

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Reimagining Highway Investments/Carbon Reduction Program Subworking Group Notes from Meeting #4: Carbon Reduction Program

October 19, 2022, | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- Working Group CRP Strategy Development
 - o Draft CRP Action Plan: to CalSTA, Nov. 2022
 - o CRP Strategy: to FHWA, Nov. 2023
 - o UC ITS Participation
 - o State share and Roadway Pricing Work Group
- Local Share (Sujaya Kalainesan, Bob Baca)
 - o Update
 - o CRP Application Process
- Next Steps
 - o Review/comment Draft CRP Action Plan

ACTION ITEMS

- Circulate Draft Action Plan
- Circulate slide deck
- Report back on eligibility, local match, flexing funds

QUESTIONS

- *Aaron Hoyt: Was applying Any Area funds to pricing strategies per FHWA guidelines?*
 - o Not specifically in FHWA guidelines, but the Bill does permit the State to add additional criteria
 - o It is the result of CalSTA and Caltrans discussion around strategies that implement Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) priorities
- *Aaron Hoyt: How does that apply to rural areas? Does it automatically exclude rural areas that accommodate quite a bit of recreational travel?*
 - o CRP Strategy development discussion will be a good place to explore that further and we welcome input on use of the Any Area of the State funds

- *Judy Weber: Will you please email PPT slides to group? Thanks.*
- *Adriann Cardoso: Does the form allow or consider flexing funds to FTA? or FTA transfer?*
 - The form has been updated to include a check box for local agencies to use when requesting "Flex" (a.k.a. FTA) funding transfer to FTA for their transit, transit related, and multi-modal projects, as outlined in the FHWA CRP Guidance (see Fig. 1). The updated form should be posted to the DLA CRP web site soon, replacing the existing application form.

Fig. 1. Added checkbox to updated CRP application form.

The image shows a portion of a form with two yellow-highlighted boxes at the top labeled "FLEXIBLE BUDGET" and "FTE". Below these is a checkbox followed by the text "Requesting 'Flex' FTA funding transfer (for transit, transit related, and multi-modal projects)⁴". At the bottom of the form, a footnote reads: "1. Applicant Agency is the local agency that will be administering the project".

- *Heather Miller: confirming transit bus purchases (zero emission) are eligible project?*
 - We are fairly certain the answer is yes, the purchase of zero emission transit buses are eligible for CRP funding, per 23 CFR 175(c)(J)(ii). FHWA is verifying this with their management. We will report back when we know more.
- *Leslie Baroody: Revisiting notes from July 2022, Caltrans was going to check to see if it has the legal authority to remove natural gas/propane from the eligible list. Any updates?*
 - We are confirming with FHWA
- *Mallory Atkinson: Question for Bob about the bullet on the federal participation. The slides noted a federal rate of 80%, but doesn't the (California) standard 88.53% rate apply to this program?*
 - Bob Baca has confirmed that the reimbursement ratio is 88.53%.

NOTES

- **CRP Action Plan** due November 2022
 - CalSTA requested action plans for IJIA Subworking groups; draft to be shared with Sub-working group; please send us comments and thoughts on the Action Plan.
- **CRP Strategy** due November of 2023.
 - Primary requirements – develop projects in consultation with MPOs and partners.
 - Caltrans is well committed to working with the required partners.
 - will kick off in 2023 – a lot of Carbon Reduction Plans at the State, regional, and local levels - all are unique and have ambitious goals.
 - What will a new strategy uniquely add to all of our different plans around Carbon Reduction in the State?
 - Identified pricing and pricing strategies where there is work needed with our partners.
- **UC ITS** – will assist in performance metrics, tracking, monitoring, and strategy development.

- Maggie Witt, UC ITS; Program coordinator supporting UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Berkley, and UC Davis.
- Laura Podolsky, UC ITS; Focused on Policy specifics and communication engagement; scope of work and working with Jeanie and others at Caltrans and hopefully SWG members.
- **State Share -Jeanie Ward-Waller**
 - Any Area Funds are 35% of CRP Program
 - How can we invest towards implementation of CRP strategies and pilot opportunities that could benefit from additional investment?
 - Will take more discussion about the State's share and how we plan to invest to n the State Roadway Pricing Working Group (a CAPTI requirement).
- **Local Share, Sujaya Kalainesan, Caltrans**
 - Apportionments – last year waited for strategy to be developed then seek funds; changed strategy to use for CMAQ type projects, but no requests were received.
 - Specific metrics are a concern and needed, what are they? Some not willing to execute projects without knowing.
 - Challenge – apportionment numbers not available; expected by end of year
 - We did release draft apportionments for 200k population; we can use draft apportionments for 200k or less
 - We have not obligated local CRP fuds on any project.
 - Additional resource: Caltrans website [Carbon Reduction Program | Caltrans](#)
- **Application Process, Bob Baca, Office of Federal Programs**
 - Project application procedure (see slides for image)
 - Consult or coordinate with MPOs.
 - Complete application.
 - Secure MPO signatures.
 - Send application to DLAE.
 - DLAR confirms application is complete.
 - DLAE program Coordinator reviews eligibility and completes section.
 - HQ Program Coordinator reviews for eligibility.
 - **Obligation of funds**
 - Follow the federal Aid Process
 - Projects mis be programmed in the FTIP/FSTIP
 - CRP funds may not supplant currently programmed (state or federal); hard legislative requirement.
 - HQ eligibility approval required as part of RFA package
 - RFA submittals missing HQ Eligibility Approval will be kicked back.
 - Obligation deadline for 2022 FFY funds (Cycle I) is 9/30/2025
 - Projects subject to August Redistribution of Obligation Authority.
 - **Application: 4 pages – work with MPOs to sign and submit applications.**

-----Meeting Adjourned-----