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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES – March 9, 2022

Start Time: 1100 am

End Time: 12:00 pm

Attendees: IIJA Contact Group

INTRODUCTION:

- Opening remarks from CalSTA Acting Toks Omishakin
 - Incredibly opportune period the state is looking forward to
 - Secretary Omishakin spent time meeting with other state transportation heads, and the California Congressional delegation, presenting at a panel discussion entitled “Delivering IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) for a Better Future”
 - The Biden-Harris Administration maintains a strong interest in growing their Justice40 initiative
 - The supply chain issues the state faces continue, but this conference yielded productive discussions
 - Governor Newsom’s State of the State address the previous night touched on the exact transportation issues that CalSTA is working on
 - Secretary Omishakin invoked an African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
 - 33% of all zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) charging is within California
 - The state has a “leg-up” in terms of both formula funding and discretionary grant applications

REMARKS:

- Jeanie Ward-Waller (CalTrans Deputy Director)
 - “Anxiously waiting” to see what Congress does to get more guidance from the Federal Highway Administration
 - Not every sub-working group has met yet
- Paul Schneider (California Division Deputy Division Administrator at the Federal Highway Administration)
 - No additional guidance since our last meeting
 - March 2nd – The FHWA sent report to Congress on how the IIJA can benefit the Complete Streets policy model (Currently, the IIJA requires states to use 2.5% of their IIJA funds for Complete Streets implementation)
 - Pedestrian and bicycle deaths remain at historically high levels
 - The portion of total fatal traffic crashes for pedestrians has increased and reached a high of 34% compared to 20% in 1996

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- Deputy Division Administrator Schneider believes that the Congressional Omnibus bill will pass within the next few days
- Giles Giovinazzi (CalSTA Senior Advisor)
 - The Biden Administration has not released the FY2023 budget request; likewise, Congressional appropriators haven't finished FY22 appropriations legislation
 - Senior Advisor Giovinazzi showcased a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) tracker review which can be found on the CalSTA IIJA website

SUB-WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

Nicole Longoria (CalTrans Federal Liaison)

- Our Sub-Working Groups are all working hard, and making great progress.
- Out of the 13 Groups, 11 of them are very active. They are all either conducting surveys to inform the structuring and priorities of their upcoming meetings or, they currently have meetings scheduled.
- New kickoff meetings coming up, so stay posted for those new dates
- Jeanie-Ward Waller (CalTrans Deputy Director)
 - CalTrans Draft Principles/Recommendations on IIJA Implementation
 - **Safety** – Already met, sent out survey, have a meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 24th**
 - **Fix-it-First** – Already met, have their next meeting on **Friday, March 25th**
 - **Reimagining Highway Investments/Carbon Reduction Program** – Sent out a survey, actively looking for more federal guidance; responses on **Friday, March 11th**. The kick-off meeting is TBD.
 - **Climate Resilience and Adaptation** – No federal guidance yet; survey was sent, and responses were due March 2nd.
 - **Active Transportation** – Waiting for more guidance, so the kick-off meeting is TBD.
 - **Transition to Zero Emissions** – The kick-off meeting was held on March 1st.
 - **Local Hire/Contracting** – The kick-off meeting will be held on March 23rd from 2-3pm.
 - **Transit and Commuter Rail** – The kick-off meeting was held on January 28, and the subsequent meeting was held on February 23rd. **The next meeting is TBD.**
 - **Intercity Passenger Rail** – The kick-off meeting was held on January 28th, and the next meeting is on **March 23rd**.
 - **Freight/Goods Movement** – Already held two meetings, the next meeting is tentatively scheduled on **March 24th**
 - **Overall Funding Split** – The kick-off meeting was held on February 24th, and the 2nd meeting was held March 10th. The next meeting will be held in approximately 2-3 weeks.
 - **Tribal Government** – Pre-kick-off, this sub-working group will discuss next steps with the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) at their meeting on **March 23rd**.
 - **Equity** – A survey was conducted, and responses were due on March 1st. The kick-off meeting was held on **March 10th**. **The next meeting is TBD.**
 - Goal is to develop action plans for each policy area

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OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Shrayas Jatkar (California Workforce Development Board) offered to present on the Biden-Harris “Good Jobs” policy, which he stated has the promise to create dramatic changes in our high-road vision of economic vitality
 - David DeLuz (CalTrans) mentioned that his working group had met with Shrayas’s coworkers, appreciated the help, and asked for more contacts

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Eric, Nicole, and Giles to follow-up with participants
- A copy of this memo and all slide decks will be posted on the CalSTA IJJA website
- The next meeting will take place on **March 30th from 11 am – 12 pm PST**
- For any further questions, please email eric.furth@calsta.ca.gov or nicole.longoria@dot.ca.gov