



# 2021 Highlights

The past year has had its ups and downs as we settle into a new normal. COVID-19 has played a significant role in how communities travel, work, live, and play in ways that we now know will be for the long term. SACOG prepares for an ever-changing future by strategically aligning the region for funding opportunities and planning partnerships across the Sacramento region and Northern California megaregion. In 2021 the preparation proves valuable as funding opportunities such as the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act begins to materialize.

## Vibrant Places



The State of California green-lit **Green Means Go** with \$38 million set in dedicated funding to boost infill housing in locally designated green zones across the Sacramento region. This funding was the result of a multi-year advocacy effort by SACOG board members and a coalition of local business and community stakeholders including participation in multiple state legislative committee meetings and dozens of meetings with legislators, staff, and members of the current administration.

2021 was a big year for local government **housing element updates**, with 27 jurisdictions in the Sacramento region adopting housing elements on time. Members worked with SACOG to ensure that their housing elements conformed with a suite of new state housing requirements and met higher Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements than past cycles. SACOG and local governments are taking housing requirements seriously.

Through the **Regional Early Action Planning (REAP)** program, SACOG distributed \$4.5 million in both noncompetitive and competitive grants to Davis, Folsom, Placer County, Woodland, Citrus Heights, and Marysville to accelerate housing production in the region. The **Mind the Gap** housing initiative, which framed housing access opportunities, helped to accelerate delivery of policy changes funded by REAP.

## Economic Prosperity

### Our Path FORWARD: The Prosperity Strategy.

The **Prosperity Partnership's** 2020 Plan puts the region in a great place and ready to apply for the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), a \$600 million program made available by the state for the planning and implementation of inclusive economic strategies. The strategy that has already been developed puts our region a step ahead in preparing for funding. The partnership will be applying for funds for strategies we've already done the planning for and are ready to implement.

The **2021 Regional Progress Report** was a check-in on where the region is in comparison to goals and objectives set in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). The updated report explored the unique makeup of the six-county region, the regional economy, development, and the transportation system.



There were 70 students who participated in the 2021 **Youth Leadership Academy**. The fully virtual experience made it easy for students from around the region to attend the program. Since its launch in 2018, the YLA has served more than 130 students. The incoming cohort is made up of 41 students and 6 returning peer coordinators for its fourth year of programming.

## Connected Communities

 SACOG Board of Directors approved \$198 million in competitive funding awards for 75 transportation

projects across the four-county region in the **2021 funding round**. Projects further SACOG and partner jurisdiction priorities by focusing on maintenance and modernization of transit systems, transformative transportation projects, and community design programs that help the region implement the MTP/SCS vision.



To promote remote work as an option into the future, staff completed a **Regional Telework Pilot** with 11 employers. From the pilot findings, a Telework Toolkit was

developed to assist regional employers in the creation of supportive telework policies.

## PROGRAMMING AND PROJECT DELIVERY

**SACOG's Project Delivery Team** earned the region \$22 million in additional free Obligation Authority for transportation projects, which enables our region to program \$22 million more in federal funds in future transportation funding rounds. The team was also able to program \$32 million in funds borrowed from other regions to deliver projects early. The team has been instrumental in assisting multiple projects in the region with financing to avoid losing federal funds and shorten project delivery timelines.

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## Economic Prosperity

In its second year, the **Race, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group** added 10 outside stakeholders to provide diverse perspectives to the group's work. Members have been gaining an understanding of SACOG and will be helping shape a racial equity action plan for the agency and provide input on SACOG's work including the upcoming MTP/SCS.

SACOG launched the **Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan (CROP) Project**, which will create a regional strategy for supporting agricultural lands and communities throughout the region by identifying infrastructure and investment needs. Staff met with the six-county regional working group to establish project direction and next steps for the plan that is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

In its second year, the relaunched **Megaregion Working Group**, consisting of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Council of Governments, and SACOG, celebrated the approval of the "Megaregion Dozen," a bundle of 12 transportation projects that connect the Bay Area through the northern Central Valley, to the Sacramento region and beyond. Adoption of the project priorities is a big step toward the group's shared vision for mobility across the Northern California economic megaregion.

The region was awarded **two significant federal grants in 2021**. The first, \$1.2 million from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for intercity bike and pedestrian trails in Yolo County. The second was an award of \$86 million from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant, which will go to improving the I-80 corridor from Davis to Sacramento, which is also a "Megaregion Dozen" project for potential federal investments.

## Connected Communities



There were two notable **SB 1 funding awards** in the region. The first was \$67 million for the Placer-Sacramento Gateway Plan Phase 1 Project, a partnership with Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA), Sacramento County, Sacramento Regional Transit District, and Caltrans. The second award was \$27 million for the Capital Region Freight Improvement Project with PCTPA, Sacramento County, and Caltrans.

The \$1.2 trillion **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** was signed into law and opens significant opportunities for transportation projects in the region. SACOG is leading conversations about transportation funding strategies, like the IIJA webinar with more than 200 attendees, to help members understand the bill. Regional collaboration on project prioritization will be critical to approaching the competitive funding programs in this bill.



Big data provided big insights in 2021. Staff applied data gathered from the **2020 Replica pilot**, which provided rich regional insights into travel behavior and traffic flows via mobile location data, to new studies and strategies. The speedy access to data influenced the Next Generation Transit Study, a vehicle miles traveled screening map, and helped the agency report out on traffic throughout the pandemic. Staff expects to continue using the wealth of information for projects in 2022 and beyond..

SACOG partnered with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and Sacramento Regional Transit District to



develop and publish the **Sacramento Area Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment Strategy**. The deployment strategy calls for an investment of \$967 million to accelerate deployment of electric vehicles and zero emission buses and trucks.

The SACOG Board of Directors adopted the **Next Generation Transit Strategy**, which sets a 20-year vision for sustainable transportation in the region. The strategy addresses how to build a transit system that provides a seamless user experience, expand funding and service frequency, and reduce mobility disparities.



More than 3,000 community members shared where they want to bike and walk to throughout the region. SACOG staff has worked with every local government in the region to create a **Draft Regional Trail Network** to leverage 654 miles of existing trails to make inter-regional connections and recommends more than 1,200 miles of new trails that connect community members to where they want to go.

### WHAT IS SACOG?

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments is an association of local governments in the six-county Sacramento region. Its members include the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, and the 22 cities within.

SACOG provides transportation planning and funding for the region and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the region's long-range transportation plan, SACOG approves the distribution of affordable housing in the region and assists in planning for transit, bicycle networks, clean air, and airport land uses.

Its work advances its three goals: Connected Communities, Vibrant Places, and Economic Prosperity.