

California Federal Programming Group (CFPG) Meeting

Summary Meeting Notes

December 11, 2025

Next CFPG Meeting: May 2026

Action Items:

- ✓ Share with all the MPO- FTIP Coordinators: TIFIA Apportionments email and TIFIA -CTIPS Fund IDs email-done
- ✓ Share 2018 SHOPP Memo with FTIP coordinators List (part of Item 6)-done
- ✓ Posting relevant documents on an external website
- ✓ Develop and share MPO amendment types
- ✓ Reshare the FPF-1 Guidance-done
- ✓ Noe to will reach out to MPOs for FTIP/FSTIP Workshop topics

Decision Points:

- None

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SBAG	<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, highlighting the importance of collaboration amid fiscal pressures, evolving federal guidance, and priorities for equity, climate action, and timely project delivery.

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

- 1) Caltrans thanked federal partners for continuing to communicate programming changes to improve mobility in California.
- 2) The next CFPG meeting will take place in May 2026, following the 2027 FTIP/FSTIP Workshop in February 2026.
- 3) For the 2027 FTIP and future FTIP submittals, MPOs are required to include regionally administered federal discretionary grant funded projects in the FTIPs.

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- 4) Caltrans is requesting MPOs to provide a certification letter ensuring group project listings are consistent and compliant with federal requirements, submitted with all future FTIP submittals.
- 5) FY25 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards: FTA announced on November 20, 2025, the Fiscal Year 2025 Bus and Bus Facilities Program Awards and the Low or No Emission Grant Program awards. CA received \$297.3M total (\$29.7M for six Bus and Bus Facilities projects, \$267.7M for 18 Low or No Emission projects). Projects should be programmed in the FSTIP prior to obligation as stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
 - Please see the following link for the press release here: [Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Invests \\$2 Billion in Modernizing America's Transit Bus Infrastructure | FTA](#)
 - A full project can be found here: [FY25 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards | FTA](#)
 - [FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity: Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program | FTA](#)
- 6) CMAQ/STBG Apportionments & Reporting: Final FFY 2024/25 Apportionments (Actuals) sent by Vaik Renga (Caltrans' OFPDM) on October 20, 2025. CMAQ and STBGP Apportionment Estimates sent on November 4, 2025. FFY 2025/26 Oversight Adjustment expected to increase by \$7.6M. Annual List of Obligated Projects sent on October 13, 2025. CMAQ Annual Report due to Caltrans by December 30, 2025; instructions and CMAQ project list sent by Peter Kang (Caltrans' OFPDM) on October 31, 2025. MPOs must enter data into FHWA's User Profile and Access Control System (UPACS) by deadline and maintain access by logging in monthly.
- 7) 2025 FTIP/FSTIP Development Process Survey: Responses categorized into seven areas.
 - FTIP/FSTIP Workshop timing adjusted earlier for future cycles (2029 onward)
 - Acronym draft list to be shared this December 2025, finalized and posted externally: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/financial-programming/office-of-federal-programming-data-management-ofpdm>
 - FTIP review comments process streamlined with meetings during public review
 - STBG and CMAQ Apportionments will be completed annually in October and sent by early November
 - Coordination between MPOs and Caltrans' District FTIP Coordinators has been improved via meetings and training for District FTIP Coordinators

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- MPO best practices are shared via CFPG MPO roundtables
- Highway Bridge Program listing (HBP) in Excel not possible due to technology limitations—contact Caltrans DLA for specific data requests: Caltrans@dla.dot.ca.gov

8) TIFIA Funding: FHWA posted a notice on unused TIFIA funds in March 2025. CA received ~\$166M, and the eligibility is the same as the STBG program. Apportionments for MPOs with Urbanized Areas >200,000 sent by Stacey Salazar (Caltrans' DLA) on September 23, 2025 (60/40 local/state split). OFPDM created TIFIA Fund IDs in CTIPS. No additional obligation authority (OA) but increases the programming capacity for obligation during OA increases/August Redistribution. Must obligate by September 30, 2028, or lapse.

Item #3 Caltrans' Office of Federal Liaison Updates (Ryan Greenway/Andrew Carhart, Caltrans)

- 1) Andrew Carhart presented federal advocacy for the next surface transportation reauthorization bill.
- 2) Timeline: IIJA/BIL enacted 2021, ends September 30, 2026. Implementation work group ran during the early years and similar is expected post-reauthorization. Stakeholder and Tribal surveys were done in 2024 along with work group meetings over the past year with 1,000+ attendees. Caltrans' Federal Liaison's Office is completing the consensus principles document briefing to the Secretary soon; circulation planned for January/February 2026 for public comment. Signatories sought February-April 2026. Federal advocacy via AASHTO meetings, congressional visits, committee staff, US DOT, and national organizations.
- 3) House/Senate bill markups expected February/March 2026 or later due to potential disagreements.
- 4) Document: "California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles" to advance thriving, connected California. Key principles:
 - Enact funding reforms (trust fund solvency, reforms)
 - Increase formula funding
 - Limit competitive grants
 - Consolidate/streamline programs
 - Retain flexibility
 - Prioritize safety
 - Aligning with State "Fix It First" policies
 - Continuing bridge programs
 - Increase resiliency/emergency relief
 - Provide multimodal choices
 - Advance innovation (e.g., technology, process improvements like NEPA assignment expansion)

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- 5) Outreach: Public comment period; obtain signatories; promote at AASHTO annual meeting; individual congressional meetings through 2026; monitor appropriations; share committee bill markup when available.

Item #4 MPO Roundtable (All)

- 1) Jose Luis Cáceres (StanCOG) shared success on federal earmark repurposing. Record repurposing this year (over previous 5-8 years); 16M repurposed, including \$4M (21 earmarks) with previously unattainable OA that is now accessible.
- 2) Suzanne Martinez (SANDAG) shared lesson learned from HIP funds: De-obligated cost savings (\$80,000) lost due to passed authorization deadline. For CRP and TIFIA (with deadlines), obligate/use those funds first to avoid losses on cost savings.

Item #5 2027 FTIP/FSTIP Development Schedule & Workshop (Kien Le/Vaik Renga, Caltrans) – Presentation [Link](#)

- 1) Presented 2027 FTIP/FSTIP Development Schedule
- 2) Key dates:
 - MPO FTIP development at MPO's discretion (up to 8 months)
 - Draft FTIPs to Caltrans by 8/31/2026
 - Final FTIPs (including 2025 amendments) to Caltrans by 9/30/2026
 - Caltrans' FSTIP Public Participation Period is 10/9-10/30/2026
 - FSTIP submittal to FHWA/FTA on 11/13/2026
 - FHWA/FTA Approval anticipated on 12/16/2026
 - Approved 2027 FSTIP supersedes 2025 FSTIP
- 3) Submittals must include Financial Summaries (Excel, 2027 template) and Federal Performance Measures Reporting Template (Excel).
- 4) Upcoming FTIP/FSTIP Workshop: February 11-12, 2026, at Caltrans HQ, Sacramento (basement meeting room, larger venue). Draft meeting agenda is forthcoming; Noe Puente will reach out to the MPOs for input.

Item #6 Programming SHOPP Projects in FTIP/FSTIP (Vaik Renga, Caltrans)

- 1) Refresher on 2018 memo "PROCEDURES FOR PROGRAMMING SHOPP PROJECTS IN THE FTIP/FSTIP" detailed procedures, roles/responsibilities for stakeholders (Caltrans Districts, SHOPP Office, OFPDM, MPOs, CTC, FHWA/FTA).
- 2) No process changes: most SHOPP updates are seamless. Refreshed roles with District FTIP Coordinators; Project Managers and Coordinators collaborate with MPOs for timely programming.
- 3) Shared updated District FTIP Coordinators contact list (to be emailed).

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- 4) Memo and FTIP Coordinator contact list to be distributed to MPO FTIP coordinators, cc District coordinators. Will remediate for external website posting (note many links are currently broken in the 2018 Memo).
- 5) Memo details: SHOPP development/adoption; CTIPS entry; grouped projects; amendments (new projects, cost/schedule changes); flowcharts for processes.

Item #7 Caltrans' Division of Transportation Planning's Office of Air Quality Program Status (Rodney Tavitas and Kevin Rios, Caltrans)

- 1) Good news the EPA approved EMFAC2021 off-model adjustment factors on November 21, 2025, removing California-specific regulations (Advanced Clean Trucks, Heavy-Duty Omnibus, etc.). Apply factors to EMFAC2021 outputs for conformity; regions meeting requirements avoid lockdown. Update RTP/EIR air quality analyses.
- 2) NMP solvent (used in paints/coatings): Federal partners agreed verbally (no writing) that Type 1/2/3 amendments can proceed during lapse grace period if no new conformity needed. Type 1: Administrative modifications. Type 2: Funding changes without scope/design alterations. Type 3: Significant revisions/deletions of exempt projects—review via interagency group; exempt under 40 CFR 93.126/127. Traffic signal sync (existing signals) exempt from project-level conformity; notify MPO for baseline.
- 3) Do not share verbally agreed info in writing outside Caltrans HQ.
- 4) Thanks to Jose Luis Cáceres (StanCOG) for Type 1-5 amendment baseline; Ofelia Abundez (FCOG) for Fresno impact example—sparked federal engagement. Clarified 2012 guidance; now have exempt project clarification.
- 5) Potential SAFE Rule Part 3: May require further adjustments; monitoring Federal Register; hopefully the rescission avoids another lockdown.

Item #8 Caltrans' Division of Local Assistance (DLA) Program Status (Misty Bradshaw/ Bob Baca, Caltrans)

- 1) Misty Bradshaw: OA Delivery updates
 - a. DLA delivered 100% of cycle 26 OA in FFY 2025; \$1.528B total + \$27M AR OA.
 - b. Smartsheet training for FFY 2026 Obligation Plans on 11/12/25.
 - c. Obligation Plan Smartsheet/instructions by mid-December 2025.
 - d. Office hour 1/21/26 for Smartsheet questions.
 - e. MPOs enter data by 3/16/26.
 - f. Bi-weekly meetings May-Aug 2026 with MPOs/RTPAs/Districts/locals on plan status.
 - g. OA Timeline: Exact dates by Spring 2026.

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- 2) Bob Baca: Office of Federal Programs updates
 - a. Federal Earmark Repurposing: Record repurposing this year; drastic increase over 9 years. Hope for another successful year.
 - b. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP): Reopening requests for authorizations; new alignment form in January 2026 (extra validation section). Website update with apportionments showing code breakdowns/restrictions. Guidance on loan/exchanges/shares by late January/early February 2026.
 - c. Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (CPFCDS): 93 projects to obligate by 9/30/2026 (~\$270M+). DLAEs contacting agencies in January; all listed on website.
 - d. Competitive Grants: 22 projects for September 2026; ongoing agreement updates. GrantSolutions now used for most which changes reporting: Locals to DLAEs, DLA to system. Training for Districts in early 2026. Existing agreements continue direct to FHWA until notified.
 - e. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP): Contact DLAE/HQ before de-obligating cost savings for restrictions; funds may lapse without immediate re-obligation.
 - f. Other Federally Funded Projects: Note program-specific expenditure deadlines; expend older funds first.

Item #9 Wrap Up (All)

- 1) Action items reviewed.
- 2) Share TIFIA Apportionments email and CTIPS Fund IDs with all MPO FTIP Coordinators
- 3) Share 2018 SHOPP Memo and FTIP coordinators list
- 4) Posting relevant documents on external website
- 5) Develop/share MPO amendment types
- 6) Reshare Federal Planning Finding #1 Guidance
- 7) Noe Puente to reach out to MPOs for workshop topics
- 8) 2027 FTIP/FSTIP Workshop: February 11-12, 2026, at Caltrans HQ, Sacramento
- 9) MPOs Achievements—volunteers solicited for future meetings