



## SACOG Board of Directors

October 22, 2015

### Approve MPO Mega-Region Partnership

**Issue:** Adoption of the MPO Partnership Resolution for collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

**Recommendation:** The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board approve a resolution adopting the MPO Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

**Committee Action/Discussion:** The SACOG Board of Directors is asked to adopt the MPO Partnership MOU documenting the working partnership amongst the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in the Bay Area, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOCG), and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG).

In 2014, the MPO Partnership was initiated by Chair Steve Cohn between MTC and SACOG to provide for collaboration between the two regions around common issues of shared geographic interest along the Interstate 80 Corridor. The initiative continued under Chair Don Saylor's leadership in 2015 and expanded to include the SJCOCG with shared interests in the I-5 and Highway 99 corridors. This year, the partnership met in May and September, participated in the US Department of Transportation's Mega-Region Beyond Traffic Forum, and will meet again in December.

The MPO Partnership meetings provide for Board members and senior staff from the three regional planning agencies to explore opportunities for coordination, collaboration, and planning efficiencies through common work program elements. Discussions to date have focused on: coordination of Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies, passenger rail service planning, goods and freight movement, and research and data collection associated with forecasting and economic development activities. These activities are reflected in the attached resolution along with a biennial mega-region gathering to highlight key shared issues and best practices.

SACOG's participation in the MPO Partnership will involve four Board members and senior staff at least three times each year along with partner collaboration on an annual conference every other year. However, the mega-region planning is emerging as a timely policy discussion at the state and federal levels, which may lend to additional opportunities for the MPO partners to explore other related policy topics.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Chief Executive Officer

MM:RS:ts  
Attachments

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**SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 58 – 2015**

**JOINT RESOLUTION  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  
SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS,  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, there is substantial and increasing evidence that mega-regions, or mega-metropolitan areas, are the functional geographic scale for many natural, transportation, labor, housing, land use, economic and other systems; and

**WHEREAS**, various recent studies and analyses have identified an existing mega-region geography inclusive of the 9 member counties and 101 cities of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the 6 counties and 22 cities of the Sacramento Council Area of Governments, the county and 7 cities of the San Joaquin Council of Governments; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not possible for any one of the regional planning organizations to optimize the provision of services to its residents without considering and addressing the cross-border impacts and influences on and from the residents of the other two regional planning organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, state and philanthropic programs, policies, regulations and funding are increasingly encouraging coordinated planning and action between organizations functioning within the same mega-region; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing boards of these three Metropolitan Planning Organizations conclude it is in the interests of their residents and employees to build on and enhance the existing substantial coordination and cooperation between these organizations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that these three organizations will do the following:

1. Establish a Mega-region Working Group by designating four Board members and senior staff from each MPO to meet at least three times each year to identify issues of common interest and recommend joint activities for consideration by the three governing boards;
2. Coordinate the Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategies of the organizations to optimize the performance of the plans and make efficient the work effort required to produce them, with particular emphasis on jobs-housing balance issues between the three MPOs, improving transportation infrastructure for all modes of transportation, making easier the flow of goods within the mega-region and in and out of the mega-region, and growing in a way that protects essential natural resources such as air, water and farmland;

3. Participate in joint data gathering and analysis, research, planning, service delivery and policy-making activities to enhance the quality of life and economic prosperity of the mega-region and work with private, higher education and civic organizations as appropriate to conduct this work;
4. Continually update and analyze data and research on the geography of the mega-region and recommend any appropriate changes to the Working Group, initially and specifically considering the addition of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Regional Transportation Commission serving Reno and Washoe County, Nevada;
5. Pursue additional ways to integrate the staff-work of the three organizations to improve effectiveness and efficiency;
6. Partner with each other and organizations from other sectors to hold a biennial conference that highlights key shared issues within the mega-region; and
7. Conduct other activities to enhance the performance of the mega-region as identified by the Mega-region Working Group and, when appropriate, approved by the three governing boards.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 29th day of October 2015, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

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Don Saylor  
Chair

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Mike McKeever  
Chief Executive Officer