

Gavin Newsom
Governor

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Toks Omishakin
Secretary

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES – September 12, 2022

Start Time: 09:00 am

End Time: 10:00 am

Attendees: IIJA Contact Group

INTRODUCTION:

- Opening remarks from CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin
 - Secretary Omishakin acknowledged the contribution everyone has made to IIJA, specifically Caltrans leadership, Sub-Working Group members and CalSTA.
 - Complemented Caltrans leadership for moving IIJA forward and tracking its progress for almost a year.
 - Historical alignment with local, state, and federal goals on where we want to take transportation in the State of California.
 - [IIJA funding by the numbers:](#)
 - \$8 billion in formula and discretionary money to California.
 - \$1.3 billion for construction with 17 thousand jobs added or maintained.
 - \$120 million in RAISE Grants.
 - \$206 million in FTA Low- and No- Emission Grants.
 - \$31 million in Bus Facilities Grants.
 - LA Metro received \$104 million to purchase 160 new battery electric buses and charging stations.
 - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Federal funding – \$12 billion to transportation.
 - Neighborhood Access and Equity Programs - \$3.2 billion
 - Highways to Boulevard Program
 - Reconnecting Communities Program
 - \$3 billion in EPA rebates and grants
 - \$1 billion for clean heavy-duty vehicles is also part of IRA.
 - There is a lot of overlap with IRA and IIJA – California will fair very well to secure this funding because of the prior work of the current administration to support our ports across the State.
 - \$2 billion on FHWA to support low carbon construction materials.
 - Overall, we have been successful to draw down competitive funding and we will continue to work on the federal formula funding as we have been.
 - Last month Governor Newsom announced the appointment of Antonio Villaraigosa to be the State’s Infrastructure Advisor. Villaraigosa has proven leadership in implementing complex policy and initiatives.
 - There will be a conscious effort to showcase IIJA and communicate our successes.
 - Expect announcements from the Governor and myself on how we are implementing IIJA across the board.

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- Opening remarks from Caltrans Director Tony Tavares
 - Director Tavares extended appreciation and gratitude to the hard work, partnership, and collaboration that has driven the IIJA implementation.
 - Caltrans stands ready with you and all of our partners to plan and deliver an equitable, safe, and sustainable program of projects that addresses the transportation needs of the State.
- Opening remarks from Elissa Konove, FHWA California Deputy Administrator
 - NEVI Plan approval is underway and currently working with headquarters to finalize the reviews. Expect them to be completed in the coming weeks.
 - [Federal Registry Notice](#) released on Buy-America Waiver that phases in Buy-America for charging infrastructure - comments due September 30.
 - New program guidance and factsheets were posted to the IIJA FHWA [website](#).
 - PROTECT \$631 million in formula funding.
 - Federal Register Notice of Proposed Rulemaking DBE – extended to October 31.
 - California received \$681 million in “August Redistribution” funding that divides unspent federal transportation funds among states each year.

SUB-WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

Ryan Greenway (CalTrans Assistant Federal Liaison) for Nicole Longoria (CalTrans Federal Liaison)

- The sub-working groups continue to make progress.
- **Transit/Commuter Rail and Intercity Rail** – Meeting scheduled with Taskforce for September 16, 2022 to finalize the Action Plan. Once review is complete, the sub-working group will distribute the Action Plans to both sub-working groups. **Next combined meeting (#7) will be September 29.** Meeting #7 Topics:
 - RAISE
 - Low or No Applications
 - CRISI Funding
 - Upcoming NOFOs
 - State-Federal Partnership program
- **Tribal Government/Equity** – Meeting TBD in October 2022. Will focus on alignment with IIJA and State efforts around equity. Equity Principles document is in progress and will be sent to all internal sub-working groups. Equity Listening Sessions Final Report will be released at the end of September 2022. Additional focus on bus routes within priority populations.
- No other sub-working group teams provided any updates.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Jimmy O’Dea (CalTrans) mentioned that they conducted a successful National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (NEVI) workshop with the Interview Commission to develop the solicitation for funding to be distributed. Timeline for application release is Q1 2023. There will be a staggered release of the funding over 2023-24. Workshop was successful in developing application process. Buy-America and EV Chargers – submitting comments by the end of the month.

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- Barbra Rooney (CA OTS) mentioned that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) informed them of what to expect to see in their Notice of Approved Rulemaking for the IIJA Behavior Safety programs - comments expected by September 14.
- Michael Harroldson (ARB) asked if there will be a working group to address the overlap of IRA and IIJA. Secretary Omishakin responded. It would be a great idea to identify overlap areas and address funding packages.
- Eli Lipmen (Move LA) was excited to see that 35% of the funding is going to public transportation and asked if there was an effort to break down funding areas by maps and overlap categories of funding with the Justice40 program. Secretary Omishakin responded. To obtain grants we must show how equity is being addressed. Once the dollars come in, we can show where the funding is going, and which communities are benefiting.
- Eli Lipmen (Move LA) asked if there is a sub-working group that focuses on Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods. Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans) responded. The deadline for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood programs is coming up quickly, so the Planning Team has had a solicitation process online for people to send us ideas and requests to partner with Caltrans on their applications. Not all discussions happening in a program-specific working group, but the Equity sub-working group has been focusing on these types of new programs. We encourage all participation and feedback, so please reach out.
- Hannah Creger (Greenlining Institute) inquired if CalTrans has plans to bolster funding around technical assistance and capacity to make sure underserved communities are able to receive and implement IIJA Programs. Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans) responded. Many new programs and the focus of most of them is making sure disadvantaged communities in California benefit from IIJA funding. Challenge for Caltrans right now is getting the new programs stood up and trying to balance the available technical assistance (TA). CalTrans welcomes your ideas and support to help these communities, especially the ones not used to work with federal dollars. Momoko Tamaoki (CalTrans) also responded. TA for NOFOs. Each transit agency must have a Transition Plan to zero emission. It is hard for small rural agencies to achieve the Transition Plan, so CalTrans has been focusing on providing assistance on how to develop these plans.
- Michael Harroldson asked if the evaluation criteria in the Equity Principles Document will look at other criteria than location. Amar Cid (CalTrans) responded. The Document coordinates efforts that are already out there and have been successful we can use to make sure we are benefitting priority populations. Focuses on best practices. Looking at special data but also need to ensure they are actually benefiting those communities.
- Hannah Creger (Greenlining Institute) asked if there is room to add qualitative information into the criteria of the principles document. Amar Cid (CalTrans) responded. There is room to include all insights and suggestions from our working groups. Suggested Hannah follow-up via email.
- Zeenat Hassan (Disabilities Right CA) asked what the mechanism is to ensure that these projects will be accessible to people with disabilities. Ryan Greenway (CalTrans) responded. No one on the call to provide a response. CalTrans will take this question as an action item and follow-up.
- No further questions/inquires raised.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Ryan, Nicole, and Giles to follow-up with participants
- A copy of this memo and all slide decks will be posted on the CalSTA IIJA website
- The next meeting will take place on Friday, October 28

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- For any further questions, please email ryan.greenway@dot.ca.gov or nicole.longoria@dot.ca.gov