



**Land Use and Natural Resources  
Committee**

**Meeting Date:** 3/1/2018

**Agenda Item No.:** 2018-March-10.

**Subject:** Regional Peer Benchmarking Project

**(1:50) Information:**

**Prepared by:** Bruce Griesenbeck

**Approved by:** Kacey Lizon

**Attachments:** Yes

**1. Issue:**

Presentation of plans for launching the Regional Peer Benchmarking project as part of the 2018 Work Plan.

**2. Recommendation:**

None, this is for information only.

**3. Background/Analysis:**

This project is related to Goal #2 from the 2018 SACOG Work Plan: "Benchmark ourselves against, and learn from, other peer regions". Staff seeks input on the proposed project outcomes, candidates for peer regions, approach, and schedule.

**4. Discussion/Analysis:**

Outcomes this project is intended to generate include:

- Assist in identifying sites for future study missions and focused topical research.
- Become a "go-to" resource for member agencies, partner organizations, and the general public to learn about how Sacramento compares to other regions around the country.

This project will be leveraging work already underway by the Brookings Institution, as part of the Regional Economic Prosperity Framework, in partnership with Valley Vision, Greater Sacramento Economic Council, and the MetroChamber. In its presentation at the January Board meeting, Brookings identified a set of regional peers, and economic metrics and rankings focused on growth, prosperity, and inclusion. To the identified Brookings peers, SACOG will add selected other regions of interest (other state capitols, Amazon HQ2 finalist regions, future study mission sites, etc.)

SACOG will add other metrics to the Brookings economic metrics. These metrics will focus on transportation (e.g., commuting, congestion, transit system performance), demographics, and housing affordability.

In 2018, work will be organized into several phases. Peer identification is the first phase. In general, staff intends to maintain screening data on the top 50 metropolitan statistical areas, from which specific peers for this year will be identified. The selected peers for 2018 will be brought to the Board later this Spring.

Data development for selected peers is the second phase of work. A deeper dive on data and metrics will be developed, along with Sacramento's ranking among the peers. Staff analysis, in collaboration with other partners, will focus on identifying peers with progress or high achievement in priorities for the Sacramento region: economic development and diversification, workforce development, transit performance, housing affordability, etc.

A third phase of work is development of an online platform for presentation of key data for the peer comparisons and rankings, and a platform for presentation of key findings of the data analysis. The goal is to provide an easy-to-use, flexible, "dashboard" style platform, that will allow users to explore the data, ask and answer some of their own questions, and learn from the assembled data in a fun and compelling way. Where data analysis and findings are presented, the platform will allow for comment and dialog.

Key schedule milestones:

- Selected peers—May
- Draft online tool & key findings—October
- Final online tool & key findings web-apps--December

With successful implementation of this project in 2018, and measureable progress in the key outcomes listed above, this 2018 project may evolve into a longer term program supported by SACOG.

## **5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

For the 2018 calendar year, proposed resources committed to the project are: staff time spread across a number of individuals; consulting support from ESRI already procured for the development of SACOG open data portal; and \$10,000 for acquisition of proprietary data which may be required to complete the proposed work.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Description

Attachment

### Potential 2018 Regions for Peer Benchmarking Project

For 2018, up to 20 peers will be selected from the following sources.

#### Brookings Institution

Charlotte, NC	Indianapolis, IN/1,2/	Pittsburg, PA/2/
Cincinnati, OH	Kansas City, KS	San Antonio, TX
Cleveland, OH	Miami, FL/2/	St Louis, MO
Columbus, OH/1,2/	Orlando, FL	Tampa, FL
Detroit, MI	Phoenix, AZ*	

/1/State Capitals  
/2/Amazon HQ2 Finalist

Brookings Institution, "American Middleweights" peer grouping, *Redefining Global Cities* report.

#### Amazon HQ2 Finalists (excluding those listed by Brookings)

Atlanta, GA/1/	Denver, CO/1/	New York, NY
Austin, TX/1/	Los Angeles, CA	Northern Virginia
Boston, MA/1/	Montgomery County, MD	Philadelphia, PA
Chicago, IL	Nashville, TN/1/	Raleigh, NC/1/
Dallas, TX	Newark, NJ	Toronto
	Washington, DC	

/1/State Capitals

#### Selected Other State Capitals

Boise, ID	Providence, RI	Salt Lake City, UT
Des Moines, IA	Richmond, VA	St. Paul, MN