

# Regional Report



Sacramento Area Council of Governments

ISSUE 7, NO 5

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2007

## New Study on Climate Change Mitigation Recognizes SACOG

### Blueprint a model for changing growth patterns

Meeting the growing demand for conveniently located homes in walkable neighborhoods could significantly reduce the growth in the number of miles Americans drive, shrinking the nation's carbon footprint while giving people more housing choices, according to a team of urban planning researchers.

Researchers conclude in *Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change* that development patterns are both a key contributor to climate change and an essential factor in combating it. The Sacramento region is highlighted as a model for land use planning and civic engagement.

According to the report, our region's Blueprint visioning exercise is one of the best examples in the country. SACOG used extensive public outreach process, cutting-edge Internet-accessible planning software, and a detailed business-as-usual baseline growth forecast to help participants to explore alternative growth scenarios through 2050. The adopted preferred scenario features sophisticated infill development

**New Study On Climate ...**  
Continued on page 8

## MTP2035 Moves Forward

## SACOG Board Reviews Draft Transportation Plan

*A full draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 will go to the SACOG Board of Directors on October 29. If released, the full draft MTP2035 and draft Environmental Impact Report will be open for public comment until December 17. In preparation for the draft MTP2035, the following is an overview of where the MTP2035 will take our region.*

### MTP2035 Public Hearing

Thursday,  
November 29  
6 p.m.  
SACOG  
1415 L Street  
Suite 300  
Sacramento



With 2.1 million people in our region and another one million projected by 2035, moving within and between communities is becoming an increasingly difficult challenge. Adding 450,000 new homes and 500,000 new jobs to our region, one might expect increased traffic congestion,

**MTP2035 ...**  
Continued on page 4

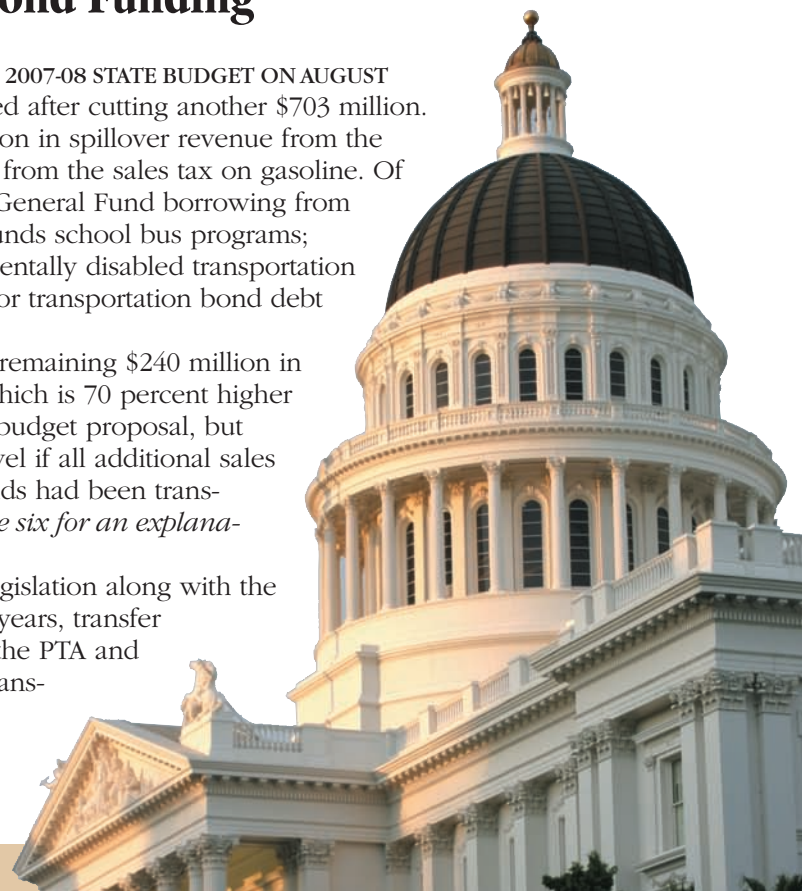
## State Budget Cuts Transit Funding, Delivers Transportation Bond Funding

THE LEGISLATURE PASSED A 2007-08 STATE BUDGET ON AUGUST 21, which the Governor signed after cutting another \$703 million. The budget diverts \$1.26 billion in spillover revenue from the Public Transit Account (PTA) from the sales tax on gasoline. Of this, \$83 million repays past General Fund borrowing from Proposition 42; \$99 million funds school bus programs; \$129 million funds developmentally disabled transportation programs; and \$948 million for transportation bond debt service.

The budget transfers the remaining \$240 million in spillover funds to the PTA, which is 70 percent higher than the Governor's original budget proposal, but only half of the maximum level if all additional sales tax revenues, or spillover funds had been transferred [see the sidebar on page six for an explanation of spillover].

The Legislature passed legislation along with the budget that would, in future years, transfer half of spillover revenues to the PTA and divert the rest to two other trans-

**State Budget ...**  
Continued on page 6



## BOARD MEMBERS

Rusty Dupray (Chair)  
El Dorado County  
Tom Cosgrove (Vice-Chair)  
City of Lincoln  
Harold Anderson  
City of Winters  
Ruth Asmundson  
City of Davis  
James Barrington  
City of Wheatland  
Christina Billeci  
City of Marysville  
Sherrie Blackmun  
City of Colfax  
Jeannie Bruins  
City of Citrus Heights  
Linda Budge  
City of Rancho Cordova  
Christopher Cabaldon  
City of West Sacramento  
Darryl Clare  
City of Galt  
Robby Colvin  
City of Placerville  
Jim Cooper  
City of Elk Grove  
Jim Corsaut  
City of Isleton  
Roger Dickinson  
Sacramento County  
Heather Fargo  
City of Sacramento  
David Flory  
City of Woodland  
Alfred Fortino  
City of Live Oak  
Jim Gray  
City of Roseville  
Lauren Hammond  
City of Sacramento  
Kevin Hanley  
City of Auburn  
Peter Hill  
City of Rocklin  
Roberta MacGlashan  
Sacramento County  
Leslie McBride  
City of Yuba City  
Steve Miklos  
City of Folsom  
Susan Peters  
Sacramento County  
Rocky Rockholm  
Placer County  
Walt Scherer  
Town of Loomis  
Donald Schrader  
Yuba County  
Dan Silva  
Sutter County  
Helen Thomson  
Yolo County  
Jody Jones (Ex-Officio Member)  
Caltrans District 3

## MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

El Dorado County  
Placer County  
Sacramento County  
Sutter County  
Yolo County  
Yuba County  
City of Auburn  
City of Citrus Heights  
City of Colfax  
City of Davis  
City of Elk Grove  
City of Folsom  
City of Galt  
City of Isleton  
City of Lincoln  
City of Live Oak  
Town of Loomis  
City of Marysville  
City of Placerville  
City of Rancho Cordova  
City of Rocklin  
City of Roseville  
City of Sacramento  
City of West Sacramento  
City of Wheatland  
City of Winters  
City of Woodland  
City of Yuba City

## MESSAGE FROM THE

### BOARD VICE CHAIR

# A Whole New Ballgame



Tom Cosgrove

SACOG IS NEARING THE COMPLETION OF AN EXTENSIVE TWO-YEAR PROCESS to develop our next Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The last time the SACOG Board adopted a major MTP update we felt a little like we were not even keeping

our heads above water. This time, though, we are on the verge of a whole new way of doing things, feeling like we have found a new formula that will truly preserve and enhance the high quality of life our citizens tell us they value so much.

The MTP will prioritize the expenditure of \$42 billion for badly needed transportation projects over the next 28 years. As many people know, we preceded this planning process with a 3-year long-range growth visioning exercise that led to the adoption of a voluntary Blueprint 2050 concept map and seven growth principles. The commitment of our member cities and counties, together with the support of our citizens and with the cooperation of the development and building industry, we are creating a new kind of future for our region's communities. By building whole neighborhoods, cities and regional centers, complete with housing, jobs, shopping and services closer to each other, it makes it possible for us to spend our transportation funds much more effectively. The future will bring shorter trips and more trips using transit, walking and biking. This will mean cleaner air for us to breathe.

After we adopt the MTP, I believe SACOG should move forward with two important and related "green" initiatives. The first will be related to global climate change and ensuring that our agency, along with our city and county members, is taking steps to limit the amount of carbon our daily activities add to the atmosphere. I know that people have differing opinions about the severity and urgency of this problem. The way I look at it is that most of the things we need to do to reduce our carbon footprint are actions that produce benefits for a whole host of other reasons—improving air quality by taking harmful pollutants

out of the air and reducing our dependence on oil from possibly insecure sources, among them. At the very least, it is a good insurance policy for us to buy for our children and grandchildren. We cannot just simply avoid the issue, since there is already momentum at the state level to develop policy and add regulation in this area. Our region should commit to being the national leader in tackling this important issue now, just as we have become the national leader in regional scale land use and transportation planning.

We should also move forward with an initiative that better defines the many urban-rural interface issues in our region. The Blueprint and MTP are about the whole region, but they tend to focus more of their attention on the heavily populated and growing urban areas. It is time that we look at how to help our more rural, less populated areas to thrive. These issues will involve finding economically viable means to encourage continued farming of our planet's best soils, preservation of our most valuable natural resources, clean energy production on our farms and in our forests, construction of needed infrastructure in these areas, and how to grow in ways that provide jobs in smaller towns and not just houses. Through all of this I am sure that the people and businesses in urban areas will gain a keener understanding of why our future quality of life is inextricably linked to the success of our more rural areas.

So, in the next few months at SACOG we will be closing a very important chapter, the adoption of a much higher performing MTP than our last one. And then forging ahead to the next chapter, this one about the green issues of global climate change and the preservation and viability of our rural resources, including small cities.

TOM COSGROVE

**Board Actions** for the months of July, August and September are online at [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org)

# City of Sacramento

*This is the eleventh in a series of articles featuring local governments using Blueprint Project principles in built projects, plans or general plans.*



GROWTH FOR THE SACRAMENTO REGION'S CENTRAL CITY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN DEFINED as expanding outward. A new general plan being drafted focuses on taking growth both inward and upward.

In June, the city council endorsed a plan that sees a more urban city, where people not only work, but also live and recreate. More tall buildings would populate the city's skyline in 2030 and not just in downtown. Sub-regional centers would enable distribution of jobs throughout the city and create shorter commutes. Focused around light rail stations these areas would act as miniature downtowns with mixed-use developments.

The draft General Plan 2030 is a bold gesture for

the city to grow into a mature urban area that will add 200,000 people and 140,000 jobs by 2030;

The city has gathered significant input through the General Plan Advisory Committee, two rounds of town hall forums, and a public opinion survey. This fall, residents are offering input on draft general plan policies. The city council adopted a resolution demonstrating the city's commitment to Blueprint implementation. The resolution included a list of policy implementation steps associated with the general plan update, as well as a population and employment allocation supporting the MTP2035.

## Downtown Development

Within the urban core, new developments are

blending housing and offices with ground-level shops and eateries, opening up more choices for local trips, on foot or by bike. Recent developments offer housing for lease and sale.

## Transit Oriented Development

Recently, several projects have been specifically planned to make best use of the space around light rail stations. Three new residential and mixed-use projects have been constructed within walking distance of the CSUS campus and the 65th Street light rail station.

## Pedestrian Improvement Projects

Sacramento seeks to become the "Walking Capital" by investing in pedestrian infrastructure. Routine projects such as providing needed sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, street lighting and traffic calming continue to be implemented citywide. Several streets in the Central City will be reconfigured to be two-way streets with bicycle lanes in both directions.

Developments in the Railyards and along the River

The city's current vision for growth includes the Railyards, a large under-utilized area just north of downtown that once was the largest railyard in the west. A current application for redevelopment includes 1.3 million square feet in retail and almost 4 million square feet in office space and thousands of housing units.

## Developments in the Railyards and along the River

Sacramento is also working with West Sacramento on a comprehensive plan for development on both sides of the Sacramento River. This includes planning for urban mixed-use development with a strong connection to the Sacramento River.

For more information contact Ralph Montaño at the city of Sacramento at (916) 808-8397 or [rmonatano@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:rmonatano@cityofsacramento.org).



Top: Railyards project; above: mixed-use buildings 800J (left) and O' Lofts (right)

# The Next Step in Blueprint

The most recent MTP, adopted in 2002, had notable successes, including the creation of regional funding programs supporting air quality, community design, transportation demand management, and bicycling and pedestrians. But despite our best efforts, the plan forecast traffic congestion levels will be 58 percent higher than today.

Aware of the need for change, in 2002 SACOG undertook the Blueprint visioning project working collectively with civic partner Valley Vision, 5,000 residents, community leaders and elected officials to study future land-use patterns and their potential effects on the region's transportation, air quality, housing, open space and other resources.

Through a series of community workshops, SACOG planners discovered how we can reduce air emissions, traffic congestion and urban sprawl. Computer modeling showed implementing smart growth principles would shorten commute times, reduce traffic congestion, lessen dependence on automobiles, and provide for housing choices more aligned with the needs of an aging population.

The Preferred Blueprint Scenario adopted by SACOG calls for development based on seven smart growth principles:

- providing a variety of transportation choices;
- offering housing choices and opportunities;
- taking advantage of compact development;
- using existing assets;
- mixed land uses;
- preserving open space, farmland and natural beauty through natural resources conservation; and
- encouraging distinctive, attractive communities with quality design.

## MTP2035 ...

*Continued from front page*

dirtier air and longer commute and travel times.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 links land use and transportation planning, with \$42 billion in transportation investments in the six-county Sacramento region over the next 28 years. With strategic investments in our current transportation system, we can curb the growth in traffic congestion each household experiences. We can create opportunities for residents of the region to spend less time in their cars and protect our air quality while improving our quality of life.

### A Regional Plan

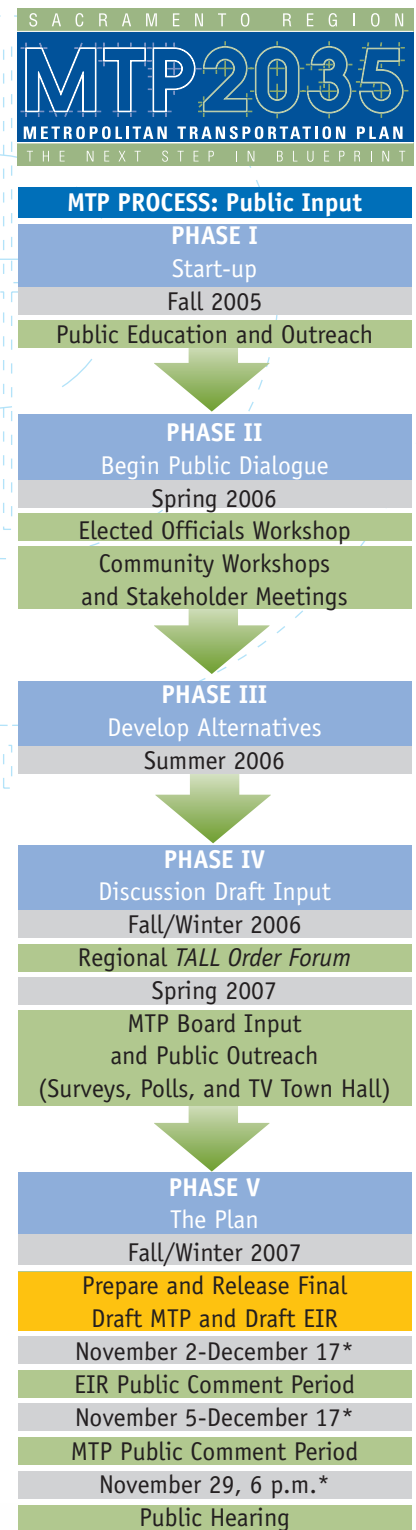
To utilize state and federal funds for transportation improvement projects in any of the communities within the six-county area requires project inclusion in the MTP. Prepared collaboratively with transit service providers, air quality management districts, transportation departments, planning agencies and community organizations in the region, MTP2035 represents transportation improvements for the near and long term.

### Public Involvement

Developing an effective regional transportation system requires understanding the needs of our region's residents and the travel choices they will want and need to make. SACOG

## MTP2035 ...

*Continued on next page*



\* pending Board release on October 29.

Gold Background = current stage

developed this MTP with a robust public involvement process including over 150 presentations, 17 community workshops, and an Elected Officials Summit between the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006.

On November 16, 2006, SACOG presented *TALL Order: Moving the Region Forward*, eight simultaneous community workshops bringing together 1,525 people by video conferencing to discuss what transportation options the region will need over the next 28 years.

SACOG also conducted significant public attitude research for the MTP for 2035. Research included a random-sample phone survey, a random-sample online survey, a self-sampled online survey, and random-sampled focus groups. Specific focus groups were also held to identify the concerns, needs and interests of the low-income and certain ethnic minority populations for the Sacramento region.

In January 2007, SACOG joined media

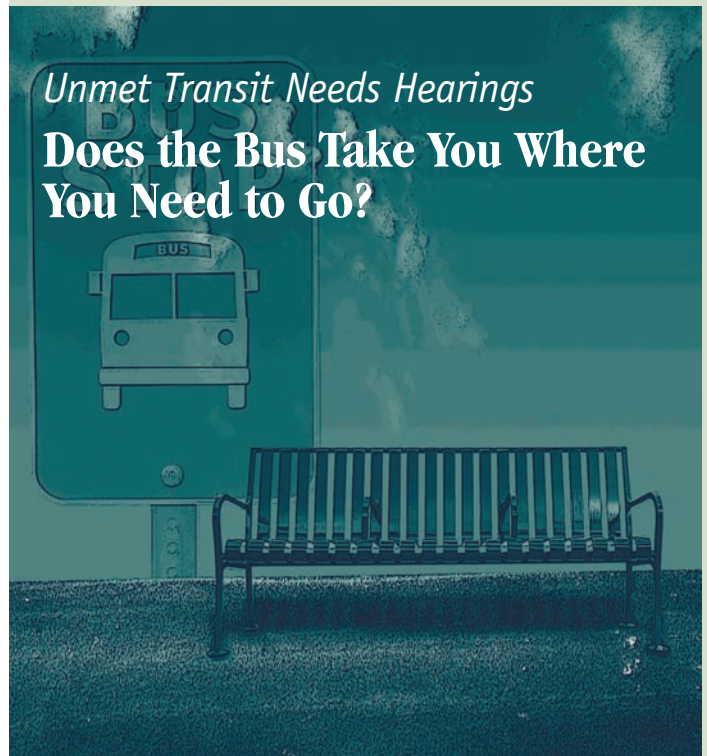
“With strategic investments in our current transportation system, we can curb the growth in traffic congestion each household experiences.”

partner KCRA 3 in bringing transportation issues to televisions and computer screens in homes across the Sacramento region. *Road Map to the Future* allowed viewers to learn about different transportation options being considered for the MTP. The program included the opportunity for viewers to provide input through an online poll. Over 55,000 viewers watched the program and more than 1,300 viewers responded to the online poll.

Throughout the public workshops, public opinion research and media outreach, SACOG heard general public interest in a balanced investment package including improvements in road maintenance, road expansion, transit service expansion, and amenities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Residents indicated priorities for investments that reflected six MTP Principles: access and mobility, equity and choice, economic vitality, environmental quality and sustainability, financial stewardship and smart land use with strong public support for access and mobility and smart land use.

Individuals are encouraged to review the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 and the accompanying Environmental Impact Report starting in early November. An evening public hearing will also be held on November 29 at 6 p.m. at SACOG's offices, 1415 L Street, Suite 300, in Sacramento. The public comment period on the draft MTP2035 and Draft EIR are scheduled to end December 17, 2007.



SACOG is holding a series of Unmet Needs Hearings to obtain feedback on transit and bus services for the counties of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba. Five meetings were held in September and early October. The remaining meetings are listed below. Information on reaching the hearings on transit is available at [www.sacregion511.org](http://www.sacregion511.org) or call 511.

### Yuba and Sutter Counties

Wheatland Community Center,  
101 C Street  
**October 25, 2:00 p.m.**

### Sacramento County

Folsom Chamber of Commerce,  
200 Wool Street  
**November 6, 5:30 p.m.**

Elk Grove City Hall,  
8380 Laguna Palms Way  
**November 13, 6:00 p.m.**

Isleton City Hall,  
Council Chambers,  
169 W. Brannan Island Road  
**November 15, 2:00 p.m.**

Galt City Hall,  
Council Chambers,  
380 Civic Drive  
**November 15, 5:30 p.m.**

### Yolo County

Davis City Hall,  
Council Chambers,  
23 Russell Boulevard  
**November 5, 6:00 p.m.**

West Sacramento City Hall,  
1110 West Capitol Avenue,  
Room 157  
**December 11, 6:00 p.m.**

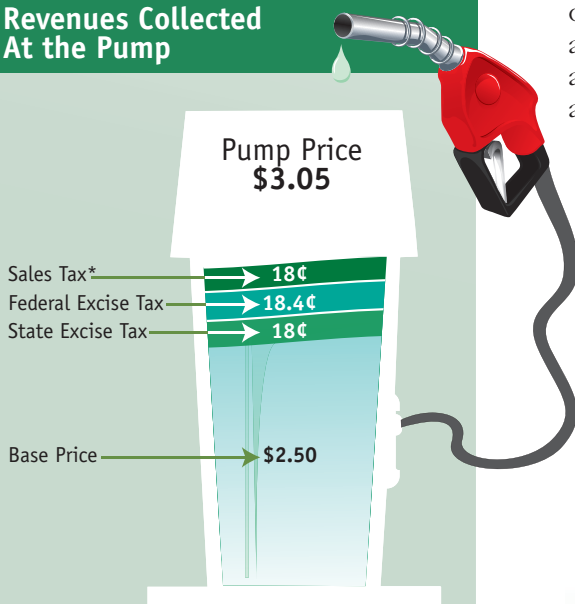
Winters City Hall,  
Council Chambers,  
318 First Street  
**November 29, 2:00 p.m.**

Woodland Library,  
250 First Street  
**November 28, 6:00 p.m.**

## How is the Public Transit Account funded (and what is the spillover?)

The state sales tax on diesel, and a portion of the gasoline sales tax make up the base of the Public Transit Account (PTA). When gas prices rise faster than other goods, the net sales tax revenues in excess of 0.25 percent on all goods (except gas) go into the spillover. This is the result of high gasoline prices, and so the budget estimates \$827 million in spillover revenues in 2007-08. The PTA also receives a portion of Proposition 42 revenues.

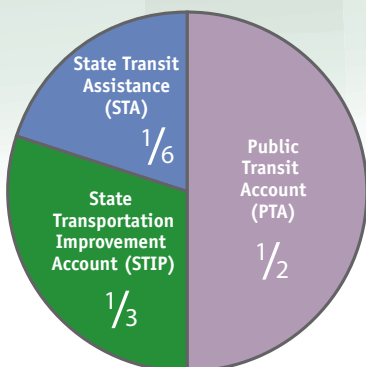
### Revenues Collected At the Pump



\* at 7.75%

Source: Legislative Analyst's Office

### Future "Spillover" Allocation



## State Budget ...

Continued from front page

portation funds. The diverted funds would allow predictability for transportation programming, with two-thirds of spillover funds going to State Transit Assistance (STA) and one-third to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). If this is implemented, the STA would receive around \$800 million in future years, with about \$400 million going to the STIP. The PTA would also fund developmentally disabled transportation programs. The STA provides operating funds for local transit agencies, while the STIP funds a variety of state and local road and transit projects.

As required by Proposition 1A, the budget provides full funding for Proposition 42 suspensions, yielding \$602 million for Traffic Congestion Relief projects, \$176 million to the PTA from other sources, and \$703 million for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), enough along with bond funds to fund all non-transit projects

programmed for 2007-08 on a full accrual basis.

The budget appropriates \$4.2 billion for Proposition 1B programs, primarily for capital outlay and local assistance for state and local transportation improvements. The Legislature also adopted trailer bill legislation that further defines and directs the implementation of Proposition 1B programs. The specific program budgets are:

- \$600 million designated for transit projects,
- \$188 million for intercity rail projects,
- \$950 million for local street and road maintenance,
- \$123 million for rail grade separations, and
- \$727 million for STIP projects.

The budget provides Proposition 1C spending authority of \$95 million for transit oriented developments and \$300 million for infill incentives.

## Legislative Update

*The SACOG Board of Directors officially took a position on five bills:*

AB 70 (Flood Liability); opposed; at Governor's desk

AB 414 (Regional Housing Needs Allocation); opposed; at Governor's desk

AB 1259 (Local planning: Housing Element); supported; at Governor's desk

SB 375 (Travel models & CEQA reform); opposed unless amended; two-year bill

SB 974 (Container fees); supported; two-year bill

## AROUND THE REGION

### Six Local Projects Receive National Recognition

#### Neighborhood Design Assessed for Green Building and Smart Growth

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Developments (LEED-ND), launched in August, is the first national standard for neighborhood design that incorporates green building and smart growth. Of the 238 projects on the list of projects primarily located in the United States, six are in the Sacramento region: Cannery Park in Davis, the Elk Grove Civic Center, B Street West in West Sac-

ramento, Glenborough at Easton and Easton Place, Sacramento County, and two projects in the city of Sacramento: Ramona Villages and Township 9.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, Congress for New Urbanism and Natural Resources Defense Council, LEED-ND builds on the LEED rating framework—the standard for evaluating green buildings—and adds to the guidelines the Smart Growth Network’s ten principles of smart growth.

For additional information on LEED-ND, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

## SACOG Receives Two Communications Awards

MTP2035 HAS YET TO BE ADOPTED, BUT SACOG has already been recognized for its extensive public involvement. Printed materials and news stories from last year’s *TALL Order: Moving the Region Forward* event have received awards from state and national organizations.

### CAPIO Award

The California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) recognized SACOG with an Excellence in Communications Award for the “Travel in Our Region Series” that aired on KCRA 3 last November. The four-part series examined different travel corridors in the region, looking at current and future needs.



Board Chair Rusty Dupray presented SACOG’s graphic designer Kent Giacomozzi with the Hermes Creative award.

### Hermes Creative Award

The Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals honored SACOG with a Hermes Creative Gold Award in the Integrated Marketing Materials category for the printed materials used for the *TALL Order* event. The award was presented at the September SACOG Board of Directors meeting.

## Nominations for SACOG Salutes!

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING AND INNOVATIVE EFFORTS in transportation, smart growth planning and air quality improvement in the Sacramento region for the regional SACOG Salutes! awards starting October 1. Nominations can be made online at [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org).

Public and private entities within the six-county SACOG region are eligible for awards in seven categories. The number of awards given may vary, with some categories having multiple award winners, others not having any winners selected, and special recognition given for unique entries. Award recipients will be notified in December and honored at the SACOG Board of Directors meeting on December 20.

### SACOG Salutes! Categories:

Agency/Organization of the Year

Business of the Year

Citizen of the Year

Employee of the Year

Bill Hughes Elected Official of the Year

Project of the Year

Blueprint Excellence Award

Make Nominations Online at:

[www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org)

Nominations close November 2 at 5 p.m.



# Regional Report



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2007

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SACRAMENTO CA  
PERMIT NO 1089

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

*Executive Director*  
Mike McKeever

*Director of Community Planning & Operations*  
Kenneth Hough

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

*Communications Manager*  
Rebecca Thornton Sloan

*Content*  
Erik Johnson  
Monica Hernández  
A.J. Tendick

*Graphic Design*  
Kent Giacomozzi

To comment on items in the *Regional Report*, e-mail [regionalreport@sacog.org](mailto:regionalreport@sacog.org).

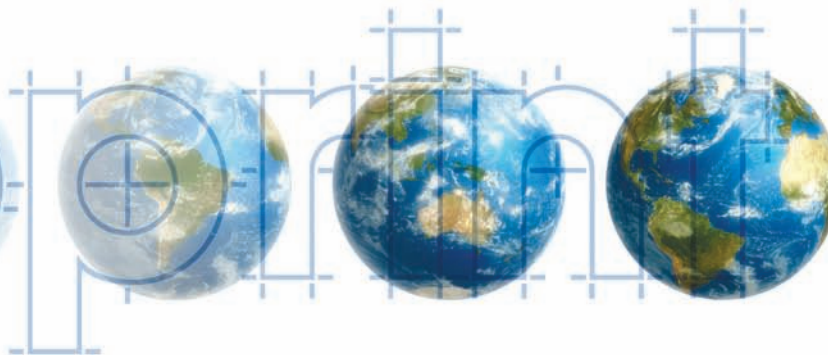
## New Study on Climate Change ...

*Continued from front page*

and transportation investments that will produce 12.3 fewer daily vehicle-miles of travel per household by 2050, a 27 percent reduction below the baseline.

SACOG is doing its part to address climate change by encouraging new land uses

and offering the Blueprint as a tool for local governments in reducing carbon emissions. Additionally, SACOG is quantifying the emissions associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035. This is a 28-year plan that combines new strategies and investments



to implement the Blueprint that will look to implement all feasible means of minimizing carbon emissions.

For more information visit: [www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

**October 18—9 a.m.**  
Flood Management Committee

**October 18—9 a.m.**  
Land Use, Housing & Air Quality Committee

**October 18—10:30 a.m.**  
Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

**October 18—10:30 a.m.**  
Transportation Committee

**October 29—9 a.m.**  
Board of Directors

### November

**November 29— 6 p.m.**  
Special Board of Directors Meeting  
MTP2035 Public Hearing

### December

**December 6—10 a.m.**  
Transportation Committee

**December 6—1:30 p.m.**  
Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

**December 10—10 a.m.**  
Land Use, Housing & Air Quality Committee

**December 10—1:30 p.m.**  
Flood Management Committee

**December 20—9 a.m.**  
Board of Directors

All SACOG committee, advisory and board meetings are open to the public. Citizens are encouraged to attend. For more information or directions, please call SACOG at (916) 321-9000. To confirm meeting information, visit the calendar on our website at [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org). Dates, times and locations are subject to change.