



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OP-ED: MOVING OUR REGION IN A NEW DIRECTION

Each morning nearly everyone in our region heads out for work, school or other destinations without much thought. But imagine if traffic congestion was 58% worse. That's the future our region faced if we didn't change our plans for land use and transportation.

In 2004, the region's political leaders took a close look at where and how we build houses, offices and services through the Blueprint Project. The new land uses included in the Blueprint Preferred Scenario will guide how we grow as a region for decades to come. Building on those new growth patterns—putting jobs closer to where people live, giving people more housing choices—the region has been planning a transportation system matching our growth.

Over the past two years, nearly 8,000 people have contributed plans and ideas on solving the long-term question of how we get to where we need to go. They helped the Sacramento Area Council of Governments develop a transportation plan giving people more mobility choices. From sidewalks to streetcars and rural road maintenance to carpool lanes, the plan invests in a mix of transportation options serving our diverse six-county region.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 invests \$42 billion over 28 years, linking transportation, transit, road improvements and other investments with land use and air quality.

While a long-term plan, the MTP is an active document detailing the region's transportation projects. Familiar projects from the current MTP include the Gold Line light rail extension from the Sacramento Valley Station to Folsom, Highway 99 widening near Yuba City, Tower Bridge widening and remodeled intersection and ramp meters on Interstate 80, as well as freeway improvements in Elk Grove and Roseville underway.

We think the plan moves our region in a positive new direction, but we'd like to hear from you. We are seeking public comments on drafts of the MTP and an Environmental Impact Report through December 20. You can review the documents and comment, or join us for a public hearing on November 29 at 6 p.m. To review the documents or for information visit www.sacog.org/mtp2035 or call (916) 321-9000.

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El Dorado County Supervisor

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SACOG coordinates transportation planning, funding and project delivery for Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and the cities within them. SACOG also engages elected officials in land use and other regional issues.

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