

California Federal Programming Group (CFPG) Meeting
Summary Meeting Notes
April 3, 2025

Next CFPG Meeting: June 5, 2025

Action Items:

- SCAG inquired about updating FTIP/FSTIP Amendments policies to accommodate more projects updates by Administrative Modification (e.g., increasing the threshold of individual project).
- AMBAG requested formal training could be provided to new staff.

Decision Points:

- None
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Item #1 Welcome: Introductions, Housekeeping and MPO Roll Call (Vaik Renga, Caltrans)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMBAG	<input type="checkbox"/> BCAG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MCTC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MTC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SACOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SANDAG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLOCOG
<input type="checkbox"/> SBCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SRTA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> StanCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TMPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TCAG

- 1) James Anderson, Division Chief of Financial Programming, provided a warm welcome and indicated the importance of the 2025 Federal Planning Finding (FPF) recommendations.
- 2) Meeting minutes from the December 12, 2024, CFPG meeting were approved.

Item #2 Federal Partner Updates (Kien Le, Caltrans)

- 1) FTIP Amendment approvals are processed as usual. Thank you to our federal partners for the approval of about 15 FTIP Amendments since the change in Administration.
- 2) Our federal partners recommend MPOs utilize Administrative Modifications as much as possible to capture the project updates.

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Item #3 Office of Federal Liaison Updates (Ryan Greenway/Andrew Carhart, Caltrans) – Presentation [Link](#)

- 1) Presented details related to federal updates and engagement for the IJA transportation reauthorization bill.

Item #4 New FSTIP Survey (Kien Le, Caltrans)

- 1) Caltrans' Office of Federal Programming and Data Management (OFPDM) will be sending a survey to gain feedback from the MPOs regarding the 2025 FTIP/FSTIP development to inform the process for the 2027 FTIP/FSTIP development cycle.
 - a. Stay tuned for an email with further information.

Item #5 New Agenda Idea (Kien Le, Caltrans)

- 1) Caltrans would like to open space on the CFPG meeting agenda for MPOs to showcase their projects, achievement, practices, challenges, innovations etc. related to programming.
 - a. MPOs who would like to participate can reach out to OFPDM.

Item #6 2025 FSTIP Federal Planning Findings (Jennifer Ashby-Camp, Caltrans) – Presentation [link](#)

- 1) Jennifer presented the FHWA and FTA's 2025 Federal Planning Findings (FPFs) recommendations, including Caltrans' understanding and possible strategy to address each finding along with key takeaways and next steps. There are a total of 10 recommendations, 2 carry-overs from the 2023 FPF and 8 new recommendations from 2025.
- 2) Caltrans is leveraging the CFPG meetings to provide statewide leadership and guidance to our partners to drive business outcomes based on the FPFs and Caltrans' intent to meet federal requirements.
- 3) Caltrans is developing an action plan to meet the intent of all recommendations by September 2026 ahead of the 2027 FSTIP submission.

Item #7 MPO Roundtable (Jennifer Ashby-Camp, Caltrans)

- 1) The first MPO roundtable at the CFPG provided an open forum for discussion regarding the 2025 FPF #4 to "Increase Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination" and the 2023 FPF #3 "Federal Land Management Agency Coordination" to solicit feedback from MPOs. Three questions were posted to facilitate the discussions.
- 2) *Question #1: How are MPOs currently engaging FLMA partners?*
 - a. MPOs utilize emails and a contact database to engage the FLMA for outreach but receive little to no feedback. There is an online map of regional FLMA contacts which can be helpful: [Federal](#)

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[Land Management Agencies \(FLMA\) Database - Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program](#)

- b. MPOs are coordinating with different FLMA partners due to the unique area of each specific region (e.g., military, forest service, land management).
- c. MPOs may only receive feedback pertaining to projects that take place on FLMA properties.
- 3) Question #2: *How do you suggest Caltrans ensures MPOs are coordinating with FLMAs during their planning and programming processes?*
 - a. Caltrans' RTP checklist is the current process that documents MPOs coordination with FLMAs and is submitted with each RTP update.
 - b. FLMAs may not have the bandwidth or resources to engage during public outreach.
 - c. Caltrans could be the central point of contact for providing FLMA staffing updates statewide.
 - d. Caltrans could review the FLMA contacts listed on the cover page of MPO-submitted amendments and administrative modifications and provide updated contact information as needed.
 - e. Caltrans could develop a mechanism to alert FLMAs to key planning and programming timelines (e.g., OWP, RTP, FTIP) so they can anticipate upcoming correspondence from MPOs to encourage FLMA participation during public outreach.
- 4) Question: *How can Caltrans do a better job of standardizing and coordinating statewide?*
 - a. Caltrans could identify FLMA partners that span multiple regional planning areas and determine the desired level of FLMA engagement (e.g., TIP updates, formal amendments).
 - b. Caltrans could review federal requirements to determine what is required at the state level, identify gaps in the process and potential solutions that may avoid creating new state processes or requirements on MPOs that may not address the findings.
 - c. Caltrans could direct FLMAs to specific projects within MPO-submitted amendments to reduce review time.

Item #8 Grouped Project Listings (Vaik Renga, Caltrans) – Presentation [link](#)

- 1) Vaik delivered a presentation on the 2025 FPF #1 "Ensure Grouped Projects Listings are Consistent with Federal Regulations." The presentation included the details of California's current challenges, Caltrans' current guidance and federal recommendations.
- 2) Several MPOs provided feedback and suggested continued detailed discussions outside of the CFPG meeting.

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Item #9 CTIPS Application Change (Heather Loeb, Caltrans) – Presentation [link](#)

- 1) Heather's presentation detailed the changes being made in CTIPS to incorporate "toll credits." This included what data associated with toll credit needs to be entered, user entry portal in the CTIPS, reporting capabilities, and implementation timelines.
- 2) The toll credits entering portal in the CTIPS is expected to be available in May 2025 for MPOs to use.

Item #10 Caltrans' Office of Air Quality Program Status (Rodney Tavitas, Caltrans)

- 1) There is a delay with conformity determinations due to the FHWA/FTA approval process that is now going through Washington, D.C.
- 2) Questions regarding "regionally significant" projects can be shared with Caltrans' Air Quality branch.

Item #11 Caltrans' Division of Local Assistance (DLA) Program Status

- 1) Abhijit Bagde: Updates on Obligation Authority (O.A.)
 - a. Caltrans started off with \$1.4 billion in October 2024. The delivery on the local side has been very low. As of March 31st, Caltrans has only delivered 19% of local OA. Caltrans' current OA management policy states that if delivery is less than 35%, the local OA pool will open early on March 15th. As of March 17th, the local OA pool is open projects may be submitted.
 - b. Caltrans has received most of the obligation plans for the MPOs. Stay tuned for upcoming meetings between mid-April 2025 through August 2025 regarding the obligation plans.
 - c. Caltrans offered a few suggestions for project delivery.
 - i. If a MPO has a large project, please contact DLA for borrowing/loaning apportionments (CMAQ/ STBG) with other regions.
 - ii. Use Expedited Project Selection Procedures (EPSP) to deliver the projects that are programmed in the future year of your current FTIP.
 - iii. if you have previously used Advance Construction (AC) for past projects, you could consider converting those projects to federal funds to reduce the OA balance.
- 2) Roberta Jensen: Federal Program Status updates – Presentation [link](#)
 - a. Emergency Relief (ER) Program updates: New Damage Assessment Form (DAF) is currently under testing. Continue to use the current DAF form until the new DAF is released. Program received \$19 million in federal funds from a recent FHWA redistribution of unused federal funds to the states. These funds were used to swap local agency projects that used AC.

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- b. Federal Earmark Repurposing Program (FERP) updates: Look for upcoming workshop on the federal earmark repurposing program which will be scheduled for late April or early May 2025.
- c. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) updates: HIP discontinued in 2022. Excess HIP project funds (savings) can only be applied to other existing HIP projects from same HIP award cycle.
- d. Discretionary Grant Programs (DGPs) update: The new administration placed the pause on the discretionary grant programs on January 20th, 2025 (per Executive order: 14154) to allow review of the process and policies for consistency with the new administration. Caltrans understanding is that the pause does not apply to projects that had agreements executed and grants funds obligated before January 20th, 2025.
- e. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) updates: HSIP Cycle 12 projects list has been released and is available on the Caltrans DLA website under HSIP.

Item #12 Wrap Up (Vaik Renga, Caltrans)

- 1) Action items:
 - a. SCAG inquired about updating FTIP/FSTIP Amendments policies to accommodate more projects updates by Administrative Modification (e.g., increasing the threshold of individual project).
 - b. AMBAG requested formal training could be provided to new staff.
- 2) CFPG meeting materials and FTIP/FSTIP Coordinators list and responsibilities are located on OFPDMs external website.
- 3) The next CFPG virtual meeting will be held on June 5, 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please plan to attend and/or send a representative for your MPO. We will continue to take MPO roll call at the CFPG meetings to help ensure statewide participation and strengthen partnerships.
- 4) The June CFPG meeting will continue the MPO roundtable to collaborate and request feedback to help address the FPF recommendations.
 - a. June MPO roundtable plans to address the 2025 FPF #7 for "Revisiting the Public Participation Plan (PPP) to Improve Public Participation in Transportation Planning and Programming Processes.
 - b. Please stay tuned for an email prior to the June CFPG meeting with specific questions for FPF #7.