

**Air Quality Conformity Task Force  
Summary Meeting Notes  
August 27, 2015**

Participants:

Andrea Gordon – BAAQMD  
Amir Fanai – BAAQMD  
Kevin Nguyendo – Caltrans  
Rodney Tavitias – Caltrans  
Yoojoong Choi – Caltrans  
Emi Pearce – City of Vallejo

Gary Cullen – City of Vallejo  
Ginger Vagenas – EPA  
Joseph Vaughn – FHWA  
Dick Fahey – Caltrans  
Adam Crenshaw – MTC  
Harold Brazil – MTC

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

**2. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Project Conformity Interagency Consultations**

**a. Consultation to Determine Project of Air Quality Concern Status**

**i. HSIP Sonoma Boulevard (SR 29) Road Diet Project**

Ms. Emi Pearce (City of Vallejo) began her description of the HSIP Sonoma Boulevard (SR 29) Road Diet project by stating that the project would address the following needs:

- Safety improvements for students and parents at the Lincoln Elementary School
- Allowance for high visibility for students to utilize safe crosswalks and routes along Sonoma Boulevard to bike and walk to school
- Provides enhanced safety for bike-to-school programs as well as the general cycling public

Ms. Pearce mentioned that the road diet will install bike lanes between York Street and Kentucky Street by reducing the travelled lanes from 4 lanes (two in each direction) to 2 lanes (one in each direction) with a parking lane and class II bicycle lane in each direction, and free-left-turn lane in the center. This work includes bicycle signing and no changes to the curb lines along the road diet portion of the project.

Ms. Pearce also indicated that the HSIP Sonoma Boulevard (SR 29) Road Diet project eliminates the speed differential due to having only one lane in each direction, which improves safety for those trying to access Sonoma Boulevard from the side streets. Ms. Pearce went on to mention that left turns from Sonoma Boulevard would not be made from the through-lane, which would improve safety by reducing the potential for rear end collisions on the state route.

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) and Dick Fahey (Caltrans) asked if build/no-build scenario ADT and LOS value comparisons could be included in the project assessment form and they also asked for clarification on the ADT values contained in the City of Vallejo's presentation.

Joseph Vaughn (FHWA), Rodney Taviton (Caltrans) and Harold Brazil (MTC) discussed the project's NEPA delegation project type and Ms. Pearce and Mr. Gary Cullen (City of Vallejo) stated they would follow-up with that information.

Amir Fanai (BAAQMD) and Andrea Gordon (BAAQMD) asked for additional information on congestion effects in the school area related to the project and Ms. Pearce responded by indicated that the routes parents take to pick up their children (at the front of Lincoln Elementary School) are not impacted by the project.

***Final Determination:*** With input from EPA and Caltrans, the Task Force did not feel that the HSIP Sonoma Boulevard (SR 29) Road Diet project was of air quality concern, but will defer final project-level conformity determination until receipt build/no-build scenario data and NEPA delegation project type identification.

### **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:

##### Adding the PE phase only of a non-exempt project to the 2015 TIP

Mr. Crenshaw indicated that Staff is proposing to add only the PE phase of Marin County Transit District's Relocate Transit Maintenance Facility project to the 2015 TIP through amendment 2015-17. Mr. Crenshaw went on to say that FTA has not yet determined that the project meets the requirements for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) under 23 CFR 771, this project cannot currently be classified as exempt from regional air quality conformity under 40 CFR 93.126 or 40 CFR 93.127. As such, MTC staff proposed to add this project to the 2015 TIP as a regionally non-exempt project and the Task Force's concurrence that the addition of this phase to the 2015 TIP will not require an update to the air quality conformity analysis.

Mr. Crenshaw also added that the capital phases of this project are expected to be added to the TIP through a future update or revision and that this project will be brought back to the Task Force for consultation on the regional air quality conformity implications of the project at that time.

##### New Projects Staff Propose to Include in the 2015 TIP

Mr. Crenshaw also stated that MTC staff had received requests from sponsors to add 20 new exempt projects to grouped listings in future revisions.

Andrea Gordon (BAAQMD) asked about the "VAR110004" TIP ID/FMS ID in Attachment A – the list of proposed new and revised projects and Mr. Crenshaw answered by saying that the "VAR110004" is a backup listing used for Caltrans SHOPP projects.

Mr. Crenshaw received no other questions or comments on the above mentioned agenda item.

#### **4. Draft Transportation Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area and 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (Update)**

Harold Brazil (MTC) updated the group on comments received to date on the Proposed Final Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the amended Plan Bay Area and the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and indicated that the final documents, comments received and the agency's responses are scheduled to be considered at the September 2015 Programming and Allocations Committee meeting.

#### **5. Consent Calendar**

##### **a. July 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.

#### **6. Other Items**

Harold Brazil (MTC) notified the Task Force that he would be following-up (via email) with Ted Matley (FTA) and the rest of the Task Force on the HSIP Sonoma Boulevard (SR 29) Road Diet project for a final conformity determination.