

North State Super Region  
May 18, 2012, 9 am to noon  
Caltrans Building 1120 N Street, room 2116

Present were: Dan Little (phone), Jim Bell, Cynthia Raschein (phone), Melissa Cummins (phone, Sean Harrasser, Adam Hansen, Jeff Farley, Tamera Leighton, Phil Dow, Rick Tippett, Brian Davie(phone), Lisa Davey-Bates, Jerry Barton, Sharon Scherzinger, Dan Wayne, Bill Sandoval, Marcella Clem; Mardy Thomas

Dan Landon, Outgoing Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Dan then asked those present for nominations for the new Chair of the NSSR. Dan Little nominated Tamera Leighton for Chair. Dan Landon seconded the motion. Tamera then nominated Marcella for Vice Chair, which was seconded by Dan Little.

The item of funding a facilitator began with nominating Jan Bulinski for the job. The group agreed that funding that work at least in part could be accomplished by each RTPA/Commission/MPO funding a share. This was determined to begin with 75 hours for the year for a total of \$5,000 roughly. The group arrived at a dollar amount per agency of \$500. More funding can be added if there is a need – more likely excess funds could be rolled over to the future year. Dan Little said that Shasta would be funding the position with financial assistance from the other agencies. Invoices will be out next fiscal year, July 1, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mardy.

Jeff Farley talked about how his CTC candidacy is coming along. A San Diego (rural) seat has apparently been filled. The possibility of having two rural seats was discussed, and whether it would take legislative action or action by the governor. No one seemed to know; Jeff will be investigating the possibility. Lisa suggested that every time one of the agencies gets up in front of the CTC they should mention how they look forward to having rural CTC representation in the North State. This idea was embraced generally by the group.

Tamera brought up the issue of Support Letters brought forward by the NSSR. How do they work? It was stated that letters would go forward if they do not cause any competition among the agencies. The letter issue would be to support core projects that are regional. The economics study was brought up, and that it will produce multi regional projects to rank or tier. Phil said that the support needed in the region usually is for the standard projects that they bring forward, and these tend to take the shape of safety, or TE, or other standard program projects. It was then decided that the NSSR would have standard letters for each category of project. Each agency was tasked with coming up with standard project categories that the NSSR would have standard letters from which to pull from. These letters will be brought forward and discussed during the next two weeks using the intranet format. Dan Landon agreed to create the first draft letter together.

The issue of writing a letter to support Jeff Farley for CTC was discussed. It was stated that Caltrans doesn't like the agencies supporting the candidacy of a CTC representative. Caltrans considers that lobbying, particularly if RPA dollars are used.

Marty Tuttle joined the group and relayed information about some positions at Caltrans that have been filled, namely Malcolm Dougherty as Director of Caltrans, and Brian Kelly as Secretary of BT&H. Also, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, an Interregional Blueprint Summit meeting will be held. Sharon Scherzinger will be representing the rural perspective. He had several other points including:

- Transportation funding is falling off
- Caltrans Earth is officially launched
- Need to get issues to Brian Kelly to insure consideration post election

The biggest State Transportation needs are quickly becoming Operation and Maintenance of highways as opposed to capacity increasing projects. Tamera has discussed with Bimla the need for a voice with the CTC. She also had a discussion with Terry Supahan (consultant tribal rep) about why the tribes aren't more involved with the issues in front of the CTC. He said they will be there and participate if called upon. Though there is currently a threat to Tribal Transportation funds, they seem to have access to a great deal of money. It was suggested to invite folks from the North County Tribal Transportation Commission.

The NSSR Economics Study was introduced by Dan Wayne. He just finished the information gathering meetings in three regions, but said that they would be happy to accept additional information at any time. He said that he is happy with the consultant, and the three workshops have had quality participants. There will be more opportunities to participate. There exists a strong tie of funding to performance measures, whereas performance measures represent the transportation investment in jobs, economy. The project website was handed out.

Sharon Scherzinger mentioned that El Dorado is interested in the NSSR. Placer, El Dorado and Nevada are currently conducting a study together similar to the economic study that the NSSR is involved in. El Dorado and Placer would be interested in joining the NSSR. Much discussion followed about them joining, and generally the group was fine with it, and a motion was made to let them in. Rick Tippet suggested that the item be tabled for further discussion because such action may dilute the mission and intent of the NSSR. Dan Landon concurred and delayed the item until further consideration and discussion could be had.

Rick suggested that after what he saw of the Tri-counties group at the CTC meeting; he would like to see the NSSR reps stand up together at the CTC as the NSSR, and then each will individually represent their county.

Roundtable:

Phil thanked all for the Willits bypass support. He voiced concern over MAP21 in regards to ADA projects being eligible in the TE program. It will cause the TE program to become loaded with ADA projects. Similarly, having the recreational trails program included will cause problems.

The group expressed concern as well.

Jerry asked whether the group focused on policy or projects. He didn't think that adding additional rural agencies would be a threat to the Super Region.

Lisa mentioned that MAP21 is a topic at the following RCTF meeting. They are working with Transportation for America and many others on MAP 21 proposed policy. She requested that anyone with information or concerns could take them to the RCTF for inclusion in their collective opinion.

Placer RTPA expressed gratitude for allowing them to sit in on the N SSR meeting.

Rick was happy about work beginning again on Buckhorn. He is a fan of Pat Dechellis' philosophy in working out funding distributions for MAP21 now, and not wait until it comes out. He said also that policies are punitive for Attainment counties in MAP21. MTC had commented in there handout that the new legislation will give CMAQ to attainment counties and in general did not agree with that philosophy. He also cautioned regions to be mindful of the TEA Party that can quickly take over a meeting with their strong feelings about government and some studies like blueprint planning (JUST FYI, El Dorado County got overrun by the Agenda 21 group).

Tamera asked if there is a target for 299 being open to STAA (2017) and recommended that regions be prepared for lawsuits as happened in Del Norte county over opening up to STAA.

Melissa Cummins told the CTC at their meeting that Maintenance is Siskiyou's number one priority and that is what they want to program, and the CTC went along with their wishes.

Bill Higgins introduced himself and went over the mission of CALCOG and member agencies.

The website is [www.calcog.org](http://www.calcog.org)