

California Local HSIP Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2023 1:00pm – 3:30 pm Via Webex

Attendees:

Tom Mattson, Panos Kokkas, Ashley Stanley, Bill Sandhu, Rafael Cobian, John Saelee, John Asuncion, Maria Bhatti, Robert Peterson, Richard Ke, Colleen Vidinoff, Angel Araiza, Bei Li, Dale Benson, Russell Hansen, Viridiana Llanos, and Stephen Anderjack.

South Lake Tahoe: Anush Nejad, Stan Hill

Tulare County: Mike Winton

Los Angeles County: Elie Behnam, Masashi Tsujii, Yogen Bhagat

Item 1. Welcome and Committee Updates

- Welcome extended to all attendees, roll call taken, and agenda reviewed.

Item 2. Project Time Extension Request Updates:

- South Lake Tahoe (1 project)
- Tulare County (1 project)
- Los Angeles County (2 projects)

Detail of project's status, challenges, and requested time extensions below.

Item 2a. South Lake Tahoe

Anush Nejad and Stan Hill provided update.

Project Purpose: Pioneer Trail Safety Project, extend left turn pocket to ensure sufficient sight distance due to a curve with high-speed conditions.

Project Progress:

- 60 % done with design
- Received 1 year of extension to complete project by September 2026
- E76 authorization deadline this year, found challenges to do safety improvement
- Challenges: get easement, relocate utility pole to get sufficient distance for shoulder need 1year extension for E76 authorization to proceed to construction and get the project done by the initial deadline 2026.
- Got NEPA certification in summer
- E76 must be submitted in July of 2024,
- Project construction anticipated to begin in Spring

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert Peterson asked for a realistic timeframe and decided to get the deadline for E76 to be submitted by April 1, 2024. If more time needed to complete, a

couple month extension will be considered. Richard will send confirmation of extension via email and update the database. Cost issues: extra funds, if needed, will be covered by local.

Item 2b. Tulare County HSIP Cycle 9 - 5946(185)

Mike Winton provided update.

Project Purpose: Avenue 144 & Road 96 Roundabout Project extension.

Project Progress:

- Project Scope:
 - Replace stop-controlled intersection with roundabout
 - Right of way acquisition
 - Utility Relocations
 - Due to highspeed crashes
- Project Funding:
 - HSIP Cycle 9 High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Federal Funds
- Requests:
 - 2nd time extension (12-month extension to submit E-76 CON RFA by 12/31/2024)
 - Additional project funds (620k, approximately a 20% overall increase)
- Project Delays:
 - Mostly Attributed to Right of way/Utility phase
 - Delayed start due to environmental approvals
 - Time required to complete utility process for Local agency Expense relocations
 - Right of way negotiations were delayed obtaining estimated for damages
 - Shifting political priorities for County staff in response to local emergency\
- Next Steps:
 - Finalize Acquisitions
 - Appraisals/FWQs complete
 - owners are supportive, and the process is expected to move forward without complications
 - Finalize utility relocations (there is a “meeting of minds”)
 - Send draft ROI, NTO, UA, and FHWA specific authorization to Caltrans for review
 - Receive/review draft joint use agreement and execute
 - Prepare draft right of way certification and submit to Caltrans for review.
- Need for Additional Funds
 - PE: Time cost of money, disruptions to workflow due to Local Emergency (\$35k)
 - ROW: additional utility documentation for local agency expense relocations, additional staff for ROW negotiations, with utility relocations (\$125 k), and ROW capital (\$300k).
 - CON: slight increase in cost resulting from inflationary pressure.

Funding Summary/Request					
	Current HSIP Allocation		Proposed Budget		Requested Funds
PE	\$	250,000	\$	285,000	\$ 35,000
Env	\$	20,000	\$	20,000	\$ -
PS&E	\$	230,000	\$	265,000	\$ 35,000
ROW	\$	225,000	\$	705,000	\$ 480,000
Eng	\$	45,000	\$	100,000	\$ 55,000
Acq/Util	\$	180,000	\$	605,000	\$ 425,000
CON	\$	2,497,800	\$	2,602,800	\$ 105,000
CE	\$	200,000	\$	230,000	\$ 30,000
Const	\$	2,297,800	\$	2,372,800	\$ 75,000
Total	\$	2,972,800	\$	3,592,800	\$ 620,000

- Formal Request
 - 2nd Time Extension (12-month extension to submit E-76 CON RFA by 12/31/2024)
 - Additional project funds (620k, approximately a 20% overall increase)
- Remaining Delivery Milestones
 - PS&E Complete: 1/8/2024
 - ROW Completion: 5/7/2024
 - ROW Certification: 6/25/2024
 - E-76 RFA for Construction: 7/31/2024
 - Utility Relocation Period: 9/1/2024 – 10/31/2024
 - Begin Construction: March 2025

Committee Questions/Feedback:

Robert Peterson questions timeline - planning August 2024 delivery but requesting a 12-month extension. Tom questions utility costs, usually at the cost of utility companies and not local agency cost. Mike clarifies there was a prior easement where the poles were placed, and ROW was acquired after the date of easement. 3 poles being relocated, 2 being under prior easement 67%/33% split. have verified rights and have estimates from utility owner. Goal is to get project delivered as soon as possible without hiccups. Richard says the project is high-risk rural roads eligible, can use HRRR funding. We have \$17.6 million of HRRR Special Rule Funding in 23/24; this project along is \$2-3 million. We could get CON authorization by July 2024. Can we work hard to get CON authorization by this federal fiscal year? If so, E-76 needs to be submitted by end of June. Mike: we can try to commit and get RFA and E-76 submitted in time once ROW is cleared. Asked if it'll increase the chances to get funding if the CON gets authorized in 23/24. Richard: yes, because it uses HRRR Special Rule funding. Robert, in HRRR we can't spend the \$17.6 million on any projects other than High Risk Rural Roads eligible projects. Try to get project RFA in by June/July. Richard: submit E76 and additional funding first for the PE and ROW and estimate CON cost. Colleen offered to help with paperwork.

Item 2c. Los Angeles County HSIP 5953(758)

Masashi Tsujii provided update.

Project Purpose: Los Angeles National Forest: Install Chevron signs and Curve warning signs along mountain roads

Project Progress:

- 3rd time extension to submit RFA to March 2024

- Cleared NEPA due to archeological studies last year, ROW plans had issues
- Los Angeles National Forest, a part of US forest service Jurisdiction: Problem with special use permit. Resolved recently - it was an issue that the permit was under administration of a different County department and not Public Works, the ROW was cleared and approved by Caltrans last month.
- Planning to finalize Contract specifications and special provisions and have the RFA submitted by March 2024.
- Install Chevron signs and Curve warning signs along mountain roads, 16mile road and 10 mile road.
- Not a high-Risk Rural Road.

Committee Questions/Feedback:

Richard clarifies its project ID: 5953(758). Robert Peterson clarifies the project is to add signs. Tom recommends getting a good neighbor's agreement, allows more facilitation with Forest Service.

Item 2d. Los Angeles County HSIP 5953(791)

Masashi Tsujii provided update.

Project Progress:

- Extension to submit RFA in June 2024
- 2nd Extension Request
- Install traffic signal improve for intersections
- Delay with utility companies, high voltage transmission power lines along corridor, Had problems meeting the utilities requirements for overhead plans.
- Project was being combined with a larger project and the review process was taking an extended time to clear with utility company so decided to separate and expedite current project.
- NEPA approved June 2023, Plans completed, ROW certification approved by March 2024, and currently working on utility clearances and certification which is needed for ROW certification.

Item 3. Status Report:

- **Los Angeles County – Six Cycle 8 projects**
 - One just got Time extension - 5953(758)
 - Other 5 got E-76 authorizations.
 - No new updates.

Item 4. Committee Charter Update Signing

For few new committee members, Robert referred to the original charter can be found at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/highway-safety-improvement-program/local-hisp-advisory-committee>. Changes: Sac State at Long Beach taking over all responsibilities for LTAP. A new Local HSIP Advisory Committee member, Ashley

Stanley, has been nominated for the Co-Chair position. Robert will send out the original charter with revisions and encourages new committee members to ask any questions they may have. Then he will route the signature sheet through the e-signature. Once all the signatures are received, updated charter will be posted on the website. For new committee members, Robert explained the split of HSIP funds 50/50 between local and state side HSIP. There's a reconciliation of funds used by each side at the end of every federal fiscal year.

Item 5. Safety Project Delivery Status, OA Update, and HR3 and VRU obligations

- Project Delivery Status
 - 20 projects in delay list from cycles 6-11
 - Will send the list to Districts and follow up with local agencies before cycle 12

- Funding use in FFY22-23
 - Federal funds - \$57.5 million, including:
 - \$25.3 million of regular HSIP funding
 - \$17.6 million of HRRR Special Rule funding
 - \$14.1 million of VRU Special Rule funding (out of \$41 million statewide)
 - BIA funding transfers \$623k
 - State funds: \$55.4 million allocated to projects

All together we used \$113 million of HSIP funding in FFY22-23.

Committee Questions/Feedback

Maria asked if the balance of last year's OA was \$0, and how much the Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Special Rule funding was on the local side. Richard answers the balance of last year's OA was \$0; the local side used \$14 million of the VRU Special Rule funding. Russell mentions that when it comes to state and federal funds the smaller agencies don't go for federal funds due to its requirements. Robert thanks Russell and agrees that this is why we are doing the funding exchange. Panos Agrees with Russell. Robert mentions we have been seeing more agencies applying so we are seeing the benefits on our end.

Item 6. Cycle 12 Call-for-Projects Discussion

Russell presents proposed HSIP Cycle 12 Set-aside consideration:

Providing funds to remove fixed object from the travel way of multi-use paths can increase the safety on California's multimodal transportation sector. Providing funding to put in route finding signs can reduce conflict between transportation user groups. Signs will provide direction to safer routes.

Committee Questions/Feedback

Robert and Richard mention we do have a Bike Safety Set-aside; Russell asks if there was a way to define that. Panos asks if it applies to multi model areas or vehicular areas. Russell explains that the signs make it visible for cyclists. Robert suggests adding this to Bike Safety Set-aside

description and at the cycle 12 announcement in May 2024 we can highlight changes and explain additions to the Bike Safety improvements. This can be covered in the webinar soon after cycle 12 announcement. Maria mentions Robert may bring up issues similar to Russell's presentation to the Complete Streets team. Russell mentions complete streets can be a hit-or-miss with pros and cons.

Rafael Cobian presents potential use of HSIP funds for purchasing equipment for traffic collision investigations:

HSIP does a fantastic job providing funding for data driven of analysis. Now wanting to have city traffic engineers to go out and make observations on site. Rafael suggests giving traffic engineers radio equipment, cameras, survey equipment etc. to document what is happening.

Committee Questions/Feedback

Robert asks Maria if this can be funded by HSIP. Maria said redlight cameras and speed cameras can be funded but unknown of any other equipment. Rafael points out this can be under emergency services. Maria asks for specific equipment. Rafael mentions communications equipment, survey equipment, vehicles, etc. They are things that allow us to investigate and document collisions. Robert praises Rafael's enthusiasm. Rafael mentions the 3 E's, Education, Engineering, and Emergency Services. To implement this, traffic engineers step out of the comfort zone and onto the field. Panos mentions a vehicle is a great addition. Ashley mentions their county is smaller, but they get information from the Public Works director as he has authorization for road closure, and he gets alerted from the sheriff or CHP and a deputy director is then contacted. Robert mentions it is more applicable in cities compared to counties.

Speed cameras may be added as a new countermeasure in Cycle 12 Call-for-projects:

Richard mentions the use of speed cameras However, under the AB-645, only 6 local agencies (cities of Los Angeles, San Jose, Oakland, Glendale, Long Beach, and the City and County of San Francisco) are allowed to use speed cameras. Richard also asks for any new countermeasures. Robert mentions we may need to separate compact roundabouts and regular roundabouts in two different safety countermeasures.

Robert mentions for Set-asides we will keep what we have, typically no more than 25% of the funding of the call. We probably will have the same Set-asides as last call (pedestrian crossing enhancements, guardrail upgrade, bike lane safety and tribes, etc.). Meet again in January/February 2024 to discuss in more detail.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.