

Active Transportation and Livable Communities (ATLC)

Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2011 – 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 (Department) Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Community Planning, opened the November 17, 2011 meeting and requested introductions from the members present and on the telephone.

ATTENDANCE

External Agencies

Alan Wachtel, California Association of Bicycling Organizations (via telephone)
Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition
Jim Baross, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition (via telephone)
John Ciccarelli, Bicycle Solutions (via telephone)
Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Western Region
Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health Services
Pat Tobin, San Francisco Police Department
Paul Zykofsky, Local Government Commission
Robin Evans, Institute for Local Government League of California Cities
Sabrina Means, California Transit Association (via telephone)
Scott Clark, Local Government Commission
Scott Morgan, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Steve Sanders, Institute for Local Government League of California Cities
Terry Preston, WALKSacramento

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Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs
Alyssa Begley, Community Planning
Aaron Cabaccang, District 2 (via telephone)
Beth Thomas, District 4 (via telephone)
Brian Alconcel, Traffic Operations
Chris Ratekin, Community Planning
Eric Fredericks, Transportation Planning – District 3
Gabriel Corley, System Planning
Jane Perez, Interim Division Chief, Mass Transportation
Janice Benton, Traffic Operations
Jila Priebe, Mass Transportation
Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information
Keith Robinson, Design, Landscape Architecture
Kevin Herritt, Design
Lara Justine, Landscape Architecture
Leslie Mazzeo, Community Planning
MaryBeth Herritt, Design
Mike Pickford, District 11 (via telephone)
Scott Philips, Traffic Operations
Seth Cutter, District 11 (via telephone)
Terry Abbott, Division Chief, Design
Terry Parker, Community Planning

ATTENDANCE

Wayne Henley, Traffic Operations

2. Opening Comments

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs, announced the appointment of Shirley Choate as Acting Chief, Division of Transportation Planning, replacing Sharon Scherzinger who has been hired as the Executive Director of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission. Jim Appleton is acting in place of Coco Briseno as the Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information. Also, there were two workshops held on the California Interregional Blueprint (CIB); one in Sacramento on November 4, 2011 and one in Los Angeles on November 8, 2011. Another round of workshops will be scheduled for April 2012. The following short video from the CIB workshop was shown: [California Interregional Blueprint \(CIB\) Video](#)

6. Non-Motorized Members of the California Traffic Control Device Committee (CTCDC)

Wayne Henley, Traffic Operations, provided an update on the selection of the non-motorized members of the CTCDC. There was a good candidate pool. Two primary and two alternate members will be selected and announcement of the selections will be made in early December 2011.

Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, thanked Wayne for the proactive and expedient work on this effort.

8. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) – Beth Thomas, District 4 Community Planning and Pedestrian Coordination, and Wayne Henley, Traffic Operations

Wayne Henley, Traffic Operations, and Beth Thomas, District 4 Community Planning and Pedestrian Coordination, presented the PowerPoint [New Pedestrian Crossing Devices for California](#) which introduced the RRFB and the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provided blanket approval for use of the RRFB in the State of California on August 10, 2011. Click on the following link for a copy of the approval letter: [FHWA Approval and Guidance for RRFB](#). This device has been approved for use at intersections or mid-block crossings. The results from testing performed in St. Petersburg, Florida and Washington, D.C. using RRFBs reflected a significant increase in yield rates over the use of traditional beacons. To view a sample of the RRFB, watch the following video: [Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon](#)

The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (formerly known as HAWK- High-intensity Activated crossWalk) has been adopted into the 2012 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices effective January 1, 2012. Currently, this device is only used at mid-block crossings but is likely to be approved for intersections. The testing performed in more than sixty locations in Tucson, Arizona reflected an impressive 5% - 10% reduction in crashes. To view a sample of the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, watch the following video: [Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon](#)

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked if there are any measures incorporated through the use of the new beacons which prevent drivers from speeding up during a flashing yellow signal.

Beth Thomas, District 4 Community Planning and Pedestrian Coordination, replied that no results were published to this end. The objective of the testing was to determine what the yield and crash rates would be compared to not having a signal in place at all.

Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, asked if there are rules about the number of seconds between the intervals of each flashing phase of the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon?

John Ciccarelli, Bicycle Solutions, responded that, prior to the adoption of the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at the federal level, the average seconds between the intervals was 3-6 seconds for the initial warning phase.

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

a) Year End Status

Chris Ratekin, Transportation Planning, provided an update on the progress that has been made on the Complete Streets Implementation projects since the adoption of the Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan (CSIAP) in March 2010. The [CSIAP FY 2010-11 Year End Report Summary](#) and the [CSIAP Status Update](#) was provided to the ATLC group. Significant progress has been made on the 66 items listed, which are about 50% complete. Focus is now on high priority items such as the Highway Design Manual, System Planning Guidelines, and Complete Intersections Guide. In addition, the Department is working to facilitate consistency across, guidance, manuals, and divisions/offices procedures as well as delivering consistent and efficient cross function training. In the coming years, emphasis will shift from high priority items to raising awareness; focusing on coordination of training and outreach. The Division of Transportation Planning is sponsoring a Planning Horizon: [Complete Streets 101](#), which will be webcast and available to statewide staff and the public. This Planning Horizon will be held in January 2012.

Paul Zykofsky, Local Government Commission, commented that items relating to maintenance such as item #19, 20, and 21 should be reviewed more carefully by Complete Streets to address such issues as lane widths and diagonal parking.

Chris Ratekin, Transportation Planning, confirmed that the objective of the CSIAP is to ensure consistency between different sets of guidance so that all issues are addressed and resolved.

Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento, suggested that improvements of complete streets elements be documented so that the Department can showcase its accomplishments.

Chris Ratekin, Transportation Planning, responded that these details are not being collected for city and county streets, however, efforts are being made to capture the data using Department Asset Management Monitoring forums.

b) Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM) Revision

Mary Beth Herritt, Design, provided a brief update on the three high priority items for the PDPM: 1) The PID Scoping Information sheet is complete and is on the web for the Districts to begin using, 2) An update on the revisions to the PDPM Chapter 5: Transportation Planning will be provided at the next ATLC meeting being held on February 16, 2012, and 3) The cross functional team that examined the Purpose and Need in 2008 has reconvened to discuss the outcomes and recommendations that were made on the ADA and Complete Streets policies and how these affect the Purpose and Need section. The team will meet in January 2012.

c) Highway Design Manual (HDM) Update

Kevin Herritt, Design, reported that the final schedule for delivering the HDM has been established. Another internal review of the manual by Caltrans Headquarters Divisions, the Design Management Board, and Federal Highway Administration will begin in January 2012 for a four-week time period in order to finalize the document. The target release date of the HDM is mid-March 2012. The comment matrix, which includes all comments received to date and how they were addressed by the Department, will be accessible via the Caltrans website in January 2012. Once comments are available on the web, those who submitted them may provide feedback on how the comments were addressed.

Action Item:

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, will email ATLC members the link to the comment matrix once it has been posted to the web.

d) Main Streets Guide Revision

Lara Justine, Landscape Architecture, thanked ATLC members for the feedback received on the Main Streets Guide. Comments were reviewed and are being incorporated into the Guide. The revision team is focusing efforts on obtaining consistency across guidance, policy, and procedures. The latest revisions will be released for review and comment in early February 2012. Photos are now being collected for the Guide so if any members have photos with Complete Streets concepts, please e-mail them to Lara at Lara.Justine@dot.ca.gov. The required resolution is 300 dpi or 200-300 ppi for 4"x6" photos. The Department will give photo credit to the sender.

Terry Preston, WALKSacramento, commented that the descriptions in the Main Streets Guide are useful and easily understandable.

4. Complete Intersections Guide

Brian Alconcel, Traffic Operations, presented the PowerPoint [Complete Intersections Guide Training](#) which provides an overview of how the Guide should be used (i.e., as a resource for information and concepts that are shared by various agencies and organizations faced with similar transportation issues and should not be held as a standard that can be independently used without engineering judgment or the necessary approvals), the 12 Guiding Principles, and common issues and treatments to various intersection types. The Complete Intersections Guide has been distributed to Caltrans staff and is also posted on the Caltrans Pedestrian Safety Resources website <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/survey/pedestrian/>. The purpose of the Guide is to raise awareness within the Department on the issues that are facing bicyclists and pedestrians at intersections. Internal training will be rolled out in early 2012 to first 'train the trainers'. Trained staff will in turn train others within their district's functional units. Training will be implemented using problem statements that planners and engineers will need to analyze and then solve using the 12 Guiding Principles: Observe, Pedestrians and Bicyclists Will Be There, Maintain and Improve, Tee It Up, One Decision at a Time, Slow it Down, Shorten Crossings, Improve Visibility, Clarify the Right-of-Way, Keep it Direct, Light at Night, and Access for All. Issues and concerns that arise in your local areas may be brought to the attention of the corresponding [Caltrans District Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator](#).

5. Caltrans Strategic Transit Plan

Jila Priebe, Mass Transportation, updated group on efforts being made by the Division of Mass Transportation in coordination with the California Transit Association, California Association for Coordinated Transportation, and other stakeholders to develop the Caltrans Strategic Transit Plan. A committee of twenty-seven transit operators has been formed to review the transit system in California. The initial phase of the plan is to develop the baseline conditions, which is a compilation and review of transit related data. This phase is almost complete. A draft of the report containing this information will then be available for review and feedback. Also, interviews have been held with transit operators and the analysis from the interviews is currently being gathered. The target completion date for the Caltrans Strategic Transit Plan is March 2012.

Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento, mentioned that access to transit has been a concern for local agencies. He emphasized a need for coordination between transit agencies and local Caltrans districts in providing access for pedestrians as a high priority. Also, are transit agencies involved in Senate Bill (SB) 375 related discussions?

Jila Priebe, Mass Transportation, responded that the Caltrans Strategic Transit Plan is essentially a starter for Assembly Bill 650, which established the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Public Transportation for the 21st Century. Development of the Caltrans Strategic Plan will kick-start the data collection process to determine transit needs and potential funding sources. Also, there has been more involvement on the part of transit agencies in SB 375 discussions recently.

Bob Planthold, added that in the Bay Area some transit operators are looking at Transit Oriented Development as a new funding source and customer base.

Sabrina Means, California Transit Association, thanked Jila and her team for their efforts on this project. The data collected will prove to be a helpful resource to transit agencies and associations in advocating before the legislature.

Closing Remarks

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, thanked everyone for their time and input. At the next ATLC meeting being held on February 16, 2012, Leonard Seitz, with the Transportation Information Systems Department, will be presenting the data available for the National Household travel survey. In addition, an update on the Interregional Transportation System plan will be provided. Information on the upcoming Transportation Planning Grant Program application cycle will be posted online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html> in mid-December 2011.

Future Agenda Items:

Smart Growth Trip Generation Methodology

Next 2012 Meetings – Thursday, February 16th, May 17th, August 16th, November 15th
1:30 to 3:30 PM, Caltrans Headquarters' Room 2116

Caltrans Contacts

Alyssa Begley – 916-651-6882 Leslie Mazzeo – 916-653-3726