



Innovation Task Force

August 14, 2014

Best Practices Status Report

Issue: Staff will present a summary of best practice and peer learning activities since April with opportunity for Task Force feedback and input on future opportunities.

Discussion: In April, the Innovation Task Force and SACOG staff discussed the benefits of best practice learning through peer visits with the Metro Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NAMPO). Task Force members were also interested in bringing special guest presentations to the Task Force and/or full SACOG Board on innovative regional government activities, including initially William Dodge, formerly of the National Association of Regional Councils, and David Warm, Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

While in Washington, D.C. in May for the Metro Chamber's Annual Cap-to-Cap program, SACOG Board members, their elected colleagues, and business leaders had the opportunity to meet with staff from MWCOG including Executive Director Chuck Bean. The discussion included an overview of their collaborative research, *Place & Opportunity*, which established community typologies to assist local governments in creating high-opportunity places by looking at market, physical, and socioeconomic characteristics of the region's activity centers. Later this month, Bean and his new Transportation Planning Director, Kanti Srikanth, will be visiting SACOG for the opportunity to learn more about SACOG's transportation planning activities, performance metrics, member and shared services, and agency business model.

Also in May, the Task Force hosted William Dodge for a presentation and discussion on expanding regional capacity to collaboratively address difficult policy issues with new governance structures. Dodge provided his perspectives on the future role of regional planning organizations from his international research on innovative regional government behaviors.

In June, the Task Force hosted a Board Workshop with MARC Executive Director David Warm about the various regional programs and initiatives in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Following the Board Workshop, Board members participated in an informal lunch discussion of MARC's programs and activities, how some of their regional partnerships were formed and lead to regional initiatives, and what business models support their diverse member service interests.

In July, the El Dorado County and Folsom Chambers of Commerce 2014 Study Mission visited Minneapolis. Director Miklos participated in the program, which included peer learning opportunities for 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. Director Miklos will provide a study mission briefing at a future Task Force meeting.

The Metro Chamber Study Mission in October will be to Nashville. SACOG staff is working with Metro Chamber volunteer leadership on peer learning opportunities for SACOG Board members and other elected officials participating in the Study Mission. The Nashville program will include 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, with considerations for social equity. SACOG staff is developing a small group session with NAMPO Executive Director Michael Skipper to learn more about the region's collaborative partnerships and unique initiatives.

Finally, SACOG staff is researching the Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) efforts to align the Metro Vision 2035, as reflected in the Mile High Compact, to funding priorities in their regional transportation plan and transportation improvement program. For nearly 10 years, DRCOG has applied transparent and measurable criteria towards the selection of projects for regional funding. Evaluation criteria include points for policy priorities and performance outcomes in the regional transportation plan. Among the policy priorities is an ongoing commitment towards the implementation of the Metro Vision 2035. Jurisdictions and projects able to provide evidence that they support the implementation of Metro Vision 2035 are awarded additional points in the project selection process.

SACOG staff efforts to pursue peer learning with MTC in the Bay Area are included in Task Force item #4. Staff is interested in Task Force feedback on activities to date and broader input on future activities.

Approved by:

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