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

**February 6, 2018  
Minutes**

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**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	Metro
Morris, Michael	FHWA
Morrissey, doreen	Metro
Sherwood, Arnold	UCB
Walecka, Carla	TCA

**SCAG:**

Barajas, Agustin  
Chin, Stephanie  
Luo, Rongsheng  
Tran, Daniel

**Via Teleconference:**

Adam, Stevenson	FTA
Brugger, Ronald	LSA
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Christian, Shalanda	Caltrans Headquarters
Gutierrez, Pablo	SCAG
Hudson, Kerrie	Caltrans District 8
Kulkarni, Anup	OCTA
Liptak, Zach	Dokken Engineering
Masters, Martha	RCTC
Tavitas, Rodney	Caltrans Headquarters
Tax, Wienke	EPA, Region 9
Tisopulos, Tara	OCTA
Vaughn, Joseph	FHWA
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION**

Lori Huddleston, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 3.1. December 6, 2017 TCWG Meeting Minutes  
The meeting minutes were approved.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) **S1160271**

It was determined that this is not a POAQC (EPA concurrence received via email after the meeting; Revised PM hot spot interagency review form with corrected traffic data in the table and FTIP project ID received after the meeting).

2) **ORA131303**

It was determined that this is not a POAQC (EPA concurrence received via email after the meeting).

3) **RIV111003**

It was determined that this is not a POAQC (EPA concurrence received via email after the meeting).

4.2 Clarifications on Exempt Project Determination

Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans Headquarters, reported that Caltrans had finalized exemption guidance on road diets, auxiliary lanes, and ramp metering projects in consultation with EPA and FHWA staff, and the Guidance has benefited the whole US. Mr. Tavitas acknowledged Andrew Yoon, Caltrans District 7, and Lori Huddleston, Metro, for their significant contributions and thanked EPA Region 9 and FHWA California Division staff for their collaboration. In addition, Mr. Tavitas requested local agencies to provide a one-month list of the projects that have used the exemption for estimating cost savings from the exemption in California.

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4.3 Proposed OCTA TCM Substitution

Anup Kulkarni, OCTA, reported the following:

- OCTA was proposing to substitute SR-241/91 Express Lane Connectors TCM project due to recent project schedule update with three traffic signal synchronization projects along three major corridors in Orange County.
- OCTA staff had been coordinating with SCAG and TCA staff in TCM substitution process.
- Proposed TCM substitution met all federal requirements including:
  - ✓ Three traffic signal synchronization projects are located in the same Orange County portion of South Coast Air Basin
  - ✓ OCTA has legal authority and full funding to implement traffic signal synchronization projects
  - ✓ Three traffic signal synchronization projects will be operational by same original completion date of SR-241/91 Express Lane Connectors project
  - ✓ TCM substitution was modeled using Orange County Transportation Analysis Model (OCTAM4.0) which is consistent with SCAG's Regional Travel Demand Model.
  - ✓ Emissions were estimated using ARB's EMFAC2014 Model for summer ROG and NOx emissions, winter NO<sub>2</sub> and CO emissions, and annual ROG, NOx, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions results for 2021, 2031, and 2040.
  - ✓ Emissions results demonstrate that traffic signal synchronization projects yield equivalent or greater emission reductions benefit.

In response to a question, Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that next steps of TCM substitution are:

- ✓ SCAG review of OCTA's proposed TCM substitution
- ✓ SCAG will prepare a draft TCM substitution report for a 30-day public review
- ✓ Draft TCM substitution will be presented to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) for recommendation to SCAG's Regional Council for adoption
- ✓ Upon Regional Council adoption, TCM substitution will be submitted to EPA and ARB for their respective concurrence
- ✓ Upon EPA and ARB concurrence, committed TCM status of SR-241/91 Express Lane Connectors project will be rescinded and three traffic signal synchronization projects will become new committed TCM
- ✓ TCM substitution will be effectuated through an FTIP amendment

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4.4 FTIP Update

Agustin Barajas, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of John Asuncion, SCAG:

- Maria Lopez retired as SCAG FTIP Department Manager effective January 31, 2018 and Pablo Lopez is Acting FTIP Department Manager
- SCAG staff had received 2019 FTIP projects submittals from all counties and was undertaking review and analysis
- 2017 FTIP Administrative Amendment #17-16 was under state and federal review for approval. All previous 2017 FTIP Amendments had received full approval.
- County projects submittals for 2017 FTIP Administrative Modification #17-17 and 2017 FTIP Emergency Amendment #17-18 were due to SCAG on February 6, 2018.

4.5 RTP Update

Daniel Tran, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG staff was reviewing project submittals from county transportation commissions for Amendment #3 to 2016 RTP/SCS.
- Amendment #3 follows same schedule as 2019 FTIP with SCAG's Regional Council adoption in September 2018 and federal approval in December 2018.

4.6 EPA Update

Wienke Tax, EPA Region 9, reported that EPA signed a final rule to fully approve South Coast 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP on January 24, 2018; as a result, related stationary off-set and highway sanctions will be permanently terminated upon effectiveness of final rule.

4.7 ARB Update

There was no new ARB update.

4.8 Air Districts Update

There was no new air district update.

**5.0 INFORMATION SHARING**

None.

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

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The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at the new SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.