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**Subject:** SBCAG Comments on March 25 CTC Meeting Items  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 8:11:19 AM

**EXTERNAL EMAIL.** Links/attachments may not be safe.

Dear Commissioners and CTC staff,

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) would like to submit comments on the following items on the March 25 CTC agenda:

Tab	Item Description	SBCAG Comment
11	Adoption of 2020 STIP	SBCAG strongly supports adoption of the 2020 STIP and we would like to thank CTC staff for their great work.
15	Hearing on 2021 ATP Guidelines	SBCAG strongly supports adoption of the ATP guidelines and we would like to thank CTC staff for their great work.
18	Hearing on 2020 LPP Guidelines	SBCAG strongly supports adoption of the LPP guidelines and we would like to thank CTC staff for their great work.
21	Adoption of TCEP Guidelines	SBCAG strongly supports adoption of the TCEP guidelines and we would like to thank CTC staff for their great work.
99	Allocation for U.S 101	SBCAG and Caltrans greatly appreciate the continued investment and support of the CTC with the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor. With this allocation of Phase 4A, SBCAG and Caltrans will be able to start construction in April to continue the progress in our corridor and support the State's economy.

We appreciate all your great work during this difficult time.

Please contact Sarkes Khachek, SBCAG Director of Programming if you have any questions at 805-961-8913 or [skhachek@sbcag.org](mailto:skhachek@sbcag.org).

Regards,  
Sarkes

**Sarkes M. Khachek**  
 Director of Programming

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March 23, 2020

*Scott Haggerty, Chair*  
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*Alfredo Pedroza, Vice Chair*  
Napa County and Cities

*Jeannie Bruins*  
Cities of Santa Clara County

*Damon Connolly*  
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*Dorene M. Giacopini*  
U.S. Department of Transportation

*Federal D. Glover*  
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*Anne W. Halsted*  
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and Development Commission

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San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

*Sam Liccardo*  
San Jose Mayor's Appointee

*Jake Mackenzie*  
Sonoma County and Cities

*Gina Papan*  
Cities of San Mateo County

*David Rabbitt*  
Association of Bay Area Governments

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City and County of San Francisco

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Oakland Mayor's Appointee

*Warren Stocum*  
San Mateo County

*James P. Spering*  
Solano County and Cities

*James Stracner*  
U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

*Tony Tavares*  
California State  
Transportation Agency

*Amy R. Worth*  
Cities of Contra Costa County

*Therese W. McMillan*  
Executive Director

*Alix Bockelman*  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

*Andrew B. Fremier*  
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

*Brad Paul*  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Local Government Services

## SUBJECT: MARCH 2020 CTC MEETING: BAY AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Commissioners Alvarado and Guardino:

In anticipation of the March 2020 CTC meeting, I would like to bring to your attention a few upcoming items on the agenda that are of importance to the Bay Area.

### Policy Issues

#### **2020 State Transportation Improvement Program Adoption (Tabs #11-12)**

This month, the CTC will consider adopting the 2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). MTC adopted and submitted the final 2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to Commission staff in December 2019. The 2020 STIP includes about \$120 million in new transportation funding for the Bay Area. Projects proposed to receive STIP funds include bus and rail projects in Alameda and San Francisco Counties, and highway projects supporting proposed Senate Bill 1 (SB1) competitive programs in Napa, Santa Clara, and Solano Counties. MTC supports the staff recommendations and we look forward to working with the state to deliver these critical transportation improvements.

#### **SB1 Competitive Program Guidelines (Tabs #15-21)**

This month, the CTC will consider adopting the final guidelines for multiple Senate Bill 1 competitive programs and other programs receiving SB1 money. Considering the substantial impacts caused by COVID-19 and subsequent emergency shelter-in-place directives, MTC strongly encourages CTC to delay application due dates for all competitive programs due this year. A delay recognizes the extraordinary circumstances the state faces, and that it is not “business as usual” for policy boards and commissions, consultants, contractors, and Caltrans. Providing additional time to prepare and submit applications at the March meeting will give applicants more confidence in meeting application deadlines during this uncertain time.

- 2021 Active Transportation Program Final Guidelines (Tab 15-17). MTC staff appreciates the work CTC staff has put into the ATP guideline development, including holding a “central” workshop in San Jose on February 19. MTC supports the inclusion of a “quick build” pilot program and adding the Healthy Places Index as a metric to define disadvantaged communities (DACs), while keeping the regional DAC definition in the “Other” category. The MTC Commission adopted the regional ATP guidelines in February, and these guidelines are included as Tab 17 for CTC approval.
- 2020 Local Partnership Program Final Guidelines (Tabs 18-19). Similar to our comments last month on the Solutions for Congested Corridor Program Guidelines, MTC supports flexibility in the program guidelines, especially as it relates to the unknown impacts of Part 2 of the federal SAFE Vehicle Rule.
- 2020 Trade Corridors Enhancement Program Final Guidelines (Tab 21). MTC appreciates the return to the prior corridor targets, and looks forward to working with Commission staff to update the corridor target figures for the 2023 Program. MTC suggests finding creative solutions to expand funding eligibility for on-port sustainability projects, which are currently not eligible for state TCEP funds.

### Other Items of Regional Interest

Other items on your agenda related to regional projects are detailed below:

- Tabs #13-14: Final 2019 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Program of Projects. After MTC staff raised concerns about the draft program at the January CTC meeting, Caltrans released an updated list that resolved most of the discrepancies the region identified. MTC thanks CTC and Caltrans staff for actively listening to our concerns, and are working towards a comprehensive approach to prevent future oversights and improve the program statewide.
- Tab #22: Draft Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program Guidelines. The region provided early feedback on the development of the draft guidelines, and will continue to work with Commission staff on its development in the coming months. Since the program involves short-line railroads unaccustomed to state processes, MTC recommends additional project delivery flexibility and Caltrans engineering and environmental support for this program.
- Tabs #114-116: 2020 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). MTC joins CTC in our concern that the draft 2020 SHOPP was not been released to the regions for review and input until late January. MTC staff orally relayed our support for funding resiliency and complete streets projects in the SHOPP to Caltrans staff on a conference call held on February 12.

**Allocation and Extension Requests.** MTC supports the following requests, and supports CTC staff's recommendation to provide 12 months to award a contract following allocation.

- Tab #90: STIP Allocation. The Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) requests allocation of STIP funds for the design of the SR-12/29/221 Soscol Junction project.
- Tab #94: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Allocation. The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) requests allocation of TIRCP funds for the Solano Regional Transit Improvements project.
- Tab #81: ATP Allocations. The region requests allocation of two ATP-funded projects in Alameda County and the City of Richmond (Contra Costa County).
- Tabs #102, 103, 107, 109, and 110. The region has two allocation extensions, one award extension, one project completion extension, and one expenditure extension on this month's agenda. The region understands staff will re-agendize or defer these extension requests pending further evaluation of impacts due to COVID-19. Staff supports CTC's proposed approach.

I appreciate your attention to these important items, and look forward to seeing you on our computer screens this Wednesday. If you have any questions before the meeting, please feel free to call me at (415) 778-5242.

Best regards,



Ross McKeown  
Acting Director, Programming and Allocations

cc: Mitchell Weiss, CTC Executive Director

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