

**Local Assistance
Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting
February 16, 2023 – Action Items and Summary**

Attendees:

Dee Lam, DLA
Matt Randall, Placer County
Debbie O’Leary, Oxnard
Kenneth Kao, MTC
Chris Long, FHWA
Daniel Hawk, FHWA
Jim Perrault, DLAE D6
Roberta Jensen, DLA
Eileen Crawford, DLA
Vassil Simeonov, SM&I

Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County
Michael Chung, San Joaquin County
Jesse Gothan, Sacramento
Rebecca Neves, Placerville
Tim Sobelman, CTC
Jon Pray, CTC
Robert Peterson, DLA
Sudhakar Vatti, SLA
Linda Newton, DLA
Andy Chou, DLA
Jeremy Wright, SLA

Decisions

No decisions were made.

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
A114	Open	All	Discuss possible changes to 6-A scoping document to help estimate project cost more precisely.	4/18/19	2023

Discussions

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dee Lam welcomed new members Chris Long, FHWA and Vassil Simeonov, Caltrans Structure Maintenance & Investigations. She emphasized the need for agencies to deliver their projects. HBP Managers produce a monthly delivery report that is available on the web site at [Highway Bridge Program | Caltrans](#). In addition, filling the vacancies on the committee are a high priority, California State Associations of Counties (CSAC), League of California Cities (LCC) and California Association of Council of Government (CALCOG).

2. Agenda Review

No changes to the agenda.

3. Action Summary Review

- A114, 6-A draft scoping document will defer to review changes and bring back to committee early next year.

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- No additions or corrections noted.

4. Financial Status

HBP Managers shared the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 22/23 fund status report as of 02/08/2023:

- The HBP obligated nearly \$74 million of Core Apportionment and Bridge Formula Program (BFP). \$31 million was from Core apportionment, which is about 12.3% Obligation Authority (OA) delivery (excludes BFP funds).
- OA projected for FFY 22/23 is \$228 million.
- Obligations have increased now that the 2023 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) is approved by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Transportation Improvement Program amendments have been done by Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

The goal is to deliver 100% of the programmed apportionment for the HBP. Advancing projects is operating under normal procedures this year to help delivery.

A committee member asked if the HBP has capacity to advance Preliminary Engineering on the projects just accepted? HBP managers indicated that for off system projects, yes, if local agencies request it be advanced. The HBP is not ready to advance on system projects because there is still a lot of Advanced Construction (AC) on the books, so the HBP must wait to see if this is advisable.

5. Bundling Projects

HBP attended a FHWA Peer Exchange on Project Bundling in October 2022 and shared the HBP PowerPoint that was presented at the workshop. The presentation shared the multiple ways the HBP uses project bundling such as: combining multiple bridges at project initiation under one project, combining multiple bridge projects at the construction phase to award multiple bridges under one construction contract, and grouping bridges under preventive maintenance projects for like work in close geographic proximity.

A committee member noted that Memorandum of Understanding Template between agency would be a helpful tool to facilitate project bundling between agencies. In addition, talking points of pros/cons for agency presentations to decision makers. It was shared that similar scope, geography, and schedule are key components to consider for bundling projects. Resources to FHWA presentations and websites were also shared with the group.

6. Asset Management Plan/Tool

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) members lead a discussion regarding Asset Management Plan/Tool. The Ventura Public Works Bridge Asset Management program was shared with the committee. Discussion items included:

- Should HBP promote a bridge asset management software with the goal of uniform data throughout the agencies?
- Should HBP have an Asset Management Plan (AMP)?

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An AMP need would vary depending on the size of the agency and the number of bridges they own. Several questions were discussed, such as who would host, what is the cost and how to license.

Consistent data would aid in future presentations regarding statewide local bridge needs.

Volunteer participation was recommended with no penalty and emphasis on the benefit of the program.

The group does not intend for asset management plans or submittals to be required to qualify for HBP.

The committee would like to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

7. Review New Action Items

None.

8. Round Table

- A question was asked whether available funds were being used for AC Conversions. Staff noted that Projects with AC had conversions programmed this fiscal year.
- A question was asked if the restrictions for utilizing de-obligated Federal Funds was affecting the HBP program? Staff confirmed the issue; however, HBP is using de-obligated funding and therefore the projects were not being affected.
- The status of the three vacancies on the committee are: CSAC has made a nomination and final approval is pending; League of California Cities (LCC) is still inquiring on available candidates; A California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) member will be following up on the CALCOG vacancy.
- One member noted Senate Bill 1 (SB1) oversight has resulted in 6-8 month delays in projects due to investigations and audit reviews.
- One member indicated they were disappointed in the Bridge Investment Program project selections by FHWA. The agency has a pending debrief with FHWA.
- One member stated the need for a discussion on strategic planning for future submittals.