



Transportation Committee

February 28, 2008

Relative Priorities for SACOG Projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program

Issue: How should SACOG prioritize its existing State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects, in line with the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) directive for the preparation of the 2008 STIP?

Recommendation: That the Transportation Committee act on behalf of the Board to approve the attached staff recommendation of relative priorities for existing STIP projects, which must be delivered to CTC by March 12 (before the next Board meeting).

Discussion: Staff reported to the Board that CTC in early February requested that regions provide CTC with a listing of relative priority of existing STIP projects, for use as an informational guide as CTC considers how to reschedule projects in the existing STIP and add new projects to form the 2008 STIP. At this point, CTC reports that the existing STIP is overprogrammed by about \$1 billion in the years 2009-2010-2011, and it will have to reschedule and delay various projects by one, two, or three years to move \$1 billion of existing program out into 2012; most new projects would be confined to 2013. CTC may face no funding for existing STIP transit projects in 2009, because the proposed state budget would provide zero funding from the Public Transportation Account to the STIP for 2009, so it may reschedule mostly transit projects, but under some circumstances it may be able to spread the rescheduling more evenly among both transit and road projects. Because the situation is so uncertain, CTC advises regions not to delay their projects now, but instead to tell CTC the region's relative priority among its projects to guide CTC in identifying delays to whatever extent they become necessary; if any region chooses not to do so, CTC has said it intends to assert its own priorities as it reschedules. CTC expects regional priorities by its STIP hearing on March 12, a week before the next SACOG Board meeting; the Board acknowledged that Transportation Committee would have to approve this action.

Staff has been working with various transit and public works agencies to prioritize 21 transit projects and seven road projects as shown in tables 1 and 2. We have assigned priority numbers based on relative priority for agencies with more than one project, readiness and deliverability, relative importance of the project to the region, how long the project has been in the STIP, and ability to fund the project otherwise. The most difficult choices involve relative priorities among projects of different agencies in different counties. This list would provide CTC guidance for changes to the extent they become necessary, but larger projects may face the brunt of rescheduling and SACOG will ask CTC to consult with us as it proposes any changes that it needs to make.

Staff will submit the priorities as approved by the committee to CTC by the March 12 STIP hearing, along with certain other technical information that CTC needs for its STIP decisions.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:SAO:gg
Attachments

Key Staff: Pete Hathaway, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6210
Samson A. Okhade, Senior Planner, (916) 340-6222

CC: Brian Williams, STA Doug Gault, Sutter County Terry Bassett, YCTD
Mike Lee, Yuba County Jody Jones, Caltrans Mike Wiley, SRTD