

## Paratransit, Inc. Honored on its 25th Anniversary

The Board of Directors at its June meeting honored Paratransit, Inc. with a resolution of congratulations on its 25 years of providing quality transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities in the Sacramento urbanized area. Board Chair Christopher Cabaldon presented the resolution to Susan Abrams, President of the Paratransit, Inc. Board of Directors, and Executive Director Bill Durant. In presenting the award, Cabaldon noted that Paratransit, Inc. has implemented innovative technology to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its services, and has pioneered the development of a variety of creative mobility services and mobility training programs to provide members of the disabled community with more travel options. In accepting the resolution, Abrams said she was grateful for the recognition of her peers.



(left to right) Christopher Cabaldon, Susan Abrams, Bill Durant

## SACOG Launches Aggressive Move to Fund Local Transportation Projects

IN AN AGGRESSIVE MOVE TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL transportation projects receive funding, SACOG will take advantage of an underused provision in state transportation policy to give as many as 50 local projects the opportunity to move forward.

The state in April announced that cities and counties statewide had fallen far behind in delivering local projects to use federal transportation funds available in 2004, and that those projects that are ready to proceed could move to the front of the funding queue.

"Once we learned that the funding was available to any project ready to go, we seized the opportunity and contacted

High-Value Local Projects Poised for Potential Funding

Downtown-Natomas-Airport Light Rail Line **\$10 million**

Harbor Boulevard/U.S. 50 Interchange **\$ 8 million** (West Sacramento)

South Light Rail Line Extension to Cosumnes River College **\$7.1 million**

Watt Avenue Light Rail Grade Separation **\$5.6 million**

Sacramento County Road Rehabilitation **\$4.2 million** for 2003/2004

Folsom-Amtrak Light Rail Extension **\$3.1 million**

counties, cities and transit districts in the region with the message that, if they could deliver the projects, SACOG could find the money to complete them," said SACOG Deputy Executive Director for Planning Pete Hathaway.

SACOG started 2004 with budget authority to spend \$48 million in federal funds. It has since secured budget authority to use another \$16 million in federal funds where agencies in other regions are not ready, and is prepared to borrow up to \$20 million more from regions that will not be able to use their funds until next year.

The high-value projects that

**Transportation Projects...**

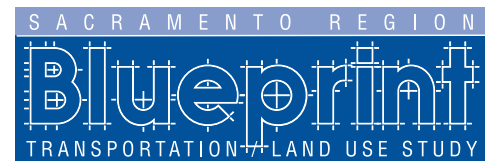
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## Local Blueprint Briefings On Tap Through July

BRIEFINGS ARE SLATED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS throughout the region through July as part of the SACOG / Valley Vision Blueprint Project.

The briefings are designed to solicit local government input on which land use scenario they would like to see for their jurisdictions in the discussion draft of the preferred land use alternative to guide future land use in the Sacramento region. The discussion draft will be developed and refined in the coming months and will incorporate public input received over the past year at neighborhood and countywide Blueprint workshops and at the TALL Order Regional Forum held April 30.

"The Forum presented hard evidence that residents of the Sacramento region want to move away from the sprawling growth patterns



of today," SACOG Chair Christopher Cabaldon said. "We look forward to continuing the dialogue with city councils and county boards of supervisors to hear their input and enlist their support as we steer the region down a new path on growth."

Four alternative scenarios for future growth and transportation plans were presented at the April Regional Forum. Participants expressed

**Blueprint:**

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City of Woodland  
City of Yuba City

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Potential Payoff for Local Transportation Funding



Martin Tuttle

AS WE CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS with local jurisdictions about the Blueprint Project scenarios, SACOG's Project Delivery Team, led by Deputy Executive Director Pete Hathaway, has been working to fund local transportation projects. When we learned that local governments with projects ready to fund could essentially come and get the money, we were first in line with our hands out. State transportation officials deemed the innovative approach that they developed "aggressive." This funding is money that would not otherwise be available to this region during 2004.

The big-ticket items on the list of approximately 50 projects are the light rail extensions. But this funding will provide tangible benefits to the residents of cities and counties throughout our region—in the form of road repaving and interchange improvements—from Galt to Auburn to Davis to Yuba County. In addition, there are ramp meters, bicycle paths and walkways, and ridesharing and clean air programs. All told, local agencies have submitted about 50 projects that will be ready to go by mid-August, at a price tag of over \$80 million.

State officials have said that SACOG's program is the most ambitious delivery and spending proposal from any region statewide this year. The challenge has been handed to local agencies: If local jurisdictions can deliver their projects as promised, this region could get underway with a record large federal transportation program by the end of summer. This is all thanks to a new form of partnership between SACOG and local agencies that will be critically important during the upcoming years, when SACOG's access to federal funds may be temporarily blocked by Sacramento's inability to achieve clean air by federal deadlines.

This month also saw preliminary selection of the first 14 projects recommended for funding from SACOG's new Community Design Program, which is grounded in Blueprint's seven principals of smart growth. Light rail station improvements, streetscapes and pedestrian-friendly intersections are among the projects recommended for funding in this first round. These also will provide tangible benefits on a local and a regional scale. The staff recommendations have been released for public comment; the Board of Directors is scheduled to vote on a final list of projects in July.

In the midst of all this activity, I hope you are having an enjoyable summer.

MARTIN TUTTLE

### Annual Award to Honor Memory of Bill Hughes

Seeking to permanently honor the memory of Bill Hughes, the SACOG Board of Directors has voted to designate an annual award in his name.

Beginning this year, the SACOG Salutes! Award for Elected Official of the Year will be known as the "Bill Hughes Award" in honor of the visionary leader whose spirit of optimism and collaboration continues to resonate with local officials and citizens throughout the region.

"Those of us who were lucky enough to work with Bill Hughes take heart in sharing his vision of regional cooperation," SACOG Chair Christopher Cabaldon said. "This award is a fitting tribute to Bill and the principles he championed."

The annual award will be given to an elected official in the region who best represents the values and leadership of Hughes, who passed away unexpectedly in 2003.

Hughes was chair of the SACOG Board of Directors at the time of his death and had represented Citrus Heights since 1997. He was Citrus Heights' first mayor, serving on the City Council from the time the city incorporated in 1997. He was completing his third term as mayor when he passed away.

His leadership was instrumental in launching the Blueprint Project, an award-winning effort to engage the public in analyzing land use and traffic patterns and devising a preferred scenario for the future.

"The Blueprint Project is very much the legacy of Bill Hughes," Cabaldon told an audience of nearly 1,400 at the TALL Order Regional Forum on April 30. "His spirit of hope, optimism, collaboration and compassion are with us."

SACOG Salutes! call for nominations go out in July and the winners will be announced at the December SACOG Board meeting.



Bill Hughes

the strongest support for the scenarios labeled C and D, which envision varying degrees of higher density, mixed housing developments and emphasize growth through “whole communities” that weave together homes and jobs.

Based on that support, and on input from a committee of city and county planners, SACOG staff is working to develop a preferred land use alternative that will primarily be a hybrid of scenarios C and D. Technical evaluations of the scenarios will continue through July. Staff is researching water supply issues, infrastructure costs and fiscal impacts associated with the scenarios.

The SACOG Board of Directors will review the discussion draft preferred alternative at its September meeting. After additional stakeholder input, via a questionnaire in newspaper inserts and Internet voting, and a detailed public opinion poll, the draft preferred alternative will be discussed at a regional summit of elected officials this fall. Finally, a preferred land use alternative will be presented for SACOG Board approval in December 2004.

## 511 Travel Information System Set for August Debut

SACOG IS PARTNERING WITH the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to launch a 511 transportation information system for the six-county Sacramento region at the beginning of August.

The new 511 telephone number will be accompanied by a new Web site, [www.sacregion511.org](http://www.sacregion511.org). The number and Web site will give travelers information they need to make better choices when planning trips. By calling in or logging on, travelers can get up-to-the-minute information about traffic conditions, public transportation options, ridesharing, and bicycling anytime, anywhere throughout the greater Sacramento area and Northern California.

The new number will replace 1-800-commute and [1-800-commute.org](http://1-800-commute.org) as the one-stop shopping telephone num-



ber and Web site for traffic, transit, rideshare and bicycle information in the Sacramento region.

The six-county Sacramento system will be the second 511 service to go online in California. It will provide links to 511 systems in the Bay Area, Oregon and Nevada and will be avail-

able from any phone, provided the carrier supports 511. Most counties in the region will have wireless and landline access to the service through the major carriers.

Caltrans will begin installing 511 informational signs on highways during the month of August. A major “launch” of the new service is planned for September. Bus, rail and rideshare services are expected to begin advertising the 511 number on outreach materials soon after the system is up and running.

## SACOG Launches Aggressive Move to Fund Local Transportation Projects

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may now move forward this year include a light rail bridge across Watt Avenue, several road repaving projects, ramp meters for I-5 and I-80, various bicycle paths and walkways, and ridesharing and clean air programs.

Although federal and state transportation funds have been scarce the last couple of years, the slowdown in project delivery by others allows the Sacramento region, with 5 percent of the state’s population, the opportunity to

obtain more than 10 percent of this year’s funds.

State officials have said that, statewide, the SACOG program is the most aggressive effort to ensure that local jurisdictions’ transportation projects are funded and can move forward. The region could have a record number of large transportation initiatives underway by the end of summer if local agencies deliver the projects, Hathaway said.

This new form of

partnership between SACOG and local agencies will be increasingly important as the region looks ahead to a period when access to federal funds may be proscribed by Sacramento’s inability to meet federal clean air requirements. Funding for transportation projects is contingent on the region reaching clean air targets set by the federal government.



Elk Grove – Rancho Cordova – El Dorado Connector Study Stakeholder Advisory Committee Advances Conceptual Alternatives

Members of the Elk Grove – Rancho Cordova – El Dorado Connector Study Stakeholder Advisory Committee discuss the four conceptual alternatives. Shown from left to right are Don Smith, Sacramento Regional Transit District, Scot Mende, Sacramento Transportation and Air Quality Collaborative, Sara Meyers, Wendy Hoyt, the Hoyt Company. The committee in June agreed that the four conceptual alternatives provided an appropriate range of alternatives within which to initiate the environmental review process. SACOG staff will produce a draft concept report based on the committee’s input that will be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee in its August 26 meeting.

# Regional Report



JUNE / JULY 2004

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## Housing Compact Gaining Momentum 8 Jurisdictions Sign On With More to Come

Seven cities and one county have formally joined the Sacramento Regional Compact for Affordable Housing, a groundbreaking effort to improve the supply of affordable housing in the six-county Sacramento region.

The cities of Roseville, Winters, Loomis, West Sacramento, Woodland, Isleton and Elk Grove took action in April and May to join the Compact. Placer County became the first county to officially sign on in late May. Sixteen other jurisdictions are scheduled to consider the Compact in the near future or have indicated they will put it on their agenda soon.

"Affordable housing is a big issue for cities

and counties in the Sacramento region," SACOG Executive Director Martin Tuttle said. "The eight jurisdictions that have adopted the compact did so by unanimous vote, and we expect that trend to continue."

Under the Compact, cities and counties will try to meet the production standards set forth in the Compact. The standard is that at least 4 percent of all new housing construction will be affordable to very low-income households (meaning households with less than 50 percent of the median family income, or MFI, for its size), 4 percent for low-income (50 to 80 percent of MFI) and 2 percent for moderate income

(80 to 120 percent MFI). If a participating jurisdiction meets or exceeds this production standard, it is then eligible for potential state funding dedicated to the region, and may be able (if appropriate state legislation passes) to self-certify its Housing Element, a required component of General Plan updates.

The so-called "4-4-2" standard can be met through a combination of new construction and substantial rehabilitation. All housing used to meet the "4-4-2" standard must be under a regulatory affordability agreement. SACOG is the only Council of Government (COG) in California to adopt an affordable housing compact.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 1 10 a.m.**  
Transportation and  
Air Quality Committee

**1:30 p.m.**  
Administration Committee

**July 6, 10 a.m.**  
Housing and Land Use Committee

**1:30 p.m.**  
Legislation and  
Public Affairs Committee

**July 15, 9 a.m.**  
SACOG Board Meeting

**July 22, 2 p.m.**  
Regional Planning Partnership

All meetings listed, unless otherwise noted, are located in the SACOG Board Room, 1415 "L" Street, Suite 300, Sacramento.

Note: Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please call SACOG at 916.321.9000 to confirm, or visit the calendar on our Website at [www.sacog.org/calendar](http://www.sacog.org/calendar).