



SACOG Board of Directors

Item #06-4-25
Receive & File

April 13, 2006

2007/09 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Issue: What further steps do SACOG and local agencies have to take, now that the Board has approved a Restoration Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and 2006/08 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), to keep programs going into the future?

Recommendation: Receive and file, to keep Board members apprised about continuing and confusing MTIP activities.

Discussion: Back in October 2004, SACOG, the other 16 metropolitan planning organizations in the state, and Caltrans (on behalf of rural regions) each submitted their own versions of the MTIP, which collectively became California's statewide 2005/07 Federal TIP. That Federal TIP under federal law was good for two years, and expires in October 2006. SACOG's MTIP was then rendered void by the air quality lapse, an Interim 2006/08 MTIP was substituted into the Federal TIP, and remained in force for 18 months. The Board in March 2006 adopted a Restoration 2006/08 MTIP, replacing the Interim MTIP; this Restoration MTIP becomes part of the still-current 2005/07 Federal TIP.

Federal agencies require a new 2007/09 MTIP, to become part of the new 2007/09 Federal TIP in October 2006 after the current one expires. SACOG must begin now to prepare this new 2007/09 MTIP, to complete the process for federal approval by October. Since our Restoration 2006/08 MTIP is so new, SACOG will amend it rather than preparing a whole new one from the ground up (like others are doing), but will go through all the processes required and repackage and adopt it as a brand new 2007/09 MTIP for purposes of including it in the 2007/09 Federal TIP.

This process starts with a request for changes, due to SACOG by April 14. SACOG must then carry out air quality and financial constraint analysis and prepare a draft MTIP. SACOG will circulate a new 2007/09 MTIP in late May, the Board will hold a public hearing at its June meeting, and adopt the new 2007/09 MTIP at its July 20 meeting. SACOG then submits it to Caltrans and federal agencies in August, and they review and approve it by October. In effect, the Restoration 2006/08 MTIP will get a new year (2009) added onto the end, and get a new name as the 2007/09 MTIP. In the meantime, SACOG may be making other minor amendments to the 2006/08 MTIP, which will remain in force until October.

The ongoing blizzard of project update requests, numerous deadlines, and overlapping and confusing MTIP process comes from inflexible federal regulations. The Board does not need to concern itself with excessive process details, but this report may allow Board members to understand the continuing and confusing process and the reasons why their local agencies may complain about it.

Approved by:

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