

# Active Transportation and Livable Communities (ATLC)

## Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011 – 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

California Department of Transportation, Headquarters  
1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA -- Director's Board Room 2116

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### Meeting Summary Notes

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Alyssa Begley, Department of Transportation (Department) Division of Transportation Planning, briefly introduced herself as the new Office Chief of the Office of Community Planning and reminded all members that future ATLC meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. instead of 1:00 p.m. The meeting commenced with introductions from the members present and on the telephone.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **External Agencies**

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District  
Dave Snyder, California Bicycle Coalition  
Judy Corbett, Local Government Commission  
Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Western Region  
Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health Services  
Melinda Benson, Housing and Community Development  
Nicola Hara, Center for Civic Partnerships (via telephone)  
Sabrina Means, California Transit Association  
Scott Clark, Local Government Commission  
Scott Morgan, Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
Terry Preston, WALKS Sacramento  
Wendy Alfsen, California Walks

##### **Caltrans**

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs  
Sharon Scherzinger, Division Chief, Transportation Planning  
Alyssa Begley, Community Planning  
Annette Clark, Projects/Plan Coordination  
Asif Haq, Traffic Operations  
Brian Alconcel, Traffic Operations  
Bruce De Terra, Chief, System & Freight Planning  
Chris Schmidt, District 11 (via telephone)  
Collette Armao, Aeronautics  
Darold Heikens, ADA Program  
Denix Anbiah, Chief, Local Assistance  
Erin Thompson, Regional Planning  
Fardad Falakfarsa, Budgets  
Jane Perez, Division Chief, Mass Transportation  
Joan Sollenberger, Traffic Operations  
Keith Farnsworth, Transportation System Information  
Keith Robinson, Design, Landscape Architecture  
Kelly Lier, System Planning  
Kevin Pokrajac, Office Chief, Local Assistance  
Lara Justine, Landscape Architecture  
Leslie Mazzeo, Community Planning

## ATTENDANCE

Maggie O'Mara, Design  
MaryBeth Herritt, Design  
Nathan Smith, Division of Rail  
Neil Bretz, District 6 (via telephone)  
Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations  
Stuart Mori, Transportation Planning  
Terry Abbott, Division Chief, Design  
Wayne Henley, Traffic Operations

### **2. Opening Comments**

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs, thanked Local Assistance on the Bike to Work initiative. The Governor has not yet appointed an agency Secretary. Malcolm Dougherty is currently Acting Director for the Department.

### **3. OPR Complete Streets Elements of General Plan Guidelines**

Scott Morgan, Office of Planning and Research, presented the PowerPoint *Complete Streets and General Plan Circulation Element* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC\\_files/Complete Streets and General Plan Circulation Element Scott%20Morgan.pptx](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC_files/Complete%20Streets%20and%20General%20Plan%20Circulation%20Element%20Scott%20Morgan.pptx). In 2008, Assembly Bill 1358: California Complete Streets Act was amended to require cities and counties to incorporate a plan for a balanced, multimodal transportation network into the general plan. The entire Circulation Element section of the 2003 General Plan Guidelines was updated. The updates to the 2003 General Plan Guidelines may be found at [www.opr.ca.gov](http://www.opr.ca.gov).

### **4. ADA Infrastructure Program Update**

Darold Heikens, Traffic Operations, reported that since the settlement agreement was signed on June 2, 2010, there has been approximately \$10 million in ADA projects delivered. Another \$13 million in major ADA projects and \$10 million in minor ADA projects is expected to be delivered in the 2011 fiscal year. The first two phases of the statewide infrastructure assessment has been completed. This assessment focused on any ADA deficiencies that exist on all sidewalks that join Caltrans highways throughout the State. This information will be made available to the public as a transition plan update in 'Google Earth' format. The target release date is July/August 2011. The Department is currently in the process of completing a grievance contract, which will improve grievance procedures. Also, a Federal mandated departmental evaluation of ADA compliance is almost complete. Two public forums have been held to allow for public feedback; one was held in Sacramento and the other in Riverside. These public forums will continue on a yearly basis.

An ADA taskforce composed of a small group of those who are very active in the ADA community will assist in providing the Department with guidance on project implementation within the ADA Program. The ADA Traffic Control Device Demonstration, an event hosted by the Department of Transportation, will be held on June 8, 2011 at the Capitol. Various agencies will be present to evaluate the use of such tools as barricades, audible warning devices, detectable

warning surfaces, etc. Information from the evaluations will be compiled and used as the basis for Caltrans' training on ADA compliance issues.

**Action Item:**

Provide transition plan to ATLC members in July/August 2011 as an information item.

**5. DD-64-R1 Complete Streets Implementation Plan Updates**

- Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM) Revision

Mary Beth Herritt, Design, reported that the initial update to Chapter 8 of the PDPM has been completed. Additional comments received from the District 4 Pedestrian Advisory Committee were addressed and sent to interested members of the ATLC. The Department is continuing to work on updates to Chapter 5 and Chapter 2 of the PDPM. In addition, the Purpose and Need Statement is being reviewed in order to incorporate analysis of Complete Streets items into the document. A few programs in Traffic Operations are looking to get projects programmed more quickly. Traffic Operations wants to use a specific Project Initiation Document (PID) report format to get smaller scale projects programmed into the Project Report phase faster. The Project Study Report and Project Development Support is now a requirement for all projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program as well as all locally funded projects.

- Highway Design Manual (HDM) Update

Terry Abbott, Design, provided the handout *Proposed Highway Design Manual Changes* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC\\_files/Highlights\\_of\\_Proposed\\_HDM\\_Changes\\_CS\\_Terry\\_Abbott.docx](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC_files/Highlights_of_Proposed_HDM_Changes_CS_Terry_Abbott.docx). Language throughout the document was revised to specify various modes of transit such as bicycle, transit, and pedestrians. There are 452 additional references made to these modes in the updated version. Guidance and Standard changes have also been made. The Department will be collecting comments from the Districts, internal divisions, and ATLC members. A comment session for feedback from ATLC members will tentatively be held via webinar on June 14, 2011. Deadline for comments on the changes is July 8, 2011.

- Main Streets Guide Revision

Lara Justine, Landscape Architecture, explained that the Main Streets Guide, published in 2005, is being updated to incorporate Complete Streets and multi-modal concepts with principals in sustainability and livability. The first draft of the Guide is now complete and will be circulated to ATLC members by June 10 with comments due by July 18, 2011. The second draft will be circulated in early fall of 2011.

- System Planning Guidelines

Bruce De Terra, Chief, System & Freight Planning, stated that all 15,000 center line miles of the highway system is broken up into segments and that segmentation is largely determined by traffic modeling needs. A sample data table reflecting the format the Department will use to collect data for Complete Streets planning was provided [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC\\_files/TCCR\\_BicyclePedTransit\\_Bruce%20De%20Terra.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC_files/TCCR_BicyclePedTransit_Bruce%20De%20Terra.pdf). The Guidelines are typically updated on a three to five year cycle depending on growth and demand. The Department is requesting feedback from the ATLC group on the

structure of the document. Also, does the System Planning Guidelines answer questions that ATLC want to know about highway facilities?

**Action Item:**

An electronic copy of the data table will be sent to all ATLC members. Comments should be e-mailed to [Kelly.Lier@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Kelly.Lier@dot.ca.gov) and must include "TCR Guidelines Comments" in the subject line.

Brian Alconcel, Traffic Operations, provided a brochure to introduce *Complete Intersections: A Guide to Reconstructing Intersections and Interchanges for Bicyclists and Pedestrians* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC\\_files/Brochure\\_Complete\\_Intersections\\_Brian\\_Alconcel.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC_files/Brochure_Complete_Intersections_Brian_Alconcel.pdf). The brochure covers the 12 guiding principles that are used to develop counter measures and treatments for common issues with major types of intersections. The common issues related to each intersection type along with recommended treatments are addressed in the Guide, which is available at the Caltrans Pedestrian Safety Resources Website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/survey/pedestrian/>.

**6. Transportation Elements (TE) Project Delivery and Rescission**

Denix Anbiah, Chief, Local Assistance, distributed a fact sheet reflecting TE apportionments and obligations from 2003-2010 [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC\\_files/TE\\_Apportionment\\_and\\_Obligations\\_Denix\\_Anbiah.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/ATLC_files/TE_Apportionment_and_Obligations_Denix_Anbiah.pdf). The California apportionment for this time period was \$532 million. Only 79% of the apportionment was delivered over the seven year period. How does the Department determine the rescission amount? Some programs are protected from the rescission. As a result, some programs are rescinded more than others. The following criteria are used: rescission eligibility of the programs, lapse time of apportionments, and the expected delivery for each program. Rescission is a result of non-delivery. Focus will be on how delivery can be achieved.

Mitch Weiss, California Transportation Commission, re-emphasized that non-use of funds is a result of projects not being fully delivered by local agencies. The reason for the large lapse in funds last year was possibly because there was a larger share in TE funds available. Also, it's possible that some agencies are not familiar with the Federal process. One proposed solution to improving the process includes frontloading the TE Program in order to obtain full project delivery and to encourage agencies to deliver early.

Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, emphasized importance of the TE Program and requested that Caltrans not rescind TE funds in the next rescission. Is there a way to utilize unspent TE funds on non-infrastructure projects such as training?

Fardad Falakfarsa, Budgets, mentioned that the TE rescission issue is not isolated to Caltrans. From 1992- present, the average delivery of TE funds nationwide is 70%. Flexibility in the eligibility requirements of the TE Program is needed.

## **7. Caltrans Earth Demonstration**

Keith Farnsworth, Transportation System Information, introduced Caltrans Google Earth, which was launched in late 2009. It's a tool that meets the need for web based data access and data sharing. The Caltrans Google Earth format is similar to Google Earth but is tailored to meet Caltrans' needs. The Department is continuing to collect data from various local agencies. The data is displayed in a one-foot to six-inch imagery. Items such as transportation networks, State highways, local roads, traffic speeds, traffic cameras, message signs, and exit signs that point to Google Maps may be viewed. Various categories of data can also be displayed such as environmental, transportation, educational (i.e. school districts), and census data. No bike/pedestrian data has been added to date. The Department is currently working with Dawn Foster in Local Assistance to determine how to reflect this data. The goal is to link to live data whenever possible so that the source of the data can manage it. The anticipated date to make Caltrans Google Earth available to the public is early 2012.

## **8. ATLC Charter**

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, provided a copy of the ATLC Charter and asked ATLC members if there are outstanding membership needs for the group. In the coming year, the following items will be some of the topics discussed: State Rail Plan, PDPM, California Interregional Blueprint, and Complete Streets. In context of these items, Alyssa asked if there are any membership needs not being met. Currently, the ATLC meeting is held on a quarterly basis, on the third Thursday of the month. The tentative dates for the 2012 ATLC meetings are: February 16, May 17, August 16, and November 15. Alyssa asked if there are any conflicts with this schedule for future meetings and if the group is open to having calendar invitations, agendas, and follow-up items posted to a web link versus being sent to individuals electronically. Suggestions are to be e-mailed to Alyssa at [Alyssa.Begley@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Begley@dot.ca.gov).

## **9. Closing Remarks**

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

### **Future Agenda Items:**

#### **Complete Intersections Guide**

#### **CA Update to MUTCD**

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### **Remaining 2011 Meeting Schedule** – August 18, November 17

1:30 to 3:30 PM, Caltrans Headquarters' Room 2116

#### **Caltrans Contacts**

Alyssa Begley – 916-651-6882 Leslie Mazzeo – 916-653-3726