

Active Transportation and Livable Communities (ATLC)

Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, August 16, 2012 – 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

California Department of Transportation, Headquarters

1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA -- Director's Board Room 2116

Meeting Summary Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alyssa Begley, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Community Planning, opened the August 16, 2012 meeting and requested introductions from the members present and on the telephone. She informed the group that the agenda item for the Interregional Transportation System Plan (ITSP) presentation will be moved to the next ATLC meeting being held on November 15, 2012. The ITSP will be sent to ATLC members as soon as it is available for public review.

ATTENDANCE

External Agencies

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District
Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition
Jacquolyn Duerr, California Department of Public Health
Jeanie Ward-Waller, Safe Routes to School (National Partnership)
Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health
Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento
Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS

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Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information
Alyssa Begley, Community Planning
Alana Hitchcock, Community Planning
Alysha Shrum, Student Assistant, Community Planning
Brad Mettam, District 9 (via telephone)
Chris Ratekin, Community Planning
Dan McKell, Legislative and Congressional Liaison
Debbie Lynch, Local Assistance
Eric Fredericks, District 3
JD Bamfield, Design
Jerry Champa, Traffic Operations
Jila Priebe, Mass Transportation
John Lui, District 6 Deputy Director, Operations and Maintenance
Kris Kuhl, Traffic Operations
Leslie Mazzeo, Community Planning
Mike Pickford, District 11 (via telephone)
Seth Cutter, District 11 (via telephone)
Shaila Chowdhury, Traffic Operations
Terry Parker, Community Planning
Tim Craggs, Design

2. Opening Comments

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information, welcomed ATLC members and announced Marty Tuttle's appointed as City Manager of the City of West Sacramento. Kome Ajise is now Acting, Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs. Jim is acting today in Kome's absence. Rick Land has been named Chief Deputy Director. Also, Caltrans has two new district directors: Tim Gubbins in District 5 and Basem Muallem in District 8. The final report from the Program Review is now available for the public at the following website <http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/prgrev2012.pdf>. Due to the efforts of all involved, Caltrans is making changes to streamline and consolidate its processes. In addition, an executive board consisting of Rick Land, the deputy directors, and all 12 district directors has been established. The executive board will be instrumental in setting strategic direction, priorities, and department policies.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, asked if the Program Review document is final.

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information, confirmed that the Program Review is final and online.

3. DD-64-R1 Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan Updates

Chris Ratekin, Office of Community Planning, distributed the current draft of the [Caltrans 2010 Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan Status Update](#). This effort is in response to Deputy Directive 64 and has full support from Caltrans deputies. The two year cycle of action plan items are almost complete and there will be a focus on rolling out training programs in the coming year. Caltrans continues to make progress in implementing multimodal transportation guidance and policies and was ranked third in the nation by the National Complete Streets Coalition for its Complete Streets policy adoption.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, complimented Caltrans and Chris Ratekin for the efforts that have been made in implementing the Action Plan.

Eric Fredericks, District 3, mentioned that a major accomplishment for Caltrans is the completion of the Planning Information Sheet, formerly known as Planning Scoping Checklist, which is included in the Project Development Procedures Manual. This is required for every project study report and includes Complete Streets elements. The document was posted to the web in September 2011.

Alana Hitchcock, Community Planning, provided the handout [2010 Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan – Evaluation Sheet](#). A subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to evaluate the Complete Streets implementation action items by responding and scoring the series of questions presented on the Evaluation Sheet. The results of the subcommittee's discussion and score sheets are being summarized and will be used when considering next steps in each Program. TAC will provide draft recommendations for the 2012 Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan to the Complete Streets Steering Committee in late October 2012.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked why there are non-scored questions on the Evaluation Sheet.

Alana Hitchcock, Community Planning, stated that the questions that are non-scored may or may not apply to every program so in order to avoid penalizing the program these questions are used for informational purposes only.

Jacquolyn Duerr, California Department of Public Health, asked if there are any plans to evaluate the process and any challenges as respects implementation of the action items.

Alana Hitchcock, Community Planning, responded that discussion has taken place to establish a process for evaluating the products and challenges, or barriers, of the action items that have thus far been implemented. This process will be used to evaluate the next round of completed action items.

Jacquolyn Duerr, California Department of Public Health, added that the ATLC group would be helpful in prioritizing the action items and providing suggestions for next steps.

Action Item:

Time will be provided during the next ATLC meeting held in November 2012 for feedback from ATLC members on the Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan update.

4. Reauthorization Follow Up

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, provided an update on MAP-21 legislation. This legislation continues funding at 2012 levels, which is about \$3.5 billion for California. The funding share for State programs is at 62% and for local agencies 38%. It is the Administration's proposal to maintain the State Routes to School (SRTS) Program as a State administered program at current funding levels. This program will continue to be funded through the State Transportation Improvement Program. Caltrans is currently forming a work group to discuss the maintenance of funding. The lead for this work group will be Rachel Falsetti, Division Chief, Transportation Programming, under the general direction of Norma Ortega, Chief Financial Officer. Much of what happens in the future in terms of the work groups, legislation, California Transportation Commission policies, and some Caltrans guidelines will be influenced by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). All programs will be heavily affected by performance measures and performance targets, which have not yet been identified. The FHWA will be providing more information regarding this in late September/early October. In the mean time, Caltrans is working through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials to influence legislation.

Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento, asked if the criteria used by the State and federal government for the SRTS Program is going to be maintained. Also, is there going to be any change in the way funding is allocated to local metropolitan planning organizations?

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, could not at this time confirm whether or not the criteria will be maintained as the details of the Administration have not been discussed yet. However, what is known at this time is that SRTS will be maintained as a State administered program and will be funded from the combined overall funding of State and federal funds.

Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health, asked what the timeline is for the work group.

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, stated that the members of the group will be identified and their schedules established by early 2013.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, reported that the MAP-21 work group was originally formed in February 2012 with its initial members: Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy; Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition; Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento; Bob Planthold; and Deb Hubsmith, Safe Routes to School National Partnership. These members have visited various legislatures and staff of committees who have some fiscal jurisdiction over potential State legislation to determine what their interests are for their legislative body. They observed that there are inconsistencies and seemingly dissident trends that exist. In addition, there is a difference in opinion of the California legislation proposed for this fiscal year. There is also potential for focus on funding larger highway projects versus smaller non-highway programs.

Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, asked how much money is remaining in the Transportation Alternative Program after removing the funding for Recreational Trails. In addition, what is the difference of that amount compared to the amount from the former Transportation Enhancement Program? Where is the difference in funding going to come from for the SRTS Program?

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, responded that the difference is \$11 million. The results of the work group efforts will determine where the funds will come from.

Jacquolyn Duerr, California Department of Public Health, asked if the workgroup can be balanced with ATLC members and other advocates.

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, responded that in order for Caltrans to interact efficiently and promptly with the work group, the ATLC will need to identify a few of its members who will represent the ATLC group. Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, has already requested to be a member of the work group.

Jacquolyn Duerr, California Department of Public Health, mentioned that there might be some merit to having representatives from the Strategic Growth Council as work group members.

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, explained that the purpose of the working group is to find an efficient way for 58 counties to communicate with each other; identifying issues and coming up with ways to address them. The members of this work group will, in effect, represent larger groups so there will be at best a few dozen members. With this in mind, it is not probable that there will be several openings for members from the Strategic Growth Council. All proposals for work group members need to go to Dan McKell at dan_mckell@dot.ca.gov.

6. Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE)

Jerry Champa, Traffic Operations, presented the PowerPoint [Intersection Control Evaluation and Selection](#). The ICE and Selection policy was developed as part of an intersection performance improvement initiative and is included in the Traffic Operations Policy Directive (TOPD). The TOPD will serve as an interim incremental approach to a full California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices policy change. ICE refers to control strategies such as traffic signals, stop, yield, and a special focus on roundabouts. Roundabout intersections have become increasingly popular and are considered second on the FHWA list of proven safety strategies. There are currently over 2,000 roundabouts in California. Stakeholder and partner outreach is a major component of this project and Caltrans would like feedback from ATLC members to help design the outreach program. In the coming months, workshops will be held with stakeholder groups such as the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan – Pedestrian Safety Challenge Area, California Traffic Control Devices Committee, and the California Bicycle Advisory Committee to name a

few. If there are any other groups ATLC would like to include, send the request to Jerry Champa at jerry_champa@dot.ca.gov.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked if Caltrans has found a way to make multi-lane roundabouts safe and accessible for the deaf and blind. Also, what are calming circles?

Jerry Champa, Traffic Operations, confirmed that there is a technical support program that is being developed to design roundabouts so they are accessible and safe for those who are deaf and blind. Calming circles, also called neighborhood circles, are mini-traffic circles with little islands in the middle and are located in neighborhoods with the purpose of slowing down traffic.

Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, and Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, requested to have their agencies included on the list of stakeholder groups that are invited to attend the upcoming workshops.

Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, expressed the concern that push button actuators for pedestrian crossing at intersections do not provide ample time for crossing. The standard ought to be guaranteed sufficient crossing time at every crossing and push buttons should be a design exception, not the standard.

Terry Preston, WALKSacramento, suggested that there be a community outreach component to educate the public about roundabouts so that there is input from local community members early on in the project.

7. Improved Data and Tools for Integrated Land Use-Transportation Planning in California

Terry Parker, Office of Community Planning, presented the PowerPoint [Improved Data and Tools for Integrated Land Use – Transportation Planning in California](#). The use of planning tools can significantly enhance public participation and decision making processes by providing quantitative information to stakeholders and decision makers about the potential benefits and impacts of their land use and transportation choices. Unfortunately, it has been challenging to use such planning tools due to the lack of accurate and regionally specific data on land use and transportation relationships in most parts of California. The purpose of this project is to obtain and analyze California-specific data and provide it to regional and local agencies for use in integrated land use transportation planning. Through the efforts of Caltrans and its partners, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Fehr & Peers, and University of California, Davis – ULTRANS data was collected for over 210,000 locations. This is more data than has ever been available anywhere in the United States! The handout [Fact Sheet: Improved Data and Tools for Integrated Land Use – Transportation Planning in California](#) provides additional information on the objectives and the outcomes of this project. The entire study will be completed and posted on a public website by September 2012.

Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health, expressed an interest in using the density data and asked if it is available for public use.

Terry Parker, Office of Community Planning, stated that the data resides at UC Davis so requests for this information must be made through them. Terry will email UC Davis contact information to anyone who requests it.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, complimented Terry Parker for the work that has been done in pulling this project together. She further commented that all the work that ties into the Sustainable Community Strategy will feed into the overall statewide transportation plan to meet State goals. This work is really valuable for local and regional planning agencies.

8. 2013 Meeting Dates & Topics

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, informed ATLC members that Caltrans continues to value their input and comments and asked if the quarterly meeting schedule still works for everyone. Alyssa will be sending a survey monkey to all ATLC members in order to collect information that will be helpful in planning ATLC meetings for the upcoming year.

9. Open Discussion and Closing Remarks

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, concluded the meeting with an introduction of a new ATLC member, Jeanie Ward-Waller, and thanked everyone for their participation.

Jeanie Ward-Waller, Safe Routes to School (National Partnership), introduced herself as the California Advocacy Organizer for National Partnership. She reports directly to Deb Hubsmith, Director, National Partnership. Her work focuses on leveraging funding for bicycle and pedestrian construction projects, promoting Complete Streets and street-scale improvements, and advancing joint use/shared use policies – all with an emphasis on lower income communities. She has replaced Jessica Meaney, Southern California Policy Director, National Partnership, who is now focused on Los Angeles County.

Future Agenda Items:

Interregional Transportation System Plan

Next 2012 Meetings – Thursday, November 15th
1:30 to 3:30 PM, Caltrans Headquarters' Room 2116

Caltrans Contacts

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