
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**October 22, 2019
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance

Huddleston, Lori
Suh, Jade
Dorsey, Thomas

Metro
Field Representative of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

SCAG

Luo, Rongsheng
Calderon, Karen
Gutierrez, Pablo
Lo, Nancy

Via Teleconference

Aurasteh, Reza
Bade, Robindra
Cooper, Keith
Gallo, Ilene
Kalandiyur, Nesamani
Lugaro, Julie
Mejia, James
O'Conner, Karina
Sun, Lijin
Tavitas, Rodney
Tax, Wienke
Vaughn, Joseph
Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans, District 12
Caltrans, District 12
ICF
Caltrans, District 11
ARB
Caltrans, District 12
SBCTA
EPA Region 9
SCAQMD
Caltrans Headquarters
EPA Region 9
FHWA
Caltrans, District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

James Mejia, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and acknowledged Jade Suh, Field Representative of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. September 24, 2019 TCWG Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG meeting.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) LA0G1457

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC.

2) ORA001105

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC.

3) LA0G1301

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC.

4.2 RTP Update

Nancy Lo, SCAG, reported the following:

- Draft Connect SoCal Plan was still on track for public release on November 7, 2019 with a public comment period from November 14, 2019 to January 24, 2020.
- Three public hearings and 21 briefings for local elected officials would take place during the comment period.
- SCAG planned to adopt Final Connect SoCal in April 2020.

In response to a question, Ms. Lo, SCAG, confirmed that project changes or new projects might be submitted during public comment period; Pablo Gutierrez, SCAG, noted that small changes to project descriptions and schedules could be accepted but large changes would need to be discussed.

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In response to a question, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that SCAG staff had not delayed development of Connect SoCal despite upcoming implementation of Final SAFE rule, and SCAG staff had been seeking guidance from federal agencies especially U.S. EPA and FHWA as well as near-term solutions to address any potential implications from ARB. Karina O'Connor, EPA Region 9, stated that EPA Region 9 staff was still waiting for guidance from EPA Headquarters and had no more update.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, provided a brief status update on transportation conformity analysis for Draft Connect SoCal:

- SCAG staff had performed four required transportation conformity tests demonstrating transportation conformity for Draft Connect SoCal.
 - 1) Regional emissions analysis with EMFAC2014
 - 2) Timely implementation of transportation control measures
 - 3) Fiscal constraint
 - 4) Interagency consultation and public involvement
- Transportation conformity analysis was scheduled to be released for public review as part of Draft Connect SoCal and presented to TCWG at their next meeting for further interagency consultation. All public comments received would be documented and responded to.
- Final transportation conformity analysis was scheduled to be presented to SCAG Energy and Environment Committed for recommendation to Regional Council for adoption on same day in April 2020.
- Federal approval of conformity determination would be needed by June 1, 2020.

4.3 FTIP Update

Pablo Gutierrez, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2019 FTIP Amendment #19-13 was scheduled to be released for 10-day public review period by November 6.
- Projects submittals for 2019 Administrative Modifications #19-14 were due from County Transportation Commissions on October 22.
- Another 2019 FTIP amendment had been scheduled with projects submittals due to SCAG by October 29.
- Last two 2019 FTIP amendments were accelerated in order to receive final federal approvals before SAFE Rule Part I would become effective on November 26.

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4.4 EPA Update

Wienke Tax, EPA Region 9, reported the following:

- EPA's final approval of South Coast 2008 8-hour ozone standard State Implementation Plan (SIP) was published in Federal Registrar on October 1, 2019.
- EPA received and was addressing comments from SCAQMD regarding EPA's proposed requirements on Coachella Valley 1997 8-hour ozone standard SIP under "Extreme" nonattainment reclassification.

Karina O'Conner, EPA Region 9, noted that budgets in the South Coast ozone SIP would become effective October 31, 2019.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Conner, EPA Region 9, stated that there were no guidelines from EPA Headquarters regarding SAFE Vehicles Rule; and Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, acknowledged and thanked EPA Region 9 staff for their hard work.

4.5 ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB's EMFAC202x workshop took place on October 2, 2019 and workshop presentation had been posted on ARB website.
- A state interagency working group led by ARB, CalSTA, and Caltrans had been formed to discuss and address SAFE Vehicles Rule and the working group would reach out to MPOs including SCAG soon.

4.6 Air Districts Update

Lijin Sun, SCAQMD, reported that Draft South Coast Contingency Measure Plan for 1997 8-hour ozone standard was presented at SCAQMD's Mobile Source Committee meeting on October 19, 2019 (Presentation can be found at:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/Agendas/Mobile-Source/msc101819.pdf>).

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Ilene Gallo, Caltrans District 11, announced that this would be her last TCWG meeting due to upcoming retirement, thanked TCWG for years of friendship and collaboration, expressed best wishes for TCWG's continued success, and noted that Melina Pereira, Caltrans District 11, would be filling in until a replacement is found.

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Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, congratulated Ms. Gallo on her retirement, acknowledged her active participation and contribution to TCWG over past many years, and wished her happy retirement.

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, reminded that NTI would offer a transportation conformity course at Caltrans District 11 in San Diego January 6 – 8, 2020, free for transportation agencies.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the SCAG main office in downtown Los Angeles.