



Item #17-3-22
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SACOG Board of Directors

March 9, 2017

Intelligent Transportation Systems Master Plan & Future Mobility Planning

A regional plan for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and future mobility will be useful to SACOG and other agencies in identifying Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) investments, as well as to provide guidance for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). The last update of the regional ITS master plan was in 2005, and a number of local jurisdictions also have older plans. The region's ITS Architecture, the defining document for how the various ITS systems in the region communicate with each other, also underwent its last major revision in 2005. With the rapid changes in transportation technologies, technology-driven data collection, disaster preparedness needs, introduction of connected vehicles, and rapidly developing autonomous vehicles, the current plan is out of date and there is a need for a new architecture in place for system communication and integration.

As part of the most recent MPO certification review, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also recommended the need for updating the current Master Plan and Architecture. To use federal highway funds, technology projects must go through a Systems Engineering Review, which determines whether they can be certified as complying with the Regional ITS Architecture. Minor modifications have been made to the Regional ITS Architecture to assure compliance, but a complete review and update is needed moving forward to maintain this compliance. Additionally, the ability to show how an individual technology project fits into or helps to complete a larger regional initiative, including its ability to support reductions in congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, may increase the competitiveness of a local project during an evaluation by funding agencies, including SACOG's regional funding program.

As recommended by the Capital Valley Region Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (CVR-SAFE) Strategic Plan, staff is now working with the Regional ITS Partnership to define and specify the exact scope for a consultant request for proposals (RFP) for updating the Regional ITS Master Plan and analyzing future mobility issues. The scope will include updating ITS Master Plans for the Counties of El Dorado and Sacramento, the Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Rocklin, Roseville, Sacramento, and West Sacramento, and Caltrans District 3. The regional scope will include a regional mobility plan to ensure that new emerging mobility innovations, such as autonomous and connected vehicles, and rideshare services are addressed. The plan will also focus on coordination with the regions adjacent to SACOG in order to plan and provide a seamless flow of communication and the integration of technology.

This comprehensive planning effort will support integration and coordination of ITS projects and technologies as part of overall transportation system management. An integrated plan for the region will ensure that technological advancements are addressed, interoperability and compatibility are established for technology projects, and priorities are determined for ITS projects that will help address the region's transportation needs. The update effort is being funded through a combination of funds already secured. Funding sources include CVR-SAFE funds, a SACOG regional funding award, and contributions from Caltrans and the City of Rocklin.

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