INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES – January 26, 2022
Start Time: 10:00 am
End Time: 11:00 am

Attendees: IIJA Contact Group (too many to list in doc)

INTRODUCTION:
• Opening remarks from CalSTA Acting Secretary Elissa Konove
  o Announcement of new Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), key among them being $1.5 billion in RAISE grants
  o CalSTA’s website now has a devoted section on IIJA matters

REMARKS:
• Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans Deputy Director)
  o Spoke about sub-working group initiatives
• Giles Giovinazzi (CalSTA Senior Adviser)
  o CalSTA’s IIJA website has a dedicated NOFO tracker updated periodically, announcement from the White House, and will upload IIJA action plans once sub-working groups have developed them
• Paul Schneider (California Division Deputy Division Administrator at the Federal Highway Administration)
  o Some apportionment programs from the IIJA have not yet reached state coffers (ex. Surface Transportation block grants have not been fully funded yet)
  o FHWA posted 10 fact sheets on websites for various bill programs that show characteristics like descriptions, eligibility, general info, set-asides, transferability, and federal share
    ▪ CalSTA website will have these fact sheets up soon
  o FHWA expects their field offices to offer support to those seeking grant funding hopefully by mid-summer

WORKING GROUP OVERVIEW:
• Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans Deputy Director)
  o Sub-working groups have benefited from the creation of shared calendars
  o The Freight and Goods Movement Working Group met last week, led by CalTrans Chief of the Office of Sustainable Freight Planning Yatman Kwan
  o The Tribal Relations Working Group will first meet through the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) before a full sub-working group meeting
Nicole Longoria (CalTrans Federal Liaison)
   - The Safety Working Sub-Working Group has been having internal coordination meetings, with Harsimran Bains and Robert Peterson reaching out soon
   - The Fix-it-First Sub-Working Group will have its first meeting on February 4th from 8:30 am – 10 am
   - The Overall Funding Split Working Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th weeks of February
   - The Tribal Relations Working Group will meet on March 23rd, following a meeting with the Native American Advisory Committee
   - CalTrans is working with internal staff to be ready for May budget revise

Yatman Kwan (Chief of the Office of Sustainable Freight Planning at CalTrans, Lead for the Freight/Goods Movement Sub-Working Group)
   - The Freight and Goods Movement (FGM) Sub-Working Group will had its meeting on January 20th, with 50+ participants in attendance
   - Subsequent meetings will take place on February 10th, March 1st, March 24th, April 14th, and May 5th
   - The next steps for FGM are to develop implementation plan, strategies, priority themes

Momo Tamaoki (CalTrans Principal Transportation Planner, Co-Lead for Intercity Passenger Rail and Transit/Commuter Rail Sub-Working Groups)
   - Her 2 sub-working groups will have their first meetings on January 28th, this coming Friday
     - The Intercity Passenger Rail Sub-Working Group will meet at 11 am
     - The Transit/Commuter Rail Sub-Working Group will meet at 2 pm

Tony Dang (CalTrans Deputy Director for Sustainability, Lead for Active Transportation and Zero Emissions Sub-Working Groups)
   - Tony is focused on coordinating with state agencies for federal request for information (RFIs), which will be released on Friday
     - These RFIs will be circulated to the larger Working Group when ready
   - Federal guidance on ZEVs is expected in mid-February, meetings expected to be scheduled in late February
   - The electric vehicle funding program is general funding, contingent on Congressional action

Mike Johnson (CalTrans State Asset Management Engineer, Co-Lead for the Fix-it-First Sub-Working Group)
   - First meeting will take place on February 4th

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Kerry Cartwright (Port of Los Angeles) expressed interest in pursuing a strategy of leveraging both state and federal funds

Hana Creger (Greenlining Institute) inquired about compliance with the Biden administration’s Justice40 Initiative, and what work was being done within the sub-working groups
   - Jeanie Ward-Waller stated that she was not entirely sure yet which channels to go through, but is having conversations with Amar Cid (Lead for the Equity Sub-Working Group) and invited Hana to have an offline conversation to discuss details
• Jofil Borja (Sacramento Rapid Transit) asked how CalSTA would work with existing guidelines, such as CAPTI, transit-oriented development, and addressing geographic equity.
  o Jeanie Ward-Waller invited Jofil to an offline conversation to discuss details
• Andy Swanson (Airport Manager at City of Palo Alto) wondered if airports were being discussed in IIJA implementation talks
  o Giles responded that most of the Working Group focus is surface transportation, but offered Andy a meeting with CalTrans’s Aeronautics Division
• Michael Cano (Deputy Executive Officer for Goods Movement/State Policy/Programming at LA Metro) asked the following question in the chat: “Will there be performance evaluation metrics used during the [sub-working groups] that focus on economic competitiveness and evaluating how investments link to supporting/enhancing economic opportunity, multipliers, reducing barriers to economic competitiveness (like losing market share for container traffic to other ports)?”
  o Giles answered that examination of the federal standards for these grants is required, as well as coordination with the FHWA

MEETING ADJOURNED:
• Meeting adjourned at 10:50
• Eric, Nicole, and Giles will be following up with participants who have questions about further involvement with the Working Group or sub-working groups
• A copy of this memo, Giles’s slide deck, and Yatman’s slide deck will be provided to working group members
• The next meeting will take place in February (exact date TBD)
• For any further questions, please email eric.furth@calsta.ca.gov or nicole.longoria@dot.ca.gov