

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Implementation Local Hire/Contracting Sub Working Group, Meeting 2 Notes

June 20, 2022 | 9:00 am – 10:00 am

(SWG Leads: David DeLuz, Erin Holbrook, Ray Tritt, Caltrans)

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Agenda overview:
 - Sub-Working Group Updates
 - Survey Results
 - Workforce Development
 - Next Steps & Close Meeting

Sub-Working Group Updates

- Action plan now due by October 31, 2022, to be rolled up and packaged for CalSTA by November 2022.
- Our goal is to complete the first draft by 9/15/22.
- The scope has been modifying to include workforce development.
- Monthly subgroup meetings starting in July.
- After speaking with other IIJA SWG leads – we have found that overall workforce issue is not being addressed across the different IIJA groups within Caltrans.
- Our concern is that this critical element is being overlooked across the wider IIJA implementation.
- One of the main talking points within our work has been focused on the available workforce for the highway programs.
- Building out this workforce is one of the most important aspects we have been discussing for our future.
- Building out a workforce in general and that represents all of California.
- There is still a lot of work being done at the federal level as far as implementation language around elements of IIJA; planning and decisions are still being made.
- I would like to have a conversation about workforce development with this group on incorporating the issue of workforce development into our scope.
- I would also like to get acceptance of our cadence from the members – set for monthly meeting cadence.

- Monthly meetings will allow us to get conduct committee work if needed and complete the action plan by October,

Desired Outcomes and Scope of SWG

- Our main goal is to obtain a net increase in the number and diversity of people being hired for construction related careers across California.
- Most local hire projects are intended to ensure the workforce working on projects reflects the local community.
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- Develop inventory of best practices, strategies, and next steps to be included in the IJA Action Plan.
- Address the alternative delivery strategies that can be used to meet small, disabled veteran, and DBE enterprise goals.
- Recommendations for programmatic best practices, strategies that address:
 - Impact of local hire/contracting ordinances
 - Alternative delivery strategies
 - Training and workforce development (expansion of SWG scope) *

Group Engagement: Survey Results

- Local Hire/Contracting IJA Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZFX9RZ>
- First survey received only 12% response rate.
- Another iteration of survey will be sent out to members to help gather more data around local hire and workforce development issues.
- SWG members suggest taking the survey to different venues i.e., town halls, California League of Cities.
- <https://www.calcities.org/education-and-events/event/2023/03/08/default-calendar/public-works-officers-institute>
- Working group members offered suggestions on how to increase the level of participation from stakeholders.

Erasmus, Sequoia

- Suggestions: organize an outreach team, provide incentives for survey completion, this method for completing the survey during the meeting was good
- Utilize community level social media networks established through organizations and elected officials
- Send the survey through text message to stakeholders

David DeLuz, Caltrans

- We are going to take this information back and work to send this survey out to more stakeholders.
- Additionally, we will compile the survey results and comments after we have received a more complete response; a summary of survey results will be provided to SWG members in future meetings.

Pia Veesapen

- Maybe need to evaluate the list of survey recipients. This is the first time I've seen the survey at OCTA.

Group Discussion: Workforce Development

David DeLuz, Caltrans

- Local Hire and Workforce Development
Making recommendations on how to prepare the workforce for the future
 - Example: there is an element in the transition plan for Zero-Emissions Vehicles
- Currently the ZEV group is in the process of developing a workforce development plan for the ZEV portion of the IJA implementation.

Jatkar Shrayas

- The training and the hiring should all be connected. I think this makes sense and I will bring up to our director and partners today.
- Workforce all across the board – everything related to workforce needs to be addressed but not all partners work with all levels of workforce.
- Here at the state workforce board. Equity, Job quality, and Climate.
- Middle skills occupations – require more than H.S diploma but less than a degree; these are the types of careers that are our main focus when we think of workforce development.
- Areas we focus on – if we're looking at things like planners or engineers anything that requires a college degree, we are not looking at those within our scope.
- We have multiple programs that related and other training programs but just wanted to make it clear that we do not cover everything.

Michael Harrodson, Air Resources Board

- What type of strategies are we thinking about with this expanded scope?

- Are we aligning with other CA programs and supporting other IJJA programs?
 - For example: are we trying to prepare a workforce for programs that will be operating under IJJA or is it better to align with other California programs as well?

Answer:

- Yes, I think this is something we want to gather confirmation from the group on; whether or not we would like to add “workforce development” to our scope.

Should the IJJA Local Hire/Contracting SWG add Workforce Development to its Scope?

- SWG members were asked whether or not the Local Hire Scope should be expanded to include workforce development?
 - 8 of the 15 meeting participants indicated yes, they agree to add workforce development to the scope.
 - Another member indicated they would like to check back with their directors and others before agreeing to add workforce development.
 - No additional responses were provided in the chat.

Next steps and Close Meeting

- Internal meeting – to take some input and figure out best way to disseminate the survey and find a date.
- If you approve Workforce development being added to the scope of our SWG please type yes or no in the chat.