

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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February 6, 2013

Executive Directors  
California Metropolitan Planning Organizations

RE: Revised Metropolitan Planning PL and 5303 Allocation Estimates for Fiscal Year 2013–14

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has developed a new approach to providing estimates of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Metropolitan Planning (PL) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Metropolitan Planning (5303) funds. Historically, Caltrans has used the most recent final allocations for PL and 5303 available as the basis for the estimated future allocation of funds. However determining federal PL and 5303 estimates for state Fiscal Year (FY) 2013–14 has been difficult with the ongoing uncertainty regarding the federal budget.

For the time being, Caltrans will develop an anticipated range in the level of funding as an estimate to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) instead of providing one specific dollar amount estimate. For example, on December 14, 2012, I notified each MPO via email that California could anticipate receiving approximately \$39.2 million of PL funds in FY 2013–14. Our revised approach will be to provide MPOs with a low, and a high range of the available funds. We currently estimate the California portion of PL funds for FY 2013–14 will be between \$39.1 million and \$44.5 million. We hope this will allow MPO's some flexibility in developing their respective budgets for FY 2013–14.

The reason for the new estimated ranges is due to the continuing uncertainty over aspects of the federal budget and funding levels. For instance, while MAP-21 was enacted for federal FY 2012–13, the Obligation Authority (OA) for California's allocation of PL funds only has been approved from Oct. 1, 2012 to March 27, 2013. Congress will need to act to allow FHWA to publish a new estimate of PL funds available after March 27, 2013. It is unknown if Congress will approve a 60 or 90 day federal budget, or possibly approve a full six month budget that will run until the end of the federal FY on Sept. 30. Only after Congress acts on the remainder of the current federal FY budget will we have clear picture of the total funds available for the state FY concluding June 30, 2013.

Caltrans staff will continue to monitor the Federal Register Notices and any guidance provided by FHWA and FTA. We will notify the MPOs if FHWA or FTA publish any changes in PL and 5303 estimates as soon as they become available. However it is incumbent upon each MPO to program within available funding limits.

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We have scheduled a statewide teleconference for MPOs and Caltrans District staff in order to help facilitate discussion and answer questions regarding the Caltrans estimate of FY 2013–14 federal planning funds. The teleconference is scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 13, – 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Call in number: 1-877-601-4513  
Access code: 9867481

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding PL or 5303 funding estimates, please call me at (916) 654-8175 or Dara Wheeler of my staff at (916) 653-2355.

Sincerely,



GARTH HOPKINS, Chief  
Office of Regional and Interagency Planning

Attachment

c: Kome Ajise - Deputy Director, Caltrans Planning and Modal Programs  
Bill Mosby – Acting Division Chief, Caltrans HQ Division of Transportation Planning  
Caltrans Deputy District Directors for Planning  
Dara Wheeler - Caltrans Division of Planning and Local Assistance  
Jermaine Hannon – FHWA California Division  
Jack Lord - FHWA California Division  
Ray Sukys – FTA Region IX