



Innovation Task Force

November 6, 2014

Best Practices Activities

Issue: Task Force members and staff will present a summary of best practice and peer learning activities since July with opportunity for Task Force feedback as well as input on future activities.

Discussion: SACOG is continuing in its efforts to maximize peer learning and best practices research opportunities. Since July, SACOG Board members and/or staff have participated in peer learning opportunities in Minneapolis, Nashville, the Bay Area, and the Annual California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Conference. Participants will share their peer learning with the Task Force.

In July, SACOG Director Steve Miklos participated in the El Dorado-Folsom Chamber of Commerce Study Mission to Minneapolis, which included presentations on their new transit systems, transit-oriented development, reinvestment in historic communities, multi-state collaboration, multi-agency bonding, and integrating considerations for social equity and education in economic development efforts. Minneapolis also has a strong private sector leadership group championing transit investments as key to economic development through the ITASCA Project.

In October, SACOG Directors Saylor, Griego and Sander participated in the Annual Metro Chamber Study Mission to Nashville. The Nashville program included presentations from NAMPO and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce about their regional transit vision and regional campaign for bus rapid transit. NAMPO's regional transportation planning activities are unique in the nation for their inclusion of research on transportation-related health benefits from active transportation alternatives, which also looks as social equity. SACOG Board members and staff met with NAMPO Executive Director Michael Skipper, Portland Mayor Ken Wilber, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, and Transit Alliance Executive Director Ed Cole to learn more about the region's planning activities, collaborative partnerships, and their Mayors' Caucus. Vice Chair Saylor extended an invitation to the NAMPO Executive Director to visit the Sacramento region to make a presentation to the SACOG Board of Directors in 2015.

Also, in October, SACOG Directors Cohn, Serna and Rohan traveled with SACOG staff to the Bay Area to meet with MTC's Executive Director Steve Heminger and Commissioners Mackenzie, Spering, and Rein Worth. The group discussed joint planning for intercity rail stops, operational improvements for intercity rail service, freight movement, and a Northern California mega-region economic development strategy. The participants were interested in continuing with peer exchange activities in 2015.

The CALAFCO conference explored opportunity areas where metropolitan planning organizations and local area formation organizations could work together more closely. Past SACOG Board Chair Mary Jane Griego is serving as the 2014 Board President for CALAFCO and encouraged SACOG's participation. SACOG Board members and local LAFCO representatives Saylor, Aguiar-Curry, and Griego participated in panels related to regional transportation plans and the Rural Urban Connections Strategies, shared services, and regionally collaborative behaviors.

Approved by:

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