



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

Item #09-8-4
Action

August 7, 2009

Sole-Source Contracts for Caltrans-Sponsored Project to Improve Land Use Transportation Tools

Issue: SACOG needs the assistance of UC Davis and Fehr & Peers to develop modeling tools that will improve land use-transportation planning throughout the state in time to meet SB 375 greenhouse gas emission targets.

Recommendation: That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts with UC Davis for \$65,500 and with Fehr & Peers for \$170,000 to assist SACOG in phase 1 of a land use and travel model development study.

Discussion: SACOG has become a leader in the development and application of land use and transportation models through the successful studies in the Blueprint Study and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035. Other successful model development projects have been carried out by UC Davis on behalf of many small and mid-sized MPOs in their Blueprint planning studies and by Fehr & Peers on behalf of many small to large MPOs as Blueprint planning studies have been conducted throughout California.

Caltrans had an opportunity to continue the development of these models at the end of last fiscal year when some research funds were available. An OWP amendment was executed in June to provide SACOG \$314,775 to begin this effort. The project design with Caltrans staff was to utilize the experience and expertise of UC Davis and Fehr & Peers staff, as the data and model development they worked on was fundamental to the success of earlier Blueprint studies.

This project will develop a set of transportation-land use planning tools to upgrade travel models and land use models across the state. This project's success depends on the ability to utilize the experience of UC Davis and Fehr & Peers in working with these MPOs and their models. Their previous experience will allow them to develop these improvements efficiently, and in as short a schedule as possible, in order to get them into application in regions across the state. The improved models are needed as soon as possible to give MPOs the opportunity to utilize them in their planning to meet the SB375 greenhouse gas emission targets. The unique qualifications of these two organizations are thus critical to this project.

SACOG's objectives for this project are to improve our existing tools by utilizing information in our new activity-based travel model, and to incorporate these improvements into I-PLACE³S. Caltrans will use the SACOG analysis to create a framework for other MPOs to improve their land use and travel models and to make it easier to apply I-PLACE³S in other regions. This will be accomplished by a) development of transportation-land use tools utilizing local data for a set of MPOs across the state, b) then applying these results into their models, and c) developing post-processors to their travel models. Attached are the scopes of work for both of the contracts.

The first phase of this project is funded with a grant from Caltrans for \$314,775. Additional funding is expected to complete the project next year, at a total cost of \$1,151,550.

Approved by:
Mike McKeever
Executive Director
Attachments