

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **PLACER COUNTY MTP2030 EDITORIAL**

Our success is causing more traffic. As the region grows with new businesses, new jobs, new homes, and a richer quality of life, we're also seeing more traffic congestion and we're continuing to violate federal air quality standards.

Over the next 23 years, our region is projected to grow by nearly 1.2 million new residents, 450,000 new jobs, and 400,000 new homes. Imagining the impacts to our roads and air quality is part of the regional transportation planning process required by the federal and state government, called the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2030 (MTP2030).

In 2002, SACOG and civic partner Valley Vision initiated the Blueprint Project to study future land-use patterns and their potential effects on transportation, air quality, housing, open space and other resources in the region. Through a series of workshops at the neighborhood, countywide and regional levels, more than 5,000 residents, elected officials, business leaders and advocacy groups helped craft an alternative vision integrating smart-growth concepts.

The MTP2030 is more than another government report - it is a crucial map that shows how we will invest nearly \$30 billion in our transportation infrastructure before the year 2030. It is the next step in the implementation of the Blueprint for land use and transportation that sets our region's growth strategy.

Required every three years, the MTP is updated based on population, transportation demand and air quality projections. The last MTP, completed in 2002, identified a variety of improvements to roads, transit, highways, bikeways and pedestrian paths. Still, computer modeling projected a 58 percent increase in traffic congestion. This prompted the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to look more closely at the links between transportation, air quality and land-use choices.

SACOG projections showed implementing these smart-growth principles would shorten commute times, reduce traffic congestion, lessen dependence on automobiles and provide for housing choices more aligned to the needs of an aging population.

This year presents an important challenge and opportunity to steer a course to get the transportation future of this region "right". MTP2030 will be the first regional transportation plan to be based on the Blueprint preferred growth alternative - a plan for the future of our region by the citizens in our region.

While planning for 23 years may feel like there's plenty of room for procrastination, the changes we will see are more immediate than we might think. And, the length of time needed to plan and finance traffic improvements is much longer than we'd like.

Today, residents of Placer County are celebrating \$35 million in transportation improvements at the Douglas/I-80 Interchange improving traffic circulation on I-80 and at the Sunrise Avenue-Douglas Boulevard Intersection. The largest construction project in the

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history of Roseville is the product of teamwork involving multiple public agencies including the city of Roseville, the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and Caltrans.

The Douglas/I-80 Interchange improvements were first included in the MTP developed in 1993 and projected for construction completion in 2005.

The ability of our region's local elected officials to work cooperatively to solve regional challenges is emerging as a key competitive advantage for this region. As we compete for state and federal funding to support our emerging infrastructure needs, our ability to work together to envision solutions for our region as a whole will result in a wealth of improvements within and between our communities.

You can help shape our future. Please help develop the MTP2030 by attending one of the upcoming 16 community workshops. **Workshops in Placer County will be held on February 8 at the Rocklin Sunset Center, on February 21 at the Maidu Community Center in Roseville, and February 28 at the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency offices in Auburn.**

Each workshop will begin at **6 p.m.** and include hands-on opportunities for residents and community leaders to provide input for future planning in our region. For more information on the MTP2030 process, please visit [www.sacog.org/mtp](http://www.sacog.org/mtp) or contact SACOG's civic partner, Valley Vision at (916) 325-1634.

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