

Memorandum

To: Regional Planning Seniors Date: January 8, 2007
Attention: Regional Planning Liaisons File:
From: **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – MS32

Subject: Distribution of the January 2007 Regional Planning Handbook

The October 2003 Regional Planning Handbook has gone through extensive review and has been updated to include changes as the result of the new federal legislation - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) as well as other changes in state regulations. We are anticipating that the Final Rule on SAFETEA-LU will be close to what the Guidance has stipulated. In the event there are major changes when the Final Rule is released, we will update the handbook accordingly.

While the majority of the policy information in the handbook has not changed, we thought it would be a good idea to highlight some of the major changes in the new 2007 version.

- In Chapter 2, Section 2.13 *District and ORIP Cooperation*, we clarified the District has primary approval responsibility of the OWP.
- In Chapter 2, Section 2.16 *Certifications and Assurances*, we added information on the Debarment and Suspension certification process that was implemented in 2003.
- In Chapter 2, Section 2.22 *Formal Amendments*, we added the option to consult with FHWA/FTA for approval and we changed “consult with” to “must have” ORIP’s concurrence prior to approving formal amendments.
- In Chapter 2, Section 2.24, *Approving an Amendment*, we added amendments only require ORIP approval if it is a formal amendment.
- In Chapter 4, we added new information on the Regional Blueprint Planning Program Grant and new information on how to close out FTA Section 5305 (formerly 5313(b)) and/or FHWA SP&R Partnership Planning Grants.
- In Chapter 4, Section 4.7 *Timely District Review of RFR’s*, we included the new expedited timeline for approval and processing per new accounting rules from SAFETEA-LU.
- In Chapter 5, *Third Party Contracts*, we clarified the District does not approve third party contracts or contract language but does have an oversight role.

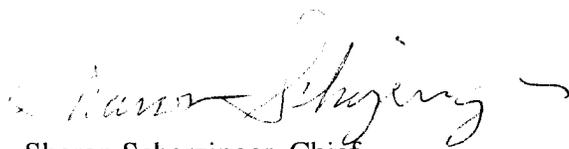
- In Chapter 5, Section 5.06 *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise*, we updated the section to reflect the Department's new race neutral DBE program.
- In Chapter 6, Section 6.04 *Air Quality Conformity*, we updated this section to reflect new SAFETEA-LU requirements.
- In Chapter 7, Section 7.01 *Public Participation Plan/Public Involvement Program*, we enhanced this section based on the new SAFETEA-LU requirements.
- In Chapter 7, Section 7.02 *Native American Tribal Governments and Communities*, we updated this section based on the new SAFETEA-LU requirements and included additional information on federal statutes and regulations.

We would like to thank all the departmental programs and District Offices who provided input into this endeavor. This project took approximately one year to meet with our partners and complete the update.

Lastly, we would like to re-emphasize the importance of using the Regional Planning Handbook to ensure the statewide consistency of administering Overall Work Programs. The intent of the handbook is to provide for and guide Departmental employees and programs in managing Overall Work Programs and Regional Transportation Plans. Please feel free to share this with your partner agencies.

The RPH can also be found on the ORIP website at:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/owp/owp.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact Dara Wheeler at 8-453-2355, (916) 653-2355 or dara.wheeler@dot.ca.gov.



Sharon Scherzinger, Chief
Office of Regional and Interagency Planning

Attachment ✓

cc: Chron File