

Hot Topics Meeting Notes November 30, 2022

Agenda Item	Who?	Hot Topic	Discussion/Action
1	Dee Lam	Organizational Assessment	Congrats to the team on Objective 1 as great progress has been made and thanks to all the districts for their participation in the assessment.
1	Dee Lam	Data Governance	1. LP2000 2. Workload Standards and right-sizing – Backfill vacancies first.
1	Dee Lam	Project Delivery	Emphasis from Transportation Cooperative Committee
2	Mark Samuelson	Public Requests	Local Assistance districts have been receiving random requests. DLA has updated information in HQ and shared that with the District Local Assistance Engineers (DLAEs). Hopefully, that will resolve issues moving forward.
2	Mark Samuelson	Payments from Primes to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Subs	Request for Local Assistance to increase monitoring of payments to DBEs. Local agencies have received proper communication as well as Districts. There was a request to have Caltrans pay the DBEs directly. This will need to be coordinated with the Office of Civil Rights and Caltrans capital side as they don't have this mechanism as a current practice.
2	Mark Samuelson	Project Management's (PM's) role for local projects on the State Highway System (SHS)	DLA discussed the roles with DPM in meetings and at their training academy. DLA will continue to facilitate discussion. DLA has also created a "Who does What" matrix in collaboration with DPM. Plans for a future forum as well to discuss further clarification of roles.
2	Mark Samuelson	Release of earmarks	Cathy Mckeeon on later to talk about when funding will be released
3	Matt Schmitz	Hot Topic Meetings	FHWA is thankful we're invited. DLA and Caltrans do not have to invite the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
3	Rodney Whitfield	Inactive Projects	<p>Inactive Projects: Any project that has not expended federal funds within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Repeat Inactives: Any projects that have been inactive for more than 24 months. There was a considerable amount, \$20-\$30 million.</p>

			Thanks to DLA for participation and reducing the rate of these inactive projects. Goal is less than 2%, which was met in FY 22.
3	Matt Schmitz	Inactive Projects	California is like no other State with amount of local assistance projects. Engage with your DLAEs to keep this number below 2%.
3	Marlon Regisford	Inactive Projects	What is FHWA's relationship with other federal agencies implementing local assistance projects?
3	Matt Schmitz (reply to Marlon)	Inactive Projects	We're aware of some four-letter agencies and we can take a risk-based approach. FHWA has already worked with Parminder Singh on this item.
3	Rodney Whitfield	Project End Date (PED)	<p>PED – The final date recorded in the Federal Management Information System (FMIS) when projects may be incurred for federal reimbursement. Serious consequences if costs are incurred after the PED.</p> <p>Districts will receive a list of lapsed PEDs, and FHWA will meet with them. There are currently about 300 projects where the PED has lapsed, but it may be okay if an invoice arrives after that date. 80 of the 300 projects are Emergency Relief (ER) projects and are waiting for funds to become available for reimbursement.</p> <p>FHWA asks for Districts to stay on top of agency PEDs. Adjustments should occur prior to the lapse date. Projects also need to be promptly closed out.</p>
3	Sujaya Kalainesan	PED	Quick cross check on PED can be verified through the tool that we've discussed in status meetings. PED extension is not automatic, and agencies must request the extension.
3	Rodney Whitfield	PED	There is an effort to update legacy projects without a PED. Legacy projects are estimated at about 10% of total active local projects.
3	Matt Schmitz	PED	What is FHWA's record of extending PED dates?
3	Rodney Whitfield (reply to Matt)	PED	About 5% and mostly for clarification. Very rare for FHWA to reject a PED extension request.
3	Matt Schmitz	Emergency Relief (ER)	Clock starts current fiscal year, then next two fiscal years is when projects are expected to progress to construction (CON). FHWA can

			<p>provide a 1-Year extension, but agencies must request.</p> <p>There have been a few that did not receive the extension. ER projects are tougher with PEDs. Agencies must really justify why projects have not proceeded to CON. Kudos to Bob and Jasdeep; California's program is much larger than other States.</p>
3	Dee Lam	General	<p>Unknowns are adequate for this meeting. We have invited the Deputy District Directors (DDD) to keep the updated on urgent items. If the DDDs have any topics they wish to discuss, please let DLA know to add them to the agenda. Thanks to FHWA for their efforts to coordinate with DLA.</p>
3	Tanzeeba Kishwar	Build America, Buy America (Act) Presentation	<p>Presentation – Construction materials added into the Act. Non-ferrous metals, lumber, drywall, etc. Projects receiving E-76 authorization after November 10, 2022, must have new Act requirements. There are some risks concerning implementation of the Act for construction materials and validation of agency compliance with the Act.</p> <p>OB 22-07: Updated Chapter 12.8 and Exhibit 12-G of the Local Assistance Procedures Manual.</p> <p>FHWA Training – District & HQ January-February 2023, and Locals in February-March 2023.</p>
4	Mark Samuelson	New IJA Workshop	<p>December 14 training workshop for new IJA funding.</p>
4	Jimmy O'Dea	California National Environmental Vehicle Infrastructure Program	<p>Formula funding \$384M over 5 years to support charging stations. Must be every 50 miles and within a mile of the corridor. This will result in 864 charging ports at 143 sites.</p>
4	Cathy Mckeen	Earmark update	<p>DLA is still waiting for the Department of Finance to move the official list forward. DLA will use a fund transfer agreement. We are being proactive by obtaining agency contacts and having them wait in preparation for contracts.</p>
4	Robert Peterson	Carbon Reduction Program and PROTECT	<p>Still waiting for census data. Areas over 2,000 have been released and DLA has sent out guidance as far as eligible projects.</p>

			California Transportation Commission (CTC) has taken the lead for the PROTECT program. Locals had questions on eligible projects. Hope to hear back from FHWA.
5	Laura Quintana	Resourcing	<p>Initial projections include \$8M in savings due mostly to vacancies. 74 positions in transit, 24 have no Personnel Action Request Forms (PARFs). We are waiting for Districts to project need capacities and they can also be filled with blanket positions.</p> <p>2024 Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) are upcoming, vacancies need to be filled as Finance takes these into consideration when approving BCPs. DLA will track how long position has been vacant and provide updates.</p> <p>Climate adaptation and highway to boulevards are new State-funded programs. In fiscal year 2023-24 DLA will be asking for resources due to these new programs.</p>
6	Mark Samuelson	Roundtable	Any items to discuss?
6	Marlon Regisford	Roundtable	Preliminary Environmental Study (PES) Form – Will climate resiliency be considered?
6	Kelly Hobbs (reply to Marlon)	Roundtable	Nothing from the Department of Environmental Analysis yet on climate resiliency. If this is a State only issue, the PES form will not be updated as DLA contends with National Environmental Policy Act delegated oversight only.