



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

**Federal Highway Administration
California Division**

December 16, 2010

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 498-5001
(916) 498-5008 fax

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mrs. Cindy McKim
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Garth Hopkins, Chief - Office of Regional and Interagency Planning, M.S. #32

Dear Mrs. McKim:

SUBJECT: 2011 Federal Highway Administration California Division Planning Emphasis Areas

The letter is to communicate the 2011 Federal Highway Administration California Division (FHWA-CA) Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The PEAs are policy, procedural and technical topics that should be considered by Federal planning fund recipients when preparing work programs for metropolitan and statewide planning and research assistance programs. The attached PEAs address objectives identified in FHWA Strategic Plans. They also address a mix of planning issues and priority topics identified during ongoing reviews of metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes as requiring additional work.

The FHWA California Division has determined that the areas of emphasis for California's transportation planning and air quality program in Federal FY 2011 are:

- Work Program Development
- Performance Management;
- Congestion Management Process
- Livability/Sustainability

Work Program Development

SAFETEA-LU provides metropolitan transportation planning program funding for the integration of transportation planning processes within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) (i.e. rail, airports, seaports, intermodal facilities, public highways and transit, bicycle and pedestrian, etc.) into a unified metropolitan transportation planning process. The FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) request that all Metropolitan Planning Organizations



(MPOs) review the Overall Work Program (OWP) development process to ensure the activities and products mandated by the metropolitan transportation planning regulations in 23 CFR 450 are a priority for FHWA and FTA combined planning grant funding available to the region. The MPO OWP work elements and subsequent work task should be developed in sufficient detail (i.e. activity description, products, schedule, cost, etc.) to clearly explain the purpose and results of the work to be accomplished, including how they support the Federal transportation planning process.

Performance Management

While the particulars of reauthorization remain uncertain, the proposed legislation in both chambers of Congress requires the States to adopt system performance goals and measures. The challenge is to position the MPOs to cope with program delivery challenges under the new legislative framework. Many of California's MPOs have developed Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) that contain performance measures. Once the measures have been established, the MPOs, in conjunction with the State and Federal agencies, may analyze how to improve upon the performance and then develop a plan of action for achieving those better results. In short, FHWA would like to know what Performance Measures are MPOs currently utilizing to gauge the progress of their transportation decisions over time, and what kind of results are they achieving. The FHWA and FTA expect the MPOs be prepared to respond to these inquiries as a part of the annual meeting.

The State and MPOs are highly encouraged to establish Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures to assess and/or track the performance of transportation investment decisions in the following areas: Safety, Infrastructure Condition, Mobility, Congestion, Freight, and Livability/Sustainability. The FHWA planner for your region can assist the MPO with the implementation of any agreed-upon performance measures in the Statewide and/or metropolitan planning processes.

Congestion Management Process

The 23 CFR 450.320 requires the transportation planning process in each Transportation Management Area (TMA) include a process to address congestion management, including the development of a congestion management process meeting federal requirements. In addition, metropolitan planning organizations in a TMA designated as nonattainment for ozone or carbon monoxide are subject to planning regulation restrictions regarding the inclusion of Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) capacity increasing projects in the transportation improvement program.

Although California has a State CMP documented in California Government Code, Title 7, Chapter 26 (Congestion Management), MPOs must be able to demonstrate compliance with the CMP provisions found in title 23 of the U.S. Code (23 U.S.C.) and title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR), and the USDOT Congestion Management Process Guidance.

Prior to the 2011 Annual Meetings, FHWA-CA will be conducting a CMP scan via survey of the status of the CMP for all TMAs. The purpose of the scan is to establish a baseline condition of the CMP process throughout California.

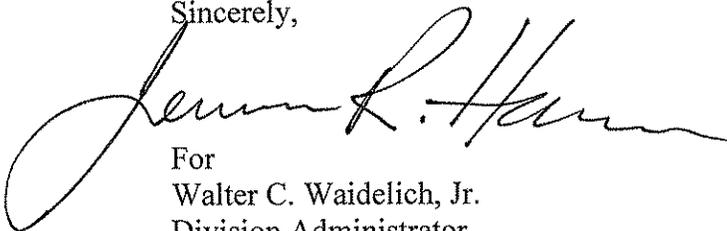
Livability/Sustainability

Livability/Sustainability is about tying the quality and location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities such as access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, safe streets, while protecting the environment in communities. This includes addressing safety and capacity issues on all roads through better planning and design, maximizing and expanding new technologies such as ITS and the use of quiet pavements, using Travel Demand Management approaches to system planning and operations, etc. MPOs are encouraged to assure that new Regional Transportation Plans incorporate the following livability/sustainability principles:

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities.
- Leverage Federal policies & investment.
- Value communities and neighborhoods.

The FHWA-CA views these PEAs as critical elements of the transportation planning process and highly encourages the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and all California MPOs to include each PEA within their respective planning processes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jermaine R. Hannon, Planning and Air Quality Team Leader at jermaine.hannon@dot.gov or (916) 498-85066.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jermaine R. Hannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

For
Walter C. Waidelich, Jr.
Division Administrator

Cc: (email)

Ray Sukys, FTA

Ted Matley, FTA

Garth Hopkins, Caltrans

Erin Thompson, Caltrans

Sue Kiser, FHWA

Jermaine R. Hannon, FHWA

Wade Hobbs, FHWA

Joseph Vaughn, FHWA

Stew Sonnenberg, FHWA

Michael Morris, FHWA

Scott Carson, FHWA

Aimee Kratovil, FHWA