

**California Transportation Permits Advisory Council (CTPAC)
Steering Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 13th, 2023
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Location: California Trucking Association
4148 E Commerce Way, Sacramento, CA 95834**

Meeting Summary

Item #1 – Welcome, Agenda and Purpose of Meeting.

Eric Sauer, Chairperson of CTPAC and Chief Executive Officer of the California Trucking Association (CTA), welcomed attendees. Eric expressed appreciation for everyone's participation in the meeting, including representatives from the trucking industry, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Item #2 – Caltrans Updates

Thomas Schriber, Chief of Caltrans' Office of Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO), expressed gratitude to everyone for attending the meeting. He introduced Mohammad Dastmalchian, the acting Branch Chief for single trip and variance permit issuance, while Devinder Sandhu is currently acting in an Office Chief position involving encroachment permits and outdoor advertising.

Thomas shared that the information technology project to create a searchable electronic repository for inspection reports is progressing and will be updated soon. The information technology efforts for electronic annual, repetitive, and sea container permits are also advancing, with variance permits to follow.

In response to the request from the last meeting, the development of a quality assurance plan is underway. Multiple training sessions have been conducted for both new and experienced permit writers to ensure consistency in permit issuance.

In regional and national efforts, Thomas shared that CVO has been involved in the following projects:

- 1) WASHTO MOU for emergencies.
- 2) NCHRP research related to increased weights for emergency relief.
- 3) NCHRP research on sharing truck size and weight data.

Regarding policy updates, Narayan Selwal provided more details later in the meeting. The updates include changing single trip permits from being issued no

more than 3 calendar days to no more than three working days in advance, and altering travel limits for sea container permits on the State Highway System.

Lorin Sabin from Bragg Heavy Transport proposed dropping the inspection report requirements since California is the only state that mandates such reports. Lorin pointed out that this is an enforcement issue and suggested allowing axle spacings to control allowable weights. Eric Sauer recommended going through the CTPAC Proposal process for any policy changes.

Josh Lovelace from Miller Industries inquired whether new inspections are required for a change of address and change of ownership. Narayan Selwal responded that new inspection reports are only required for a change of ownership or a change of configuration and/or modification to the vehicle. It is not required for a change of address.

Captain Nicholas Doko announced his retirement. Eric and Thomas expressed their gratitude for Captain Doko's years of service, and Eric presented Captain Doko with a service award.

Item #3 – CHP Updates

Sergeant David Kelly announced that CHP is now ready to accept electronic versions of all permits and permit accompaniments. Currently, CHP accepts electronic versions of all permits except for annual and repetitive permits. The attachments are now electronic. The pilot car maps are available for viewing and printing on the Caltrans website, and it is the haulers' responsibility to either print the maps from the website or have an electronic copy with them.

Sergeant David Kelly shared the following updates with the members:

- 1) California Vehicle Code (CVC) 560 Non-Pneumatic Tires. All sections for pneumatic tires will be tied to FMCSA standards.
- 2) CVC aligned with Federal § 171.8 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). A driver transporting hazardous substances or hazardous wastes, as defined in § 171.8 of Title 49, CFR, Section 171.8, is subject to interstate Hours of Service (HOS) limits regardless of interstate or intrastate operation.
- 3) Hours of Service (HOS) Interstate vs. Intrastate Commerce.
 - "Hours of service" refers to the maximum amount of time drivers are permitted to be on duty, including driving time, and specifies the number and length of rest periods to help ensure that drivers stay awake and alert.

- Interstate: Trade, traffic, or transportation between a place within California and a place outside of CA.
- Intrastate: Any carrier engaged in trade, traffic, or transportation not defined in interstate transportation.

Eric encouraged members to attend tomorrow's CTA/CHP safety meeting for more details on these legislative changes.

Item #4 – CTA Update

1) City of Hesperia I-15 Construction Project.

The project aims to rehabilitate and repave 59 lane miles and ramps while upgrading drainage systems on Interstate 15 (I-15) in San Bernardino County. The project extends from Oak Hill Road in Hesperia to just south of Bear Valley Road in Victorville. Poor coordination among industry, state, and local agencies has led to avoidable permit denials and delays. The global solution is an improvement in coordination and communication between the industry and state and local agencies.

2) Meeting with Caltrans Director.

Eric reported that the following topics were discussed:

- Record permit delays.
Eric reported that the industry is experiencing significant negative economic impacts due to record delays in permit issuance. CTA will collaborate with CT to develop and implement solutions to significantly improve the permit issuance process.
- Proposed legislative changes.
- IT project priority status.

The Director affirmed that the CT permits IT project has priority status. Thomas reported that CT Construction and Traffic Operations have met to discuss communication of construction restrictions, and Traffic Operations and Maintenance have discussed the impacts of heavier weights due to batteries for electric trucks.

Regarding automated permits, it is currently on hold. Eric affirmed that CTA supports the implementation of automated permit issuance. SC&RA and CTA will draft a letter to the CT Director in support of the proposed automated permits system IT project.

Thomas and Eric conveyed that the feedback form has been a useful tool and encouraged members to provide feedback in support of process improvement.

Item #5 – Roundabouts on State Highway System (SHS)

Gina Lopez and Ranjeet Bagha from HQ Design, Caltrans, attended the meeting. The Roundabout brochures will focus on three different users:

- Vehicles
- Pedestrians and bicyclists
- Freight & OS/OW (Oversize-Overweight)

A new OS/OW Design Vehicle Template has been added to Caltrans' Highway Design Manual (HDM) Chapter 400, Index 405.10 and Figure 405.10B. Designers across the state are now using it when designing roundabouts, modeling truck movements, and making adjustments (such as adding truck blisters on entries and exits or modifying the truck apron around the central island, etc.) for accommodations. Caltrans Design encourages the use of a steerable trailer when modeling OS/OW vehicles. There are no specific accommodative methods outlined in the HDM so that the accommodation needs at a specific location can be customized to the OS/OW design vehicle.

Ranjeet reported that the design vehicle accommodates 80% of over-dimensional trucks that may need to encroach on adjacent lanes or within the swept path of signs, light standards, and other appurtenances to traverse roundabouts.

HQ Design presented Caltrans' truck design principles and wondered how the CHP monitors/enforces trucks straddling both lanes on roundabout entries and circulating. Captain Doko stated that traffic control requires CHP; pilot cars do not have this authority. Roundabout traffic enforcement is situational, with the safety of the traveling public as the primary objective. Enforcement prevents unsafe moves by following a reasonable standard, subject to public review via courts.

Eric mentioned that other states have implemented roundabout-specific legislative changes. Gina responded that the intent of potential changes to the California Vehicle Code (CVC) should allow commercial trucks the right of way on roundabout entry, circulation, and exit.

Lorin Sabin from Bragg Heavy Transport said the industry needs opportunities for early comments regarding proposed roundabouts within the service area and wondered why roundabouts are not designed for straight-through travel (via the central island). Eric added that roundabout placement may result in significant detours, increasing travel distance, driver Hours of Service (HOS), fuel, and

expenses. Caltrans needs to retain certain heavy haul routes for reasonable accommodation.

HQ Design noted that straight-through travel can be an option, referencing earlier that specific accommodative methods are not required per the HDM, but all options can be explored based on site conditions and modal needs. HQ Design will explore further opening and implementing the line of communication from HQ Design to the industry and CHP.

In addition, Design Information Bulletin (DIB) 90 – Diverging Diamond Interchange and DIB 94 – Complete Streets address certain alternative designs accommodating multimodal traffic, including cars, bikes, and pedestrians. DIB 90 does not currently reference OS/OW accommodation requirements, but when DIB 90 is updated, OS/OW accommodations will be added. In the meantime, HQ Design is alerting designers of this design vehicle accommodation when reviewing proposed diverging diamond interchanges. DIB 94 emphasizes pedestrian and bicyclist safety, with the intent to streamline projects proposing narrower lane and shoulder widths, is expected to be published in early 2024. Contact Nick Chiappe in CTA to provide any comments to Caltrans.

Some concerns were brought up regarding the new turbo roundabout on 156 and 25 in San Benito County near Hollister, and the new diverging diamond interchange on 120 in San Joaquin County in Manteca. The concerns were that some of the oversize loads that previously were able to travel at those locations no longer are able to.

Item #6 – Workgroup Updates

a) Crane

No update.

b) Annuals

No update.

c) Fixed Loads/Tow Trucks

No update.

d) Variance

No update.

e) Inspection Report

No update.

Item #7 – Caltrans Action Items Updates

Narayan Selwal, Chief of Transportation Permits Policies and Compliance / Legal Truck Access Branch shared some updates. Paper copies of the TPM Chapter 5 revision were distributed during the meeting, and the electronic copy will be shared after the meeting. Comments/inputs are valuable and highly appreciated.

Two new Transportation Permits Policy Memorandums (TPPMs) were shared with the group. The first one pertains to single trip permit issuance, changing it from no more than three calendar days to no more than three working days before the first travel day. The second one addresses the travel limits of sea container annual permits on the State Highway System, modifying the limits to reflect the most updated route conditions.

Narayan also shared recent route reclassifications and revisions to the red route summary table with the members.

Regarding the searchable database for inspection reports, CT management has approved an IT project, and the Caltrans IT Project and Business Management Division are working on it. Permits Office staff provide information upon request.

Terminal Access/Service Access Ramp locations concerning local streets have been added to Caltrans QuickMap for Commercial Vehicles. Truck Escape Ramps have also been included, and the system will be available in both mobile and web versions.

Narayan also shared information about the NCHRP Research Project for identifying and mitigating the risk of Bridge hits/Tunnel hits. The objective is to develop a guide to help state DOTs, public safety agencies, and the motor carrier industry prevent and mitigate the risk of bridge/tunnel strikes by motor vehicles. CT is a voting panel member, and the research project is in its final phase. A draft guide is available for panel members to review and comment on, with the final deliverable expected by the end of Spring 2024.

Narayan stated that CT Permits Office is training all permit writers regularly to maintain consistency in permit issuance. He requested the industry to report recurring issues so that permit writer training can address them. Eric and Narayan mentioned that the industry may propose the complete elimination of inspection reports via the CTPAC Proposal process.

Item #8 Public Comment

A member reported that variance loads have experienced delays of over 80 days.

Item #9 – Summarize Action Items from Meeting

Eric summarized the following action items:

- 1) Implement inspection report grandfather provisions.
- 2) CT Permits will aim for a 30-day issuance of variance permits and 14-day issuance of annual permits.
- 3) CTPAC members and CHP will review and provide comments on TPM Chapter 5 revision and draft TPPMs by the end of January 2024. CT will then address the comments and finalize both TPM Chapter 5 and the TPPMs.

Item #10: Next Meeting

The next CTPAC meeting will be held in Southern California. The date, time and location will be share as soon as the meeting is scheduled.

Item #11 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Eric Sauer.

CTPAC Action Items

No.	CTPAC Meeting	Item	Due Date	Status/Notes
1	2/18/2016	Roundabout presentation - create advisory committee of CTPAC representatives (Leon F., Tim M., Lorin S., Curt W.)		<p><u>06/17/21</u>: Eric will include roundabout discussion to the agenda at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design presented. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design presented. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design presented. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: Brian Frazer retired. See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: See Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>12/13/23</u>: See Item 5 below.</p>
2	4/22/2019	Annual electronic copy of truck permit to replace hardcopy permit		<p><u>01/16/20</u>: Kien stated that there are no reasons that annual electronic copy of truck permit should replace hardcopy permit given the frequency of usage. Kien fully supported the electronic copy of the single trip permit, but not annual permit. The haulers should always keep the permit in possession.</p>

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				<p><u>06/17/21</u>: Caltrans is working with IT Division to develop an online system that allows the customers to submit the permit applications electronically, including annual, repetitive and sea container.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: On-going.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: Three information technology staff are currently working on an online interface system for applying and issuing annual, repetitive, and sea container transportation permits.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: on-going.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: on-going.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: on-going.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: on-going. Eric will meet with Caltrans Director to discuss automated transportation permits.</p> <p><u>12/13/23</u>: on hold. Eric affirmed that CTA supports the implementation of automated permit issuance.</p>
3	9/12/2019	<p>Framed Load Bed Permit Issue from Oversize Transfer Trucking Inc.</p> <p>Greg Sanden emailed regarding permit for framed load bed</p>		<p><u>9/22/2019</u>: Greg Sanden will contact Caltrans' Permit Office to resolve the issue. The sizes of the loads are varied widely – Will investigate details. Single trip permits might be issued.</p>

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		container that typical sits at 4' high on framed flat rack to travel in the LA/LB Heavy Corridor.		<p><u>01/16/20</u>: Greg Sanden was not present at the meeting.</p> <p><u>10/01/20</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>02/16/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>06/17/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>12/13/23</u>: No update.</p>
4	10/01/2020	Port of Long Beach asked members to provide support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue.		<p>On-going</p> <p><u>02/16/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>06/17/21</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>10/06/21</u>: Port of Long Beach asked members to provide support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: Port of Long Beach asked members to provide additional support letters regarding the expansion project on Anaheim Way and Farragut Avenue. Eric will send the sample letter to members.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: Los Angeles Planning Commission approved the expansion project in June 2023.</p>

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				<u>12/13/23</u> : No update.
5	10/06/2021	Brian Frazer of Caltrans Design - Roundabouts - Described industry role in providing feedback. Discussed possible changes to CVC and CA Commercial Drivers Handbook.		<p>On-going</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>: Eric will reach out to DMV to discuss the possible updates of Commercial Driver Handbook. Eric will follow up with possible changes to CVC.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: Follow up meeting by CHP, CTA, and Caltrans on possible vehicle code changes and changes to Commercial Drivers Handbook related to commercial vehicles in roundabouts. Industry will review the locations of where the roundabouts are being planned and provide comments.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: DMV is agreed to include roundabouts info in the July 2023 update.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: New OS/OW design vehicle template has been added in Caltrans HDM and DMV will update roundabouts info in the next issuance.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: New OS/OW design vehicle template has been added in Caltrans HDM and DMV will update roundabouts info in the next issuance.</p>

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				<u>12/13/23</u> : New OS/OW design vehicle template has been added in Caltrans HDM and DMV will update roundabouts info in the next issuance.
6	10/06/2021	<p>Inspection Report Requirements:</p> <p>Permits Processing</p> <p>1. Inspection report requirements for California haulers – CT Permits will issue clarification MEMO and update permit writers via training.</p> <p>2. Two tiered variances. Brad Tuttle will follow up with Permits Manager Devinder Sandhu via Webex, on or before week ending 10/22/2021</p>		<p><u>10/27/2021</u>: Caltrans issued clarification memo regarding inspection report requirements.</p> <p><u>02/10/22</u>:</p> <p>1. Caltrans met with industry virtually on 6 January 2022 to clarify the inspection report requirement memo. Work group is formed to review vehicle inspection requirements. Eric will provide a list of inspection report work group members.</p> <p>2. Caltrans met with Bragg Heavy Transport virtually in October 2021 to discuss the issues related to two tiered variances and issues resolved.</p> <p><u>06/30/22</u>: Work group submitted inspection report proposal. Caltrans will review the proposal and provide feedback.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: Caltrans provided feedback and is working with IT to develop a searchable database for inspection reports. Eric and Lorin will work on a band-aid solution while Caltrans develops a</p>

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				<p>searchable database for inspection reports. <u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans management approved the IT project, and the Permits Office is working closely with IT staff to develop the database. <u>08/03/23</u>: The IT project is in the queue and will be worked on in the order received.</p> <p><u>12/13/23</u>: The IT staff are working on the project.</p>
7	06/30/2022	<p>1) Additional \$50 charge on variance permits when the work was already done on a previous permit.</p> <p>2) Variance permits turnaround time.</p>		<p><u>06/30/22</u>: Caltrans will clarify with the variance team on additional charges and provide feedback. <u>11/17/22</u>: No update. <u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans variance permit team will work with the industry to clarify issues related to variance permits. <u>08/03/23</u>: Caltrans will continue to work with the variance workgroup to improve permit turnaround time.</p> <p><u>12/13/23</u>: Caltrans will continue to work with the variance workgroup to improve permit turnaround time.</p>

No.	CTPAC Meeting	Item	Due Date	Status/Notes
8	06/30/2022	SR 70 Red Route		<p><u>06/30/22</u>: Caltrans HQ will follow up with the district and CHP regarding SR 70 red route.</p> <p><u>11/17/22</u>: Stakeholders and CTA will follow up with District 2 DTAM to provide relevant information regarding Plumas Route 70 red route request.</p> <p><u>04/17/23</u>: Caltrans will follow up with District 2 regarding Plumas Route 70 Red Route Request.</p> <p><u>08/03/23</u>: Caltrans will follow up with District 2 regarding Plumas Route 70 Red Route Request.</p> <p><u>12/13/23</u>: Caltrans shared recent route reclassifications and revisions to the red route summary table.</p>
9	12/13/23	TPM Chapter 5 revision		<p><u>12/13/23</u>: CTPAC members and CHP will review the TPM Chapter 5 revision and provide comments by the end of January 2024.</p>
10	12/13/23	TPPM 2023-03 Single Trip Permit Issuance. Revised TPPM 2017-01 Annual Permits for Overweight intermodal Cargo Containers (Ports of LA/LB)		<p><u>12/13/23</u>: Caltrans shared two draft TPPMs with the group. CTPAC members and CHP will review the draft TPPMs and provide comments by the end of January 2024.</p>

