

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

PROJECT BUSINESS MATTERS
Information Item – TEA Advisory
Committee Status

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CTC Meeting: October 3-4, 2001

Agenda Item: 4.5b.

Original Signed By _____

MARK LEJA

Acting Chief Financial Officer

October 1, 2001

**REPORT OF PLANS TO INITIATE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT
ACTIVITIES (TEA) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM REFORMS**

SUMMARY

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) reviewed a report submitted by Commission staff regarding the re-design of the current Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Program. It requested the Department of Transportation (Department) and Commission staff to establish a TEA Advisory Committee (Committee) to examine options and propose changes to the TEA Program. The Commission also requested that the Department and Commission staff report at the October 2001 meeting on the status of establishing a Committee.

BACKGROUND

A TEA Advisory Council was established in 1993 to provide a voice for public agencies and private interest groups regarding the implementation of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) Transportation Enhancement Activities. The Advisory Council has not convened since 1997, when Congress enacted the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

The original Council consisted of over forty members and was responsible for developing the TEA Program Guidelines. Since the enactment of TEA-21, the TEA Program has been re-designed by the Commission into its current format. The passage of Assembly Bill 1012 and modification of the Federal Highway Administration TEA Program Guidelines have also caused significant changes to the way the TEA program is implemented. A TEA Advisory Committee is being established to advise the Department on recommended TEA Program reforms.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department supports the establishment of an Advisory Committee and will work with Commission staff on implementation. The TEA Advisory Committee will provide recommended changes to the Department and the Commission on California's administration of the TEA Program to improve timely and successful project delivery. The Advisory Committee will consist of approximately eleven members representing Business, Transportation & Housing Agency; California Resources Agency; Federal Highway Administration; Cities; Counties; Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (urban and rural); bicycling and pedestrian advocacy groups; and environmental advocacy groups.

The Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Program Coordinator will serve as Committee Facilitator.

The Department and Commission staff will provide staff support to the Committee.

It is anticipated that the TEA Advisory Committee will provide a report of the recommended changes in Spring of 2002.