

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

POLICY MATTERS
Transportation Enhancement Activities
Advisory Committee Status Report
Action Item

Prepared By:
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Original Signed By

ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer
August 1, 2002

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES (TEA) ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

ISSUE

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) established the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Advisory Committee on November 7, 2001. The Committee was charged with the task of recommending changes to the Department and the Commission on California's administration of the TEA Program to improve timely and successful project delivery.

The TEA Advisory Committee has met five times since the first called meeting on January 10, 2002. Issues were identified and discussed. The Committee reached agreement on several policy issues: number of state programs, programming cycles, north/south split of state program, and general selection process. The issue of relative program between State and Regions remains unresolved. The Committee also recommends establishing a follow-up committee of stakeholders to revise and simplify the existing TEA program guidelines to reflect the Commission's decisions.

The Commission requested a Status Report be prepared and presented by the Committee. A designated Committee member will present the attached report summary to the Commission at its meeting on August 22, 2002.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Transportation supports the decisions of the TEA Advisory Committee without comment and recommends the Commission accept the Committee's Status Report.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Department requests the Commission to accept the TEA Advisory Committee Status Report and adopt the decisions reached by the Committee.

Attachment

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES “TEA” ADVISORY COMMITTEE



TEA Advisory Committee Status Report

What is the goal of the TEA Advisory Committee?

- Recommend changes to CTC on Program structure to improve timely and successful project delivery:
 - TEA Program appears too complicated and confusing
 - Simplify Program by reducing number of state programs
 - Program must comply with federal regulations
 - Final recommendations before TEA-21 re-authorization

TEA Committee Progress

Who are the Committee members?

- Julie Bueren - California State Assoc. of Counties
- Laura Cohen - The Rails to Trails Conservancy
- Phil Dow - Regional Trans. Planning Authority (Rural)
- John Ferrera - Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
- Wade Hobbs - Federal Highway Administration
- Rick Moshier - League of California Cities
- Margie Ryan - The Trust for Public Lands
- Michael Spear - California Resources Agency
- David Takemoto-Weerts - Cal. Assoc. of Bicycling Organization
- Emily Tibbott - The Nature Conservancy
- David Yale - Regional Trans. Planning Authority (Urban)

Issues

- ➔ Reduce number of State TEA programs?
- ➔ Maintain/ eliminate \$1 million cap on land acquisitions?
- ➔ Annual, biennial cycles or ad-hoc project selection process?
- ➔ Applicability of 40/60 N/S split for state TEA program?
- ➔ Within each TEA program, who evaluates projects?
- ➔ Who may apply for TEA funds?
- ➔ What should the Regional/State split percentage be?

Recommendations

- ✓ Combine 3 current State programs into one State program.
- ✓ No dollar limit on land acquisition projects.
- ✓ Coordinated programming cycles with ability to amend in exceptional projects between cycles.
- ✓ Maintain 40/60 % North/South split for State program.
- ✓ Selection process that follows federal law and is fair, open, competitive, and transparent.
- ✓ Open to all applicants who meet federal TEA eligibility requirements.

Unresolved Issue

The Regional/State Split

- Maintain status quo of 75/25 %.
- Change to 50/50 % to mirror STP Program split.
- Change to some other percentage split.
- Committee agrees that:

All TEA programs need more \$\$

The equity of split is disputed

CTC can change current split

Next Steps

1. Final Recommendations
2. Feedback
3. Final Report to CTC
4. Develop new TEA Program guidelines (by a committee of stakeholders)