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Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update



Since January, SACOG has been working to develop a draft Preferred Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scenario. In addition to incorporating feedback from the MTP public workshops held last fall, SACOG staff is coordinating with cities, counties, and stakeholders to develop a transportation projects list and plan that considers regional growth assumptions. SACOG staff has requested that cities, counties, transit operators, and Caltrans submit projects for consideration during the MTP/SCS scenario development process.

Beyond working with cities and counties, development of the draft Preferred MTP/SCS scenario will be coordinated with the work of the Sustainable Communities Regional Consortium. The regional consortium is a group that meets monthly to work on improving and enhancing the planning process around high-quality transit.

Sustainable Communities Consortium

In February, the Sustainable Communities Regional Consortium met, with over 160 participants from across the region. Attendees

represented transit agencies, bicyclists and pedestrians, local jurisdictions, social equity and homeless advocates, developers, environmentalists, and interested residents. The consortium will meet regularly during the grant work and is open to any individual or group in the six-county region. To join the consortium, go to www.sacog.org/sustainable.

In addition to the consortium, there are four working groups that will focus on more specific topics that fall within the scope of the grant. The working groups are economic development; equity, housing and health; natural resources; and infrastructure.

Upcoming MTP Work

Additional work involved in creating a draft preferred scenario includes: refining assumptions about expected revenues that can be spent on transportation investments, reassessing regional market demand for different types of housing and employment uses, re-analyzing jobs-housing balance issues in different parts of the region, and completing a more detailed analysis of transportation spending and land use patterns in city and town centers and transportation corridors.

MTP CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Clear Plan for Tomorrow Helps Produce Results Today

SUSAN PETERS, SACOG BOARD CHAIR

Virtually every day the media reports about important public policy issues that need action, but instead are stuck in political deadlock. The state and federal budgets are the most prominent bad news stories right now. One of the rewards of being a local elected official in this region is we continue work together to get things done for our citizens and businesses. So let me share some big things we've done recently and expect to accomplish the balance of this year.

Last year, our region's collaborative efforts paid off as we were awarded \$65 million in competitive state transportation funding. The project to extend carpool/bus lanes on Highway 80 in Sacramento County is among a number of state transportation bond projects in our region that are moving swiftly into the construction phase. Additionally, this project will create many badly needed jobs during its construction. When it's completed it will increase quality of life for citizens through quicker commutes, reduce air pollution, and allow businesses to get goods to market more easily.

Over the last two years, we've also made the most of federal economic stimulus funds. By mid-2010, only 27 percent of road and highway projects were completed nationally. In our region, we had more than half of our projects completed, and as of February 2011, we have 78 percent of projects completed, with another 14 percent underway. These projects brought a total of \$122 million to our region in the middle of the worst economy in our lifetimes, saving or creating thousands of construction jobs at the same time that housing construction came to a halt.

Our main focus at SACOG this year will be updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, a \$35 billion 25 year investment strategy for our region. The cities and counties in the region know that a high quality long-range plan provides the needed foundation for agreements about the most beneficial transportation projects to target for construction funding now. This focus helps us to maximize the value of scarce resources and be nimble and opportunistic when competitive funding opportunities become available.

As part of the MTP Update, SACOG is working with cities, counties, public agencies, nonprofits, and many others to do even more focused work on linking housing, transportation, utilities, and other planning. This effort, possible through a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will give local governments and property owners more information about the needs and opportunities in transit priority areas, in addition to other important work. Our nationally recognized track record for regional collaboration was instrumental in helping us to win this competition: we were one of the very top ranked proposals of the 45 funded nationally out of over 200 applicants.

We will also continue work on the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, helping our region's substantial agricultural economy to thrive. Started in 2008, this project has already looked at innovations in transportation, land use, local markets for agriculture, and forestry. RUCS has helped all of us to understand that growing our regional economy starts by helping the businesses that are here today. Agriculture has long been an underappreciated part of our local economic base. Agricultural products are on a too short list of things that we produce locally and export to the nation and world. RUCS is helping to build our understanding of what we can do to help this sector of our economy continue to grow.

While we have hard work ahead of us, we have a lot going for our region. A group of local government leaders from the National Association of Development Organizations were in Sacramento last month and Matt Chase, their executive director, put it best: "The narrative of the Sacramento region isn't about lost opportunity or despair. Instead, it is about impressive regional leadership that is rooted deeply in sound public policy and a strong sense of place. It is a tale of using unbiased and layered data to improve decision making, align urban and rural assets and leverage the interconnectedness of a region."

SUSAN PETERS

BOARD MEMBERS AND MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

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Caltrans District 3

Yolo County Recognized as One of America's Smartest Regions for Transportation

The Natural Resources Defense Council's Smarter Cities project has named fifteen U.S. metropolitan regions as leaders in transportation innovation and smart transit. Yolo County was recognized under the small region designation. The 2011 Smarter Cities for Transportation awardees include large-sized metro regions, which met or exceeded five out of six criteria, and medium and small metro regions that met three out of three criteria. The primary transit authorities in these top regions then must also have a minimum of three current sustainable transportation programs to be identified as top performers. The regions that were selected as transportation leaders exhibit some of the nation's best and most innovative practices in transportation and make a strong case for the importance of a nationwide, transit-focused, sustainable society. By sharing the lessons that they can offer through this analysis, Smarter Cities hopes to be able to encourage comparable efforts among their peers.

For more information, visit smartercities.nrdc.org/topic/transportation/yolo-california

North Natomas TMA Mobile Bike Service Station

The North Natomas Transportation Management Association (TMA) received a grant to design and manufacture a human powered cargo bike with a complete set of tools and parts—a Mobile Bike Service Station.

After taking ownership of the bike last fall, the TMA created a pool of bike mechanics who ride the bike around North Natomas servicing community members' bikes at events, businesses, and residences. Since that time, mechanics serviced almost 200 bikes and hope to repair another 1000 in 2011 at 18 different events. TMA staff will accompany the mechanics to distribute bike safety, trip information, and maps.

The bike landed on the cover of the national American Bicyclist magazine last December leading other organizations across the country to make inquiries through the TMA.

The mobile service station is creating a buzz in the community and helping more people get out of their cars and safely onto their bikes.

For more information visit www.northnatomastma.org/bike or call the TMA at 916.419.9955.





LAST YEAR, THE SACRAMENTO REGION PROVED IT IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST FORWARD-LOOKING REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY. AT SACOG, WE CELEBRATED THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLUEPRINT, BEGAN AN UPDATE TO THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN, AND CONTINUED WORK ON THE RURAL-URBAN CONNECTIONS STRATEGY. WE ALSO WERE FORTUNATE AS A REGION TO WIN NEW STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

JANUARY

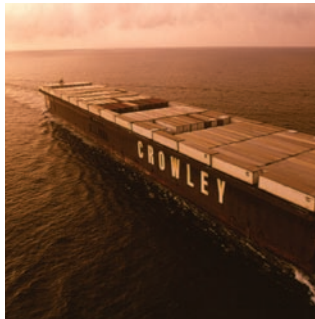
The SACOG Board of Directors elected Yuba City Councilmember Leslie McBride as its chair and Sacramento County Supervisor Susan Peters as vice chair. As a rural city representative, McBride served as a strong champion of the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy throughout the year. She also worked to help SACOG form new partnerships with civic groups.

FEBRUARY

The Port of West Sacramento, along with the ports of Oakland and Stockton, won \$30 million in funding for container barge service. Barges will take tons of agricultural products and consumer goods off of our freeways and railroads. In our region, the funds will help pay for a crane and facilities to handle containers. This is a huge change for the Port of West Sacramento, which has only handled bulk cargo since opening nearly 50 years ago.

MARCH

SACOG adopted a strategic plan with three goals: 1) sustain the agency's emphasis on information-based decision making by providing state-of-the-art data and tools to members, partners, stakeholders and residents to help them shape the futures of their communities and the region; 2) maximize



FEBRUARY—Port of West Sacramento



APRIL—Blueprint Anniversary



MAY—Bike Month

strategic influence for the region through integrated regional transportation plans that produce unique and significant quality of life benefits for residents of the region; and 3) serve as a source of high quality information, convener, and/or advocate on a range of regional issues when the agency's involvement would provide unique, added value to promoting a sustainable future for the region.

APRIL

Over 700 residents, business leaders, community leaders, elected officials, environmentalists, homebuilders, transportation advocates and others came together to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the region's Blueprint. Since 2005, hundreds of new homes, offices and shops have taken shape that follow the Blueprint's smart growth principles. Communities have also developed plans with walkable streets, jobs closer to housing, and many other desirable qualities. Speakers included economist Stephen Levy, regional planning expert John Fregonese, and USC professor Manuel Pastor.

MAY

2010 marked the second year that the region pedaled over one million miles in May. An online bicycle trip planner made it easier for novice and veteran riders to pick routes: www.sacregion511.org/bicycling/trips.

May also brought \$65 million to the region for high-occupancy vehicle lanes, commonly known as carpool lanes, on Interstate 80 from west of Interstate 5 to Watt/Longview, where they will connect to existing high-occupancy lanes to Placer County. The new lanes are part of a larger \$171 million rehabilitation project. The new funding will speed the project up from its original completion date of 2015. In addition to helping carpoolers, the lanes will help commuter buses offer more reliable service.

MAY AND JUNE

SACOG held focus groups to talk with a broad set of residents about the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Groups represented on affordable housing, the environment, redevelopment agencies, development, equity, public health and human services, water purveyors, green energy, agriculture, state and federal agencies, senior and aging populations, economic development, goods movement and freight, K-12 and higher education, faith and community-based organizations. The focus groups helped staff begin preparing scenarios for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 Update.

JULY

SACOG launched the Agricultural Worker Transportation Program to provide safe and affordable transportation for agricultural workers in Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

AUGUST

SACOG released the Complete Streets Resources Toolkit. Complete streets are roads that do more than just accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and cars—they include consideration of accessibility, safety and comfort of all users, quality of life, regional and local transportation demand, and goods movement. The toolkit explains how to apply complete streets principles, identifies improvement opportunities and available resources, and emphasizes a variety of tools designed to provide safe travel for all users. Get the toolkit at www.sacog.org/complete.

OCTOBER

The public gave input on three scenarios for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update at nine workshops throughout the



JULY—Agricultural Worker Transportation Program



AUGUST—Complete Streets Resources Toolkit



OCTOBER—MTP Workshop



OCTOBER—Sustainable Communities Grant



DECEMBER—Regional Forum: RUCS

region. Each scenario included a different land use pattern paired with a transportation system tailored to those land uses. The MTP Update, which continues through April 2012, will reflect changes in projected population, employment and housing growth; fewer transportation funds; and a state requirement (Senate Bill 375) to create a Sustainable Communities Strategy, a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks.

October also brought \$1.5 million to the region for community planning. SACOG and public and private sector partners received the funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through a highly competitive grant process. The new Sacramento Regional Consortium is meeting throughout 2011 and 2012 to plan for housing and employment centers in high-frequency transit areas. Regulatory and financial barriers often make new construction in existing communities difficult, if not impossible. The consortium will use these funds to accelerate transit-oriented development with more information for local governments about the specific infrastructure costs for infill projects, streamlining environmental review for infill housing as well as issues of economic development, equity, housing and health. The consortium will also use the funds to integrate natural resources planning with other local and regional planning. The consortium's work will be integrated into the MTP Update.

DECEMBER

SACOG hosted the Regional Forum: Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, focusing on meeting the needs for local food, rural jobs, and rural infrastructure. The Rural-Urban Connections Strategy is an ongoing project to help business owners and policymakers better understand today's rural issues and find ways to create viable rural economies while protecting open space and habitat. SACOG also received a \$750,000 grant from the California Strategic Growth Council, a partnership between state agencies, to address social equity, economic development, environmental protection, and safety and health in the MTP Update and the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy.



MTP UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After carefully considering these issues and incorporating input from local jurisdictions, public workshops, the regional consortium, and other stakeholders, SACOG staff will bring a draft preferred scenario to SACOG advisory committees, policy committees, and board for further guidance and input. In the fall SACOG will also conduct workshops with residents and local elected officials in the six-county region on the SCS, which will be part of the MTP2035 Update. For more information on the MTP2035 update, go to www.sacog.org/update.

How does the Sustainable Communities Grant relate to the Sustainable Communities Strategy?

The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is a new element of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan required by Senate Bill 375. The SCS will show how the region will meet a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for passenger vehicles. One goal of Senate Bill 375 is to make it easier for communities to expand housing

and transportation options. The SCS will identify Transit Priority Areas that are eligible for streamlined environmental review.

The Sustainable Communities Grant is funding a more intensive review of Transit Priority Areas and additional work beyond Senate Bill 375 requirements to support the MTP's assessment of natural resources, infrastructure, and equity, health, and housing in the region.

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Sustainable Communities Consortium: Participate in a Meeting

It's not too late to get involved in the process; become a member of the regional consortium at www.sacog.org/sustainable. Becoming a member of the regional consortium will help ensure you have an opportunity to provide valuable input on how the region grows.

Regional Consortium Meeting

Wednesday, May 25
3–5 p.m.

Visit www.sacog.org/sustainable for location information.

To find out more about the sustainable communities work, or view video clips and presentations visit www.sacog.org/sustainable. We will include video and presentations from all of the consortium meetings on this website.

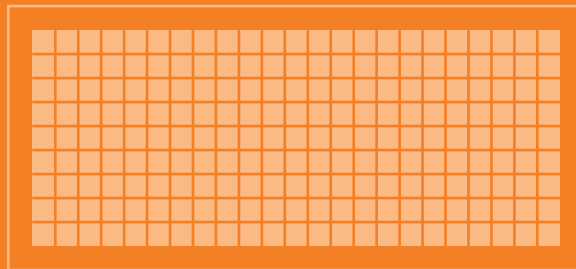
TRANSIT PRIORITY AREA SELECTION PROCESS

A Transit Priority Area is defined in Senate Bill 375 as the area within a ½-mile of a major transit stop (e.g., light rail or heavy rail station) or a high-quality transit corridor included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. A high-quality transit corridor has bus service running every 15 minutes or less during morning and evening commute hours. The four working groups will first address potential TPA filters and present their recommendations to the full consortium.

MTP

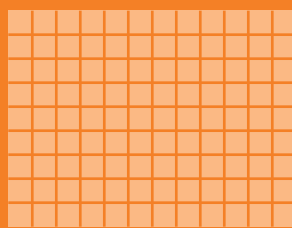
HIGH QUALITY TRANSIT:

Within a ½ mile of 15 minute or better transit service in peak morning and evening commute hours



SB 375 LAND USE CRITERIA

WHEN WILL THEY BE MARKET READY?



DECISION FILTERS

- REALISM
- READINESS
- OPPORTUNITY
- DIVERSITY OF PLACE
- REGIONAL LEARNING
- QUALITY TRANSIT

4-5 TPAs



TPA ACTION PLANS



WORKING GROUPS

- INFRASTRUCTURE
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- EQUITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Sage Smith

Graphic Designer



Sage Smith recently joined SACOG as graphic designer. Smith most recently worked for a private

design firm in Sacramento with multiple local government jurisdictions among their clients. His analytical and collaborative approach to developing visual solutions will help SACOG continue its reputation for engaging, informative public education materials. Smith also brings new online and video skills which will allow SACOG to grow its outreach and education tools. He may be reached at ssmith@sacog.org or 916.340.6278.

Sharon Sprowls

Project Coordinator,
Sustainable Communities Project



Sharon Sprowls has joined SACOG in a limited-term position as the project coordinator for

SACOG's Sustainable Communities Project. Sprowls brings a unique set of skills on housing, land use and transportation from the non-profit and public sectors to help SACOG implement this new program, which builds the region's first Sustainable Communities Strategy and Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. She may be reached at ssprohls@sacog.org or 916.319.5182.



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RegionalReport

VOLUME 11, NO. 2 MAY/JUNE 2011

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For more information, please visit:

www.sacog.org/regrpt

GET IN GEAR FOR BIKE MONTH

It's time to tune up your bikes and join your neighbors and coworkers in bicycling for work, errands or recreation this May during the Sacramento region's annual May is Bike Month campaign. Last year, over 6,069 participants logged more than 1.3 million miles, surpassing the region's million mile goal.

The SACOG region is home to many bicycle-friendly communities and trails. Bike Month is for anyone who uses a bike to commute, run errands or exercise. In addition to the health benefits of bicycling, you can also pedal to beat gas prices, help reduce air pollution and enjoy the beautiful May weather. No matter how frequently you ride, logging miles at mayisbikemonth.com will help

the region reach a collective goal of more than one million miles for 2011.

There will be local events and rides throughout the month posted at mayisbikemonth.com. All month there will be weekly prize drawings, individual, group and employer challenges, rallies, safety clinics and organized rides.

This year you can also ride to participating businesses to get a Pedal Saver discount.

May is Bike Month is coordinated by SACOG and the region's transportation management organizations. For more information visit mayisbikemonth.com or call 916.340.6229.

