



**Item #06-3-17**  
**Receive & File**

## **SACOG Board of Directors**

March 9, 2006

### **Elk Grove – Rancho Cordova – El Dorado Connector Project Update**

**Issue:** This is a progress report on the Elk Grove –Rancho Cordova – El Dorado Connector project.

**Recommendation:** None. This item is provided as information.

**Discussion:** The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2025 includes a multi-modal regional transportation corridor that connects Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and El Dorado Hills. Following adoption of the MTP for 2025, SACOG undertook a planning process to generate input from a wide range of stakeholders on the elements of purpose and need for the Connector corridor, and to define a set of conceptually-defined project alternatives to be considered in a future environmental review process. Since the Connector is envisioned as a multi-county facility, SACOG assumed the lead role in coordinating the planning efforts. The planning process concluded in May 2005 with the approval of a *Final Concept Plan* report.

At its September meeting, the SACOG Board approved a six-month work plan to advance the Connector project, and SACOG has since hired URS Corporation to complete the tasks outlined in the work plan. The primary activities of the work program are as follows:

1. Analyze governance and staffing options for completing the environmental, engineering, and construction phases of the project and establish a permanent governance structure (e.g., a JPA or alternative) to complete the project.
2. Complete the Purpose and Need Statement for the project.
3. Prepare functional guidelines for the Connector that will ensure that as local segments are designed and constructed, they are consistent with the regional function of the Connector and Blueprint implementation.
4. Develop a preliminary financial plan.
5. Begin initial project development and environmental screening.

An outline of project activities and tasks completed to date is included in Attachment A.

The Connector Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) continue to meet, with representatives from all five of the affected jurisdictions participating. The TAC has met three times since the study began last fall, and the PAC has met four times. Items for their consideration have included draft functional guidelines, draft purpose and need statement, environmental screening criteria, and a public outreach strategy for the study. The draft functional guidelines were developed in concert with the purpose and need statement, and with the input of technical representatives from our partner agencies.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

MM:DJ:gg  
Attachment

Key Staff: Pete Hathaway, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6235  
Kenneth Hough, Director of Community Planning & Operations, (916) 340-6229  
Debra Jones, Manager of Programming & Project Delivery (916) 340-6242  
Aimee Hagen, Assistant Planner, (916) 340-6211

- 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 project team has been meeting with jurisdiction staff to review the project and to obtain planning data. Environmental resource data collection is essentially complete, and transportation planning data collection is anticipated to be complete by early March. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data will be presented to the TAC and PAC at their next meetings.
- A focused baseline travel demand model for the corridor is completed, and validation of the model using year 2005 land use data is currently in process, as of this writing. Year 2030 land use projections are being developed in concert with MTP 2030 land use projections. Travel demand forecasts will then be developed when these projections are completed. The conceptual design task has recently begun. Data on existing conditions is being assembled in order to develop a preliminary right-of-way definition.
- 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. SACOG counsel has been consulting with legal and management staff from the jurisdictions on an individual basis, to obtain further input into the process. The working group will meet following these individual consultations.