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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES – June 24, 2022

Start Time: 11:00 am

End Time: 12:00 pm

Attendees: IIJA Contact Group

INTRODUCTION:

- Opening remarks from CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin
 - Joint bridge funding webinar between CalSTA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will take place on **Thursday, June 30th from 11 am to 12 pm**
 - California had formula errors in its distribution of IIJA funds, so there's an ongoing re-evaluation, updates to follow
 - The Reconnecting Communities Notice of Funding Opportunity is due to be released within the next week
 - State zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) efforts aim to install 250,000 charges by 2025, bolstered in part by National Electric Vehicle Initiative (NEVI) funding
 - CalSTA is undergoing a broad PR campaign to emphasize specific projects that the IIJA is funding across the state, and encourages local transit authorities to highlight their respective grants, policy ideas, funding projects, etc.

REMARKS:

- Caltrans Deputy Director for Planning and Multimodal Programs Jeanie Ward-Waller
 - Lots of NOFOs coming out, Caltrans and CalSTA are prepared for competing with other states for federal dollars
 - Michael Harroldson asked: "What sub-working group covers the Reconnecting Communities program?"
 - Jeanie replied that the Equity-Tribal sub-working group covers that program
- FHWA California Acting Deputy Division Administrator Randy Warden
 - Tribal Transportation Safety Funds, announced June 7th
 - The NEVI program received new federal spending rules from FHWA
 - The Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment Program (ATTIMD) Program NOFO will be released soon. This program replaced the FAST Act's Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program (ATCMTD) Grants; anticipated ~\$45m+ available

WORKING GROUP OVERVIEW:

- Caltrans Federal Liaison Nicole Longoria
 - Looking to complete draft policy narrative by this fall, bolster PR efforts
 - 2 groups (Funding Split, Fix-it-First) have completed their action plans

- 5 groups (Transit/Commuter Rail, Intercity Rail, Transition to Zero Emissions, Tribal/Equity, and Safety) are working on action plans
- 3 groups (**RHI/CRP**, Local Hire/Contracting, Active Transportation) have efforts in progress
- Freight/Goods Movement and Climate Resilience/Adaptation are awaiting federal guidance
- Caltrans and the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a joint draft plan earlier this month, and Caltrans is looking for feedback from the public docket. Comments are due by June 28.
 - The Plan is available at the following link:
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2022-06/joint-workshop-california-department-transportation-california-state>
- The Transition to Zero Emissions_group will be paused upon submission of the Plan to the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation; work will be picked up with the group, and the CEC to collaborate on the competitive process for the grant opportunity for NEVI funding. Currently, we are anticipating the grant funding opportunity will be released in Winter 2022/2023.
- FHWA announced proposed rulemaking for NEVI program, comments are due to the federal register by **Wednesday, August 22nd**
 - Tony Dang (Transition to Zero Emissions group lead) is working with the CEC to coordinate comments with other state agencies, to ensure we submit a unified set of comments for California.
- Safety Sub-Working Group Lead Simran Bains
 - For the Safety program; \$58m increase in the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).
 - \$38m for the local program, \$14m for the State's program.
 - Alignment of the HSIP with safe system approach
 - 35 attendees, most questions related to local program
- Local Hire/Contracting Sub-Working Group Lead David DeLuz
 - Local Hire/Contracting has had 2 meetings so far, with a 46-person membership from local agencies, state administration, legislature, trade associations, highway construction and transportation
 - Fact-finding and investigatory status for project labor agreements
 - Surveys to find what factors to consider in local hire, address, surrounding area, income requirements, immigration status, gender identity
 - Priorities for enforcement mechanisms, statewide performance metrics, form of annual reporting, requiring project labor agreements
 - May require state legislation
 - The next 3 regular meetings have been scheduled, 2 next subcommittee meetings
 - Looking to coordinate with Workforce Development Agency to develop strategies

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- The group is asking how best to leverage state work on middle-skill jobs, which are jobs that require more than a high school diploma but less than a 4-year degree, certifications, licenses

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Some final notes from Jeanie and Nicole:
 - Attached are the announcements for the Bridge Investment Program (Call for Letters of Support) and Reconnecting Communities (Call for Nominations & Letters of Support).
- Eric to follow-up with participants via email
- A copy of this memo will be posted on the CalSTA IJA website
- The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, August 4th from 11 am – 12 pm PST**
- For any further questions, please email eric.furth@calsta.ca.gov or nicole.longoria@dot.ca.gov