

Local Assistance
Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting
February 17, 2022—Decisions Made, Action Items and Summary

Attendees

Dee Lam, DLA	Max Katt, FHWA
Mark Samuelson, DLA	Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County
Linda Newton, DLA	Michael Chung, San Joaquin County
Robert Peterson, DLA	Matt Randall, Placer County
Andy Chou, DLA	Jason Vivian, Tulare County
Roberta Jensen, DLA	Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento
Bobby Zezoff, DLA	Rebecca Neves, City of Placerville
Eileen Crawford, DLA	José Luis Cáceres, SACOG
Sudhakar Vatti, SLA	Kenneth Kao, MTC
Jim Perrault, DLAE D6	Naomi Caietti, CSUS
Parminder Singh, DLAE D10	Erol Kaslan, SM&I
Jon Pray, CTC	Brad Merrell, City of Barstow
Dan Hawk, FHWA	Kelly Burnell, Kleinfelder
Jeremy Wright, SLA	Karibia Baillargeon, Kleinfelder
Sal Chavez, SBCTA	Heng Chow, SBCTA
Domingo Gonzales, City of Barstow	Dennis Saylor, SBCTA
Kristi Harris, SBCTA	Jason Valencia, Consultant
Chris Lee, CSAC	

Decisions

The HBP Advisory Committee decision to allow the City of Barstow to add the N. 1st Avenue bridge over the Mojave River Overflow (54C0090) to the N. 1st Avenue bridge over the Mojave River (54C0089) bridge project with conditions. The conditions for the City are:

- demonstrate the Overflow (54C0090) purpose and safety needs for inclusion,
- demonstrate that other alternatives were considered that did not require the roadway realignment and replacement of 54C0090,
- the scope will be reviewed for both bridges and will be limited to minimum AASHTO standards per HBP Guidelines,
- the City will be responsible for funding all non-participating work and local match.

Action Items

All completed or closed Action Items will be removed from the list for the next meeting summary.

Item Number	Status	Who	Action	Date Created	Target Date
A110	Open	CSAC reps	Contact county agencies whose unprogrammed bridge projects appear on the scour critical list coded 1 or 2, to promote awareness of HEC 23 chapter 2 (Scour Plan of Action and Countermeasures), available mitigation funding, and HBP prioritization criteria.	2/21/19	2022
A114	Open	All	Discuss possible changes to 6-A scoping document to help estimate project cost more precisely.	4/18/19	2022
A120	Open	DLA	Circulate letter for comment to 6 county agencies whose yet-to-be programmed bridge projects appear on the scour critical list coded 2, seeking response on Scour Plan of Action and Countermeasures.	8/22/19	2022
A131	Open	DLA	Prepare Office Bulletin on high-cost bridge policy reform for posting in early 2022.	8/26/21	2022

Discussions

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Dee Lam introduced Naomi Caietti as replacement for Susan Herman as notetaker.
- Dee will be promoting continued support from this team and replacements to fill committee positions.
- Dee reported that like the Fix it First committee; opportunities to participate in programs, initiatives, and focus groups regarding the new transportation bill are available. A DLA liaison is working with these groups and will bring back feedback to the Caltrans executive team.

- Dee shared a message regarding latest programs and funds. Highway Bridge team is critical and she is looking at support for this team. DLA is looking at estimation and forecasting for potential new staff added to carry workload forward.

2. Agenda Review

No changes to agenda.

3. City of Barstow Presentation

Brad Merrell, from the City of Barstow (City), introduced his team and delivered a PowerPoint presentation for their change request for bridge project 54C0089 to the HBP Advisory Committee. The City requested to add bridge 54C0090 to the existing programmed project for bridge 54C0089.

In the City's presentation, four previously developed alternatives were shown to the HBP Advisory Committee, along with their advantages and disadvantages. The City recommended Alternative #3 as the best alternative for completion of bridge project 54C0089, which would add 54C0090 into the project. Brad and his team took questions from the HBP Advisory Committee, and they were thanked for their presentation.

A discussion and vote from the HBP Advisory Committee on the City's request for adding bridge 54C0090 to the 54C0089 project occurred. The vote resulted in a majority approval with conditions. HBP Managers were tasked to develop a response on the change request and provide it to the HBP Advisory Committee for review, prior to sending it to the City of Barstow.

4. Review of 12/02/22 Draft Action Summary

- Action Items 110, 114 and 120 – no update. Action Item 131 is Agenda Item 6.

5. Financial Status

HBP managers shared the Fund Status report as of 02/01/2022 and the following points:

- Apportionment remained at FAST Act level of \$284.6 million.
- Projected OA allocation based on end of FFY 2021 and adjusting it for August redistribution, DLA salaries/wages, actual will be approximately \$219.6 million.
- Still working under a continuing resolution. Infrastructure bill has passed but not the appropriation bill, which allows the program access to the obligation authority.
- De-obligations so far for FFY 2022 are approximately \$6 million.

6. High Cost Project Office Bulletin

HBP managers shared the draft Office Bulletin and requested any additional comments. The HBP Advisory Committee had two comments, to add an implementation policy into the Office Bulletin and to provide simpler examples for the charts and equations.

7. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Information

HBP managers provided a brief overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) information as related to the HBP. The IIJA provided funding for 5 years, from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022- 2026. There will be an influx of funding from two sources, the traditional Highway Trust Fund and the General Fund. The Highway Trust Funds are broken into numerous pots of funds such as the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) and the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP). The Local HBP is funded from both NHPP and STBGP. The IIJA introduced several new General fund programs, two which impact bridge funds. One is the Bridge Formula Program (BFP) and the other is a discretionary program. Only the Bridge Formula Program will be managed by DLA HBP. HBP managers indicated that further information can be found on the FHWA website for fact sheets on the funding sources.

Discussions with the regions have begun regarding a new Programmatic Agreement for the split between State/Local funds. Until an agreement is reached, the working groups continue to meet.

8. 2022 HBP Project Prioritization

HBP Managers provided project prioritization lists for on system and off system, but not in priority order. The reason is that HBP managers are still reviewing all the applications and recommend deferring a cutoff decision until a Programmatic Agreement is reached for the IIJA funds.

The HBP Project List consists of 80 On System projects funded for over \$420 million and 82 Off System projects funded for approximately \$173 million. These two lists will be prioritized and brought back to the next HBP Advisory Committee meeting, depending on the development of the Programmatic Agreement.

9. Review Action Items

Two actions will be complete prior to the next HBP Advisory Committee meeting: Respond to the City of Barstow on the decision and revise the High Cost Office Bulletin for Program Review and Stakeholder comments. Since they will be done before April, no action items are being added.

10. Roundtable

HBP Advisory Committee members discussed funding for resources for HBP, projects and project oversight issues. Dee shared her support for this committee and wants to improve the resource issues for HBP and welcomes these conversations.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.