
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 24, 2020
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held via teleconference.

SCAG

Asuncion, John
Calderon, Karen
Luo, Rongsheng
McAlpine, Shannon

Via Teleconference

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bade, Rabindra | Caltrans, District 12 |
| Brugger, Ron | LSA Associates |
| Cooper, Keith | ICF |
| Huddleston, Lori | LA Metro |
| Kalandiyur, Nesamani | ARB |
| Lay, Keith | HDR Engineering |
| Lugaro, Julie | Caltrans, District 12 |
| Masters, Martha | RCTC |
| Miranda, Jude | Caltrans, District 12 |
| O'Connor, Karina | EPA Region 9 |
| Sanchez, Lucas | Caltrans Headquarters |
| Shankel, James | Caltrans, District 8 |
| Sun, Lijin | SCAQMD |
| Tavitas, Rodney | Caltrans Headquarters |
| Vaughn, Joseph | FHWA |
| Whiteaker, Warren | OCTA |
| Yoon, Andrew | Caltrans, District 7 |

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 24, 2020
Minutes**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

Martha Masters, TCWG Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 January 28, 2020 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG meeting.

3.2 February 25, 2020 TCWG Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were deferred to next TCWG meeting.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Proposed Final Connect SoCal was originally scheduled for adoption by Regional Council on April 2, 2020.
- Regional Council adoption had been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic with specific date to be determined.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, provided a status update on Transportation Conformity Analysis Technical Report for Proposed Final Connect SoCal:

- SCAG staff had completed Transportation Conformity Analysis Technical Report for Proposed Final Connect SoCal.
- Minor revisions and corrections had been made to texts and tables of Draft Transportation Conformity Analysis Technical Report, primarily in response to public comments received.
- Modeling assumptions and results, including those for Regional Emissions Analysis tables, had been updated throughout the Technical Report.
- In light of EPA's concurrence of ARB's EMFAC Off-Model Adjustment Factors, only one set of plan emission results with the adjustment factors to account for potential impact of SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 1 were included in the Technical Report.

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 24, 2020
Minutes**

- Conformity analysis continues to demonstrate that Proposed Final Connect SoCal meets all federal transportation conformity requirements.
- Transportation Conformity Analysis Technical Report would be released as part of Proposed Final Connect SoCal document in late April.
- Transportation Conformity Analysis would be presented as part of Proposed Final Connect SoCal to SCAG's Policy Committees for recommendation to Regional Council for adoption.
- Given delay of Regional Council's meeting due to COVID-19, SCAG staff would work with FHWA and FTA staff to enable an expedited federal review and approval process.
- It is important that final transportation conformity determination will receive federal approval either before SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 2 becomes effective or by June 1, 2020, whichever is earlier.

In response to a question, Mr. Luo stated that SCAG needed federal approval by June 1, 2020 because current regional conformity determination for SCAG region will expire on that day.

4.2 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2019 FTIP Administrative Modification #19-18 was expected to be released week of March 30, 2020.
- SCAG staff was working on 2021 FTIP but anticipated delay. SCAG staff was consulting with Caltrans, FHWA, and other MPOs to determine nature and length of delay.

In response to questions, Mr. Asuncion noted that there was an option to not update FTIP until 2023 but most groups still wanted to move forward with 2021 FTIP; However, draft state legislation would give SCAG flexibility of updating FTIP every two, three, or four years.

4.3 EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA Region 9, reported the following:

- EPA received a letter from FHWA and FTA on March 2, 2020 asking about continued use of EMFAC 2014 and EMFAC2017 in light of SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 1. In a response letter on March 12, 2020, EPA indicated that EMFAC 2014 and EMFAC2017 were appropriate for use and ARB's EMFAC off-model adjustment factors could be used in transportation conformity and SIP applications in California.

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 24, 2020
Minutes**

- EPA received a letter from ARB on March 5, 2020 with EMFAC off-model adjustment factors to account for SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 1. In a response letter on March 12, 2020, EPA indicated that the adjustment factors were acceptable for transportation conformity and SIP purposes in California.
- No new updates on SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 2.
- EPA's final approval of Imperial County 2008 8-hour Ozone Standard SIP was published February 27, 2020 and would become effective March 30, 2020.
- EPA was likely to take next action on Imperial County PM₁₀ plan.
- EPA's final approval of Ventura County 2008 8-hour Ozone Standard SIP was published February 27, 2020 and would become effective March 30, 2020.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, and Martha Masters, TCWG Chair, acknowledged and thanked EPA staff for their prompt response to both FHWA/FTA and ARB letters.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor, EPA Region 9, and Joseph Vaughn, FHWA, confirmed that despite teleworking due to Covid-19, there would not be a significant impact on their respective review of Proposed Final Connect SoCal if SCAG staff requested an expedited review.

4.4 ARB Update

Nesamani Kalandiyur, ARB, reported the following:

- No new updates on SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 2.
- ARB staff was developing base year emissions inventory for 2015 8-hour ozone standard SIPs and planned to take base year emissions inventory to ARB Board in June 2020.
- ARB staff was also performing VMT offset analysis and planned to share analysis results at next TCWG meeting.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, and Martha Masters, TCWG Chair, acknowledged and thanked ARB staff for submitting EMFAC off-model adjustment factors to EPA.

4.5 Air Districts Update

Lijin Sun, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD staff was planning next AQMP Advisory Group Meeting on development of 2022 AQMP to primarily address 2015 8-hour ozone standard.
- SCAQMD staff planned to present Draft Reasonably Available Control Technology analysis, 2017 base year emissions inventory, and VMT offset determination, all due to EPA by August 2020.

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 24, 2020
Minutes**

- SCAQMD staff would also provide update on development schedule for 2022 AQMP and Coachella Valley ‘Extreme’ nonattainment area SIP under 1997 8-hour ozone standard.

In response to a question, Ms. Sun noted that meeting date for next AQMP Advisory Working Group was unknown due to current teleworking situation and she would follow up with AQMP team on exact meeting date.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

In response to a question, Joseph Vaughn, FHWA, confirmed that FHWA and FTA had resumed both new regional and project-level transportation conformity determinations.

In response to a question, Mr. Vaughn, FHWA, and Karina O’Connor, EPA Region 9, confirmed that they would be open to having meetings if needed to help review and approval of SCAG’s Connect SoCal.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am. The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, via Zoom meeting and teleconference.