



ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee
Thursday, October 7, 2021, 5:45 p.m.
Videoconference, hosted by Zoom

Link to join the TAQCC Zoom Meeting: <<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85805612058>>

To phone in: 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 858 0561 2058

Meeting Notes

5:45 pm – Social time -- meet and greet

6:00 pm – Welcome, Introductions, Check-Ins, and Changes to Agenda

Attendance: Karen Jacques, Robert Meagher, Dan Allison, Neil Matouka, Sue Teranishi, Kelly Delaney, May Lin Chang, Barbara Leary, Muriel Strand, Susan Herre (ECOS), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (ECOS Pres.), John Deeter (TAQCC chair).

Guests: Raef Porter (SMAQMD), Jofil Borja (SacRT).

6:05 pm – Sacramento Regional Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment Strategy

- Raef Porter, Program Manager, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Porter: SMAQMD supports vehicle electrification because 40% of air pollution comes from transportation. The goals of the four agency partnership are described in this four page flyer; they will try to get funding from federal infrastructure programs and other sources. The electric vehicle deployment strategy has four legs: conversion of the transit bus fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs); charging stations for ZEV freight trucks; mobility hubs for ZEVs in underserved communities, and new green tech jobs in under-resourced communities.

Borja: The partnership will coordinate activities of the agencies where synergies exist. They want to be ready to ask for funding, both federal and state. These programs are expected to generate two- or three-fold return on investment.

Q: What is the timeline? *Porter:* SACOG is seeking a planning grant to make the initiative more regional than just Sacramento county.

Q: Will there be autonomous trucks in the near future? *A:* Yes, they could be part of first mile-last mile strategy; put goods in bike lockers for pickup.

Q: Could large trucks serve distribution centers? *A:* Yes, a distribution tree is possible. Perhaps use hydrogen fuel cells in large vehicles

Q: What are the sources for funds? Is there a role for ECOS? *A:* Federal infrastructure program and state funding. Proposals need local support, such as letters, talking to electeds. Give feedback to the project; it's a team effort from the Sacramento region. Given input to tweak documents. *Borja:* Emphasize equity, accessibility.

Q: Hydrogen generation is not very green. **A:** It's getting better with steam, better fuel cells; battery power getting more emphasis right now.

- Jofil Borja, Public Relations Officer, Sacramento Regional Transit
A four-agency partnership in the Sacramento Area between SMAQMD, SacRT, SACOG and SMUD has been working together to create a regional [ZEV Deployment Strategy](#), including SacRT's program to convert its bus fleet to ZEV

Borja: SacRT has a partnership with CA Air Resources Board (CARB) to transition its bus fleet to ZEVs. This Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) plan has five components. SacRT already has several electric shuttles: Franklin, East Sacramento, Downtown Sac. Also, Causeway Connection, and ZEV buses to Sacramento Airport. Putting in recharging stations for buses. SacRT has three bus facilities, Downtown Sac and two other sites, which will be modified to accommodate ZEV buses. SacRT is looking at routes to deploy buses with a specific limited range between recharging.

Q: Is there only central charging? **A:** Shuttle buses can use distributed charging stations.

Q: Why such a slow transition to ZEV buses? **A:** Need to work out the kinks, and train the work force to service a different type of vehicle.

Q: Do you buy buses and rent batteries? **A:** SacRT gets a subsidy for bus replacement, ZEV for natural gas.

Comments: Freeze in 1991 damaged diesel buses and led to conversion to natural gas. A disaster could involve loss of electric power, and need to plan for

Q: Could you swap out batteries? **A:** Right now, just fast charging in 30 minutes. Might be possible to cut to less.

Q: Bicycle taxis? **A:** Possible, they've been tried in the past.

Q (for Matouka): Is CARB looking at integrating bike share and scooters with transit? **A:** A new division at CARB is working on this.

Q: Is there any effort to replace dirty diesel school buses? **A:** It will take 10-15 years to switch to ZEV buses. Financial incentives are already in place.

7:05 pm – Other current issues

- Deployment of neighborhood air quality monitors

Propper: Air quality monitors in the City of Sacramento report results in real time, available on the internet. Better monitors than the City is using has been advocated.

Q: What are monitors expected to find? Pockets of bad air or just reassurance? **A:** If hot spots of bad air are detected, we could argue for enforcement for clean-up, or for implementation of regulations to alleviate the problem.

- Sacramento City [Climate Action & Adaptation Plan](#)

Propper: Jennifer Venema will report on the City CAAP to City Council on October 12. Key elements are building electrification and active transportation. We want to make sure the recommendations by the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) are implemented. Likewise for the Transportation Priorities Plan being developed by Jennifer Donlon-Wyant.

Q: Is the CAAP separate from the City's General Plan? **A:** The Tuesday Council meeting is just CAAP.

Q: *Were specific investment amounts included in the MCCC recommendations? A:* No, it was mainly policy.

- Sacramento County Climate Action Plan

Propper: *Comments on the County CAP are due tomorrow (Oct. 8). There will be a press conference Friday morning involving many speakers concerned about the CAP. It is just aspiration, and doesn't encourage infill. ECOS suggestions included: new buildings be zero net energy, and encourage farmers to practice carbon sequestration. Stressed the economic benefits from vehicle electrification. The CAP will go to the City Planning Commission on Oct. 18th.*

- CapCity freeway bridge over American River
- Climate Emergency Declarations (Chris Brown)

7:35 pm – Other business and announcements / Topics for future meetings

7:45 pm (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thursday, November 4, 5:45 p.m., videoconference

Other upcoming events of interest:

Oct. 9, 1 pm -- [Sac Transit Riders Union](#) (videoconference)

Printable TAQCC agendas and minutes are available on the ECOS [Web site](#).