



Research and Technology Advisory Panel (RTAP) Executive Committee

Draft Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Meeting called by: Genevieve Giuliano, RTAP Chair

Attending:

- **RTAP Members:** Genevieve "Gen" Giuliano, Susan Handy, Steve Ritchie (phone), Dan Sperling, Brian Taylor, Pravin Varaiya, Samer Madanat
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Randy Iwasaki, Jim Bourgart
- **Guests:** Jeff Brown, Sen. Lowenthal's Office; Cyrus Minoofar, Alameda County CMA
- **DRI Staff:** Larry Orcutt, Nancy Chinlund, Tori Kanzler, Pete Hansra, Nancy Chinlund (phone), Patrick Tyner
- **Caltrans Staff:** Gregg Albright, Cindy McKim, Nathan Smith, Richard Nordahl, Joan Sollenberger, Reza Navai, Leslie Snow, Michele Fell (phone), Monica Kress, Pat Weston

Absent:

- **Ex-Officio Members:** Will Kempton, Sunne Wright McPeak
- **RTAP Members:** Maged Dessouky

PANEL BUSINESS

- The RTAP approved the meeting minutes from May 7, 2008
- The RTAP will meet next on January 23, 2009

RTAP FREIGHT PROJECT

Gen Giuliano reported on status of project.

- Due to competing priorities, the CCST, after discussions with the RTAP, will not participate in research portion of this project. RTAP will pursue the research individually and reconnect with CCST later if necessary
- Task 1 – Preliminary Research on Technology and Freight in the Planning Process
 - The draft is complete and will be circulated to the RTAP members by Gen by mid-October.
- Task 2 – Freight Workshop
 - Date: Feb 18-20, 2009
 - Location: Southern California (either USC or CSULB)
 - Preliminary Agenda: **(Attached)**
 - The committee was concerned about low attendance if the workshop extended too long; therefore, the committee decided to keep the workshop to a day and a half.
 - With the short duration of the workshop, the committee decided to narrow the focus to ensure in-depth discussion.
 - Workshop focus: Advance Technology Implementation In Rail
 - Format: The goal is to mix up the format to get the most out of the assembled participants, not have just "talking heads."

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- Participants:
 - Elected and Government Agency representatives (state and fed)
 - The Rail Industry and their representatives
 - Academics
- Feedback:
 - The group suggested including a discussion on the new transportation act and issues of safety.
 - The implicit assumption for Day 3 AM Session 1 is that it is too slow. Suggest framing the session in terms of “barriers.”
- Action Item(s)
 - Email Gen with potential workshop speakers. Some suggestions included
 - Samer Madanat proposed Karl Martin from MIT (Day 2 AM Session 2)
 - Susan Handy proposed a speaker regarding environmental issues
 - Brian Taylor proposed Arthur Weiner (Adjacent Emission of Particulate)
 - Brian Taylor proposed : Pete Swan from Penn State (Day 2 AM Session 1)
 - Brian Taylor will connect with a potential speakers for Day 2 PM Session 2
 - Steve Ritchie proposed Jean Danielle to lead the rail discussion
 - Dan Sperling proposed Tim Carmichael (Coalition on Clean Air)

I-80 ACTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Cyrus Minoofar from the Alameda County Congestions Management Agency

(<http://www.accma.ca.gov/pages/index.aspx>) presented on projects and progress on the I-80 corridor from the Carquinez Bridge to the Bay Bridge.

- (Attach Presentation)
- The RTAP raised questions about the decision-making structure of the agency, the methodology employed to determine the solutions Alameda CMA intends to deploy.
- RTAP suggested additional interaction with the Alameda CMA with the potential to provide input on propose solutions and potential evaluation criteria

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

Brian Taylor discussed progress regarding the Transportation Finance Workshops. The intent of the workshops is to provide clear understanding of selected transportation finance topics facing decision makers (state and local).

- Brian Taylor suggested the following topics:
 - What would be the effect of a prolonged economic downturn to transportation financing in the state?
 - What's the promise and pitfalls of various public/private partnerships?
 - When does it make sense to bond for transportation? When is it a bad idea?
 - What are equity and fairness trade-offs on equity in tolling versus taxing for funding?

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- What do we really know about the economic cost in underinvesting in infrastructure in the state?
- Additional topics suggested for consideration included:
 - What is the role of environmental metrics in transportation funding?
- Issues:
 - How to fund the sessions?
 - Who should participate?
 - What are the success criteria?
- Action Item(s)
 - In terms of logistics, determine the format and cost per presentation and see who will fund them.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (CAT) CLIMATE RESEARCH REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

To meet the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger directed the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to coordinate with the Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture; Secretary of the Resources Agency; Chairperson of the Air Resources Board; Chairperson of the Energy Commission; and President of the Public Utilities Commission. The CAT is preparing to release its second report. Reza Navai, the Caltrans CAT representative, presented Caltrans' portion of the 2008 CAT Report.

- No action items

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CLOSED DOOR SESSION

The RTAP concluded the meeting with a closed-door executive committee session.

ISSUES FOR NEXT RTAP MEETING

- Funding for RTAP activities