

# Memorandum

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To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 18-19, 2016

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Information

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Subject: **DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

## **SUMMARY:**

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 14512, 14522, and 14524.3, the Commission has requested the Department to prepare an update of the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines and to develop the first ever guidelines for the California Transportation Plan (CTP). Commission staff is currently working in collaboration with the Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning to develop a stakeholder engagement plan and initiate a stakeholder-driven process to concurrently update the RTP Guidelines and develop CTP Guidelines. It is anticipated that these efforts will begin in June 2016, and ultimately bring forward RTP and CTP Guidelines for Commission adoption in December 2016.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Update of the 2010 RTP Guidelines**

The RTP Guidelines are intended to set forth a uniform, statewide long-range regional transportation planning framework; promote an integrated, multi-modal, and cooperative planning process; and facilitate the efficient delivery of transportation projects that meet local, regional, and state goals. The RTP Guidelines were last updated in 2010 to address new requirements for RTPs resulting from the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg, 2008). This update was an inclusive, transparent effort which brought a variety of interested stakeholders together to achieve consensus on complex technical and policy areas related to the development of SB 375 compliant RTPs.

Since 2010 there has not been a large-scale change in the requirements for RTPs as was seen through the passage of SB 375. An update to the 2010 RTP Guidelines is necessary in light of changes to State statute resulting from the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 441 (Monning, 2012) which requires the incorporation of best practices for public health into the RTP Guidelines, as well as changes to federal statute resulting from the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. Additionally, updates to the 2010 RTP Guidelines are needed to reflect advances in the practice of long-range transportation planning including improvements in the areas of modeling, public health and active transportation, goods movement, climate adaptation planning, and performance measurement.

Commission staff, in collaboration with Caltrans, has established a strategy and timeline for conducting the RTP Guidelines update. Utilizing recommendations from the 2015 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) RTP Review Report, Caltrans subject matter experts are preparing an initial draft of the RTP Guidelines to present to stakeholders for feedback. The guidelines update process will take place in direct consultation with staff from the Air Resources Board, Caltrans and other state agency partners as appropriate. A stakeholder kick-off meeting is anticipated to be held in Sacramento on June 30<sup>th</sup> to engage stakeholders, explain the guidelines update process and release the initial draft guidelines for comment. Building on the process that was utilized for the update of the 2010 RTP Guidelines, stakeholder workgroups will be formed as needed to bring stakeholders from a wide variety of subject matter areas and representing local, regional and state perspectives to the table to address updates to important technical and policy areas within the guidelines. The update will continue to emphasize the current RTP guidelines format which focuses first on the inclusion of statutory requirements for RTPs, followed by permissive best practices information as appropriate.

Stakeholder engagement through workgroup meetings and public comment is anticipated to take place from July – October with informational hearings and updates to the Commission at the August Commission meeting in San Diego and the October Commission meeting in San Jose. Presentation of Final 2016 RTP Guidelines to the Commission for adoption at the December 2016 meeting in Riverside is anticipated.

### **Development of CTP Guidelines**

Pursuant to Federal regulations (23 CFR 450.214) and State statute (Government Code Section 14000.6 and 65071 [et al]), Caltrans is required to prepare a statewide long-range transportation plan – the California Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP serves as the transportation policy plan designed to meet California’s mobility needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 20 years. The plan envisions a fully integrated, multi-modal, and sustainable transportation system that supports economic vitality, protects environmental resources, and promotes the health and well-being for all Californians. The CTP provides a common policy framework that will guide Caltrans modal plans and programs as well as inform transportation investments and decisions by all levels of government, the private sector, and key transportation stakeholders.

SB 486 (DeSaulnier, 2013) authorized and encouraged the Commission, in cooperation with Caltrans, to prepare guidelines for the development of the CTP. Commission staff, in collaboration with Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning staff, has established a format, strategy, and timeline for the development of CTP Guidelines which will serve to clearly outline the state and federal requirements for the plan and will help inform preparation of the CTP 2045 which is due in 2020. The CTP Guidelines will be developed concurrently with the update of the RTP Guidelines, through a transparent public process with stakeholder input and in direct consultation with staff from Caltrans, the Air Resources Board, and other state agencies as appropriate.

The CTP Guidelines development schedule will closely follow that of the RTP Guidelines update with a stakeholder kickoff meeting and release of Draft CTP Guidelines for comment anticipated on June 30<sup>th</sup>, stakeholder engagement from July – October, and Commission adoption of final guidelines estimated to take place in December 2016.