

Active Transportation and Livable Communities (ATLC)

Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2012 – 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

California Department of Transportation, Headquarters

1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA -- Director's Board Room 2116

Meeting Summary Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alyssa Begley, Department of Transportation (Department) Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Community Planning, opened the February 16, 2012 meeting and requested introductions from the members present and on the telephone.

ATTENDANCE

External Agencies

Alan Wachtel, California Association of Bicycling Organizations (via telephone)
Barb Alberson, California Department of Public Health
Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District
Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition
Jim Baross, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition (via telephone)
Jessica Meaney, Safe Routes To School National Partnership
Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Western Region
Melinda Coy, Housing and Community Development
Molly Wright, Local Government Commission
Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento
Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS

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Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs
Shirley Choate, Division Chief, Transportation Planning
Alyssa Begley, Community Planning
Aileen Loe, District 5 (via telephone)
Cheryl Willis, District 1 (via telephone)
Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs
Denix Anbiah, C.E.A. III, Local Assistance
Diana Portillo, Transportation Systems Information
Jean Finney, District 4 (via telephone)
Jila Priebe, Mass Transportation
Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information
Kevin Herritt, Design
Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information
Leslie Mazzeo, Community Planning
MaryBeth Herritt, Design
Mike Pickford, District 11 (via telephone)
Sri Balasubramanian, ADA Infrastructure
Stuart Mori, State Planning
Terry Abbott, Division Chief, Design
Tim Sobelman, Design

2. Opening Comments

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs, announced that the California Transportation Foundation is holding the 23rd Annual Transportation Awards. Nominations are due March 1. For more information, visit www.transportationfoundation.org. Also, the Governor has appointed Brian Kelly undersecretary, or Chief Deputy Director, at the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

3. Reauthorization & CA Consensus – Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs

Dan McKell, Legislative Affairs, provided an update on surface transportation funding reauthorization. In a recent teleconference that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) conducted, it was mentioned that if there is not a bill by March 31 and there is an extension, it might go back to the Ryan budget (Highway Trust Fund), which means 34% less funding than was received in 2011. The Department continues its support of Complete Streets policies, including in the context of reauthorization. Dan requested volunteers from the ATLC group to serve as liaisons to Caltrans and other local agencies during the reauthorization process in order to better understand the issues and impacts as they arise. The following ATLC members volunteered: Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento, and Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, stated that there are a few amendments that are supported by ATLC members for bike and pedestrian funding in the Senate bill. Based on the way the bill is currently structured, there is concern that there may be a loss in bike and pedestrian funding. Laura asked for feedback on the amendment specifically in reference to the 18 month provision to redirect funds out of the program if there are unspent funds. She encourages Caltrans to support the amendment.

Action Item:

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, will provide contact information and facilitate coordination between Dan and all ATLC volunteers.

5. ADA Infrastructure Program – Sri Balasubramanian, ADA Infrastructure

Sri Balasubramanian, ADA Infrastructure, provided the following summary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) lawsuit settlement agreement. Over the next 30 years Caltrans has committed to spend \$1.1 billion to relieve barriers to access.

\$25 million/year	First 5 years	\$125 million
\$35	next 10 years	\$350
\$40	next 10 years	\$400
\$45	<u>next 5 years</u>	<u>\$225</u>
	Total 30 years	\$1.1 billion

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2011, \$15 million was spent on ADA projects. This year, more projects are going through the project delivery process so it is anticipated that \$45 - \$55 million will be spent to catch up with the terms of the settlement agreement in the next FY. These projects exclusively address existing infrastructure. A tracking system has been developed by the

Department to obtain and resolve formal grievances and/or concerns regarding ADA infrastructure. These concerns may be reported by completing the ADA Access Request Form online at <http://www.adaac.org/caltrans/intakerequestform.aspx>. Approximately 700 requests have been received thus far; 50% of these requests do not pertain to Caltrans infrastructure. An upcoming press release will further advertise this form. The Department is also working with its Geographic Information System team to capture details on CT Earth concerning the resolution of requests.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, attended an advisory group meeting in January in which some of the plaintiffs from the ADA lawsuit were present. Bob was impressed with the thoroughness, detail, and transparency of the Department's reporting process.

Barbara Alberson, California Department of Public Health, suggested putting the information regarding the Alternate Formats at the top of the web page so that it's more visible.

Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento, asked what the difference is between a formal grievance and an informal access request. He also asked that the definition of the two be added to the website.

Sri Balasubramanian, ADA Infrastructure, responded that informal access requests are intended to advise the Department of a particular concern without involving the formal grievance process. A formal grievance is reported by a person with a disability and must undergo the grievance process. The same amount of attention is given to both types of requests, however, by differentiating the two, the Federal Highway Administration is able to track how many formal grievances are received by the Department.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, thanked the Department for creating a transparent process and mentioned that the plan to have the information from the Google Earth mapping will be helpful.

Sri Balasubramanian, ADA Infrastructure, further added that before and after pictures of the problem areas will be available on CT Earth so that District staff may use it for future project development.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, mentioned that the appendix in the Annual Report contains a list of the complaints received and the response from Caltrans as well as the dollars spent to resolve the complaint.

Concerns or ideas on the ADA Access Request form should be e-mailed to Sri Balasubramanian at balasubramanian@dot.ca.gov.

Action Item:

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, will send Sri's contact information to ATLC members.

4. DD-64-R1 Complete Streets Implementation Plan Updates

a) Highway Design Manual Revision – Kevin Herritt, Design

Kevin Herritt, Design, reported that all of the comments received on the draft copy of the HDM have been reviewed and any changes have been incorporated into the final draft. Approximately 750 comments were received from external partners. The goal of the update is to expand

conversation involving all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders across all chapters of the HDM. Also, an effort was made to distribute the information in Chapter 1000 related to bicycle lanes throughout the document. Final comments are due on February 17, 2012, will be reviewed and an internal quality control review will take place. Management will review and approve the updated HDM, which will be followed by review and approval from FHWA. The updated version of the HDM is scheduled to be available March 30. The updated draft copy of the HDM may currently be viewed online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/drafthdm/index.htm>.

Jessica Meaney, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, asked if there is any guidance in the HDM that addresses school bus stops that are on state highways.

Kevin Herritt, Design, responded that there is no specific guidance in the HDM regarding school bus stops, however, there is guidance related to transit stops, which addresses paving, ingress/egress, and pedestrian receiving areas. He recommended working with the local school district on issues related to bus stops.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, expressed concern regarding there being no standard design guidance on bus curb extensions. The HDM may be prohibiting bus pad extensions that are being designed on state highways.

Kevin Herritt, Design, responded that the HDM does not go into great detail concerning transit stops and bus phase guidance as each jurisdiction handles these issues differently. The Department encourages working with local transit operators to address concerns related to these issues.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked if Caltrans finds out that if there is a bus stop that is inaccessible, what can or will Caltrans do about it?

Kevin Herritt, Design, responded that the online ADA Access Request Form presented earlier by Sri Balasubramanian would serve the purpose of reporting accessibility concerns. The request is received via the online form and would then be followed up by the Department to resolve the issue.

Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District, expressed appreciation for the Department's efforts on the HDM update. He also suggested that in view of the HDM update effort, there may be a need to re-examine or refresh the composition and mission of the California Bicycle Advisory Committee (CBAC).

David Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, asked what the deadline is for comments on the final draft of the HDM and what is the process for future updates to the HDM?

Kevin Herritt, Design, responded that the deadline for comments on the final draft is February 17, 2012. Updates to the HDM will be reviewed with internal functional experts and external groups to review the suggested revisions and receive feedback. The changes will then be finalized and incorporated into the document, reviewed by Caltrans Legal and FHWA, and then posted online once approved. You may subscribe to receive notices of changes that are made to the Manual by signing up online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/hdm/hdmtoc.htm>.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, expressed her appreciation, from a pedestrian transportation viewpoint, on the Department's efforts in the inclusion and integration of sidewalks and adjacent utilities and furnishings zones. There were concerns raised regarding the integration of intersections since the HDM was originally a State highway/freeway manual. She commended the

Department for meeting with and considering the comments from the District 4 Pedestrian Advisory Committee and statewide advocates in order to address these concerns. She concluded by stressing the importance of continued attention to intersection crossings in light of the increase in pedestrian fatalities.

Jim Baross, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, asked if the Department is going to be responsive to Assembly Bill 819 as regards the HDM update. This Bill will require the establishment of an experimental process which will support the demand for innovative facilities.

Terry Abbott, Division Chief, Design, responded that the Department has met with Legislative Affairs to discuss items related to the bill; however, the Department does not currently have a position on the bill. Kevin Herritt, Design, along with others within the Department has initiated a process to clarify the existing process to modify standards.

Aileen Loe, District 5, expressed appreciation for the update to the HDM. Comments will be sent to Headquarters from the District. Comments will also reference how state planning documents to the HDM online so that designers can use those documents as a resource.

Kevin Herritt, Design, stated that there is currently guidance in the Project Development Procedures Manual that link to state planning documents. Efforts are being made to improve reference links on the website.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, suggested that the HDM reference the Complete Intersections Guide.

b) Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM) Revision

Mary Beth Herritt, Design, reported that there has been no progress made on the Purpose and Needs Statement for the PDPM but will have an update at the next ATLC meeting being held on May 17, 2012. In the mean time, if there are any questions or concerns about the Purpose and Needs Statements you may contact Mary Beth at (916) 653-4166.

6. Data Available from National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) – Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information

Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information, presented the PowerPoint *National Household Travel Survey, California Data*. The survey contains descriptions of the people that were sampled in households and the travel that they make. Caltrans allocated \$3.15 million to the efforts initiated by FHWA to create a larger sample. The PowerPoint includes the types of questions that were asked in the survey and the responses that were received.

Jessica Meaney, Safe Routes To School National Partnership, stated that a publication which sums up public trends is needed and would be helpful.

Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information, responded that if there are questions that the data can answer, he is available to assist by extracting the desired data from the NHTS.

Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Western Region, asked why there isn't consistency in the dates of when the survey was administered.

Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information, responded that it has to do with politics and budget issues. The surveys are very costly.

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs, asked how the NHTS relates to the Department's current efforts with Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information, stated that the California Household Travel Survey (CHTS), which is currently underway, is structured similarly but has a denser sampling. It includes modal questions but not as many variables as used in the NHTS.

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information, added that the goal of CHTS is to collect 57,000 surveys throughout the state with samplings that are distributed geographically, which will provide a statistically significant data set in order to model regional travel. Of the 57,000 surveys, there is a combination of wearable GPS devices, in-car GPS devices, as well as onboard diagnostic devices on vehicles to measure the manner in which the vehicle is operating during the survey. The survey also includes questions that model behavior related to telecommuting and online shopping.

Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento, commented that there is frustration with travel surveys as they do not separate pedestrian and transit travel. Most surveys are commute focused and do not measure pedestrian travel such as travel to and from transit or travel to a grocery store.

Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information, mentioned that there is a trips file that does track the detail that Terry is referring to and may be used to extract separate trip components.

David Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition, thanked the Department for supporting the efforts for the NHTS and stated that there might be some value to posting the data on the Caltrans website.

Barb Alberson, California Department of Public Health, added that it would be a great marketing tool to post 'teasers' of what's available in the data sets on the Caltrans website.

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, said that the Department would assess the publication concept with those on his team.

Closing Remarks

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs, thanked everyone for their time and input.

Next 2012 Meetings – Thursday, May 17th, August 16th, November 15th
1:30 to 3:30 PM, Caltrans Headquarters' Room 2116

Caltrans Contacts

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