North State Super Region Meeting
10/25/12 ~ Eureka, CA ~ 9 am to 2 pm

Welcome from Tamera Leighton and introductions.

Those present include:

Jan Bulinski, SRTA	Robert Holmlund, GHD
Dan Wayne, SRTA	Louise Bedsworth, OP&R
Barbara O'Keeffe, TCTC	Loretta Ellard, MCOG
David Hull, DHA Eureka	Marcella Clem, HCAOG
Tom Mattson, Humboldt Co.	Tamera Leighton, DNLTC
Rex Jackman, Caltrans	Lisa Davey-Bates, LCAPC
Kevin Caldwell, Rio Dell	Chris Willeges, System Metrics Group
Debbie Egger, HCAOG	Nick Angeloff, BL Rancheria
Siana Watts, HCAOG	Loren Norton, Hoopa
Susan Mott, Hoopa	Jim Bell, Colusa
Charlie Fielder, Caltrans	

Those on the phone were:

Dan Little, SRTA	Rick Tippett, TCTC
Gary Antone, TCTC	Dan Landon, NCTC
Mike Woodman, NCTC	Jim Graham, Plumas
John Linhart, GCTC	

MAP-21

Committees have been established to discuss this 2-year bill. The main topics discussed were how the RSTP, HSIP, HR3 were to be appropriated. While the two-year timeframe is short, the groundwork will be laid for the next authorization as well as potential future extensions. It is essential to have a flexible spending policy that recognizes the needs of the NSSR, with its comparatively small population. Equity is a problem when taking statewide programs and putting them it into a population-based formula.

Action Item:

The Super Region will propose a draft letter that focuses on the on the 13/14 FY allocation. There will be no discussions of the 12/13 FY or the HR3 set-aside, which has already been decided.

HSIP project awards have been released. Five north state counties were awarded projects. The MAP-21 HSIP committee hasn't met yet. At this week's RTPA meeting, Denix announced the cycle 5 safety projects; $110 million was distributed, 278 applications total were received, and 221 projects were funded. Denix stated that 25% of the funds went to rural "areas" but he did not know if this was rural RTPAs, which is a large part of the North State Super Region area. More information is needed from the Division of Local Assistance to help determine if distribution is equitable to rural regions.

The cost-benefit ratio methodology is working for some, but spot location projects are not getting funded because the guidelines and cost-benefit ratio focus on corridor projects. It is the same funding as before, it's just more competitive now. Many rural RTPAs no longer meet the minimum cost-benefit criteria in the way that it's currently written; therefore they have stopped submitting project applications due to severe time constraints and the fruitless outcomes.

The NSSR should weigh in on the issues of equitable allocation for MAP 21 when a consensus is reached. There are several NSSR members on the committees for MAP 21 which is helpful, but in addition to this the following action is suggested:

Action items:

1. The NSSR needs to develop a consensus statement,
2. Send the Super Region consensus statement to legislators,
3. Include a request to see the schedule and copy of legislation that is currently being developed, and
4. Send a letter to Malcolm and Bimla outlining the NSSR consensus statement, including a request for solutions.

If the CTC is sponsoring legislation, consider contacting Steven Mahler.

Tom Mattson described CSAC's idea of a 15% minimum revenue guarantee for rural counties based on old FAS calculations. Remember that SRTS has a minimum million dollar guarantee that works. If SRTS is calculated using the RSTP calculation principles, rural areas then compete with urban areas.

Action items:

1. Send information to Denix Anbiah about consensus on a minimum guarantee principle for rural areas.
2. Initiate a conference call between NSSR and RCTF, and move fast on this.
3. After the conference call, draft a letter (Tamera) for Sharon Scherzinger of RCTF, so she can run it past the RCTF group.
4. Define 5 or so topics that are most important and take action, including:
   - A 15% minimum revenue guarantee for RSTP, HSIP, and TA programs.
   - Consider including the Central Coast Coalition,
   - Consider that the STIP formula is inequitable, and the greater weight should be give for highway miles.
   - On-system bridges should be eligible for toll credits.

It was noted that Rachel Falsetti stated that Caltrans may not be able to do the exchange program anymore due to lack of state cash. It was proposed that only with a 15% reduction (a 15% laundry fee of sorts) an exchange could be viable. There were many questions regarding the equity of this suggestion including the administrative burden of federalizing so many small projects.

Action items:

    1. Mike Woodman and Dan Little will draft an RSTP letter,
    2. Marcella will submit a TA program letter,
    3. HSIP will remain status quo at 15% to rural regions, Rick Tippett and Tom Mattson
        will draft a letter.

Environmental Goals and Policy – Louise Bedsworth

1978: An Urban Strategy for California

Policies for urban areas do not respect the values of rural areas. There aren't enough people to bring these values to the table. Louise should use the NSSR to distribute information. We can join Louise's e-list. The RCTF is also a good source of information.

North State Economic Development Study

The NSSR received a progress update on the Study and a discussion ensued regarding the selection of 200 key projects.

- Tamera – system preservation is tops
- Rick – SR299 STAA improvements tops
- Barbara – SR99 safety is tops
- Lisa – Lake County has capacity needs that are safety related
- The state highway as a main street is a common theme among the rural areas
- Off system needs should be considered
- Only 9 of 16 NSSR counties have a travel demand model.

Geographic look at Funding

Focused on Caltrans planning grants, but the presentation demonstrated the powerful tools available for mapping equitable distribution. There were several comments regarding the usefulness of this tool for NSSR issues and communication.

Next NSSR meeting April 18, 2013

Suggested Agenda Items

1. Satellite Call Boxes – Mendocino County.
2. Exchange funds – Discuss how the exchange is evolving and suggest ways to expand rather than eliminate the program.