

California Local HSIP Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2023
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Via Zoom

Attendees:

Lindsey Serpico, Robert Peterson, Trisha Tillotson, Richard Ke, Maria Bhatti, John Asuncion, Colleen Vidinoff, Rebecca Neves, Dennis Acuna, Angel Araiza, Panos Kokkas, Tom Mattson, Shelly Quan

Shanita Tillman and Lynn Merrill, Grand Terrace
Danielle Fox and Nathan Freeman, Hesperia
Michael Plotnik, La Habra
James Triantafyllou, Redding
Jim Bolz, San Diego County
Gladis Deras and Jose Loera, South Gate
Masashi Tsujii, Los Angeles County

Note: Decisions and Action items in boldface

Item 1. Welcome and Committee Updates

- Welcome extended to all attendees, roll call taken, and agenda reviewed.

Item 2. Project Extension Request Updates: Grand Terrace, Hesperia, La Habra, Redding, San Diego County, South Gate, and Los Angeles County. Detail of project's status, challenges, and requested time extensions below.

Item 2a. Project Update from Grand Terrace H9-08-007

Shanita Tillman and Lynn Merrill provided update.

Project Purpose: Guardrail improvement in various locations.

Project Progress:

- Grant for \$648,300 awarded December 2018
- Contracted with Lynn Merrill June 2019
- Issued RFP August 2020 – no responses
- Reached out to on-call engineering contractors (response exceeded grant amount)
- Selected first proposal from CWE late 2021
- City experienced significant staff turnover, which stalled project

- Seeking to reduce scope of project to 1 long section of damaged guardrail (Barton Road) vs. 7 locations
 - Request increase in PE funds from \$33,600 to \$47,088 (revised proposal from David Evans & Associates for that amount)
 - Request reduction in amount of construction budget from \$614,700 to \$198,000 for 0.3 miles of guardrail
 - Total revised budget, including 10% contingency, is \$245,100
- Revised timeline
 - Notice to Proceed to be issued August 1, 2023 for PE
 - Design concept to be completed by August 21, 2021
 - Preliminary engineering to be completed by September 28, 2023
 - Plans and specs to be completed by December 11, 2023
 - Bid documents return by January 19, 2024
 - Construction from February 5-March 29, 2024
 - Close-out by April 12, 2024

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert Peterson asked for clarification on reason for down scope. Shanita said they wanted to be able to do something with the staff they have available. Trying to address one section of damaged guardrail for safety reasons rather than go beyond scope of what they could achieve. Robert noted that the city now has a consultant on board. Lynn explained that when the original ramp was scoped, there was a failure to recognize some of the geotechnical issues as well as Right-Of-Way takings that would need to be done. The budget would not be adequate to address those issues, whereas the same issues don't exist at Barton Road.

Richard Ke verified that CON RFA date would be **December 31, 2023** (per Lynn). Richard also asked if a request for additional PE funding had been submitted. Shanita said funding was requested earlier this year but there has been no response. Lynn pointed out that because the overall project budget is being reduced, funds can be moved to the PE side.

Robert said he is disappointed the project is being rescoped but suggested additional guardrail improvement requests be put forward again in Cycle 12. He said a cost schedule form needs to be submitted for rescoping and Richard will supply the document. Send the completed document to District 8 Office and Richard will work out the details with them.

Item 2b. Project Update from Hesperia H9-08-008

Danielle Fox and Nathan Freeman provided update.

Project Purpose: Signalization and safety upgrades, including widening at the intersection of Main and Timberlane/Sultana. Install a traffic signal; widen roadway to accommodate left turn pocket.

Project Progress:

- Grant for \$899,300 awarded December 2019
- Design awarded in 2020

- Deadline for construction authorization was June 2022
- Requested extension of construction authorization to June 2023 in March 2022
- Caltrans recommended change in environmental study scope, which resulted in 12-15 months project delay
- COVID-19 caused additional delays
- PS&E, ROW, and utilities relocation are now completed, and final response on environmental studies expected today
- Revised timeline
 - One year extension
 - Request authorization for construction in December 2023 (pending environmental study results)
 - Receive authorization in January 2024
 - Complete bidding and award by May 2024
 - 12 months construction due to long lead items for the signalization of the intersection
 - Close-out by September 2025

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert asked what triggered the studies. Danielle said initial preliminary environmental study was based on 40 CFR 93.126, and ultimately it came back with Caltrans requiring 40 CFR 93.127, which is the signalization and improvement of an intersection.

Robert verified CON RFA will be submitted in **January 2024**.

Robert reminded Danielle that any changes in cost would require new documentation.

Item 2c. Project Update from La Habra H9-12-007

Michael Plotnik provided update.

Project Purpose: Upgrade existing signals at 6 intersections and add left turn protected signal phasing at 5 of these intersections.

Project Progress:

- Skeleton crew due to COVID-19
- 6 high collision intersections
- Design 60% complete and was submitted with ROW
- PE phase authorized in May 2019
- Time extension for March 2023 to start construction
- NEPA approved May 2023 (currently working on new requirements for cultural resources search)
- ROW certification and RFA still due
- Sent in DBE and QAP updates
- PE phase has been 80% reimbursed
- On-call doing the design
- Revised timeline
 - One year extension

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert clarified CON RFA will be submitted by **March 31, 2024**.

Item 2d. Project Update from Redding HSIP6-02-002

James Triantafyllou provided update.

Project Purpose: Shoulder widening and curve corrections on 1 mile area with high concentration of accidents.

Project Progress:

- Delays due to environmental cultural issues
- NEPA completed
- Started ROW phase
- Had 2 property acquisitions
- Target for CON RFA was March 2023 but ROW authorization held up due to issue with one of the property owners requiring a conservatorship
- Revised timeline
 - Extension to December 31, 2023
 - ROW authorization target date of November 2023
 - Deliver for construction by Summer 2024

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert noted we've had to restrict agencies coming forward with automatic shoulder widening without doing the incremental approach first because of it taking so long to deliver projects such as this.

Richard verified CON RFA will be submitted by **December 31, 2023**.

Item 2e. Project Update from San Diego County H8-11-016

Jim Bolz provided update.

Project Purpose: Woodside Avenue Safety Improvement Project to construct sidewalks, bike lanes, streetlights, and an advanced dilemma zone detection. This corridor was identified as the number one highest priority segment in the entire county of San Diego in the local roads and streets program.

Project Progress:

- In July 2021, requested extension for CON authorization to June 1, 2023
- Found additional funding for project to address safety concerns
- Design is completed
- NEPA completed September 2021
- ROW has been problematic due to 57 businesses and corporations along corridor delaying negotiations (ROW over 70% complete)

- 3 separate water systems have been relocated
- 50 communications have been located (still working on overhead lines, which will be completed early 2024)
- Revised timeline
 - CON authorization extension to **June 1, 2024**
 - Certify ROW May 2024
 - Award construction November 2024
 - Complete construction mid-2026

Committee Questions/Feedback: Colleen Vidinoff asked how things were progressing with ROW for the businesses and whether eminent domain might come into play. Jim said they have mitigation measures in place and are looking at designs which do not require a temporary construction easement. Also have legal counsel involved in some of the negotiations.

Item 2f. Project Update from South Gate H9-07-023

Gladis Deras and Jose Loera provided update.

Project Purpose: Pedestrian improvements at 4 locations, including in-roadway warning lights, signing, strapping, and ADA improvements.

Project Progress:

- Submitted CON RFA in May 2022
- Requested extension in September 2022 to June 30, 2023 (after realizing modifications were needed)
- Hit delays, including potential 200% increase in project costs
- Not looking for change in scope but strategies to get project completed (currently 65% complete)
- Waiting for review and approval of environmental and ROW
- Revised timeline
 - Extension CON authorization date to **February 2024**
 - Design completed by December 2024 (being done in house)
 - Submit E-76 shortly after December 2024
 - Award construction April 2024
 - Complete construction mid- to late-summer 2024

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert asked if the city has installed in-roadway warning lights before. Gladis said they haven't. They have in-roadway lights that are solar and electrical and have been having issues with those. Have submitted a request for scope to change to a different type of safety feature, a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) instead of in-roadway light, which is under review by Caltrans. Robert said he supports that change given the problems with in-roadway lights. He said change of scope documents would need to be submitted for consistency and NEPA would need to be redone as well.

Item 2g. Project Update from Los Angeles County H9-07-013

Masashi Tsujii provided update.

Project Purpose: Alameda Street Traffic Signal Safety Project – traffic signal modifications at 4 intersections.

Project Progress:

- Delays due to NEPA compliance issues (being required to complete historical and cultural studies)
- Presence of 2 railroads will require us to proceed with GO-88B process with CPUC once NEPA approval received
- Revised timeline
 - **Extension to October 31, 2024 (second extension request)**

Committee Questions/Feedback: Robert clarified that there's no change as far as railroad crossings, just the need to coordinate with railroads. Masashi said yes, but there could be improvements needed after CPUC review. Robert said he's concerned about timeline and requested that Masashi request a field diagnostic meeting soon. Robert also said he can reach out to CPUC if needed.

Item 3. Progress Updates: Los Angeles County, Carson and Compton. Details of project's status and challenges below.

Item 3a. Progress Update from Los Angeles County

Richard shared latest report and Masashi Tsujii provided update.

Six Cycle 8 projects were extended and are required to provide update periodically. Four of them have moved to CON phase. The other two are making progress.

H8-07-033:

Project Purpose: Install chevron signs and advance curve warning signs (San Francisquito Canyon Road and Lake Hughes Road).

Project Progress:

- Issues with ROW certification – trying to identify limits of the U.S. Forest Service jurisdiction
- Hoping to submit E-76 by the end of August 2023

Item 3b. Progress Update from Carson

Richard provided update for two Carson projects – HSIP6-07-004 & HSIP6-07-005. Both projects are for installation of bike lanes.

Project Progress:

- Scope expanded to provide median modifications to allow for protected bike lanes
- Increase in amount of design work needed and time required
- Expected to receive the 90% PS&E package next week with goal of project completion this summer
- Will need to pursue additional funding as cost estimates have tripled

Robert and Richard will ask Dale Benson to set up meetings with Carson like we did with Compton. Will invite committee members to participate if they wish. Invite John Asuncion to attend.

Item 3c. Progress Update from Compton

Richard provided update:

Three Compton projects (HSIP7-07-005, H8-07-005 and H8-07-006) had approved extension requests. All are ready for CON authorization. However, due to the Single Audit Report (SAR) incompliance, no federal funding can be authorized at this time.

Item 4. Committee Charter Update and Signing

For new committee members, Robert referred to the original charter, which can be found at <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/hsip/2018/local-hsip-advcomm-chater.pdf>. The committee supported revisions made at the last few meetings. Two new RTPA representatives, Woody Deloria and Shelly Quan, have joined the committee, making the committee complete. Robert will send out the original charter with revisions highlighted in yellow and encourages new committee members to ask any questions they may have. Then he will route the signature sheet through the e-signature process in early August. Once all the signatures are received, updated charter will be posted on the website.

Item 5. Safety Project Delivery Status, OA Update, and HR3 and VRU Obligations

Richard reported the following as of the end of June:

- Project Delivery Status
 - 24 projects on the delayed list from Cycles 6-9
 - By end of federal fiscal year, run a report to see which ones are delayed
- OA
 - Federal funds
 - Regular federal funds – Obligated \$15 million
 - VRU Special Rule – State had \$40 million, local projects have obligated \$14 million, remaining \$26 million is state side use

- High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Special Rule – \$17.6 million, \$3.8 million has been obligated, remaining \$13.8 million is in the queue
 - Combined total of federal funds - \$33 million obligated with \$24 million in the queue
- State funds
 - \$49 million used

Maria Bhatti asked if the 100% HRRR Special Rule obligation in FFY23 has made the cut off for August redistribution, how does that translate in the system? Richard said it made it onto the August redistribution. Robert thanked Dennis Acuna for moving up delivery of \$7.6 million in HR3 funds on the Gilman Springs Road project.

Robert said all Cycle 11 HRRR projects have been federalized and agencies were asked to come in with their PE funds that are HR3 eligible.

For new committee members, Robert explained we split HSIP funds 50/50 between local and state side. There's a reconciliation of funds used by each side at the end of every fiscal year. This exchange process creates an efficiency which we will continue to evaluate each cycle.

Item 6. Cycle 12 Call-for-Projects Discussion

Robert asked committee members to begin thinking about Cycle 12. He would like to get the committee's recommendations on what has gone well and what has been challenging. Also, are there things we want to change? For example, we added bike safety improvements last time and had good success. He also asked everybody to reach out to your local agencies for feedback.

Colleen asked if it's possible to do the HR3 and VRU as set-asides or have them scored separately instead of deciding later that something is federal? Richard said there was \$35 million we were able to federalize under HR3 this year. Robert said we should make sure a project is truly HR3 when we first start reviewing the applications. May have to accept more projects to make sure we obligate enough funds. Richard said that in Cycle 11 we put a note that we might have to lower the BCR cutoff for HRRR because of this special rule.

Roundtable

Maria reminded the committee about vulnerable road user safety assessments. There's a piece about consultation with the local agencies, especially if they are identified to have high risk areas within their jurisdictions. Robert said he'd let them know he'd like to be a part of this and offer to help with outreach efforts. He explained that we have 43 agencies with planning grants and 7 agencies with implementation grants in Safe Streets for All. A Cal Poly civil engineering professor approached us and said he would like to be part of coordinating and working with grant recipients on their planning efforts. There's a contract through LTAP that's going to be executed December 1, 2023. The state side and Maria reached out to FHWA as far as the resource center.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Next Meeting:

1:00 – 3:30 pm, September 28, 2023