



SACOG Board of Directors

Item #06-2-22 Report

February 9, 2006

Executive Director's Report

The following is a brief status report on some of the major issues and projects currently being advanced by SACOG.

KEY BOARD ITEMS

2006 MTP (Item #13): The Board will hold a public hearing on February 16 on the Draft 2006 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and its accompanying Draft Addendum to the Environment Impact Report for the MTP for 2025. This MTP restores air-quality non-exempt projects in the Sacramento Air Basin that have been excluded for over a year due to lack of an up-to-date air quality plan. A new air quality plan is expected to be approved by the end of March. This 2006 MTP will be in effect until SACOG adopts the MTP 2030 in June, 2007. A final public hearing and adoption of the 2006 MTP is scheduled for the March 16 Board meeting.

Flood Management (Item #14): Flood management in the Sacramento region continues to be a prominent issue with federal, state, and local leaders. Our congressional delegation is working to increase federal funding for flood control improvements, while the State is considering new bonds for flood control, as well as regulation on urban growth in floodplains. Locally, flood control agencies are working hard to update flood management plans. The Board will be asked to consider what role SACOG should have in working with flood control agencies and local jurisdictions to develop a regional flood management strategy. The Board will also be asked to consider adopting criteria to take a position on any flood-related bills that the legislature is considering.

Federal Second Tier Priority List (Item #15): The Board will need to decide whether to identify any second tier priorities for the federal appropriations earmarking process at the February meeting. At its January meeting the Board decided to experiment this year with a single top priority, which is the Intermodal Station in the Sacramento railyards. We continue to receive feedback from Mike Miller, our federal lobbyist, that this is a good year to pursue a single top priority and that the Intermodal project is a good pick.

Infrastructure Bond (Item #16): Since our January Board meeting, the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee met and discussed further direction to advocate for appropriate funding for transportation infrastructure investments through the Infrastructure Bond proposals. The committee recommended supporting the following three principles (consistent with CALCOG's advocacy): 1) permanent protection of the Proposition 42 firewall, 2) repayment of prior year Prop. 42 transportation project funding, and 3) prioritizing infrastructure investments through the current priority setting process (SHOPP and STIP). SACOG staff is continuing to work with our jurisdictions and their staff to identify a priority list of projects in the event the legislature decides to move forward with a specific project list in the bond.

Land Use Issues (Items #17 & 18): We are looking for Board support for our efforts to ensure that Blueprint style land use considerations are included in some fashion in whatever infrastructure bond proposal the state sends to the ballot, and for CEQA refinement to incentive infill and "inner greenfield"

development consistent with the Blueprint. These issues have been discussed frequently at Board committees and with the full Board. I don't believe there are any surprises here, but these issues may be starting to move in the legislature and having a formal Board action will give staff more negotiating ability. Thankfully we are being included in the on-going negotiations and there continues to be a good deal of bi-partisan support for encouraging successful Blueprint implementation.

ISSUES

ITS STARNET Project Update: The ITS Strategic Deployment Plan (SDP) was completed at the end of last year and establishes a framework for using ITS technologies to implement the Blueprint. The central project in the SDP is the STARNET communications system, which is currently being designed by the ITS Partnership and our consultant, Siemens, Inc. STARNET will link traffic and transit operations in the region to improve system management, enable Bus Rapid Transit, and enhance the 511 traveler information system. An MOU that was signed by SACOG and 12 local and state agencies in October 2005 establishes a regional vision for ITS and set priorities and guidance for the deployment of ITS technologies.

MTP Media: With the MTP 2030 Elected Officials Workshop and Placer County community workshops come county focused media outreach. The strategy is multi-faceted and includes: 1) paid ads in regional papers with workshop and website info; 2) op-eds to newspapers with local transportation project focus; 3) editorial board visits to newspapers with individual SACOG board members in their local jurisdictions; 4) outreach to print/electronic media to attend workshops for follow up stories; 5) radio drive time talk. Media outreach to date has focused on Placer County with workshops starting there on 2/8, 21 and 28. Next focus will be El Dorado County and Yolo County for workshops in March.

MTP Workshop #1 (in Rocklin): We got a great launch for the MTP workshop series last night in Rocklin. A strong and diverse turn-out, leadership from Directors Lund and Cosgrove, a great partnership with the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, and excellent table facilitation from PCTPA and local city and county staff along with SACOG staff made for a very productive, hard working and fun evening.

Elk Grove to El Dorado County Connector Project: In early January, staff convened a meeting of the federal and state environmental resource agencies, our partners and other local agencies. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background on the Connector project and to initiate discussions with the appropriate resource/regulatory agencies regarding their requirements in order to facilitate timely agreement on the project's Purpose and Need. The meeting was well attended and well received; the participants commended the project team for their initiative in including the resource agencies early in the project's development. The Connector Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) continue to meet, with representatives from all five of the affected jurisdictions participating. Both the PAC and the TAC have met three times since the study began last fall. Items for their consideration have included elements of functional guidelines, preliminary environmental screening criteria, and a public outreach strategy for the study. The draft functional guidelines are being developed in concert with the purpose and need statement, and with the input of technical representatives from our partner agencies. Discussions regarding the governance of the Connector continue. Early discussions of Governance Working Group established that a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was the preferred vehicle to move forward with on the Connector Project, and draft JPA agreements have been provided to the Working Group for review. Key issues including JPA purpose, powers, membership, Board structure, and funding have been discussed by the group, which has held two meetings so far on this matter.

RTIP Submittal: Following its adoption by the Board in January, the SACOG's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for the 2006 STIP was completed and sent to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans as required under the CTC 2006 STIP Guidelines. Under state statutes, the CTC is required to conduct two hearings on all RTIPs submitted throughout the state--one hearing in Southern California for southern counties and the other in Northern California for northern counties. The northern hearing is scheduled for March 15, 2006 here in Sacramento. SACOG intends to testify at the hearing to ensure that its projects are programmed in the STIP as recommended by the Board.

Goods and Freight Movement Advisory Group: A diverse group of public agency and private parties held its second meeting today, February 8. Director Cabaldon, Chair Fargo's designated point person for the project, kicked off the meeting by challenging the group to move quickly to develop advice to the Board on the big picture issues associated with the transportation, land use and air quality aspects of this important issue in time to be given serious consideration as part of the MTP process this year.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

"Greenprint" Issues: Director Gaines and I were part of a small delegation that made a trip to Riverside County in January to learn more about their Integrated Plan that stitched together a transportation sales tax, General Plan update, and multi-species habitat conservation plan. Their efforts and successes were quite impressive and may have direct utility as part of Placer County's efforts to develop a conservation plan as well as the broader discussion of developing a greenprint for the region. In a related matter Director Budge and I participated in a meeting in Washington, D.C. in early February with the Army Corps of Engineers that was arranged by Congressman Lungren's office. Many members of our region's Congressional delegation personally attended (Lungren, Matsui, Thompson) or sent key staff (Doolittle). Four other Congressmen from elsewhere in the state also participated. The purpose of the meeting was to seek quicker and more consistent action from the Corps on infrastructure and development proposals in the region. SACOG's interest was in ensuring that federal regulations assist with Blueprint implementation. This initiative was launched as part of the Metro Chamber's cap to cap trip last spring. It seemed to be an unusually productive meeting and there are already signs of improvement, with promises of more actions to come soon. My thanks to Stacy McKinley in Congressman Lungren's office for her incredible work on this important issue and the bi-partisan support of our region's congressional delegation.

Calendar

Mar 2 @ 10:00 a.m.	Legislation & Public Affairs Committee	SACOG
Mar 2 @ 1:30 p.m.	Administration Committee	SACOG
Mar 3 @ 10:30 a.m.	Elk Grove-Rancho Cordova-El Dorado PAC	Rancho Cordova
Mar 3 @ 1:30 p.m.	Air Quality Committee	SACOG
Mar 6 @ 10:00 a.m.	Housing & Land Use Committee	SACOG
Mar 6 @ 1:30 p.m.	Transportation Committee	SACOG
Mar 16 @ 9:00 a.m.	SACOG Board of Directors	SACOG

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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