with the update of the RTP Guidelines, through a transparent public process with stakeholder input and in direct consultation with staff from Caltrans, the Air Resources Board, and other state agencies as appropriate.

The CTP Guidelines development schedule will closely follow that of the RTP Guidelines update, with stakeholder engagement from July – October and anticipated presentation of final 2016 CTP Guidelines to the Commission for consideration in December 2016 or January 2017.