INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES – February 16, 2022
Start Time: 1100 am
End Time: 12:00 pm

Attendees: IIJA Contact Group

INTRODUCTION:
• Opening remarks from CalSTA Acting Secretary Elissa Konove

REMARKS:
• Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans Deputy Director)
  o We appreciate your engagement!
• Paul Schneider (California Division Deputy Division Administrator at the Federal Highway Administration)
  o On February 2nd, 2 guidance memos were released by the FHWA
    ▪ Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Guidance Memo
    ▪ Vulnerable Road Users special rule
  o Announcement of the establishment of the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation to roll out National Electric Vehicle Initiative (NEVI) program
• Nicole Longoria (CalTrans Federal Liaison) and Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans Deputy Director) updated the working group on efforts by the 13 sub-working groups
  o The Fix-it-First sub-working group had its kickoff meeting on February 4th, with its next meeting on Feb 18th
  o The Climate Adaptation and Resilience sub-working group will have its kickoff meeting soon; a survey on meeting times and objectives will be sent out shortly
  o The Transition to Zero-Emissions sub-working group, led by Tony Dang, will have its first meeting on March 1st
  o The Transit Commuter Rail sub-working group, led by Momo Tamaoki, will have its first meeting on Feb 23rd
    ▪ The Intercity Rail sub-working group, also led by Momo, had its first meeting on Jan 28th
  o The Freight/Goods Movement sub-working group will meet on February 17th from 1 – 2:30 pm
  o Jeanie noted that equity policies and issues were emerging in every sub-group, which presented a challenge to the exact scope of the Equity sub-working group
    ▪ Jeanie + Cory Binn’s programs waiting on guidance from FHWA
    ▪ Climate Resilience also waiting on guidance
• Tony Dang (CalTrans Deputy Director for Sustainability, Lead for Active Transportation and Zero Emissions Sub-Working Groups)
Tony discussed the new federal guidance for NEVI; the first point of discussion will be whether transit/freight electrification will be in this group or to focus on NEVI

Alternative Fuel Corridor nominations were sent out last week, and will be due on May 13th

Tony is organizing with partners at the California Transportation Commission to have coordinated nominating process

The Transition to Zero Emissions sub-working group is developing state EV infrastructure deployment plan, due Aug 1st
  - No NEVI funds will be available until after the deployment plan is approved
  - The state has newly specified standards for alternative fuel corridors; they must have at least 4 fast chargers spaced no more than 50 miles apart
  - Suzanne Smith (Executive Director of SCTA) asks “How might local EV infrastructure deployment plans feed into the State plan?”
    - Tony says his Transition to Zero-Emissions group will discuss that matter

Momo Tamaoki (Caltrans Principal Transportation Planner, Co-Lead for Intercity Passenger Rail and Transit/Commuter Rail Sub-Working Groups)

- Initial meeting for both of her groups happened on January 28th
- Some issues both groups are facing:
  - Tackling implementation challenges on ZE activities
  - Maximizing available funds
  - Discussing COVID issues (decreased ridership and revenues)
  - Administrative challenges, NEPA delegation and Nat Transit Database reporting
- Both groups will be finalizing their respective charters soon
- Transit/Commuter Rail will meet on February 23rd, Intercity Passenger Rail met yesterday (February 15th)

Michael Johnson (Co-Lead for the Fix-it-First Sub-Working Group)

- All slides on CalSTA’s website, Feb 4th kickoff; Michael discussed asset vulnerability and resiliency
- There have been side meetings with the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency team lead as well to make sure that the two groups aren’t duplicating each other’s work
- The next meeting will take place on February 18th at 9 am, where it will begin with a virtual whiteboarding for Fix-it-First needs

OPEN DISCUSSION:
- Nicole mentions that Keith Duncan’s Overall Funding Split group will have its first meeting next week, and that he intends to maintain weekly communications to update everyone

MEETING ADJOURNED:
- Meeting adjourned at 11:50
- Eric, Nicole, and Giles to follow-up with participants
- A copy of this memo and all slide decks will be provided to working group members
- The next meeting will take place on March 9th from 11 am – 12 pm PST
- For any further questions, please email eric.furth@calsta.ca.gov or nicole.longoria@dot.ca.gov