



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom, teleconference, and in-person. A digital recording of the meeting is available for listening in SCAG's office.

Attendee List

SCAG Staff:

Asuncion, John
Calderon, Karen
Gutierrez, Pablo
Luo, Rongsheng
Sun, Lijin

Via Zoom and Teleconference:

Acosta, Brooke
Akkinepally, Vamshi
Bade, Rabindra
Brugger, Ron
Becha, Karishma
Chan, Jenny
Emery, Edward
Espinosa Araiza, Erika
Galbreath, Holly
Gaschot, Bertrand
Gross, Dakota
Hendrawan, Kevin
Huddleston, Lori
Kahrs, Jacqueline
Kang, Peter
Lay, Keith
Lugaro, Julie
Lyou, Joseph, PhD.

Maggioncalda, Emma
Marroquin, Nancy
Martinez, Bianca
Maulano, Annabelle
Miranda, Jude
Moran, Nohemi
Morris, Michael
Picado, Rosella
Pracilio, Deborah
Richmai, Michael
Slawson, Brad
Tavitas, Rodney
Tolar, Alice
Wong, Alison
Wong, Philbert
Yoon, Andrew

Arcadis IBI Group
WSP
Caltrans District 12
LSA
Caltrans Headquarter
RCTC
RCTC
Caltrans Headquarter
Ventura County APCD
Mojave Desert AQMD
LSA
CARB
LA Metro, Long Range Planning
Caltrans, Federal Programming
Caltrans Headquarter
ICF
Caltrans District 12
California Transportation Commission &
Coalition for Clean Air
Caltrans Headquarter
LA Metro
LSA
LA Metro
Caltrans District 12
SBCTA
FHWA
WSP
LSA
LA Metro
WSP
Caltrans Headquarter
LA Metro, ExpressLanes
Caltrans District 7
LA Metro
Caltrans District 7



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Rabindra Bade, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Dr. Joseph Lyou, Coalition for Clean Air and California Transportation Commission, provided verbal public comments on the I-405 Sepulveda Pass ExpressLanes project under Item 4.1. His comments raised concerns about how this project had been modeled and concluded as not having a significant air quality impact by the project lead.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1. July 25, 2023 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

3.2. August 22, 2023 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were approved.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1. Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

- 1162S012: Alison Wong, Caltrans District 7, presented on the PM hot spot analysis for the I-405 Sepulveda Pass ExpressLane Project (FTIP ID#: 1162S012). Because Karina O'Connor, EPA, was still reviewing the PM hot spot interagency review form and was not at the meeting to provide EPA's determination, and because FHWA and Caltrans Headquarters staff representatives requested to hear EPA's determination before their concurrences, no determination was made by TCWG at the meeting.

4.2. RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG staff would seek SCAG Regional Council's authorization to release the draft Connect SoCal 2024 or Plan for public review at its November 2, 2023 meeting.
- The public review and comment period for the draft Plan would be from November 2, 2023 to January 12, 2024 followed by SCAG Regional Council's adoption in April 2024.

4.2.1. Status Update on Transportation Conformity Analysis for Draft Connect SoCal 2024

Lijin Sun, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Southern California is mandated to comply with federal and state transportation and air quality planning regulations.
- Transportation conformity is required under the federal Clean Air Act Section 176(c) to ensure that federally supported transportation activities conform to or are consistent with the purpose of the applicable air quality management plan (AQMP) or State Implementation Plan (SIP).
- As required by the US EPA's Transportation Conformity Regulations, SCAG's 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, also known as Connect SoCal 2024, must demonstrate transportation conformity.
- Specifically, Connect SoCal 2024 must pass the four required conformity tests including (1) regional emissions analysis, (2) timely implementation of transportation control measures, (3) financial constraint, and (4) interagency consultation and public involvement.
- Based on the preliminary transportation conformity analysis, the Plan was expected to pass all four required



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

conformity tests.

- Building upon the long-established process for SCAG's transportation conformity analyses and Fresno Council of Governments' most recent conformity analyses as recommended by the Caltrans Headquarters conformity staff, SCAG staff had made improvements to the reporting of the regional conformity analysis and documentation for Connect SoCal 2024 to better showcase compliance with the conformity regulations and requirements.
- Major improvements included a standalone chapter, Chapter 2, to add and discuss latest planning assumptions in addition to transportation modeling. Furthermore, the conformity checklist would be an appendix to the Transportation Conformity Analysis Technical Report.
- SCAG staff would present a status update on the draft Transportation Conformity Analysis to TCWG at the October 2023 TCWG meeting for further interagency consultation, in advance of the draft Plan public release in November.
- On November 2nd, SCAG staff would seek SCAG Regional Council's authorization to release the draft Plan, including the associated transportation conformity analysis, for public review ending January 12, 2024.
- Upon completion of the public comment period, SCAG staff would respond to all comments on the draft conformity analysis and finalize the conformity technical report in time for adoption as part of the Final Connect SoCal 2024 by SCAG Regional Council in April 2024.
- FHWA/FTA final conformity determination would be needed by June 5, 2024.

In response to a request from Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarter, SCAG staff agreed to specifically notify Caltrans Headquarters conformity staff upon the draft Plan's public release.

4.3. FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- The 2025 FTIP Guidelines would be presented to SCAG Transportation Committee for recommended approval by the Regional Council in October 2023 and then Regional Council's adoption in November 2023.
- 2025 FTIP project submittals would be due to SCAG from the County Transportation Commissions in January 2024.

4.4. EPA Update

- No representatives present to provide an update.

4.4.1. Status Update on the SCAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 2:23-cv-02626)

- No representatives present to provide an update.

4.5. ARB Update

Kevin Hendrawan, CARB, reported the following:

- CARB was developing motor vehicle emissions budgets for the South Coast AQMD's 2012 annual PM2.5 federal standards for the South Coast Air Basin.

4.6. Air Districts Update

4.6.1. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for VCAPCD

Holly Galbreath, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- VCAPCD Board had adopted the revisions to on July 11, 2023.
- VCAPCD staff received the CEQA document for the revised Rule 71.1 from the Ventura County Clerk's Office and would submit the revised Rule 71.1 package for EPA review and approval through CARB before October 2023.



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP

4.6.2. Status Update on EPA Proposed Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rules 1106, 1106.1, and 1107; Final Limited Disapproval of SCAQMD Rule 1118; Final Limited Disapproval of Reasonable Available Control Technology Demonstrations for Sources Covered by the EPA's 2016 Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guidelines for SCAQMD; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Coachella Valley Ozone Nonattainment Area; Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards

- No representatives present to provide an update.

4.6.3. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1160; Final Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 315; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for San Bernardino County Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, and 1305; Final Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 1157; and Proposed Limited Disapproval of MDAQMD Rule 401 Bertrand Gaschot, MDAQMD, reported the following:

- No updates provided on MDAQMD Rule 1160.
- US EPA staff had indicated approvability of the revised MDAQMD Rule 315 and was waiting for the AVAQMD revised Rule 315 submittal because these two rules cross-reference each other.
- MDAQMD was waiting for US EPA's finalized contingency measures guidance for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS.
- MDAQMD had filed a lawsuit against US EPA over the final limited disapproval of MDAQMD Rules 1301 to 1305.
- MDAQMD Board adopted revisions to MDAQMD Rule 1157 on September 25, 2023. US EPA had indicated that the revisions would fully resolve the underlying deficiencies.

4.6.3.1 Status Update on the MDAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1411)

- No updates provided.

4.6.4. Status Update on EPA Final Limited Disapproval of AVAQMD Rule 315; Failure to Submit Contingency Measures for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Antelope Valley Portion of West Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Final Limited Disapproval of AVAQMD Rules 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, and 1309

Barbara Lods, AVAQMD, reported the following:

- Proposed revisions to AVAQMD Rule 315 would be presented to AVAQMD Board for adoption at its October 17, 2023 meeting, pending further comments from US EPA.

4.6.4.1 Status Update on the AVAQMD Lawsuit against EPA (Case No. 23-1614)

- No updates provided.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the TCWG will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 in-person, via Zoom, and by teleconference. Please submit PM Hot Spot Analysis Interagency Review Forms for the next meeting to Lijin Sun, sunl@scag.ca.gov, by Tuesday, October 10, 2023.