



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 8/16/2018

Agenda Item No.: 2018-August-10.

SACOG Board of Directors

Subject: 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Update: Equity and Economic Inclusion (Est. time: 60 minutes)

Workshop

Prepared by: Monica Hernandez

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

What role does equity and economic inclusion play in the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)?

2. Recommendation:

None, this item provides background information for the board workshop. A preview item and discussion on equity and inclusion took place at each board policy committee meeting this month.

3. Background/Analysis:

At the beginning of this year, the Board of Directors asked staff to bring in experts to help strengthen and clarify the connection of regional prosperity, equity, and an inclusive economy to the policy choices and tradeoffs in the 2020 MTP/SCS. These issues were explored with experts from the Brookings Institution, UC Santa Cruz, and others in the field. This month, Dr. Manuel Pastor and Bob Weissbourd will share their experience and insights on the roles of equity and inclusion to a strong regional economy.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

In April, the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program released a report that assessed the economy of the region. Brookings measured how the region's economy is performing using indicators in these three areas:

- Growth: jobs, gross metropolitan product, jobs at young firms
- Prosperity: productivity, standard of living, average annual wage
- Inclusion: median wage, relative poverty rate, employment rate

According to the Brookings Institution, success in these three areas is the key to a vibrant

and sustainable regional economy. This staff report is focused on the topic of inclusion because among the three topics it was the area in which our region performed the poorest, and, it is an area that the 2020 MTP/SCS can impact.

The Brookings assessment ranked our region 84th out of the 100 largest metropolitan areas across the country over the last ten years for overall inclusion measures. Our region has been identified as one of the most diverse in the nation in terms of race and ethnicity and is on track to become even more diverse in the future and at a faster pace than most of the country. Having our region rank in the bottom 20 percent for inclusion is a call to action for our region's economic future.

The full Brookings report can be found on SACOG's website at:

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/sacamentoregioneconomicprosperity_fullreport.pdf)

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The Brookings report outlines a framework for regional prosperity that focuses on the key factors that will drive future economic performance. Infrastructure is one of these key factors. Transportation connects people to opportunities, including jobs, education and training, and vital services. As such, the investments and policies put forward in the 2020 MTP/SCS can play an important role in advancing inclusion in the region's economy.

The 2016 MTP/SCS contains an Equity Chapter which covers the legal requirements to conduct an environmental justice and Title VI analysis, to determine whether the MTP/SCS benefits low-income and minority communities equally, whether the plan's transportation investments have any disproportionate negative effects on minority and/or low-income populations in the SACOG region, and whether the plan has disparate impacts on the basis of race, color, or national origin. It is important to consider that these analyses are conducted by assessing the future investments on today's population. These analyses, while important, are often subject to criticism as not doing much to impact investment decision-making that intends to directly benefit low-income or minority communities.

Because of the importance of inclusion in our regional prosperity goals, we want to continue advancing our work in this area through the 2020 MTP/SCS update and go beyond the basic legal requirements. Efforts to better inform and address economic inclusion include:

- Convening an equity working group to provide guidance on methods for identifying communities of concern, feedback on outreach practices, and what indicators we measure in the MTP/SCS;
- Developing a focus group that met with staff from the Brookings Institution to advise on the assessment of the Sacramento region, and indicators or historical issues to be considered under the inclusion umbrella;
- Updating our Low-Income and High-Minority areas identified in the 2016 MTP/SCS;
- Researching best practices for equity analysis and performance measures; and,
- Looking at accessibility to education and jobs as a key performance measure for the MTP/SCS.

Staff plans to come to the board committees in the fall to debrief from the board workshop and discuss further how we might use the 2020 MTP/SCS to support economic inclusion.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item does not have an impact on the agency budget. Staff time is already included in the Overall Work Program.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

1. Advance Economic Prosperity, 4. Connect Low-Income and Disadvantaged Populations to Jobs and Opportunity

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Attachment

SACOG August Board Meeting Workshop Speakers

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. He currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC and USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities – and the social movements seeking to change those realities. He has frequently collaborated with Dr. Chris Benner who presented to the SACOG Board in March of this year.

Pastor holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is the inaugural holder of the Turpanjian Chair in Civil Society and Social Change at USC.

Robert Weissbourd manages RW Ventures, LLC, an economic development firm specializing in technical analysis of urban assets and markets, and in creating the products and enterprises necessary to successfully grow urban and regional economies. He was a lead developer of the Greater Chatham Initiative, TREND, Chicagoland Food and Beverage Network, the Center for Financial Services Innovation, MetroEdge and the Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative, which he co-managed with the Brookings Institution. Weissbourd has been working with Brookings Institution and local stakeholders to develop specific strategies to advance an inclusive regional economy.

Weissbourd holds a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and a B.A. from Yale University.