

**Air Quality Conformity Task Force
Summary Meeting Notes
May 28, 2015**

Participants:

Amir Fanai – BAAQMD	Andrew Manalastas – Sonoma County
Andrea Gordon – BAAQMD	Department of Transportation Public Works
Yoojoong Choi – Caltrans	Steve Urbanek – Sonoma County Department
Shalanda Christian – Caltrans	of Transportation Public Works
Kevin Nguyendo – Caltrans	Dick Fahey – Caltrans
Rodney Tavitas – Caltrans	Adam Crenshaw – MTC
Ginger Vagenas – EPA	Mallory Atkinson – MTC
Jason Lui – LSA Associates, Inc.	Ross McKeown – MTC
Abul Hussain – City of Concord	Ashley Nguyen – MTC
John Leong – Sonoma County Department of	Chris Lillie – BATA
Transportation Public Works	Harold Brazil – MTC

1. Welcome and Self Introductions: Harold Brazil (MTC) called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

2. PM_{2.5} Project Conformity Interagency Consultations

a. Consultation to Determine Project of Air Quality Concern Status

i. US101/Holly Interchange Modification Project

Jason Lui (LSA Associates, Inc.) started his presentation on the US101/Holly Interchange Modification project by indicating that the project is a modification the existing U.S. 101/Holly Street Interchange from a Type L-10 four-quadrant cloverleaf to a Type L-9 partial cloverleaf interchange configuration. The existing loop off-ramps located at the southwest and northeast quadrants of the interchange (with U.S. 101 running north-south) would be eliminated, and the diagonal on- and off-ramps would be realigned into a more squared-up pedestrian and bicycle friendly configuration.

Mr. Lui also mentioned the following aspects of the US101/Holly Interchange Modification project:

- Reduce existing weaving friction areas within the U.S. 101/ Holly Street interchange.
- Reduce future traffic backups on the ramps from extending onto the U.S. 101 mainline during the a.m./p.m. peak hours.
- Reduce future traffic congestion at the Holly Street/Industrial Road intersection.
- Reduce pedestrian and bicycle conflicts with vehicles within the U.S. 101/Holly Street interchange and improve pedestrian and bicycle east-west connectivity across U.S. 101.

Mr. Lui concluded by stating that the US101/Holly Interchange Modification project does not qualify as a project of air quality concern (POAQC) because of the following reasons:

- The proposed Project is not a new or expanded highway project and is not considered to significantly affect diesel truck traffic on U.S. 101.
- The proposed Project does not affect intersections that are at level of service D, E, or F with a significant number of diesel vehicles.

Final Determination: With input from FTA, EPA and Caltrans, the Task Force concluded that the US101/Holly Interchange Modification project was not of air quality concern. Input from FHWA was not needed for this project.

ii. Adobe Road at E. Washington Street Project

Steve Urbanek (Sonoma County Department of Transportation Public Works) started his presentation on the Adobe Road at E. Washington Street project by indicating that the project will install a traffic signal at existing all-way stop controlled T-intersection, will add turn lanes by widening roadway and shoulders (by lengthening the existing box culvert to allow for roadway widening) and will add bicycle lanes.

Mr. Urbanek continued by stating the Adobe Road at E. Washington Street project will maintain the following schedule:

- Preliminary Engineering Approval 2011
- NEPA clearance July 2012
- R/W Certification 2014
- Construction 2015

Mr. Urbanek concluded by stating that the Adobe Road at E. Washington Street project does not qualify as a project of air quality concern (POAQC) because of the following reasons:

- The project is the conversion of the traffic control at the Adobe Road and East Washington Street intersection from all-way stop control to traffic signal control.
- The conversion in traffic control results in reduced vehicle delay and congestion.

Final Determination: With input from FTA, EPA and Caltrans, the Task Force concluded that the Adobe Road at E. Washington Street project was not of air quality concern. Input from FHWA was not needed for this project.

iii. Vallejo SRTS Infrastructure Improvements Project

The City of Vallejo (the project sponsor for the Vallejo SRTS Infrastructure Improvements project) was not in attendance at the meeting. Ginger Vagenas (EPA) stated that she did not think the project was of air quality concern, but she made the comment that the project type should not be bicycle and pedestrian facilities project type and should not be exempt per 40 CFR 93.126. Ms. Vagenas also asked for the pending truck volume to be included in the project assessment form. Rodney Tavitas (Caltrans) agreed with Ms. Vagenas' comments. Amir Fanai (BAAQMD), Ms. Vagenas, Mr. Tavitas and Harold Brazil (MTC) discussed moving the project forward without

sponsor presence. Ms. Vagenas stated that project sponsors should be strongly encouraged to attend the Task Force meetings (to answer questions), but in the case of the Vallejo SRTS Infrastructure Improvements project including the noted comments above and passing the information to the Task Force for review would not require the City of Vallejo's attendance.

Final Determination: With input from FTA, EPA and Caltrans, the Task Force did not feel that the Vallejo SRTS Infrastructure Improvements project was of air quality concern, but will defer final project-level conformity determination until receipt of the truck volume data. Input from FHWA was not needed for this project.

iv. Install Traffic Signal @ Treat Blvd/San Miguel Project

Abul Hussain (City of Concord) started his presentation on the Install Traffic Signal @ Treat Blvd/San Miguel project by indicating that the project will install a traffic signal at the intersection of Treat Boulevard and San Miguel Road.

Mr. Hussain continued by stating the Install Traffic Signal @ Treat Blvd/San Miguel project will also do the following:

- Install new ADA-compliant curb ramps NEPA clearance July 2012
- Improve safety by reducing the number of conflicts at the existing unsignalized intersection.
- Improve pedestrian access and safety by providing new signalized crossing across Treat Boulevard.
- Construction expected 2016/17

Mr. Hussain concluded by stating that the Install Traffic Signal @ Treat Blvd/San Miguel project does not qualify as a project of air quality concern (POAQC) because of the following reasons:

- Signalization will not increase traffic volume or truck percentages on the roadway.
- Diesel vehicles represent two (2) percent of traffic volume on San Miguel Road and three (3) percent of traffic volume on Treat Boulevard. Truck volumes on Treat Boulevard are expected to increase to 5.4 percent of the ADT (40,500 trips) while truck volumes on San Miguel Road would remain at two percent in the 2040 horizon year.
- This intersection currently operates at LOS F during peak hours and would improve to LOS C and A with signalization. Horizon year (2040) intersection LOS would improve from LOS F to LOS D and A during the AM and PM peak hours, respectively, with signalization.
- This project does not change land use and will not lead to an increase in traffic volumes or an increase in diesel vehicle number or percentage of daily traffic volumes inside or outside of the project area.

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) stated that she did not think the project was of air quality concern, but she asked for some clarification on the LOS values in the project assessment form which Mr. Hussain provided.

Final Determination: With input from FTA, EPA and Caltrans, the Task Force concluded that the Install Traffic Signal @ Treat Blvd/San Miguel project was not of air quality concern. Input from FHWA was not needed for this project.

b. Confirm Projects Are Exempt from PM_{2.5} Conformity

Harold Brazil (MTC) heard no comments from the Task Force on the **2b_Exempt List 51515.pdf** list of projects.

Final Determination: With input from FHWA (via email), FTA, EPA, Caltrans and MTC, the Task Force agreed that the project on the exempt list (**2b_Exempt List 51515.pdf**) is exempt from PM_{2.5} project level analysis.

3. Projects with Regional Air Quality Conformity Concerns

a. Review of the Regional Conformity Status for New and Revised Projects

Adam Crenshaw (MTC) discussed information to assist Task Force review of regional conformity status for new and revised projects:

- Proposed Revision to the Regionally Non-Exempt Vacaville Intermodal Station Phase II Project (SOL110009)
- New Projects in Amendment 15-11 Not Previously Reviewed by the Task Force
- New Projects Staff is Proposing to Include in Future Revisions

Mr. Crenshaw (MTC) received no questions or comments on the above mentioned agenda items.

4. Approach to the Conformity Analysis for the Amended 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Plan Bay Area

Harold Brazil (MTC) discussed the development of the Draft Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Plan Bay Area. Mr. Brazil indicated that the analysis will include I-580 access improvements to the Richmond-San Rafael (RSR) Bridge which will yield traffic congestion benefits (in the eastbound direction of I-580 in Marin County) and provide bicycle and pedestrian access between Contra Costa and Marin Counties. Mr. Brazil also showed that MTC was scheduled to release (for public review and comment) the Draft Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended 2015 TIP and Plan Bay Area on Wednesday, June 18, 2015. No comments or questions were received on this agenda item.

5. Providing Additional Guidance to Project Sponsors for Consultation Process

Harold Brazil (MTC) discussed providing additional guidance to project sponsors for going through the project level conformity consultation process and Ginger Vagenas (EPA) suggested sending the existing guidance to the Task Force members for comments. Once the comments are collected, the Task Force will make possible edits to the guidance.

6. Consent Calendar

a. April 23, 2015 Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting Summary

Final Determination: With input from all members, the Task Force concluded that the consent calendar was approved.

7. Other Items

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) proposed that the I-680 NB HOV Lane Extension project (reviewed by the Task Force at its March 26, 2015 meeting) be put on the agenda for June 18, 2015 Task Force meeting to discuss the updated extended project limits and Harold Brazil (MTC) agreed.