



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: August 1, 2019

Agenda Item No. 4

Delegated Authority for a Type 4 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Action

Prepared by: Matt Carpenter, Renee DeVere-Okie

Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

An anticipated new federal policy rule creates a risk to the timely delivery of transportation projects in the region unless the preparation and approval of a Type 4 amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is expedited.

2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the board delegate authority to the Transportation Committee for approval of a Type 4 amendment to the MTIP. This authority would be enacted at the September meeting of the Transportation Committee.

3. Background/Analysis:

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are proposing to change federal fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles and light duty trucks through a new rule named the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Rule (SAFE Vehicles Rule). Staff previously briefed the board on the likely implications of this new rule on the region's ability to make modifications to the transportation projects included in the short-term MTIP. Attachment A provides relevant details of the SAFE Vehicles Rule, namely the California vehicle emissions waiver rescission that is part of the rule.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Over the last few months, staff has been actively monitoring the status of the SAFE Vehicles Rule and coordinating with agency partners on efforts to minimize negative project delivery impacts. A key effort underway is the preparation of a Type 4 MTIP amendment that will reflect project listing updates identified through interagency coordination. Completing a new MTIP amendment before the SAFE Vehicles Rule is adopted ensures that the projects with updates to their scope, schedule, or budget can continue to advance in their implementation efforts. Attachment B provides background on the five types of MTIP amendments – of which Type 4 and Type 5 are the only ones that involve a board action.

Staff is expediting the process to prepare and recommend SACOG, state, and federal approval of a new Type 4 MTIP amendment. The new air quality conformity determination and MTIP documentation, is expected to be completed in late August. This will be circulated through a required public review and comment period inclusive of consultation with local, state, and federal partners. Completing the final MTIP amendment approval action on September 5, by the Transportation Committee reduces the risk from an adoption of the

SAFE Vehicles Rule before the September 19, board meeting. Saving two weeks may not seem significant, but recent updates suggest the SAFE Vehicles Rule may be adopted during this window of time in September.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The staff time required to complete an expedited MTIP Amendment to minimize impacts from the SAFE Vehicles Rule does not directly impact SACOG's operations budget or the cost of work outlined in the 2018-2019 Overall Work Program. Budget impacts from potential project implementation delays created by the new SAFE Vehicles Rule have not been estimated.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

7 - Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects