

California Freight Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Details

Date: November 9, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual – MS Teams

Meeting Objectives: The objective of the meeting is to provide updates and discuss State freight planning efforts.

Attendees

Facilitator: Caltrans

Scribe: Luke Tia

Attendees: See attachment:
CFAC Meeting-Attendee List

Agenda Items

Agenda Item # 1: Welcome and Housekeeping

Dave Moore, California Department of Transportation, Interim Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs

Dave Moore introduced himself, welcomed all attendees, and explained the role of the CFAC. He went over the agenda and explained adjustments to the presenters and agenda. Dave also announced that Ann Fox will be the Acting Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs.

Agenda Item # 2: Research

Presentation: Tracey Frost, Senior Transportation Planner, Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Strategic Freight Planning (OSFP)

Tracey Frost shared information about the Caltrans research program and its process and timeline. The Research Discretionary Budget is \$16 million. The Office of Strategic Freight Planning (OSFP) coordinates and funnels potential freight research to the Division of Research and Information Systems (DRSI). Freight research can identify problems and propose solutions in an academic way. A research request form explains the need, work, product, implementation plan, and benefit of proposed research. Requests will be reviewed and prioritized for funding in later spring of 2024. Freight research concept requests must be submitted to OSFP by December 15. Proposals are due to DRIS by January 15, 2024. Requests are scored in February-March and funding decisions are announced in April 2024.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Status	Deadline
Provide response: Where can public find previous research projects?	Tracey Frost	Completed	None

Action Item Response
The Transportation Research Board's database (TRID) database remains the best way to search the universe of research. Home - Transport Research International Documentation - TRID (trb.org). The Caltrans DRISI Policy and Planning Research Branch indicates the best option where to find Caltrans research projects is to pull together a listing of projects to meet the request. For more information on research, please see the DRISI Research, Innovation and System Information webpage.

Agenda Item 3: California Freight Mobility Plan (CFMP) Update

Presentation: Maggie Schreiner, Associate Transportation Planner, Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Strategic Freight Planning

Maggie Schreiner gave an overview of the CFMP 2023 and how it is an update of the CFMP 2020. The CFMP is a comprehensive plan that governs immediate and long-range planning activities and capital investments with respect to freight movement. The CFMP 2023 was approved by FHWA. Feedback will be solicited for the development of the CFMP 2027.

Agenda Item #4: Critical Freight Corridor Guidance

Presentation: Ryan Castle, Associate Transportation Planner, Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Strategic Freight Planning

The Critical Freight Corridor Guidance establishes how California distributes critical urban and critical rural freight miles designations throughout the state. These designations are an aspect of the National Highway Freight Network. Corridors are used by FHWA to strategically distribute a variety of different investments on the National Highway Freight Network that facilitate goods movement from ports, railyards, industrial complexes, and more. In California, the Freight Corridor Enhancement Program distributes the freight focused funding. The routes can be removed after funding is transferred. Critical Rural Freight Corridors and Critical Urban Freight Corridors are decided by different criteria.

The guidance is being updated in response to new Urban Area Boundaries and changes to the Primary Highway Freight System. The Technical Working Group will be reconvened to utilize member expertise and conduct outreach. Ryan reviewed the expected schedule and upcoming activities. Guidance is planned to be finalized by July 2024. For more information visit the [Strategic Freight Planning](#) webpage or contact Transportation Planner, Ryan Castle at ryan.castle@dot.ca.gov



Action Items	Person Responsible	Status	Deadline
Provide response: Will primary highway freight system updates be included in the national freight network?	Ryan Castle	Completed	None

Action Item Response
Caltrans will use the most up to date National Highway Freight Network routes that were updated by FHWA in 2023.

Agenda Item #5: Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) Update

Presentation: Roy Aboud, Office Chief, Corridor and System Planning, Division of Transportation Planning

CSIS is a framework for decision-making with different components. The focus right now for the update is the Main Document narrative and the Local Sponsored Project Initiation Document (PID) Guidance. The CSIS evaluation framework involves establishing evaluation criteria, qualitative review with project initiation, and more quantitative reviews in the nomination process. The CSIS website shows the different elements and steps as part of CSIS. Project nomination determines program fit and CSIS alignment. For more information, visit [the CSIS webpage](#).

Agenda Item #6: Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines Update

Presentation: Mayra Jimon, Associate Transportation Planner, Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Regional and Community Planning

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) last adopted the last Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and (Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) on January 18th, 2017. This update started in October 2022. Since then, the office has hosted public workshops, drafts, comment periods, and work groups. Freight considerations were included in the guidelines. The next step is adoption after a year of working on the update. For more information visit the [2024 RTP Guidelines Update](#) webpage.



Agenda Item #7: Blue Diamond Growers – Supply Chain

Presentation: Steve Schult, Vice President of Global Supply Chain

Mr. Schult discussed the California almond industry, its value, farms, jobs, transportation, crop size, and industry practices. He gave an overview of the almond transportation network in both California, the greater United States, and the world. Blue Diamond is involved in the alternative fueling network and connects to the National Context Major Port Feeder Corridors. Priorities for Blue Diamond include farming equipment and alternative energy, as well as truck weight limits.

Agenda Item #8: Agency Roundtable Updates

Roundtable Discussion:

Antonio Johnson, FHWA Director of Planning, Environment, and Right-of-Way, California Division of Federal Highways

The California Freight Mobility Plan was approved in September 2023. Senior Community Planner Michael Morris has been working to fix inconsistencies with the corridors on the Federal files and website. A corridor update request in the Stanislaus area has been submitted after the plan was reviewed.

Giles Giovinazzi, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

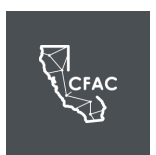
CalSTA is tracking grants from the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act federal bill and collaborating with grantees in the Port and Freight Infrastructure Program (PFIP). International clean freight issues – work to support ports in their efforts to decarbonize. CalSTA is working with PFIP grantees to get the projects programmed and to get allocations out. CalSTA signed a letter of intent agreement with the Ministry of Transportation of Japan to support ports with decarbonization. Next week is the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco.

Yatman Kwan updating for the California Transportation Commission (CTC)

The final SB671 assessment will be posted on November 22, 2023 and the TCEP guidelines developments are scheduled to start in December.

Trelynd Bradley, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-BIZ), Deputy Director, Sustainable Freight and Supply Chain

Tracking the Clean Ports Initiative, which includes \$300 million for planning and the rest for actual projects directly. The State of California has been awarded a hydrogen hub designation through their ARCHES work group - that is up to \$1.2 billion for hydrogen projects. GO-BIZ is providing incentive navigation, site selection, and permit assistance for trucking. Assistance on the inland ports has shifted to direct technical assistance with cities where the inland ports are located. Next week will be CAPA, a side event at APEC, where there will be a California Pavilion.



Yatman Kwan, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans),

New appointments - Kalin Pacheco will be the new Acting Office Chief for Strategic Freight Planning. Affi N'Guessan is now Caltrans appointed Acting Freight Program Support Branch Chief. Riley Keller is now at the Director's Office serving as the Transportation Electrification Program Manager. Allison Nealon is now in a temporary assignment as the Southern California Freight Program Manager. The NOFO for large bridge projects, the over \$100 million category, was released on September 27, 2023 and is for fiscal year 2023 through 2026. The post bridge investment program (BIP) dates and information will be posted.

Trade Corridor Enhancement Program and the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program are due on November 21, 2023. The NOFO for RAISE fiscal year 2024 is expected to come in the upcoming months. The railroad cross simulation will be coming up as well in a few months. Caltrans is supporting CalSTA in development of the program's first annual report to the legislature, which is due on January 15, 2024. The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Applications are due on January 18, 2024. In September, Caltrans submitted five applications to the Reconnecting Community and Neighborhood Grant Program, which are expected to be announced by USDOT in winter 2023. The Boulevard Pilot Program is a one-time state funded program that allocates \$149 million to Reconnecting Committees.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Status	Deadline
Post due dates related to the Bridge Investment Program (BIP)	Yatman Kwan	Completed	None

Action Item Response
• The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Large Bridge Project >\$100M Category was released 9/27/2023 for FYs 2023 through 2026. • Applications for FYs 2023 & 2024 funds (\$4.7B available) are due to USDOT by 11/27/2023. • Applications for FY 2025 funds (\$2.4B available) are due 8/1/2024. • Applications for FY 2026 funds (\$2.5B available) are due 8/1/2025. • A separate NOFO for Bridge Projects <\$100M and Planning categories is expected to be released in the coming months. • More information on the BIP can be found on the following website: Strategic Investment Planning Caltrans



Agenda Item #9: CFAC Member Roundtable

CFAC Member Roundtable Discussion:

Rachel Vandenberg, FuturePorts

Breakfast event on November 28th in Long Beach – will feature a retail supply chain update with John Gold of the National Retailers Federation to talk about their recently issued 2023 holiday spending forecast and what that means to the supply chain. The other event coming up is January 17th next year and will be a tour and presentation at the SoCal Gas and Hydrogen Home and Microgrid in Downey, California.

Rob Ball, Kern Council of Governments

The Co-Motion LA event is being held at the Japanese-American National Museum at Little Tokyo in LA, November 14-16. There is a workshop breakout at 1:50 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15 on an integrated ecosystem for freight movement in California. It will focus on solutions with blockchain and AI to get products from the inland areas of California to the ports of LA, Long Beach, and Oakland.

Agenda Item #10: Public Comment / Discussion

Public Comment / Discussion

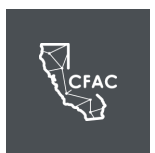
No public comments.

Agenda Item #11: Meeting Recap and Adjourn

Discussion: Yatman Kwan, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Transportation Planning

Action Items

- Follow-up on question about where to find previous research. - Complete; see Agenda Item #2.
- Will answer whether the primary highway freight system updates will automatically be included in the national freight network. - Complete; see Agenda Item #4.
- Post due dates related to the bridge investment program (BIP). - Complete; see Agenda Item #8.
- All our materials from this meeting will be posted within 14 days from today. - Complete.



California Freight Advisory Committee Meeting - Attendee List

Date: November 9, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Virtual-MS Teams

Name	Organization Name
Aaron Katzenstein	South Coast Air Quality Management District
A Rockwell	Blue Diamond Growers
Akiko Yamagami	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Alison Nealon	Caltrans
Amanda Fagan	Ventura County Transportation Commission
Angela Shepard	Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Annie Nam	Southern California Association of Governments
Antonio Johnson	Federal Highway Administration
Austin Sos	Caltrans
Barry Scott	Coastal Rail
Ben Raymond	Kern Council of Governments
Bin Wang	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Bryan Brandes	Port of Oakland
Caitlin Brooks	Ventura County Transportation Commission
Cam Oakes	Caltrans
Camilo Juarez	Caltrans
Chris Metzger	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Dan Sonke	Blue Diamond Growers
David Huff	Caltrans
David Libatique	Port of Los Angeles
David Moore	Caltrans
Don Peltier	Direct ChassisLink Leasing
Doreeen Morrissey	Caltrans
Elisabeth Hahn	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Fatemeh	Fehr & Peers
Frost, Tracey M@DOT	Caltrans
Giles Giovinazzi	California State Transportation Agency
Greg Nord	Orange County Transportation Authority
Hannah Walter	California Transportation Commission
Hayden Tallman	California Trucking Association
Hunter Owens	Caltrans
Jack Symington	Los Angeles Clean Incubator
Jacqueline Moore	Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

James Shankel	Caltrans
Javad Hadizadeh	San Francisco International Airport
Jennifer Duran	Caltrans
Joe Gagliano	Air Products
John McLaurin	Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Justin	Port of Los Angeles
Kalin Pacheco	Caltrans
Kaylie Schreihans	Caltrans
Kelly Eagan	Caltrans
Kelly McClendon	Caltrans
Kelsey Petti Kenneth	Caltrans
Kao	Bay Area Metro
Kerry Cartwright	Port of Los Angeles
Kristian Corby	California Electric Transportation Coalition
Yatman Kwan	Caltrans
Lale Tiejiao	Caltrans
Laura Hill	Bay Area Council
Laura Pennebaker	California Transportation Commission
Luke Tia	Caltrans
Maggie Schreiner	Caltrans
Mallorie Hayes	Blue Diamond Growers
Manuel Hurtado	Caltrans
Marc Perry	California Energy Commission
Margaret Park	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Mariela Rodriguez	San Diego Association of Governments
Marnie Primmer	Connected Consulting
Maura Twomey	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Mayra Jimon	Caltrans
Michael Cano	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Michael Kuker	Shasta Regional Transportation Agency
Michelle Stewart	Southern California Regional Rail Authority
Mike Jacob	Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Mike Leue	Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority
Mike O'Malley	DirectChassis Link Leasing
Natalia Ospina	Natural Resources Defense Council
Nick St Cook	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Nieves Castro	Caltrans

Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Rachel Vandenberg	Rheia Consulting / Future Ports
Riley Keller	Caltrans
Rob Ball	Kern Council of Governments
Roy Abboud	Caltrans
Ryan	Southern California Association of Governments
Sheldon Peterson	Riverside County Transportation Commission
Sheri Pemberton	California State Lands Commission
Sheridan Nansen	Caltrans
Sofia Rafikova	Coalition for Clean Air
Sohab Mehmood	Department of Housing and Community Development
Steve Schult	Blue Diamond Growers
Steve Smith	San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
Sudhir Lay	City of Long Beach
Theresa Dau-Ngo	Port of Long Beach
Treasure Acevedo	Caltrans
TreyLnd Bradley	Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Veronica Coleman	Caltrans