



Transportation Committee

November 8, 2012

Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan Policies

Issue: What are the draft policies and priorities for the Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan?

Recommendation: That the Transportation Committee recommend that the Board approve the draft vision, goals, strategies, actions, and funding priorities for the upcoming Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan update in 2013.

Discussion: As part of the adoption of the Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan (Master Plan) in June 2011, the Transportation Committee discussed the need to develop regional-scale policies for the next Master Plan update. Currently, the Master Plan contains very broad vision statements and goals but does not provide direction from policy makers or funding objectives. The Master Plan is updated every two years, and the next update will begin early 2013 with a planned adoption in June 2013. SACOG staff agreed to work with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and a subcommittee made up of volunteers from other advisory committees for the purpose of developing regional bicycle and pedestrian policies to guide the next Master Plan update.

In April, SACOG staff convened a working group to develop policies for the Master Plan and priorities for regional funding. The working group met for seven two-hour working sessions, May through September, and also worked via e-mail and teleconference. The working group met with experts in the fields of bicycle planning/funding policies, public health, and pedestrian planning; the working group reviewed policies in master plans from regions around the country, in addition to policies within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). The working group included staff from Caltrans District 3 (also a representative for WALKSacramento), City of Folsom planning, City of West Sacramento planning, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, Sacramento County Department of Transportation, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Yolo County Office of the County Administrator, and Yuba County Public Works.

Attached are recommendations for the 2013 Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan Vision, Goals, Strategies, and Actions. The majority of the Actions are derived from the MTP/SCS, with additional policies developed by the working group. The working group also developed short-term regional funding priorities to get included in the Master Plan and used by SACOG staff to develop draft guidelines for the upcoming funding round.

Staff sought input from staff advisory committees (Bicycle & Pedestrian, Planners, Regional Planning Partnership, Transit Coordinating Committee, and Transportation Demand Management) and made changes to reflect collective priorities, specific comments, and general feedback.

Approved by:

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Attachments

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REGIONAL VISION

The SACOG region envisions a complete transportation system that supports healthy living and active communities where bicycling and walking are viable and popular travel choices in a comprehensive, safe, and convenient network.

REGIONAL GOALS, STRATEGIES & ACTIONS (not in priority order)

GOALS— goals that support the Regional Vision and describe important aspects of priorities and attitudes.

STRATEGIES—approaches the region (including SACOG, local agencies, advocacy groups, and other organizations) can take to support the Goals.

ACTIONS—SACOG actions carried out to achieve the Strategies and Goals.

Goal 1: Increase and improve bicycle and pedestrian access and mobility for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

Strategies:

- 1.A: Develop a continuous bicycle and pedestrian network over the next 20 years (e.g., remove barriers, add crossings, fill gaps, connect spurs to existing networks).
- 1.B: Improve access from residential areas to activity centers, particularly schools, transit, and employment centers.
- 1.C: Improve access within a half mile around transit and schools.
- 1.D: Create regional wayfinding system.

Actions:

- i. Encourage development patterns that provide safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access to transit stops and trunk commuter transit lines. (*MTP Goal 3 Strategy 6*)
- ii. Invest in safe bicycle and pedestrian routes that improve connectivity and access to common destinations, such as connections between residential areas and schools, work sites, neighborhood shopping, and transit stops and stations. Also invest in safe routes to and around schools so trips can be made by bicycling or walking. (*MTP Policy 29 Strategy 1*)

- iii. Seek to improve transit access, via safe and pleasant sidewalks and walkways around transit stops, designated bike routes and directional signage, accessibility for the disabled, on-board bike racks, better signs for transit access, shelters and improved transfer points, and secure bike storage facilities and park-and-ride locations. *(MTP Policy 20 Strategy 1)*
- iv. Work with regional stakeholders to facilitate regional wayfinding system to encourage bicycle and pedestrian travel on the network of streets, bikeways, and walkways, if and when resources allow.

Goal 2: Improve and maintain the quality and operation of bikeway and walkway networks.

Strategies:

- 2.A: Remove physical barriers to walking and biking.
- 2.B: Create and implement the improvements needed to promote an attractive and desirable bicycle and pedestrian network.
- 2.C: Apply technological improvements (e.g., flashing lights, crosswalk buttons, and bike detection).
- 2.D: Maintain bikeway and walkway facilities in good condition.

Actions:

- i. Support improved connectivity and increased safety and security through better maintenance of existing crossings (river, freeway, rail) and other structural barriers in Centers and Corridors Community Types. *(modified MTP Policy 27 Strategy 4)*
- ii. Support corridor mobility investments that serve multiple modes of travel through combining road capacity improvements with operational improvements to support smart growth. Supportive investments include enhancements for high-quality transit, technology deployment, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and safer intersections. *(modified MTP Policy 27 Strategy 2)*
- iii. Provide technical guidance to local agencies and invest regional funds to build complete streets projects through designated and planned community activity centers, to ensure bicycles, pedestrians, and transit can share the road safely and compatibly with autos. *(MTP Policy 30 Strategy 6)*
- iv. Support local agencies in developing multi-year maintenance and rehabilitation programs that enable early identification of cost-effective

enhancements to improve pedestrian and bicycle access and safety. Ensure that regional funding is not directed to new development projects where local agencies should require developers to fund these types of improvements. *(modified MTP Policy 17 Strategy 5)*

Goal 3: Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Strategies:

- 3.A: Create a safe environment for bicycle and pedestrian travel at intersections and street crossings.
- 3.B: Promote complete streets and application of context-sensitive complete streets treatments, including constructing and retrofitting new and existing facilities and networks to increase bicyclist and pedestrian safety, and separating motorist, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities from each other to reduce conflicts through appropriate designs, when necessary.
- 3.C: Increase support of bicycling and walking as travel modes through treatments such as street signage, median refuge islands, dynamic lighting, traffic calming devices, and feedback signs, especially in congested areas such as school zones, central business districts, activity centers and high volume bicycle/pedestrian/automobile roadways and networks.
- 3.D: Increase coordination with law enforcement to create safe environments for bicycling and walking using a variety of resources available (e.g., enhanced enforcement of traffic laws, feedback signs), especially around schools and other high bicycle and pedestrian traffic areas.

Actions:

- i. Take steps to improve safety and security at crosswalks, transit stops, and along main access routes to transit, including rural areas, with higher priority for low income, minority, and high crime areas. *(MTP Policy 20 Strategy 3)*
- ii. Continue to identify best practices for complete streets, continue to add to the Complete Streets Toolkit, and initiate a technical assistance program to help local agencies develop street designs that are sensitive to their surroundings and context. Provide technical support as resources allow. *(modified MTP Policy 3 Strategy 2)*
- iii. Promote the use of safety information (e.g. SWITRS) to jurisdictions working to identify trouble areas in need of safety-enhancing improvements.
- iv. Help local agencies get funding from specific safety programs for safety and security improvements. *(MTP Policy 14 Strategy 4)*

Goal 4: Increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian trips.

Strategies:

- 4.A: Work with local jurisdictions to facilitate bicycle-friendly and pedestrian-friendly development activity and support facilities around transit stations.
- 4.B: Support programs aimed at increasing bicycle and walking trips by providing incentives, recognition, or services that make bicycling and walking more convenient transportation modes.
- 4.C: Increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the region, specifically targeting areas with a high number of current and potential users.
- 4.D: Improve convenience of bicycle and pedestrian travel through innovative projects and programs (e.g., bikeshare program).
- 4.E: Encourage physical activity by supporting projects that promote active and recreational activities.
- 4.F: Encourage strategic location of new bicycle and pedestrian facilities where existing or planned development patterns offer the greatest opportunity for high use (e.g. to and around transit priority areas).

Actions:

- i. Pursue strategic road expansion that reduces congestion and supports effective transit services, walking and bicycling. *(MTP Policy 30 Strategy 1)*
- ii. Continue to participate in coordination and planning meetings, and lead coordination efforts as feasible.
- iii. Continue to use funds coming through SACOG to fund regional objectives for air quality, community design, transportation demand management, and bicycle and pedestrian programs. The funding level should be proportionally at least as great as programming levels since the regional programs began in 2003. *(MTP Policy 31 Strategy 1)*
- iv. Continue funding bikeway and walkway projects through the regional funding programs to provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel options.

Goal 5: Increase the number of high quality support facilities to complement the bicycle and walkway networks.

Strategies:

5.A: Involve community and business organization in siting locations for support facilities, e.g. bike corrals, lockers, bike parking, showers, bike storage, water fountains.

5.B: Build support facilities at pivotal areas within the bicycle and pedestrian network, e.g. high-volume transit stations, converging non-motorized network trails and paths, activity centers.

5.C: Provide support to local jurisdictions and/or special districts interested in constructing facilities.

Actions:

- i. Support implementation of support facilities through regional funding programs as feasible and appropriate.
- ii. When planning high-quality transit along light rail, regional rail and high speed rail corridors, also plan for supportive features that include sidewalks and walkways, passenger shelters, or transfer stations, next-bus notification signs, signal preemption, park and-ride lots, and bicycle parking and storage. *(modified MTP Policy 28 Strategy 1)*
- iii. Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions as requested (e.g. funding and modeling information, maps and data).

Goal 6: Increase education, encouragement and awareness programs about bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Strategies:

6.A: Promote public education of vehicle, bicycle and walking safety and traffic laws to a variety of stakeholders, including law enforcement, motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

6.B: Promote public awareness of safe driving, cycling, and walking behaviors, including travel on rural roads.

6.C: Promote public and stakeholder awareness of public health and safety benefits of increased bicycling and walking.

6.D: Promote cycling and walking programs through schools, community events and campaigns; at community workshops and other public forums.

6.E: Promote public and stakeholder awareness of widespread benefits affiliated with bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including increased public health, property values, recreation benefits, and environmental benefits.

Actions:

- i. Encourage conversation and coordination between Safe Routes to School efforts throughout the region.
- ii. Continue to update Online Bicycle Trip Planner, and provide information and trainings to individuals and agencies interested in the program, as requested.
- iii. Expand transportation management associations and outreach partners to provide education and advocacy programs across the region's six county area, with broader focus on alternative travel choices for all trip types. *(MTP Goal 22 Strategy 2)*
- iv. Continue to make available free-of-charge multilingual video and guidebook on transit, bicycling, walking, and carpooling in the region to individuals, community- and faith-based organizations, as well as on the SacRegion 511 website. *(MTP Goal 24 Strategy 6)*
- v. Continue and expand public outreach programs (e.g. May is Bike Month), that increase attention to and work with schools, as resources allow.
- vi. Continue the region's previous commitment to Transportation Demand Management programs as a Strategy for education and promotion of alternative travel modes for all types of trips toward reducing vehicle miles traveled by 10 percent *(MTP Goal 8 Strategy 1)*

Goal 7: Create a comprehensive regional bicycling and walking network within and between communities with strong current and future demand.

Strategies:

7.A: Improve connectivity and planning of non-motorized networks within and between communities and jurisdictions in the region.

7.B: Plan and construct facilities with the greatest potential to support utilitarian bicycle and walking trips that are less than three miles.

7.C: Plan and construct facilities for distances greater than three miles to support bicycle commuters as well as recreational users.

7.D: Define a comprehensive regional bicycling network that connects jurisdictions; provides connections to transit priority areas, major activity centers and business districts; considers state-designated bike routes; utilizes Rails-to-Trails when feasible; and includes the American River Parkway.

Actions:

- i. Encourage local agencies to develop an interconnected system of streets, bikeways, and walkways that support a more compact development form; encourage local agencies to place conditions on new developments to avoid building new circulation barriers; accommodate safe travel for all users; and provide connections across creeks, freeways and high-speed/high volume arterials and through existing gated communities, walls and cul-de-sacs to access schools, activity centers and transit stops. *(modified MTP Policy 3 Strategy 5)*
- ii. Continue to support improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity through SACOG's regional funding programs and maintaining program criteria that regional road rehabilitation projects include complete streets or complete corridor features. *(MTP Policy 29 Strategy 4)*
- iii. Invest toward the creation of a regional bicycle and pedestrian network, connecting first those communities that already have good local circulation networks in place, but also supporting efforts throughout the region to improve connectivity and realize public health benefits from these investments. *(MTP Policy 29 Strategy 2)*
- iv. Work with local jurisdictions to develop and refine a regional bikeway network.
- v. Encourage cities and counties to collect development-based fees or funding sufficient for both local road improvements and regional-scale road, transit and/or bicycle pedestrian improvements so that regional-scale improvements can be built in a timely way, since SACOG's regional funding

can meet only 25-30 percent of regional project costs in this MTP. (*MTP Policy 13 Strategy 3*)

Goal 8: Increase collaboration among stakeholders throughout the region to seek funding and implement bicycle and pedestrian projects, programs, and related efforts.

Strategies:

8.A: Encourage partnerships with community organizations and agencies outside of the transportation field.

8.B: Encourage and support local agencies to apply for funding outside of SACOG sources (e.g., Safe Routes to School, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Bicycle Transportation Account, and other funding opportunities) for projects and programs.

8.C: Collaborate with local law enforcement agencies and local elected officials.

8.D: Support regional agencies in assembling consistent funding measures to maintain, coordinate and allocate efforts for thriving non-motorized facilities.

Actions:

- i. Cooperate with federal and state initiatives designed to better integrate planning and actions across multiple disciplines. (*MTP Goal 14 Strategy 16*)
- ii. Utilize the Planners Committee, Regional Planning Partnership and Transit Coordinating Committee to better coordinate information-sharing between jurisdictions on transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements to ensure connected routes, sharing of effective ideas, and more complete public information. (*MTP Policy 29 Strategy 3*)
- iii. Help facilitate improved coordination between transit agencies, public works departments and local land use authorities in planning new developments that are transit-, bicycle-, and pedestrian-supportive and timed so that new facilities and transit services are more likely to be available at the time the new growth occurs. (*MTP Policy 29 Strategy 5*)
- v. Continue to provide members with support—including letters of support, grant review, maps and data—for projects seeking funding outside SACOG sources.

- iv. SACOG may serve as a clearinghouse of funding information, participate in stakeholder meetings, and serve as coordinator for regional efforts, as resources allow.
- vi. Support local agencies that seek to collaborate on inter-jurisdictional funding options. *(MTP Policy 12 Strategy 3)*

Goal 9: Increase collection of bicycle and pedestrian related data.

Strategies:

- 9.A: Create and maintain an inventory of current bicycle and pedestrian facilities and safety data, and strive to ensure quality of data.
- 9.B: Encourage inclusion of bike and pedestrian modes as part of regular traffic counts, and conduct bicyclist and pedestrian counts both prior to and following implementation of infrastructure projects.
- 9.C: Research opportunities and apply for funding to conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts, as well as technical assistance with the bike/ped counts, as feasible.
- 9.D: Assess the bike/ped networks to identify and prioritize specific areas in need of safety improvements to create a safe, connective, and continuous bicycle and pedestrian network.
- 9.E: Develop tools to demonstrate project performance measures.

Actions:

- i. As resources and data allow, work with local agencies to develop methods for evaluating performance measures, continue to create and maintain bicycle and pedestrian facility information, analyze existing and proposed regional network and identify gaps in network, and create and maintain safety information (i.e., collision, injuries, and death).
- ii. Continue to review Bicycle Transportation/Master Plans for compliance with Streets & Highways Code 891.2 and Pedestrian Master Plans, as well as provide support and assistance for master plans as needed.
- iii. Monitor and report on commute patterns for all modes, traffic levels, and transit use and bicycle and pedestrian mode share compared with the projections in the MTP/SCS. *(MTP Policy 2 Strategy 3)*

SHORT-TERM REGIONAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

The short-term regional funding priorities are an instrument to implement the Vision, Goals, Strategies, and Actions of the Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Trails Master Plan, and by extension, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Projects competing for funding should be evaluated in each of the following categories (in no priority order):

- A. Increase access to transit services—will the proposed project increase bicycle and pedestrian access to transit stops and transfer centers?
- B. Increase access to schools—will the proposed project increase bicycle and pedestrian access to schools?
- C. Eliminate gaps in the existing bicycle/pedestrian network—will the proposed project help form complete bicycle and pedestrian networks, enabling bicyclists and pedestrians to travel on a continuous network?
- D. Remove physical barriers in the bicycle and pedestrian network—will the proposed project remove physical barriers, using grade-separated crossings when appropriate, to complete the bicycle and pedestrian network and enable through travel by bicyclists and pedestrians?
- E. Facility completion—will the project “complete” a street or corridor by adding bicycle and pedestrian facilities (e.g., pathways, lanes, shoulders, crossings, and sidewalks) in areas with high existing or potential transportation use?

Projects competing for funding must display their readiness to move forward on a timely schedule; utilize designs that prioritize the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorized vehicles; and create new access for users. Applications should provide documentation of safety issues if applicable, and include bicycle and pedestrian counts if available.