



Innovation Task Force

April 10, 2014

Future Member Service Activities

Issue: Staff will present plans for undertaking the original member services concept proposals not explored in 2013.

Discussion: The original eight concept proposals were identified by a combination of member survey results and Task Force input. The member survey was administered to city managers and county executives in order to identify areas of perceived high value and low shared service activity. In December 2012, the Board of Directors directed staff to pursue the feasibility of the eight concept proposals and specifically to work with member agency staff. Five of the original eight service concept proposals were explored in 2013. The remaining service concept proposals for exploration include: Information Technology (IT)/Web Site Support, Regional Compensation Survey, and Economic Development Planning Support. Of these three, staff proposes that Economic Development Planning Support be pursued as a member service.

The Economic Development Planning Support concept proposal is to explore opportunities for sharing supportive planning services and tools with member jurisdictions including: data gathering; analysis of economic trends; and infrastructure planning to support our members' economic development plans and regional economic development goals. Technical support includes financing tools and opportunities to standardize and add efficiency to local, state and federal regulations that affect economic activity. The SACOG Board direction was clear in December 2012 that this activity should be in support of current economic development activities by existing entities throughout the region, including member agency staff. In April, staff is recommending that the SACOG Board authorize the development of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application to fund this work.

Additionally, in 2013, SACOG supported two research activities: the Portland State University Urban Sustainability Accelerator Program, and the University of Utah Economic Research in Older Suburbs. The products of this research will be shared with SACOG's member agencies as a member service. SACOG staff also continues to monitor the region's Next Economy Initiative for planning support opportunities. The TIGER grant application builds on these projects to develop a state of the art open data portal and planning assistance program.

In this calendar year and the coming FY 14/15, SACOG staff will prepare for the grant work offering Economic Development Planning Support as a member service to:

- Share employment and population data and economic forecasting tools developed as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy update;
- Share infrastructure impact tools and other planning tools to enhance member jurisdiction understanding of the opportunities to support the region's current economic development activities; and
- Identify and implement potential improvements to SACOG tools and their utility.

Staff will report back with an update in September when we expect to hear a response on the TIGER Grant application. If the grant is not awarded, staff will continue to look for funding to support this work.

Approved by:

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