



## Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

July 31, 2014

### Public Health Impacts of Land Use and Active Transportation

**Issue:** Among the analysis tools available to SACOG in the development of the 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) is an improved model on the public health impacts of land use and transportation development patterns.

**Recommendation:** None; this is an information item.

**Discussion:** The 2012 MTP/SCS includes a commitment to estimate the public health impacts of the 2016 MTP/SCS. SACOG is implementing this by participating in an effort led by the Strategic Growth Council to improve the public health module in the Urban Footprint scenario planning tool.

The project is using survey data (California Health Interview Survey, California Household Travel Survey) of California residents to collect information on the amount of walking and bicycling per day and their health conditions. The surveys also include the respondents' addresses, which allows land use and transportation data to be correlated with the survey data. The use of the survey data is closely managed to protect the respondents' privacy rights but still be able to use the information to build the models.

The list of modeled health outcomes includes changes to likelihood of being overweight/obese, body mass index (BMI), high blood pressure, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes, subject to adequate model statistics on the strength of the models. In addition, moderate and vigorous physical activity for transportation is also part of the modeling system. These models will be used to help assess the impacts of the draft preferred plan.

The public health and transportation model uses the scenario land use data to estimate changes in the amount of walking and bicycling to calculate changes in exercise which leads to changes in health outcomes. The project includes a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of public health, land use, and transportation experts. Most TAC members are in California, but the committee also includes experts from across the country.

Approved by:

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