

Approved 4-7-10, Resolution attached

### Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: April 7-8, 2010

From: *Bimla G. Rhinehart*  
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Executive Director

File: Book Item 4.10  
Action

Ref: Adoption of Revisions to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines (Resolution G-10-05)

**ISSUE:**

Should the Commission approve the proposed revised Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines prepared in response to the passage of Senate Bill 375 (SB 375; Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008)?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed revisions to the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines.

**BACKGROUND:**

Prior to amending the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines, the Commission is required to hold two workshops, one in Southern California and one in Northern California during regularly scheduled Commission meetings. The Commission held a Northern California workshop on February 24, 2010. The workshop held concurrent to this agenda item satisfies the required Southern California Workshop.

The proposed revised guidelines represent a general consensus of guidance prepared by an advisory committee representing metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), regional transportation planning agencies (RTPAs), state, federal, local, legislative, environmental, building and industry, private, non-profit and other stakeholders.

While this update responds to the requirements set forth in SB 375, there are other aspects of the guidelines that are proposed for revision that impact both RTPAs and MPOs. For example, new guidance is proposed to address climate adaptation strategies (Governor's Executive Order S-13-08), the California Coastal Trail (AB 1396, Laird, Statutes of 2007) and Complete Streets (AB 1358, Leno, Statutes of 2008).

**Attachments:**

- Resolution G-10-05
- 2010 Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines Final Draft

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*Note: If you are viewing this Memorandum electronically, the Final Draft RTP Guidelines are attached. If not, to view the Final Draft RTP Guidelines, please see:*

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/ctcbooks/2010/0410/000\\_Timed\\_0410](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/ctcbooks/2010/0410/000_Timed_0410) and click on Tab 21

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Adoption of the 2010 California Regional Transportation Guidelines

### Resolution G-10-05

- 1.1 **WHEREAS** California statute requires each of California's 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to adopt and submit an updated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to the Commission and Caltrans every four years for MPOs located in an air quality non-attainment area and every five years for MPOs located in an air quality attainment area, and
- 1.2 **WHEREAS** the Commission, in cooperation with the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs)/MPOs, is authorized under statute (Government Code Section 14522) to prescribe study areas for analysis and evaluation by such agencies and guidelines for the preparation of regional transportation plans, and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS** RTP Guidelines promote consistency through an integrated, statewide approach to the transportation planning process and set forth a uniform transportation planning framework throughout the state that identifies federal and state requirements for the development of RTPs, and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS** Senate Bill 375 (SB 375; Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), signed into law on September 30, 2008, requires the Commission to maintain guidelines for travel demand models used in the development of RTPs by MPOs, and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS** SB 375 requires the Commission to consult with various agencies, to form an advisory committee, and to hold two workshops on the guidelines, one in Northern California and one in Southern California before amending the guidelines, and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS** Government Code Section 14522.1(b) requires that the RTP Guidelines shall, at a minimum and to the extent practicable, taking into account such factors as the size and available resources of the MPO, account for all of the following:
  - (1) The relationship between land use density and household vehicle ownership and vehicle miles traveled in a way that is consistent with statistical research.
  - (2) The impact of enhanced transit service levels on household vehicle ownership and vehicle miles traveled.
  - (3) Changes in travel and land development likely to result from highway or passenger rail expansion.
  - (4) Mode splitting that allocates trips between automobile, transit, carpool, and bicycle and pedestrian trips. If a travel demand model is unable to forecast

bicycle and pedestrian trips, another means may be used to estimate those trips.

(5) Speed and frequency, days, and hours of operation of transit service, and

- 1.7 **WHEREAS** prior to commencing revision of the RTP Guidelines, Commission staff participated in various staff level meetings with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a coordinated approach for the successful implementation of SB 375 requirements, and
- 1.8 **WHEREAS** the Commission, recognizing the need for a timely update of the RTP Guidelines, in consultation with Caltrans and CARB, on July 1, 2009, held a "Kick Off" meeting with more than 200 stakeholders in attendance to begin the process of updating the RTP Guidelines, and
- 1.9 **WHEREAS** the Commission formed an Advisory Committee from the larger stakeholder workgroup that attended the July 1, 2009 meeting to develop technical guidance while representing their constituencies' perspectives and to report back to their respective agencies and organizations, and
- 1.10 **WHEREAS** since July 1, 2009, the Advisory Committee devoted a substantial amount of time and effort towards developing the necessary technical guidance set forth in the proposed revised guidelines, and
- 1.11 **WHEREAS** the RTP Guideline revisions identify implementation guidance for MPOs and RTPAs in response to the passage of SB 375 including, but not limited to, guidance with respect to sustainable communities strategies (SCS) designed to achieve certain goals for the reduction of regional greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks within the boundaries of each MPO, and
- 1.12 **WHEREAS** the Advisory Committee identified other aspects of the RTP Guidelines for revision that impact both RTPAs and MPOs. These revisions include, but are not limited to, climate adaptation strategies (Governor's Executive Order S-13-08), the California Coastal Trail (AB 1396, Laird, Statutes of 2007) and Complete Streets (AB 1358, Leno, Statutes of 2008), and
- 1.13 **WHEREAS** the Advisory Committee members worked together to reach general consensus on the guidance reflected in the 2010 Final Draft California RTP Guidelines presented at workshops held by the Commission at its regularly scheduled Commission meetings on February 24, 2010 in Northern California and on April 7, 2010 in Southern California.

- 2.1 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission adopts the attached 2010 California RTP Guidelines, and
- 2.2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission recognizes and expresses appreciation to the Advisory Committee members that devoted many hours writing text, reviewing and commenting on multiple drafts, participating in numerous meetings and working together towards the common goal of successful implementation of SB 375 objectives, and
- 2.3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission directs staff to post the 2010 California RTP Guidelines on the Commission's website and requests that the Department assist Commission staff in making copies available to MPOs, RTPAs, and other stakeholders as necessary.