

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 5, 2013

Reference No.: 4.20
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **Comments to the California Interregional Blueprint Interim Report**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission provide comments to the CIB Interim Report prepared by Caltrans?

The CIB Interim Report, issued December 2012, was prepared to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 391 (SB 391, Liu 2009) and is a step towards developing a California Transportation Plan (CTP) by December 31, 2015. The CIB Interim Report includes an overview of how the three sustainable communities strategies adopted by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as of December 31, 2012 are likely to influence the configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal system, and the important roles Caltrans and other state agencies can play in integrating regional efforts and topics of statewide significance. It is not evident from the CIB Interim Report the degree to which forecasted development patterns designed to meet state housing goals will influence the CTP.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission direct staff to transmit the attached letter referencing the CIB Interim Report to request Caltrans when preparing the CTP to:

- Include a summarization of MPO efforts to generate forecasted development patterns captured in sustainable communities strategies that meet state housing goals.
- Assess how regional forecasted development patterns influence the configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system in the CTP.
- Ensure early and continuous coordination during development of the CTP with the State Department of Housing and Community Development and other agencies and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND:

SB 391 directs Caltrans to prepare a California Transportation Plan (CTP) by December 2015 that identifies the transportation system needed to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The CIB Interim Report, required by SB 391, is a product of the CTP development process and summarizes the regional efforts to develop greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans, the potential influence these plans will have on the statewide transportation system, and discusses implications for Caltrans and other state agencies.

The CTP has the potential to influence and facilitate the achievement of statewide goals pertaining to housing in addition to transportation and air quality by planning a transportation network that aligns with regional projections for land use and housing. Therefore, it is important that the CTP provides a summarization of the MPO efforts to generate forecasted development patterns that meet state housing goals and an assessment of how such development patterns influence the planned configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system.

Attachment – Draft Letter to Caltrans Director Dougherty

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March 5, 2013

Malcolm Dougherty
Director
Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
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Dear Director Dougherty,

The California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) California Interregional Blueprint Interim Report (interim report) submitted to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) on December 31, 2012 was considered at the Commission's January and March 2013 meetings. The interim report, prepared to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 391 (SB 391, Liu 2009), is a step towards developing a California Transportation Plan (CTP) that identifies the statewide transportation system needed to attain statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, among many others.

Planning for a transportation system that meets statewide, regional and local safety, mobility, air quality and other goals is not an easy task. It is the Commission's understanding that the CTP will be built upon a variety of plans, most of which are in progress. Specifically, the CTP will be prepared by integrating the regional transportation plans, statewide interregional transportation strategic plan, and freight mobility, rail, transit, and aviation plans. The Commission will provide comments to the individual statewide plans as they are brought forward.

As required by SB 391, the interim report includes a list and an overview of the sustainable communities strategies (SCS) adopted as of December 31, 2012, an assessment of how implementation of the adopted SCS' will influence the configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system, and important roles Caltrans and other State agencies can play in integrating regional efforts and topics of statewide significance. The Commission respects Caltrans for identifying early actions to support Senate Bill 375 (SB 375, Steinberg 2008) implementation including recommendations to streamline project delivery, pursue adequate

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funding for transportation projects and services, target investments to transit supportive development, improve performance measurement and monitoring, and continue state and regional collaboration on SCS development and implementation.

The CTP has the potential to influence and facilitate the achievement of statewide goals pertaining to housing in addition to transportation and air quality. It is vital that the CTP provide for a transportation network that aligns with projections for land use and housing. Therefore, the Commission requests that the CTP reflect a summarization of the regional efforts to generate forecasted development patterns in adopted regional transportation plans that meet state housing goals and assess how such efforts influence the configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system. This is likely to require early and continuous coordination during development of the CTP with the State Department of Housing and Community Development and other agencies and stakeholders.

The Commission commends Caltrans, the MPOs, and the many stakeholders for the accomplishments achieved to date in furthering the goals of SB 375. The Commission looks forward to working with Caltrans and others as the CTP is developed given the importance this plan has in achieving overarching statewide goals for a better future.

If you have questions or concerns related to these recommendations, please contact Bimla Rhinehart, Executive Director, at (916) 654-4245.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. GHIELMETTI
Chair

c: Commissioners, California Transportation Commission
Brian P. Kelly, Acting Secretary, Business, Transportation & Housing