

# 2024 Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines Update

July 12, 2023 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm

CALIFORNIA  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION



# **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Tanisha Taylor | Executive Director, California Transportation Commission**

# Overview

**Brigitte Driller | Associate Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission**

# Overview and Purpose of the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines

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- Identify the federal and state requirements and statutes impacting the development of Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs)
- Facilitate the efficient development and implementation of transportation projects
- Promote an integrated, statewide, multimodal planning process
- Provide resources, tools, and examples

# RTP Guidelines Sections

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – RTP Process
- Chapter 3 – RTP Analysis and Modeling (Regional Travel Demand Modeling)
- Chapter 4 – RTP Consultation and Coordination (Equity and Engagement)
- Chapter 5 – RTP Environmental Considerations (CEQA, NEPA, Natural Resources considerations)

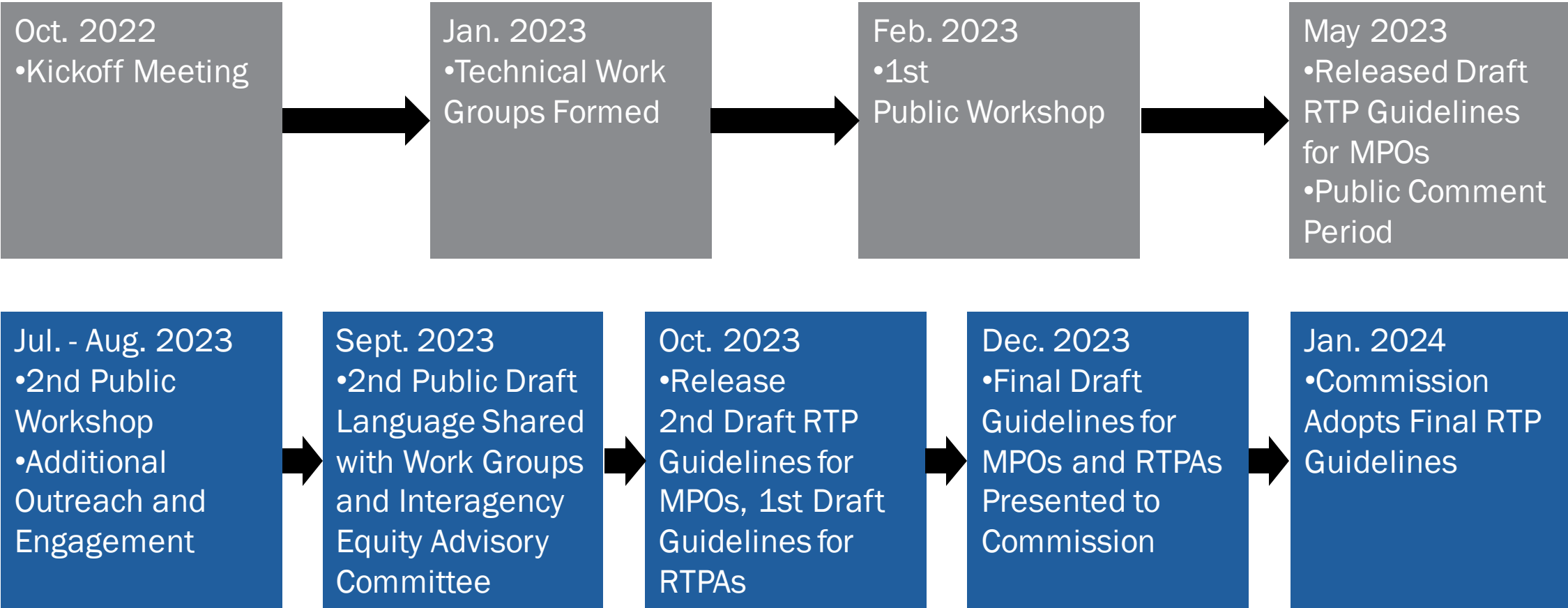


## RTP Guidelines Sections (Cont.)

- Chapter 6 – RTP Contents (Modal Considerations, Projects & Financial Information, SCS, Safety, Asset Mgt, etc.)
- Chapter 7 – Transportation Performance Management (mainly federal requirements)
- Appendices – Resources, Tools, Planning Practice Examples etc.



# Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines Update Timeline



# First Draft RTP Guidelines for MPOs – May 2023

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## Summary of Changes

- The first draft of the RTP Guidelines for MPOs focused on updates to:
  - Incorporate changes in legislation
  - Streamline language
  - Update references
- Worked with Caltrans Subject Matter Experts to update the following sections:
  - Smart Mobility
  - Corridor Planning
  - Aeronautics
  - Climate Adaptation
  - Performance Management



# Comments Received to Date

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- We have received comments from 30+ organizations, including:
  - State agencies
  - Metropolitan Planning Organizations
  - Regional Transportation Planning Agencies
  - Advocacy organizations representing disability rights, environmental, and multimodal interests
- Comments are provided on Caltrans' RTP Guidelines Update webpage

# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

Mayra Jimon | Associate Transportation Planner, Office of Regional and Community Planning, Caltrans

# Technical Work Groups

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- Equity, Engagement, and Health
- Housing
- Greenhouse Gas / Sustainable Communities Strategies (GHG/SCS)
- Environmental
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Modeling
- Transportation Performance Management (TPM)
- Freight and Economic Development

# Equity, Engagement, and Health

Carolyn Abrams - Acting Race and Equity Program Manager,  
Caltrans



## Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

### *Equity, Engagement, and Health*

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- Updated federal requirements that pertain to Title VI and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Expanded the glossary of terms (Appendix D) to incorporate key equity and transportation planning concepts that pertain to the RTP guidelines (e.g., social determinants of health, disadvantaged community, priority populations).

## Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

### *Equity, Engagement, and Health (Cont.)*

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- Strengthened the social equity considerations for the RTPs by incorporating strategies to proactively engage underserved communities in the planning process, including reference to available tools that support the analysis of social equity factors.
- Provided tangible examples of how MPOs have successfully promoted health and health equity in their RTPs as a valuable reference for others.

# Housing

Maurice Eaton – Acting Chief, Office of Housing and Homelessness  
Solutions, Caltrans



# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Housing*

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- Per the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL/IIJA), MPOs may develop a housing coordination plan that includes projects and strategies that may be considered in the RTP; this is not a requirement and has been incorporated as a “*should*” in the guidelines.
- Feedback received from the Housing Workgroup members related to the topic of clarifying how the Housing Coordination Plan differs from land-use scenarios already included in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) will be incorporated.



## Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

### *Housing (Cont.)*

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- Clarification on how the housing coordination plan should or should not align with the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) will be added.
- The Housing Workgroup encourages MPOs with a good planning practice to provide that example to Caltrans for inclusion the best practices appendix of the RTP Guidelines.

# Greenhouse Gases, Sustainable Communities Strategies, and Environmental

Brenda Powell-Jones - Senior Climate Change Policy Advisor,  
Caltrans



## Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion *GHG/Sustainable Communities Strategies*

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- Throughout the Guidelines document language added to strengthen the connection to transportation planning and vehicle miles traveled (VMT)/ GHG reductions.
- Language added to strengthen the connection of the RTP to the 2022 Scoping Plan with language outlining goals and requirements.
- Additional information included to clarify the planning process as related to SB 375 statute.
- New section added to Chapter 6 for Identifying SCS Supportive Actions and Monitoring of Implementation.

# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Environmental*

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- Updated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) references
- Added Section to 5.4 (Key Resources Areas for Avoidance and Minimization) for Environmental Justice and Equity Considerations
- Added VMT and Induced Travel information
- Feedback has been received to ensure that future Environmental Documents meet the requirements for future tiering for topics such as transportation (VMT) impacts.

# Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Leah Fisher – Chief, Office of Air Quality and Climate Change,  
Caltrans



# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Adaptation*

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- Adopted updated Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) definition of “climate adaptation”
- Updated key legislation, including AB 1482, SB 379, and SB 1035
- Added section on the new Federal PROTECT Program and related trailer bill SB 198

# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Adaptation (Cont.)*

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- Added section on key Guidance and Tools
  - Highlights the Adaptation Planning Guide and leading tools for implementation
  - Recommends alignment with state policy and local hazard mitigation plans
- Added section on Coastal Planning and Permitting

# Modeling

Scott Sauer – Chief, Office of Data Analytics Services, Caltrans





# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Modeling*

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- We incorporated many comments that improved the existing guidelines
- We added links to external resources that will provide additional guidance and tools for modeling and analysis activities
- We received input on modeling activities that we don't expect to include in this version of the guidelines because either the tools are not ready or the data not fully available, but they will be discussed at upcoming modeling forums and considered for future updates

# Transportation Performance Management

Ryan Greenway – Assistant Federal Liaison, Caltrans



# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Transportation Performance Management*

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- Added additional language/resources for development of investment priorities and planning linkages across Performance-Based Planning Activities.
- Section 7.1 - Federal Performance Goals and Measures
  - Updated to include additional language/resources that the planning process provide for the establishment and use of a performance-based approach to transportation decision-making.

## Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

### *Transportation Performance Management (Cont.)*

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- Section 7.2 - Federal Performance-Based Approach and RTP Requirements
  - Updated to include additional language/resources for MPOs on federally required performance-based elements (e.g., performance measures and targets).
  - Explanation on what is expected within a RTP document and guidance on what a system performance report should cover was also included.
- There was a strong need for Caltrans to work with MPOs to ensure projects are performance-driven, outcome-based program that provides for a greater transparency and accountability, improved project decision-making, and more efficient investment of Federal transportation funds that achieve required outcomes. Updated to include additional language/resources.

# Freight and Economic Development

Camilo Juarez – Transportation Planner, Office of Strategic  
Freight Planning, Caltrans



# Technical Work Group Updates and Discussion

## *Freight and Economic Development*

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### Section 4.5 – Private Sector Involvement

- Add language to identify utility owners as a stakeholder in Zero Emission Vehicle Engagement.

### Section 6.12 – Goods Movement

- Add language stating that goods movement is part of interstate commerce, intrastate commerce, and international commerce, facilitated through points of entry such as Ports and Inland Ports.
- Add language identifying Native American tribal governments and tribal community leaders as stakeholders in the planning of a multimodal transportation system.
- Add 2023 California Freight Mobility Plan website link.

# Planning Practice Examples

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- Planning practice examples are provided in the appendices
- Work Group leads continue to solicit for new examples
- In particular, we are seeking planning practice examples for the following topics:
  - Housing coordination
  - Transportation performance management
  - Rural examples (all areas)

# Regional Transportation Planning Agency Guidelines Update and Opportunities for Engagement

Brigitte Driller | Associate Deputy Director, California  
Transportation Commission





# RTPA Guidelines Update

- The draft 2024 RTP Guidelines for Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are anticipated to be released in October
- There will be fewer updates compared to the MPO version
- We are scheduling a standalone meeting with the Rural Counties Task Force, likely in August



# Wrap-up and Next Steps

Frances Dea-Sanchez | Associate Deputy Director, California  
Transportation Commission



# How to Get or Stay Involved

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1. Join a workgroup. Visit the Caltrans' RTP Guidelines Webpage
2. Contact Caltrans or CTC on the 2024 RTP Guidelines Update: [rtpguidelines@dot.ca.gov](mailto:rtpguidelines@dot.ca.gov)

# Thank You

[RTPGuidelines@dot.ca.gov](mailto:RTPGuidelines@dot.ca.gov)

