

CALIFORNIA FEDERAL PROGRAMMING GROUP (CFPG)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – April 14, 2009
SACOG – American River Room
1415 L. St. Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

1. Topics/Agenda/Introduction:

Self introductions were made at this time.

2. Ground Rules:

Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans, asked the group to refer to the Ground Rules from previous meeting minutes.

3. Announcements and updates:

- Abhijit Bagde thanked Sri Srinivasan for being the recorder for the previous CFPG meetings and noted that Sarkes Khachek, SBCAG, would be the notekeeper for today's meeting.
- Jose Luis Caceras requested that the Caltrans Regional Transportation Planning listserv be distributed to the CFPG group.
- Amy Kratovil with FHWA said that FHWA email addresses would change to first name and last name at dot.gov.
- Yin-Ping Li, Caltrans Local Assistance, mentioned that there has been a rotation in responsibilities at the Division of Local Assistance. She noted that the Safety and Bridge Programs have assigned to Yin-Ping Li and the Project Delivery Branch has been assigned to Barry Leaming and that a new organizational chart would be distributed.
- Sri Srinivasan mentioned that FSTIP amendment task force could meet again at next month's CFPG meeting.

4. Follow-Up Items from last meeting:

Abhijit Bagde reviewed follow-up items from the last meeting listed below

- Caltrans to provide ARRA FTA fund types – Item completed
- E-mail link to FHWA publication for Federal Aid Programs – Item completed
- MPOs representing on Grouped project Listings Task Force to compile a list of various grouped project listings used by MPOs, and send it to Caltrans by March 30. This item was discussed as part of No. 9 below.
- Caltrans Division of Local Assistance to provide information on DBE Race Conscious Program This item was discussed as part of No. 10 below.

Jose Luis Caceras asked if the Federal Lands Highway program would be added as a new fund type into CTIPS. Abhijit bagde responded that the fund type has been created in CTIPS.

5. Update from Division of Mass Transit

- Kimberly Gayle reminded the group that FTA 5311 ARRA Non-Urbanized grant applications are due by April 17th. She noted that not all applications have been received and she provided the website for the FTA 5311 ARRA program.
- She also mentioned that the 1511 Certifications are a part of the application requirements and must be submitted with the grant applications. Caltrans is the grantee to FTA for the FTA 5311 grant applications.
- Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG, mentioned that the 1511 guidance for their application can't be approved until their FTIP amendment is approved. Kimberly responded that applications for projects that are still not included in a Federally approved TIP by April 17th will be included in a pending 'Category B.' Once the FTIP amendments are approved, projects will be moved to 'Category A.'
- Sri Srinivasan asked if administrative modifications would be accepted for projects that had already been approved by FTA in a previous formal amendment and Abhijit Bagde responded that Caltrans had the delegated authority for approving administrative modifications.
- Sookyung Kim asked if the 1511 memo that was distributed only related to ARRA FTA projects. Kimberly Gayle responded that Will Kempton had the delegated authority for signing certifications.

6. ARRA Projects:

1. FTIP/FSTIP programming: Abhijit Bagde

- Abhijit Bagde thanked MPOs for programming of their ARRA funded projects. Abhijit also thanked FHWA and FTA for their expediency with the approval of amendments. Caltrans Federal Programming has created an ARRA section on their website with information on ARRA funding and amendments by MPOs. Abhijit noted that he would send the link to the ARRA programming page.
- Sri Srinivasan thanked Abhijit Bagde and the Caltrans Federal Programming group for their work on the ARRA FTIP Amendments.

2. Federal Lands Highways Projects: Abhijit Bagde

Abhijit Bagde referred to a note sent on February 2nd to MPOs who have Federal Lands Highway projects. The letter included selected projects for ARRA funding. The list was finalized and distributed on April 4th. The note also included the fund type 'ARRA FLH' that has been created in CTIPS. MPOs need to program the ARRA FLH projects and funds into their FTIPs if they have not already done so. If projects are not selected for ARRA, they will be funded with regular Federal Lands Highway funding.

3. Transportation Enhancements (TE): Barry Leaming

- Barry Leaming provided an overview of state legislation relating to ARRA funding, specifically to Transportation Enhancements funding, and referred to a letter distributed on April 10th.

Barry noted that Senate Bill 286 applies to all TE projects and the bill gives priority to sponsors of TE projects that partner with, or commit to employ the services of, a community conservation corps or the California Conservation Corps to construct or under take the project.

Barry reviewed Assembly Bill X3-20. Barry noted that AB X3-20 was approved for ARRA funding and projects in California. He highlighted the priority to TE projects for employing the Conservation Corp and that the next priorities would be bicycle/pedestrian projects and all other projects. ARRA projects need to be obligated by March 2010.

- Jose Luis Caceras asked if Caltrans would be asking regions if they can't spend their ARRA TE funds and Barry mentioned that Caltrans would not be doing that at this time. Penny Gray, Caltrans, added that several MPOs are exceeding their apportionment amounts and some are pursuing trading of funds with other MPOs.
- Owen (last name and agency?) asked if agencies should make sure if they can include the Conservation Corps on the project before they program funds. Barry responded that Caltrans is assessing how agencies should proceed.
- Geiska Velasquez, SLOCOG, asked if the economic benefit analysis was still required if agencies were working with the Conservation Corps. Earl Seaberg responded that ARRA includes discussion about economically distressed areas and that agencies should work through the Conservation Corps and distressed area language and justify how the project was selected for ARRA funding.
- Barry Leaming mentioned that there is a Questions and Answers section on the web and that regions should email questions to Caltrans Local Assistance.

4. General Issues: Earl Seaberg

- Earl Seaberg noted that additional certifications have been posted on the web and that Local Assistance was certifying additional projects. He added that language for the certifications had been written by attorneys at DOT and any changes require their approval. Earl noted that MTC has requested changes, but Caltrans wants to have one set of language and that MPOs should be careful with variations to the language.
- Olin Woods, SACOG, said it is helpful if there is some discussion on the purpose of the language. He added that using the FTIP as the process in approving selected projects protects regions and state through the process.

- David Yale, LA MTA, noted that the 1511 certification process will be discussed at the next RTPA meeting. He mentioned that certifications should be kept as simple as possible.
- Earl Seaberg noted that local agencies need to start the reporting process as soon as a project is submitted. Olin Woods clarified that agencies should not certify their projects until they are ready for obligation and that certifications should be submitted around the same time as the request for authorization.
- Andrea Zurick, RCTC, asked if projects need to be recertified if there was a change to the ARRA amount and there was no answer at this time.
- Kurt Lervold, Caltrans District 2, noted that projects need to be in the FTIP before they can be certified. If there is no NEPA clearance on the project, then there will be weekly reporting required for the project.
- Susie Theiss, Caltrans District 1, asked if request for authorizations should be delayed if a certification is not done and Earl Seaberg responded that a project cannot be obligated until it is certified. Earl noted that the timeline on certifications is about 24 to 48 hours. He added that certifications are being completed just ahead of authorizations.
- Amy Kratovil, FHWA, added that local agencies must work with District Local Assistance Engineers and that projects need to be included in the FTIP and located on the Federal Aid Program list.

7. ARRA Fund Types – Abhijit Bagde

Abhijit referred to Handout 1 which included ARRA fund types that MPOs should be using when programming ARRA projects to FTIPs. Abhijit told the group to contact him if they would like to see any fund types added to CTIPS.

8. Public Participation – Review and Comment Period for Amendments – Joanne McDermott

Joanne McDermott noted that MPOs should make sure that their FTIP amendment pages are active. She added that there have been website location issues and that MPOs should check their FTIP amendment location pages.

9. Grouped Project Listings Task Force Discussions – Abhijit Bagde

Abhijit Bagde noted that representatives of Caltrans Federal Programming, Local Assistance, MPOs, FTA and FHWA had been meeting to discuss Grouped Project Listings. Abhijit said that the goal of the taskforce was to develop approved list of various grouped project listings. He noted that MPO representatives on the taskforce were requested to survey MPOs

statewide in order to compile information of various MPO managed grouped project listings and that the original due date of March 30th to get responses has been extended to April 28th.

10. Update from the Division of Local Assistance on Race Conscious DBE Program – Rihui Zhang

Rihui Zhang provided an update on the Race Conscious DBE program. He noted that Caltrans is encouraging agencies to get their Race Conscious DBEs approved. Rihui mentioned that a new DBE agreement signed by 20 agencies will be posted on the web. He added that if a request for authorization is submitted using a race neutral DBE, that the request will be approved. However, agencies can advertise until the agency goes to a race conscious DBE. District Local Assistance Engineers will be contacting project sponsors. Rihui stressed that agencies should not advertise ARRA projects until their race neutral DBEs have been approved.

11. Follow-Up Items, Open Forum, Future Agenda Items

Follow-Up Items

- Sarkes Khachek will have the draft meeting minutes by Monday.
- Caltrans Federal programming Office will work with Barry Leaming on distributing the contact information for the Transportation Enhancement Program.
- Abhijit Bagde to e-mail the group information on Regional Transportation Planning Listserv, HQ - Local Assistance revised organization chart, Caltrans Programming ARRA Website and Federal Lands Highways Program project information.

Open Forum

Sri asked if Barry Leaming could attend the next meeting and provide an update on ARRA TE funding and Abhijit responded that he would check with Barry.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on May 26, 2009 at MTC in Oakland, CA.

Agenda

April 14, 2009
10:30 am – 12:30 pm

SACOG
American River Room
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: José Luis Cáceres
(916) 340-6218

Meeting called by: Muhaned Aljabiry
Facilitator: Abhijit Bagde
Recorder/Time Keeper: Sarkes Khachek

Agenda Topics

Item	Description	Time	Presenter
1	Topics/Agenda/Introductions	10:30	Abhijit Bagde
2	Ground Rules	10:35	Abhijit Bagde
3	Announcements and updates	10:45	All
4	Follow-Up Items from last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caltrans to provide ARRA FTA fund types – Item completed • E-mail link to FHWA publication for Federal Aid Programs – Item completed • MPOs representing on Grouped project Listings Task Force to compile a list of various grouped project listings used by MPOs, and send it to Caltrans by March 30 (See Item No. 9 below) • Caltrans Division of Local Assistance to provide information on DBE Race Conscious Program (See Item No. 10 below) 	10:55	Caltrans
5	Update from the Division of Mass Transit	11:00	Kimberly Gayle
6	ARRA Projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FTIP/FSTIP programming: Muhaned Aljabiry 2. Federal Lands Highways Projects: Abhijit Bagde 3. Transportation Enhancement (TE): Barry Leaming (Handout 2) 4. General Issues: Earl Seaberg 	11:10	Caltrans/FHWA/FTA
7	ARRA Fund Types (Handout 1)	11:40	Abhijit Bagde
8	Public Participation - Review and Comment Period for Amendments	11:45	Joanne McDermott
9	Grouped project Listings Task Force Discussions	11:50	Abhijit Bagde
10	Update from the Division of Local Assistance on Race Conscious DBE Program	12:00	Rihui Zhang
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-Up Items • Open Forum • Future Agenda Items 	12:15	All

12	Future meeting dates and locations: May 26, 2009 - MTC, Oakland(10:30 am – 12:30 pm) July 14, 2009 - Caltrans, Sacramento (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)	12:20	All
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HANDOUT NO. 1

ARRA Fund Types
California Department of Transportation
Office of Federal Transportation Management Program

FUND ID	CTIPS PROGRAM CATEGORY	CTIPS FUND NAME	FUND DESCRIPTION
ARRA-TE	Other Fed	ARRA - Transportation Enhancement	For programming Transportation Enhancement projects on state highways and local roads
AR-STP	Other Fed	ARRA - Surface Transportation Program	For programming state highway projects (except SHOPP, TE and HM projects) funded from the state's ARRA share (37.5% of the total ARRA apportionments received, Ref: Assembly Bill X3 20)
AR-RSTP	Other Fed	ARRA - Regional Surface Transportation Program	For programming regional projects (except TE) funded from the regional ARRA share (62.5% of the total ARRA apportionments received, Ref: Assembly Bill X3 20)
AR-FLH	Other Fed	ARRA - Federal Lands Highways Program	The Federal Lands Highways program provides for transportation planning, research, engineering, and construction of highways, roads, and parkways and transit facilities that proved access to or within public lands, national parks, and Indian reservations.
ARRA-SH	SHOPP - Bridge Preservation, SHOPP - Roadway Preservation, SHOPP - Roadside Preservation, SHOPP - Collision Reduction, SHOPP - Mobility	ARRA - SHOPP	For programming SHOPP projects that have been selected to receive funding from ARRA
ARRA-HM	Other Fed	ARRA - Highway Maintenance (HM)	For programming the state Highway Maintenance Program (HM) projects that have been selected to receive funding from ARRA
AR-5307	FTA Funds	ARRA - FTA 5307	Formula grant program for urbanized areas providing transit capital assistance for mass transportation
AR-5309	FTA Funds	ARRA - FTA 5309	Fixed guideway modernization typically funds infrastructure improvements such as track and right of way rehabilitation, station modernization, rolling stock renewal, safety-related improvements, signal and power modernization

These fund types are available in CTIPS.

Handout No. 1

ARRA Fund Types

California Department of Transportation

AR-5311	FTA Funds	Office of Federal Transportation Management Program transit capital assistance program
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HANDOUT NO. 2

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE

1120 N STREET, MS-49

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5680

PHONE (916) 653-1776

FAX (916) 654-2409

TTY 711

*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

April 10, 2009

All Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Regional Transportation Planning Agencies:

This letter is to update you on recent legislation that affects the project selection process for federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects and provide guidance for TE projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Please share this information with your member agencies.

The State of California has approved Senate Bill 286 (SB 286) and Assembly Bill X3-20 (ABX3-20). SB 286 requires regions and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to give priority in the selection of TE projects to applicants that use either a community conservation corps (ccc) or the California Conservation Corps (CCC). Caltrans is currently working on the development of selection criteria that can be used by the regions and encourages the use of a ccc or CCC to accomplish the work. ABX3-20 modifies existing Streets and Highways Code. Chapter 9.5, Section 2423 (c) (1) (2) and (3) are reiterated below.

(1) In programming and allocating these funds, the department and the metropolitan planning organizations, county transportation commissions, and regional transportation agencies shall give priority to the sponsors of eligible projects that partner with, or commit to employ the services of, a community conservation corps or the California Conservation Corps to construct or undertake the project, provided those projects meet the requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

(2) After all eligible projects have been selected pursuant to paragraph (1), the department and the metropolitan planning organizations, county transportation commissions, and regional transportation agencies shall next give priority to projects that provide facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, provided those projects meet the requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

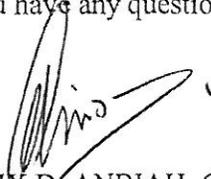
(3) After all eligible projects have been selected pursuant to paragraph (2), the department and the metropolitan planning organizations, county transportation commissions, and regional transportation agencies may fund any project eligible in accordance with paragraph (35) of subdivision (a) of Section 101 of Title 23 of the United States Code.

Complete versions of these bills are available on the State of California's Legislative web site at <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/>.

ABX3-20 removes the requirement for TE projects funded through the ARRA from being programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). ARRA funded TE projects will be processed in the same manner as a federal-aid project receiving Regional Surface Transportation (RSTP) funds and must be programmed in the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). All TE projects will still require an application and eligibility determination. It is recommended that applications be forwarded to John Haynes at John_Haynes@dot.ca.gov for an eligibility determination prior to programming in the FSTIP. Eligibility must be verified prior to obligating funds. Guidance may be found on the Division of Local Assistance's website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms>, or you may contact your district local assistance engineer. The TE application is also available on our website.

To ensure California obligates all of the TE funds made available through the ARRA, Caltrans requests your assistance developing a statewide list of regional TE projects. This list will be used to verify each region has TE projects identified and will obligate all apportioned ARRA TE funds prior to the March 2, 2010 deadline.

Each region is requested to complete the attached spreadsheet, scan, and email to John_Haynes@dot.ca.gov by May 4, 2009. Please list all TE projects identified to receive ARRA funds. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Pokrajac 916-653-7409.



DENIX D. ANBIAH, Chief
Division of Local Assistance

Attachment

