

# LOCAL STREETS & ROADS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

July 13, 2007

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## 1. **Introductions**

*Ben Tripousis (City of San Jose and Chair)* requested introductions.

## 2. **Minutes of May 4, 2007 LS&R Working Group Meeting**

The minutes of the May 4, 2007 LS&R Working Group meeting were accepted.

## 3. **Nominations for the New Executive Members**

The Group nominated and elected, through consensus, the following new Executive Members for the FY 2007-08 Term:

Chair - Mike Duncan, City of Fairfield

Vice-Chair – Julie Bueren, County of Contra Costa

Treasurer – Fernando Cisneros, City and County of San Francisco

## 4. **Legislative Updates**

### a. Update on the FY 2007-08 Budget

*Rebecca Long (MTC)* reported that the deadline to approve the FY 2007-08 State Budget is July 20, which is when the legislature begins its summer recess; however, indications are that the legislature will not meet this deadline. Group members reported that the current placeholder for the FY08 appropriations for LS&R is \$600M but that amount may increase to \$950M to be split into two increments for distribution in FY08 between cities and counties, potentially a 50/50 split.

### b. Discussions on the Spillover

*Rebecca Long (MTC)* reported that long-term fix discussions for the Spillover funds and rolling them into Prop 42 are dead for this year; the transportation community was unable to reach a consensus on how to distribute the funds. Rebecca explained the different scenarios for the spillover funds. Rebecca reported that the spillover is estimated to be \$827M next year but a large portion of the amount will likely be diverted to deal with the State's structural deficit. Indications are that a large part of the spillover, in addition to PTA account funding, will be used to pay for past bond debt financing and other transportation-related expenditures that have in the past been paid for from the general fund.

## 5. **Programming Updates**

### a. Report of Federal Inactive Obligations

*Sui Tan (MTC)* reviewed the list of inactive obligations for the March 2007 quarterly review. Sui distributed the "Look Ahead Report" for projects that would become inactive in June 2007 and the "Look Ahead Report" for projects that would become inactive in September 2007. For projects listed on the reports, project sponsors are encouraged to follow-up with Caltrans Local Assistance for current status. If sponsors aren't submitting invoices fast enough, Caltrans can deobligate and rescind funds already distributed. Staff reminded the Group that the reports are "look ahead" reports and do not reflect projects that are currently on the lists. The quarterly review is available online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/QuarterlyReviewofInactiveProjects.htm>.

### b. Local Bridge Seismic Bond Match

*Sui Tan (MTC)* reported that Caltrans has not yet released its final guidelines for the Local Seismic Bond Match and Highway Bridge Program (HBP). The program allows funding for new phases of work on a first-come, first-served basis at 11.5% up to \$125 million. Eligible jurisdictions should work with Caltrans Local Assistance when requesting funds. Funding is competing with BART's Seismic Retrofit Project. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Chin Wu, Caltrans Program Coordinator, at 510-286-5227.

### c. SAFETEA STP/CMAQ Delivery Update

*Ross McKeown (MTC)* reported on potential delivery issues resulting from the end of SAFETEA funding. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) expires on September 30, 2009. The issues are:

1. Regional Delivery Policy Deadlines. The Regional Delivery Policy deadline requires that all STP/CMAQ projects be obligated by May 31, 2009 with the obligation request due to Caltrans by March 1, 2009,

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funding cannot be carried over into the next Act. Since FY 2008-09 is the last year of SAFETEA, any funds not obligated by the May 31, 2009 will likely be lost.

2. Under SAFETEA, \$8.5 billion in federal funds will be rescinded with the potential of \$60 million, approximately one year's worth, in apportionment to be rescinded from the region on September 30, 2009. Every time funds are rescinded, there are less funds available for reprogramming. Rescinded funds will come from unobligated apportionment, making it more important to deliver projects as soon as possible. The majority of rescinded funds typically come from the Bridge and CMAQ funds; however, at the end of SAFETEA the language indicates that the funds will be rescinded equally from all the fund programs.
3. Under SAFETEA, a region must have a SAFETEA-compliant TIP and Plan by July 1, 2007. Though TIP Amendment 07-06's approval brought the TIP into SAFETEA compliance, the Plan will not be deemed SAFETEA-compliant until March 2009, when the new Plan update is approved. The current 2007 TIP expires on October 1, 2008, with the next Plan update not scheduled to be approved until March 2009; therefore, it is possible the TIP will be in a lapse between October 2008 and March 2009. During this time, amendments to the TIP will not be approved and it is unclear whether FHWA will approve obligations during this time.

MTC staff strongly encourages project sponsors to review project schedules to ensure they can meet the regional obligation deadlines for both FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09, and, if possible, consider advancing projects from FY 2008-09 into FY 2007-08.

d. Update on CMIA/I-Bond

*Ross McKeown (MTC)* provided an update on the Corridor Mobility Improvement Act (CMIA) and Proposition 1B. At the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting on July 25-26 in Glendale, the CTC is expected to adopt the project baseline for the CMIA projects as well as discuss the Project Delivery Council Make-Up for the CMIA and the Local Streets and Roads portion of the Prop 1B funding. Caltrans is holding monthly Prop 1B videoconferences (VCF); the next VCF is scheduled for July 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Caltrans District 4 office. Highlights from the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Prop 1B VCF as well as an updated Draft Prop 1B Schedule and Implementation Chart were included in the agenda packet.

Marcella Rensi (Santa Clara VTA) reported that the CTC is considering a 3:1 match for the Trade Corridor proposal but is likely to compromise with a 3:2 match.

e. Update on the Highway Safety Improvement Program

*Sui Tan (MTC)* announced that Caltrans' Local Assistance has hired a new Chief, Sylvia Fung. The list of approved Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects for the FY 2006-07 was included in the agenda packet. Staff encouraged project sponsors to implement as soon as possible and advised the group that all approved projects have already been programmed in the TIP.

## 6. Policy

a. Discussions on the Role of LS&R WG MTC/PDA Designation Process

*Ben Tripousis (City of San Jose)* led a discussion on what kind of advocacy does the LS&R WG want to provide in the RTP Priority Development Area (PDA) designation process. The group agreed that it should have some influence on the criteria for becoming a PDA and feels that the goal for the RTP should be to keep personal vehicles off the streets, not to just focus on public transportation but include biking and walking as well.

The group is supportive of the Plan but agreed that maintenance funds and existing resources should not be used to fund incentives. Should the Plan be successful, it will ultimately reduce gas tax resources, toll fares, etc. New resources must be found to support the Plan. In addition, there will always be a need for goods and services to utilize the streets and roads; therefore, maintenance will have to be increased to support infrastructure growth.

The group will work together to develop a white paper outlining LS&R's position, concerns and strategies on the PDA and RTP process. Ben Tripousis (City of San Jose) will take lead on the development of the paper; all comments should be submitted to Ben.

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b. P-TAP Round-9

*Sri Srinivasan (MTC)* reported that there were 69 applicants requesting funds from the Regional Pavement Technical Assistance Program (P-TAP) Round-9, totaling \$1.9M, while the amount available to expend is around \$900,000. MTC staff is in the process of reviewing the applications for eligibility and approval. **Follow-Up:** *MTC staff distributed a proposed list of projects and requested feedback from the Working Group on August 8. Of the 69 projects, 35 were chosen to receive funding on the basis of the scoring system mentioned in the application.*

c. Transportation 2035

(1) Draft Three E Principles & Goals

Group members discussed proposed changes for the draft Three E Principles & Goals. Mike Duncan (City of Fairfield) detailed specific areas of concern in the draft document.

(2) Scenario Performance Assessment

Group members reviewed and commented on the draft Scenario Performance Assessment; one suggestion was to include an opportunity analysis of maintenance vs. expansion.

### 7. Newsletters

a. Current Edition of Street Talk

*Sri Srinivasan (MTC)* distributed the July 2007 edition of Street Talk and announced the call for articles for the November edition, in particular about Pavement Preservation programs throughout the jurisdictions. Ben Tripousis distributed the City of San Jose's Pavement Management publication, "Crossroads", and will send articles to Sri for inclusion in the next edition of Street Talk. Sri requested feedback on topics for the Tech Transfer articles.

b. California Pavement Preservation Center Newsletter

*Sui Tan (MTC)* announced that MTC has been invited to upcoming CP<sup>2</sup> workshops.

### 8. Other Items of Business

a. LSRWG Strategic Plan

The Group discussed the feedback received on the draft LSRWG Strategic Plan. The Group agreed to modify the Mission Statement and PCI references to make it more "reader-friendly" as well as to add additional graphics, including pictures of well-maintained roads with a high PCI. Mike Duncan, City of Fairfield, will take lead on producing the final draft. The Group has requested that, upon making the suggested modifications, the document be presented at PTAC for an action of support and referral to the Partnership Board.

### Recommended Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The group recommends the following items be discussed at its next meeting:

- State Budget
- T2035 Update and PDA White Paper
- LS&R WG Work Plan

### Next Meeting:

*(There will be no meeting in August)*

Friday, September 5, 2007

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

MetroCenter, Conference Room 171, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor