



SACOG Board of Directors

Item #05-12-3 Consent

December 8, 2005

Executive Director's Report

The following is a brief status report on some of the major issues and projects currently being advanced by SACOG. An asterisk () notes items included on this month's Board agenda.*

Key Board Items

We have a very full agenda and very much encourage all Board members to arrive promptly at 8:00 a.m. for the SACOG Salutes! Awards ceremony and keep your calendars clear through noon due to the two closed session items at the end of the meeting.

Consent Calendar: Due to the number of items on the agenda and time constraints, there are a few items that have been placed on the consent calendar that may need discussion. If you would like to discuss these items or any other items on the Consent Calendar, they can be pulled for discussion (most notably Items 9 and 13).

January Board Meeting and Regional Elected Officials Workshop. The January Board meeting is moved to 2:00 p.m. instead of the regular 9:00 a.m. so that Board members can go directly from that meeting to the Elected Officials Workshop starting at 5:00 p.m. at the downtown Sacramento library. **PLEASE help us to encourage everyone else on your councils and boards to attend the evening workshop, which is an important kick-off event for the MTP process.** (For SAFCA Board members we worked out an arrangement with SAFCA staff to switch your meeting that day to 9:00 a.m.)

January Committee Meetings: January is always a difficult time for committee meetings due to the preceding holidays. We have decided to cancel all the regular committee meetings in January and are instead holding a Strategic Planning Committee meeting on January 12 to review any items that would normally be reviewed by these committees. Board members are welcome to attend. We will attempt to keep the January Board agenda as limited as possible.

***MTP & Shingle Springs** (Items #17 & #16): The release of the public review draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan marks an important milestone in our path to restoring the MTP adopted by the Board in 2002, complete with capacity building as well as non-capacity building projects. Probably the only controversial element of this action is whether or not to include the Shingle Springs interchange in the document. This is the project that ultimately led to our air quality lapse in the region, due to a lower court decision that was recently, in part, upheld by the appellate court. The Strategic Planning Committee will recommend to the Board how to handle this project in this draft. They meet a day after the Board packets are mailed, so stay tuned. Please read the enclosed materials carefully. We have one month of slack in this schedule (meaning, it is not imperative that the Board pass out the public review draft in January) due to a probable one-month delay in completing the Rate of Progress State Implementation Plan (see item #25) caused by an unanticipated component of a new EPA rule.

***Streetcar Workshop:** A prominent national figure from the conservative side of the country's political spectrum will address the Board on the benefits of streetcars as a modern transportation mode, and the benefits of implementing Blueprint-style land use practices. Chair Gaines has arranged for William Lind to spend three days in our region speaking to various groups about returning to the use of streetcars and traditional neighborhood planning, similar to how our country grew in the first half of the last century. (Item #5)

***TDA Fee Increase:** We have an odd circumstance in which we lack sufficient local revenues in our budget to provide the necessary match for earmarks we have received and grants we are pursuing and likely to receive. A small increase in the Administrative Fee for the TDA program (that will bring us up to standard operating practice for other regional governments) will provide the needed local funds so that we can secure the state and federal grant/earmarked funds. (Item #12)

***SACOG 2006 Programming:** Staff has completed the first phase of the SACOG 2006 Programming exercise by receiving and reviewing project applications and making recommendations. On November 1, when the applications were due, 85 applications with a combined project total cost of about \$2 billion and requesting more than \$400 million in funding were received for the Regional, Local and Road Rehabilitation programs. The total amount available for programming for the whole seven SACOG programs is only about \$160 million. (Item #9)

Closed Session Items: We have worked diligently with the SACOG Employees Association over the past six weeks to reach agreement on a Concept Agreement with the EA, which has been approved by its Steering Committee but is still being reviewed by its full membership. All seven members of the Board's Administration Committee reviewed this agreement in closed session this month and are unanimously recommending that the Board support it. The Board will also review the results of its reviews of the Executive Director's performance this past year and hear the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations on that topic.

***Air Quality Earmark:** We are proceeding incrementally with decisions about how best to spend the \$5 million (over 5 years) in air quality earmark funds we received through SAFETEA-LU. Before the Board in December is a broad outline for a proposal to dedicate half of these funds to citizen education and engagement for local governments that directly assist in Blueprint implementation. If the Board approves the broad concept we will move post-haste to fill in the details, which must be approved by the Board before proceeding with anything. We will be back to the Board in early 2006 with proposals for how best to use the other half of the funds. (Item #13)

***Blueprint Map:** Receive and file Item 21 describes how staff is proceeding to make the draft of the 2030 Blueprint land use map to underpin the MTP, including how we are dealing with the flood issue. The Housing and Land Use Committee has provided input on this topic, although no Board action is needed until a final map is created well into 2006. However, we welcome review and comment from everyone on the Board. You may either communicate with us directly on this important topic, or in the Board meeting. Individual Board members may ask staff questions or make comments on any Receive and File items, with the permission of the Chair.

***State Lobbyist Contract:** Our current state lobbyist has resigned to spend a year with his new fiancée overseas. We are in an expedited mode to hire a new lobbying firm, given that the legislature starts in a few days and we are told most of the action will occur in the first several weeks. After reviewing eight proposals and interviewing five firms, the staff is recommending that we hire the firm of Holloway, Rasmussen and Molodanoff, in association with Rooney Public Affairs. The Legislation

Committee lacked a quorum for this item and requested that we conduct additional research, some of which is included in the staff report on this item and more of which we will present at the Board meeting. (Item #15)

Administration

***Budget:** A draft five-year financial forecast has been completed. As a part of the information we will review in closed session with the Board on the labor negotiations with the Employees Association, we will review what we believe is the first five-year financial forecast for the organization. With passage of the Transportation Reauthorization bill (finally) our financial situation appears to be fairly stable and healthy.

Staffing: Erik Johnson joined the SACOG staff on December 1st as a Public Information Coordinator. Erik is responsible for the Rideshare program and is a member of the Communications Team.

Issues

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for 2030 Planning Process Update: In addition to preparing for the January Elected Officials Workshop, staff is actively developing the content for the 16 MTP 2030 public workshops in the spring. The cornerstone of the workshops remains an interactive planning game exercise that will be used to identify local priorities for transportation improvements and educate the public on the hard choices and trade-offs that need to be made with limited financial resources. In the same spirit of the Blueprint process, participants at the MTP workshops will select one of four distinct, pre-built 2030 transportation system scenarios for their county and then refine it to create their preferred scenario. The four scenarios proposed for each geography fall along a spectrum that emphasize short distance (5-15 mile) travel on one end and longer distance (15-40 mile) travel on the other end. Over 70 members of SACOG advisory groups and committees attended one of the two open house briefings held in November that described the planning game scenarios concept. Constructive feedback has been incorporated into the latest version of the exercise.

Additional MTP 2030 outreach completed over the past month included the remaining briefings to SACOG jurisdictions. Additional briefings to approximately 20 stakeholder and community groups have also been completed. More briefings are scheduled over the winter and will be done by SACOG and Valley Vision. The briefings to elected officials promote attendance to the upcoming January 19 Elected Officials Workshop, while the community briefings focus on public workshops that follow the Workshop. Staff is developing public education materials to support these outreach activities and to ensure a collaborative and inclusive planning process. MTP Partners representing regional transportation planning agencies, local air districts, and transit agencies are fully involved in all Staff efforts.

Meetings and Conferences

CALCOG Annual Meeting. I attended this meeting last week in San Jose. The Board of Directors is very supportive of the various activities at the state level to encourage and assist Blueprint-style growth management and is carefully monitoring the issue of whether Proposition 42 funds will be available for transportation projects this year and the broadly reported discussion about a large infrastructure bond for transportation, flood control and other purposes.

Calendar

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| Jan 5 @ 12:00 noon | Elk Grove-Rancho Cordova-El Dorado PAC | SACOG |
| Jan 12 @ 12:00 noon | Strategic Planning Committee | SACOG |
| Jan 19 @ 2:00 p.m. | SACOG Board of Directors | SACOG |
| Jan 19 @ 5:00 p.m. | Elected Officials Summit | SACOG |

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Executive Director

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