

Active Transportation and Livable Communities (ATLC)

Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 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 (Caltrans) Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Community Planning, opened the May 17, 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)
Ann Cheng, TransForm
Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District
Jacquolyn Duerr, Department of Public Health
Jim Baross, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition (via telephone)
Jessica Meaney, Safe Routes To School National Partnership (via telephone)
Judy Corbett, Local Government Commission
Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health Services
Sabrina Means, California Transit Association (via telephone)
Terry Preston, WALKSacramento
Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS

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Ryan Chamberlain, Division Chief, Transportation Planning
Alyssa Begley, Community Planning
Antonette Clark, Design
Cheryl Willis, District 1 (via telephone)
Kris Kuhl, Traffic Operations
Jane Perez, Mass Transportation
Jean Finney, District 4 (via telephone)
Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information
Kelly Lier, System and Freight Planning
Kevin Herritt, Design
Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information
Leslie Mazzeo, Community Planning
MaryBeth Herritt, Design
Melina Pereira, District 11 (via telephone)
Elhami Nasr, District 7 (via telephone)
Nathan Smith, Rail
Pat Merrill, Rail
Pam Korte, State Planning
Robert Peters, Transportation Planning
Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations
Terry Parker, Community Planning

2. Opening Comments

Ryan Chamberlain, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, introduced himself as the new Division Chief for the Division of Transportation Planning and announced that Bike to Work Day for the Sacramento region and Caltrans Headquarters was May 17, 2012. Also, Caltrans received an award from California WALKS for the Best Foot Forward Lifetime Achievement Agency at the Peds Count! 2012 Conference. Recent appointments include Malcolm Dougherty as Director of Caltrans effective May 9, 2012. Malcolm served as Acting Director for Caltrans since 2011. Jermaine Hannon has been selected as the Federal Highway Administration's California Division Director for Planning and Air Quality. Brian Kelley has been appointed Acting Secretary and Brian Annis was appointed Deputy Secretary for the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Caltrans has vacancies for District Director positions in Districts 5, 8, and 12.

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

a) Highway Design Manual Revision

Antonette Clark, Design, provided the handout [Caltrans Highway Design Manual Update Dated May 7, 2012 \(Complete Streets Update\)](#). The handout provides an overview of the changes that were made to the Highway Design Manual (HDM) effective May 7, 2012. The HDM has been revised to raise awareness of the many modes of travel that occur on the State highway system and to ensure the successful implementation of DD-64 R-1 (Complete Streets policies). The Manual is available online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/hdm/hdmtoc.htm> and is subject to revision by the Division of Design when needed. Antonette highlighted some of the guidance that was updated for the Pedestrian, Bicyclist, and Transit sections.

Jacquolyn Duerr, Department of Public Health, stated that there were comments that were submitted to the Department that were not included in the updates to the manual, possibly due to a lack in research or evidence of the requested change, and asked that Antonette summarize what some of the major areas that Design is recommending for additional research before being considered for inclusion in the manual.

Antonette Clark, Design, confirmed that there were many comments received from Caltrans staff and external partners. She encourages those whose comments were not addressed in the manual to continue communicating with Design because there are various reasons as to why the changes were not included in the manual. All comments were weighed, along with the documentation that was provided to substantiate the change, prior to making any decisions on what to include or exclude in the HDM. She reminded ATLC members that the manual can continue to be revised.

Jacquolyn Duerr, Department of Public Health, added that it would be helpful for ATLC members to review the areas where additional research and background information is needed so that they can provide recommendations for research demonstrations.

Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations, offered to provide data related to bicycle, pedestrian, and transit research being performed in California and throughout the nation.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, expressed her appreciation for Caltrans' efforts in updating the HDM and for the Department's willingness to consider external input in the process.

Action Item:

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, will obtain the list of research from the Division of Research and Innovation and will distribute it to ATLC members.

b) Transportation Concept Report Guidelines

Kelly Lier, Office of System and Freight Planning, provided an update on the changes made to the Transportation Concept Report (TCR) Guidelines. The TCR is the Department's document that identifies existing route conditions and future needs for each route statewide. The major goal of the update is to integrate Complete Streets and a multi-modal view of the State highway system. The process to update the report began with two workshops held at a northern and southern Caltrans' district office. There was also consultation with internal functional units and committees such as the ATLC to get a preliminary draft of the guidelines. The Department has currently been working with district offices to develop a final draft and the draft is now open for comments. The due date for comments is May 31, 2012. The handout [Draft Transportation Concept Report \(TCR\) Guidelines: Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Facility Sections](#) was distributed. It contains excerpts from the Guidelines which pertain to the ATLC group. If you wish to see a complete version of the guidelines, please contact Kelly Lier at Kelly_Lier@dot.ca.gov. Districts will be considering bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facility projects in the concept rationale for projects and strategies included in the 20-25 Year Capital Facility Concept. Some samples of TCR's have been developed and are reflected on the handout [Comprehensive and Condensed Sample TCR SR 128 Drafts: Bicycle Facility, Pedestrian Facility, and Transit Facility](#). The Sample TCRs are hypothetical examples based on existing routes and are meant to illustrate the TCR Guidelines.

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, asked if the TCR samples are posted on the web for Caltrans' external partners.

Kelly Lier, Office of System and Freight Planning, responded that the samples are not currently posted externally, however, all District system planning documents are posted externally. As the districts update their TCR documents per the new guidelines, external partners will be able to view the products that the new guidelines create. It has not been decided as to whether the new guidelines will be posted externally.

Jacquolyn Duerr, Department of Public Health, asked if information on accessibility will be captured in the datasets for pedestrian and transit.

Kelly Lier, Office of System and Freight Planning, stated that accessibility is captured for pedestrian facilities in the guidelines under "Junction Type". Accessibility amenities are not called out for transit facilities. Kelly encouraged those with comments regarding this to contact her via email.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked if the TCR guidelines provide any basis for additional educational emphasis for transit operators so that they will make transit stops more accessible.

Kelly Lier, Office of System and Freight Planning, stated that the guidelines are not used by transit operators. It is used primarily for Caltrans' project delivery.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, commented that the ADA inventory may be the link connecting datasets for TCRs to accessibility updates. She added that it would be useful if there was a Yes/No check box added to the crossing type under the “Junction Type” dataset for pedestrian facilities. She would also like to see a requirement added to the “Pedestrian Access Prohibited” dataset to indicate the distance of pedestrian detours.

4. GreenTRIP

Ann Cheng, TransForm, presented the PowerPoint [GreenTrip: Great Access, Deep Affordability](#) and provided the handout [GreenTRIP Impacts Summary Sheet](#). TransForm, a non-profit advocacy group based in the Bay Area which works to promote social justice and environmental protection using transportation and land use policies, has developed the GreenTrip initiative. GreenTRIP is an innovative new certification program that rewards multi-family, mixed-use, infill projects that apply comprehensive strategies to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. As people move into GreenTRIP-certified developments, TransForm is predicting impressive environmental and social outcomes including dramatically fewer miles of driving per day than the regional average, lower car ownership rates, and a new definition of affordable living that bring families savings on car ownership, free transit, and carshare memberships. Projects meeting GreenTRIP certification criteria provide appropriate amounts of parking and incentives for new residents to drive less and own fewer vehicles. By creating less driving and using less land for parking spaces, there’s space freed up for services, shops, and more affordable homes. There are currently five GreenTRIP certified developments in the Bay Area. For more information on GreenTRIP visit <http://www.transformca.org/GreenTRIP>.

Terry Preston, WALKSacramento, asked why GreenTrip would be of interest to a developer and where is funding received for this program.

Ann Cheng, TransForm, responded that funding was initially received from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Climate Protection Grant Program, and later from the Rockefeller Foundation. Since then, funding has been received from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and more recently the Federal Home Loan Bank. The greatest benefit of GreenTRIP is the ability of an independent non-profit to clearly and credibly explain why a developer’s project is low-traffic. Also, GreenTRIP standards that are considered early in the design phase provide cost savings to developers.

Terry Preston, WALKSacramento, asked if interested developers seek out the program or does TransForm market the program to developers.

Ann Cheng, TransForm, stated that initially the certification was offered to developers for free to develop relationships. Interested developers may now go to <http://transformca.org/GreenTRIP/apply-for-certification> and apply directly.

Ryan Chamberlain, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, asked what the fee is for the certification.

Ann Cheng, TransForm, said that the fee for an affordable developer with a 100-unit development project is \$1,400. The fee for market rate is \$2,800.

Ryan Chamberlain, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, asked if GreenTRIP is made available only in the Bay Area.

Ann Cheng, TransForm, confirmed that the certification program is currently only available for nine San Francisco Bay Area counties. TransForm would like to eventually expand the program by partnering it with smart growth trip generation work to potentially provide a web-based tool for cities to adopt and be used by the public.

Jacquolyn Duerr, Department of Public Health, asked how the 40 year commitment works for the free transit passes.

Ann Cheng, TransForm, responded that developers bundle the passes as an amenity to new residents.

Judy Corbett, Local Government Commission, noted that an analysis of revenue differences between housing and parking in GreenTRIP certified development would be of interest to local governments.

5. Trip Generation for Smart Growth Development

Terry Parker, Office of Community Planning, presented the PowerPoint [Travel Impacts of Smart Growth Land Use Projects in California](#) and provided the handouts: [Trip Generation Rates Method for Smart Growth Land Use Projects in California](#) and [Funding for Trip Generation Rates for Smart Growth Land Uses](#). The purpose of the Smart Growth Trip Generation Rates Methodology project is to provide an acceptable method to estimate multi-modal trip generation for urban infill, mixed-use, and transit oriented land use projects in California for use in the Traffic Impact Analyses and California Environmental Quality Act. It will also provide the data needed to identify adequate multi-modal mitigations, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements. This effort started in the Fall of 2009. Caltrans has provided funding and additional funding is needed to complete the project. Funding from external partners is being sought. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year. In May, the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) announced that it will update its 2004 Trip Generation Handbook and will consider all available data, such as this Caltrans study. The update of the ITE handbook is expected to be completed and published by early 2013.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked if the research can be licensed so that others will pay Caltrans for the work that has been done.

Terry Parker, Office of Community Planning, stated that the research will be a free and open source because the work has been done with Caltrans funding. In addition, University of California, Davis has copyright ownership under the new contract and will be providing the information free via a website.

6. CDPH's Community Transformation Grant

Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), spoke about the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Community Transformation Grant Program which will support community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. The grant awards are distributed among state and local government agencies, tribes and territories, and state and local non-profit organizations within 36 states, including seven tribes and one territory. California received ten grants. CDPH is providing technical assistance and training to 12 rural counties on a variety of strategic directions such as: tobacco cessation; decreasing smoking and tobacco use in multi-unit housing, a chronic disease self management program that

health clinics and other providers and counties can use to assist clients, decreasing sugars in sweetened beverages in school environments and work places, and safe and healthy physical environments which will focus on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Complete Streets (CS) in joint use activities. These 12 rural counties will receive \$250,000 over a five year period. The following counties received grants on their own: Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego. CDPH will also be assisting rural areas with new strategies such as safe routes to bus stops, remote drop off sites, and ordinances affecting vehicular speed as well as imbedding SRTS elements in any CS initiatives, general and bike/pedestrian plans, and existing school wellness plans.

Bob Planthold, California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, asked if CDPH will be monitoring the distribution of funds awarded through the Community Transformation Grant program to ensure that money is properly allocated for pedestrian uses.

Lisa Cirill, California Department of Public Health, responded that CDPH will not be monitoring the distribution of funds; however, they will be working with communities to ensure best practices to move forward with initiatives. Communities will likely form task forces which will naturally provide oversight as to the use of the funds. She added that the grant funds cannot be used for infrastructure.

Action Item:

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, will forward the list of all the counties that CDPH will be working with to the ATLC.

7. California Interregional Blueprint & State Rail Plan

Pam Korte, State Planning, presented information regarding the California Interregional Blueprint (CIB) and distributed a hard copy of the PowerPoint [California Interregional Blueprint: Integrating California's Transportation Future](#). The CIB, which came about through Senate Bill 391, links statewide transportation plans and regional transportation and land use plans to produce a unified transportation strategy. The three major elements of the CIB include: integrating statewide modal plans and programs, building upon regional transportation plans and sustainable community strategies, and developing robust modeling tools to analyze different scenarios and strategies.

Nathan Smith, Rail, presented information on the State Rail Plan and introduced Patrick Merrill who is working on the Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to integrate passenger and freight rail, high-speed rail, and create visions and priorities. Two consulting firms have been hired to do market and capacity analysis, ridership and revenue. A statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) layer for the state rail system will be added to Caltrans (CT) Earth. In addition, the new State Rail Plan will include the California High Speed Rail Blended System, which will begin its implementation in the year 2017, with services beginning in 2018. The draft State Rail Plan will be released for public comment in January 2013. The target completion date for the Plan is May 2013. A website will be created, five workshops will be conducted, and newsletters will be distributed to keep the public informed.

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information, mentioned that CT Earth is available to the public. You may visit CT Earth at Earth@dot.ca.gov. There is a feedback mechanism on this webpage so that suggestions and comments may be submitted regarding adding additional GIS layers.

Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District, suggested adding non-motorized trails to CT Earth.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, asked if the injury and fatality layers that were developed with UC Berkeley will be added to CT Earth.

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, Transportation Systems Information, responded that it has not been added yet; however, he will discuss the suggestion with staff.

Closing Remarks

Chris Morfas, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District, requested that the Department move along the release of the revised Main Streets Guidance as there are many communities looking forward to seeing that guidance and working with CT district offices on issues associated with Main Streets around the State.

Jim Appleton, Acting Division Chief, mentioned that excellent feedback was received from the ATLC group on the National Household Travel Survey, which was presented by Leonard Seitz, Transportation Systems Information, at the last ATLC meeting. A draft outline of a report on the National Household Travel Survey data will be available for the group soon.

Action Item:

Alyssa Begley, Community Planning, will provide the outline and sample tables to ATLC members.

Wendy Alfsen, California WALKS, thanked Caltrans for participating at the Peds Count! 2012 Conference. There was strong local and regional statewide participation. Caltrans received a Lifetime Agency Achievement for Multimodal Integration of Walking award. She commended Caltrans staff for their patience and perseverance in the implementation of many transportation improvement efforts.

Ryan Chamberlain, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, thanked everyone for their time and input.

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

Caltrans Contacts

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