



Planners Committee

Item #4

September 18, 2013

2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Update

Issue: Staff seeks input and direction on four topics supporting the 2016 update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 MTP/SCS).

Recommendation: See items 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D for the informational items staff is presenting to the Committee for input.

Discussion: In August, staff presented to the SACOG Board committees an approach to the 2016 MTP/SCS update that focused on implementation challenges and commitments. At that time, staff proposed to come back to the Board with informational presentations to support an issue identification and exploration process to help define the policy framework for the plan update. Members of all three Board committees were open to this approach and provided additional comments and questions to guide this process. During the August committee cycle, staff heard the following general comments and interests from Board members:

- Examine what went well with the last MTP/SCS and what can be improved through the plan update, both in terms of process and in terms of plan substance;
- Communicate to the Board, as early as possible, the expectations and schedule for needed input from local staff, as well as upcoming decision points for the Board;
- Provide adequate time for coordinating information with local agencies;
- Improve outreach by communicating to public when they can provide input and how the input will or will not be used;
- Examine methods to measure the economic effect of transportation investments that can inform planning for maximum economic benefit;
- Focus on issues of transportation maintenance, rehabilitation and operations;
- Give consideration to goods movement and farm-to-market routes, which are increasingly important to rural areas;
- Revisit revenue projections in light of changing economic conditions; and
- Focus on flood plain legislation and regulations, particularly for transportation in rural areas;

In response to this initial set of input, the four items presented herein kick off a three-month period of issue identification and exploration. In November, staff anticipates seeking Board input on issue papers covering road maintenance and rural goods movement, preliminary information on growth capacity in the region and transportation revenue forecasts, and input gathered from early stakeholder outreach. Results from this effort will be used to create a draft policy framework in December which, with SACOG Board direction, will guide the 2016 MTP/SCS update.

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