

**Report on the California Council of Governments/CALCOG Board meeting,
Sept. 23, 2022**

Submitted by Britt Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rolling Hills Estates/SBCCOG delegate to CALCOG

Recent developments in climate policy may lead to fairly significant changes in how transportation projects are selected and funded going forward.

List of Major Climate Policies

- *Changes in climate planning documents to reflect Climate Budget Package.* This includes accelerating the 2030 target to a 55% reduction in emissions from 1990 levels (the previous level was 40%). It also includes including the Net Zero by 2045 goal, which is likely to be more aggressive than the existing 2050 Executive Order.
- *State VMT Reduction Goals Increased.* ARB has already increased expectations in the draft Scoping Plan for VMT reduction. (Even though the targets are ultimately expressed in terms of GHG per capita, ARB uses a VMT metric in the Scoping Plan then converts it to a GHG equivalent). In the last draft, the Scoping Plan called for a 25% reduction in GHG per capita using this method. MPOs were assigned 19% of that amount based on what could reasonably be expected. Under the new methodology, the 25% is likely to increase to 30 or 35%. We are not certain about what that will mean for the next target setting round.
- *New SB 375/Transportation Funding Reform Legislation Likely.* Last year, Assembly Member Friedman introduced two bills that related to transportation funding reforms and performance measurement. Most of those proposals did not make it to the governor's desk. But Ms. Friedman has given every indication that she is coming back with more legislation next year that would limit funding on certain types of road projects and perhaps introduce more limitations to land use decision making.
- *RTP Guidelines Update.* After every Reauthorization, the CTC updates the Guidelines, which have a regulatory affect (meaning RTPAs and MPOs must follow them). This process involves a lot of stakeholder engagement, and a lot of proposals that seek to introduce new responsibilities for MPOs and RTPAs (in the past, the Guidelines focus on implementing existing laws and duties, not creating new ones).
- *CAPTI Implementation.* The state has identified its own principles in how state funds should be spent in order to set priorities. Many of these decisions affect projects and even the bond ratings of our members who seek to finance projects.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM INFORMATION

CALCOG's annual forum will be March 6-8, 2023, at the Riverside Convention Center.

Difficult Conversations Ahead – Like many Statewide organizations, it is becoming more difficult to reach consensus on issues among our members. Opinions within our membership are more dispersed than in previous years. Some generally concur with the direction of new state goals (if not all the details). Others see it as an interference in the attainment of local economic needs and priorities. This will make agreement more difficult and compromise may be necessary. For an organization that operates of consensus, the next year could be very challenging.