



Item #05-11-22
Receive/File

Board of Directors

November 10, 2005

Go California

Issue: What did SACOG advise the State about its draft Go California plan to revive transportation programs in the state?

Recommendation: This item was scheduled to be heard by the Transportation & Air Quality Committee; however, due to lack of a quorum, the Transportation & Air Quality Committee did not meet. Staff proceeded to send comments as noted below to the Schwarzenegger administration on its Go California plan.

Discussion: The Schwarzenegger administration released a draft proposal, called Go California, to reinvigorate state transportation programs and improve transportation system performance in the next ten years. Caltrans hosted eight workshops around the state to take reactions and asked regions for written comments. SACOG staff attended two of the workshops and prepared written comments for the Transportation & Air Quality Committee to review; when the Transportation & Air Quality Committee meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum, staff sent the comments forward to meet the state's time frame. Staff will provide copies at the Board meeting.

Go California focuses on a ten-year investment plan to improve mobility and lessen congestion. The plan has been built upon priorities for system maintenance and preservation, smart land use and pricing, traffic management, operational improvements, and system expansion, with measurement of system performance, covering all modes. It also includes a goods movement action plan. It contains no proposals about funding but identifies a number of high cost projects. Excerpts are attached.

SACOG's comments are being built around five main points:

1. The key objective in large urban areas must be accessibility to jobs, services, and activities, rather than nationwide mobility no longer reasonably attainable in major metropolitan regions;
2. Blueprint land use principles are the only strategy that offers an option to gradually decreasing mobility and accessibility, and the State needs to understand better how Blueprint principles work for transportation;
3. The hierarchy of priorities laid out in Go California look about right but offer no credible expectation for better transportation performance if none of them are adequately funded;
4. Transportation programs have been substantially underfunded for so many years for maintenance, operations, and expansion that Go California must lead directly to discussion of what to do about transportation funding, which it does not now do; and
5. The path to state agency and program efficiency, a desirable goal, needs to encompass changes in attitude and approach as well as changes in procedures and staffing.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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Attachment

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