



Item #17-10-6

Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee Information

September 25, 2017

2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Update: Development of a Policy Framework to Guide the 2020 Plan Update

Issue: Staff is seeking board input on a draft policy framework to guide the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) update.

Recommendation: None; this item is for information only.

Discussion: In September, staff presented an approach to the 2020 MTP/SCS update that focused on a number of major policy themes. Staff informed the board that these themes, with any additions or refinements identified by board members, would be developed into a policy framework to guide the development of the plan update. The purpose of the policy framework is to inform the overall work plan for the update, guide the specific analyses and research conducted for the plan, and provide guardrails for how the plan should address federal and state requirements. The board provided additional comments and questions to be considered for the plan update, which have been incorporated into a draft policy framework. Those comments are summarized as follows:

- Consider climate resiliency with attention to natural disasters such as flooding and wildfires.
- Examine both the overall housing supply and the affordable housing supply needed, the unique challenges for each, and solutions for both.
- Consider the challenges and opportunities of aging neighborhoods and the aging population in terms of short-term and long-term planning.
- Research the importance of transit accessibility and road conditions on business siting.
- In each of the policy areas, consider the unique conditions of each jurisdiction. The region is diverse with rural, suburban, and urban communities and there might not be a one-size-fits-all approach to achieving regional policy objectives.

Staff will present the draft framework to member agency staff at a web-meeting on September 28 and to the MTP/SCS Stakeholder Sounding Board on September 22. A summary of the feedback from those meetings could not be completed in time for mailout of this item, but will be presented at the committee meeting.

The Draft Policy Framework for the 2020 MTP/SCS is included as an Attachment. This item is coming to each of the board's policy committees this month for board member input that will be used to finalize a Policy Framework for the board to adopt in November.

Approved by:

James Corless
Chief Executive Officer

JC:CH:rh
Attachment

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DRAFT Policy Framework for the 2020 MTP/SCS

This policy framework is a statement of major policy issues, challenges, and questions the SACOG Board has identified as priorities to be addressed in the region's long-range transportation plan.

These priorities:

- inform the overall work plan for the update
- guide the specific analyses and research conducted for the plan
- will assist with developing guiding principles for how the plan should address federal and state requirements for regional transportation plans

Ultimately, this framework will guide the development of the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020 MTP/SCS) in a manner that will best inform the transportation policy and investment decisions that are the responsibility of the SACOG Board and SACOG's member jurisdictions.

What is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy?

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) is a federally and state required policy document for long-range transportation planning.

The purpose of the MTP/SCS is to encourage and facilitate efficient development, operation, and management of the regional transportation system. Federal and state requirements dictate that the plan must cover a minimum of 20 years, identify transportation related programs and projects, be financially constrained, integrate with local land use planning, and conform to specific air quality standards among other requirements. In addition to regulatory requirements, the SACOG Board of Directors provides guidance on the major policy initiatives and focus areas that are of local and regional importance and should be examined by the MTP/SCS.

[Focus of the 2020 update:](#)

The 2020 update to the MTP/SCS (2020 MTP/SCS) will focus on economic prosperity across the diverse collection of rural, suburban, and urban communities in the region, with a goal of moving towards positive transportation, air quality, and quality of life outcomes for all residents, workers, and businesses. These economic prosperity opportunities, challenges, and questions are defined in Policy Framework Table below with examples of the research and analysis that will be used to explore these questions.

Foundational Assumptions for the 2020 MTP/SCS

The foundational assumptions serve to ground the policy framework in both federal and state requirements and a reasonable expectation of future population, housing, and employment growth.

[Plan will meet federal and state requirements](#)

The MTP/SCS has a comprehensive and detailed set of federal and state requirements for process, modeling and analysis, outreach, and content that it must follow. Policy Framework Attachment: Regional Transportation Plan Requirements Checklist describes the full set of federal and state requirements for the 2020 MTP/SCS.

Plan will be based on new regional growth projections

The MTP/SCS must plan for a single regional population, employment, and housing projection that is at least 20 years out. These assumptions must be based on the best and latest reasonably available information and data accessible to SACOG. NOTE: *The regional growth projections to support the 2020 MTP/SCS update are part of a separate item for board discussion in October, but will be incorporated as a foundational assumption for this policy framework in its final form in November, 2017.*

Policy Framework

The policy questions that the plan will explore will all tie to the overarching theme of regional prosperity.

The Policy Framework on the next page is organized into three main categories under which are nested the respective policy questions and examples of research and analysis that will guide the development of the 2020 MTP/SCS.

Economic Prosperity: How do we support an economically prosperous region?

<p>1) Disruptive Change:</p> <p>In a time of disruptive change, how do we support near-term implementation and plan for an uncertain future?</p>	<p>2) Economic Development and Opportunity:</p> <p>What growth and development pattern is needed to support and sustain regional economic development and opportunity?</p>	<p>3) Performance-Based Investment Strategy:</p> <p>What transportation infrastructure investments are needed to support an economically prosperous region?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine challenges, opportunities, and management strategies related to emerging transportation technologies and services, such as autonomous vehicles and Transportation Network Companies. • Identify regional transportation needs, challenges, and strategies for both the short and long-range planning horizons. • Identify strategies to offset the projected long-term decline in driving costs and loss of fuel revenues that create challenges for maintaining infrastructure, managing congestion, and meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets. • Explore incentivizing infill and transit-oriented development, modernizing transit services, initiating transportation pricing strategies, and pursuing innovative programs that reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicle travel. • Consider climate resiliency with attention to planning for natural disasters such as flooding and wildfires. • Examine the effect of e-commerce on transportation, land use, and revenues. • Explore strategies that accelerate innovation by connecting the region's educational and research institutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze recent market performance for greenfield and infill, residential and non-residential development. • Examine the fiscal and regulatory challenges to building affordable housing and identify potential solutions to barriers. • Identify potential solutions to the market and regulatory challenges to attached housing. • Develop community types that consider the unique qualities of different types of communities to better understand and support place-based economic opportunities. • Consider the challenges and opportunities faced by our diverse population, e.g. young adults entering the workforce, older adults transitioning into retirement, low-income and minority communities. • Examine strategies to protect and enhance the region's agricultural assets and natural resources. • Explore strategies for fostering a business and investment friendly climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine strategies and challenges for maintaining a state-of-good repair. • Examine the unique transportation and economic challenges and opportunities in urban, suburban and rural communities. • Examine how the region can support the flow of business and commerce within the larger megaregion. • Identify strategies for supporting workforce development and access to opportunity for current and future residents and workers. • Analyze performance of projects to determine the best package of transportation projects to serve residents and businesses. • Research the importance of transit accessibility and road conditions on business siting decisions. • Consider strategies to attract more federal and state transportation dollars for the region. • Address the human and economic cost of accidents by targeting cost-effective investments on the worst-performing locations. • Consider the value of trails, recreation, and tourism in the selection of transportation investments.

Policy Framework Attachment: Regional Transportation Plan Requirements Checklist

General

1	Does the RTP address no less than a 20-year planning horizon? (23 CFR 450.324(a))
2	Does the RTP include both long-range and short-range strategies/actions? (23 CFR 450.324(b))
3	Does the RTP address issues specified in the policy, action and financial elements identified in California Government Code Section 65080?
4	Does the RTP address the 10 issues specified in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) component as identified in Government Code Sections 65080(b)(2)(B) and 65584.04(i)(1)?
	<i>a. Identify areas within the region sufficient to house all the population of the region, including all economic segments of the population over the course of the planning period of the regional transportation plan taking into account net migration into the region, population growth, household formation and employment growth?</i>
	<i>b. Identify areas within the region sufficient to house an eight-year projection of the regional housing need for the region pursuant to Government Code Section 65584?</i>
	<i>c. Identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region?</i>
	<i>d. Gather and consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas and farmland in the region as defined in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Government Code Section 65080.01?</i>
	<i>e. Consider the state housing goals specified in Sections 65580 and 65581?</i>
	<i>f. Utilize the most recent planning assumptions, considering local general plans and other factors?</i>
	<i>g. Set forth a forecasted development pattern for the region, which, when integrated with the transportation network, and other transportation measures and policies, will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks to achieve, if there is a feasible way to do so, the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets approved by the ARB?</i>
	<i>h. Provide consistency between the development pattern and allocation of housing units within the region (Government Code 65584.04(i)(1))?</i>
	<i>i. Allow the regional transportation plan to comply with Section 176 of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7506)?</i>
5	Does the RTP include Project Intent i.e. Plan Level Purpose and Need Statements?
6	Does the RTP specify how travel demand modeling methodology, results and key assumptions were developed as part of the RTP process? (Government Code 14522.2)
Consultation/Cooperation	
1	Does the RTP contain a public involvement program that meets the requirements of Title 23, CFR 450.316(a)?
	<i>(i) Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;</i>
	<i>(ii) Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;</i>
	<i>(iii) Employing visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs;</i>
	<i>(iv) Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web;</i>

Policy Framework Attachment: Regional Transportation Plan Requirements Checklist

	<i>(v) Holding any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;</i>
	<i>(vi) Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;</i>
	<i>(vii) Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;</i>
	<i>(viii) Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;</i>
	<i>(ix) Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes under subpart B of this part; and</i>
	<i>(x) Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.</i>
2	Does the RTP contain a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of significant written and oral comments received on the draft metropolitan transportation plan as part of the final metropolitan transportation plan and TIP that meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450.316(a)(2), as applicable?
3	Did the MPO/RTPA consult with the appropriate State and local representatives including representatives from environmental and economic communities; airport; transit; freight during the preparation of the RTP? (23 CFR 450.316(b))
4	Did the MPO/RTPA who has federal lands within its jurisdictional boundary involve the federal land management agencies during the preparation of the RTP? (23 CFR 450.316(d))
5	Where does the RTP specify that the appropriate State and local agencies responsible for land use, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation consulted? (23 CFR 450.324(g))
6	Did the RTP include a comparison with the California State Wildlife Action Plan and (if available) inventories of natural and historic resources? (23 CFR 450.324(g)(1&2))
7	Did the MPO/RTPA who has a federally recognized Native American Tribal Government(s) and/or historical and sacred sites or subsistence resources of these Tribal Governments within its jurisdictional boundary address tribal concerns in the RTP and develop the RTP in consultation with the Tribal Government(s)? (23 CFR 450.316(c))
8	Does the RTP address how the public and various specified groups were given a reasonable opportunity to comment on the plan using the participation plan developed under 23 CFR part 450.316(a)? (23 CFR 450.316(a)(ii))
9	Does the RTP contain a discussion describing the private sector involvement efforts that were used during the development of the plan? (23 CFR 450.316(a))
10	Does the RTP contain a discussion describing the coordination efforts with regional air quality planning authorities? (23 CFR 450.316(a)(2)) (MPO nonattainment and maintenance areas only)
11	Is the RTP coordinated and consistent with the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan? (23 CFR 450.306(h))
12	Were the draft and adopted RTP posted on the Internet? (23 CFR 450.324(k))
13	Did the RTP explain how consultation occurred with locally elected officials? (Government Code 65080(D))

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14	Did the RTP outline the public participation process for the sustainable communities strategy? (Government Code 65080(E))
15	Was the RTP adopted on the estimated date provided in writing to State Department of Housing and Community Development to determine the Regional Housing Need Allocation and planning period (start and end date) and align the local government housing element planning period (start and end date) and housing element adoption due date 18 months from RTP adoption date? (Government Code 65588(e)(5))
Title VI and Environmental Justice	
1	Does the public participation plan describe how the MPO will seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation system, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services? (23 CFR 450.316 (a)(1)(vii))
2	Has the MPO conducted a Title VI analysis that meets the legal requirements described in Section 4.2?
3	Has the MPO conducted an Environmental Justice analysis that meets the legal requirements described in Section 4.2?
Modal Discussion	
1	Does the RTP discuss intermodal and connectivity issues?
2	Does the RTP include a discussion of highways?
3	Does the RTP include a discussion of mass transportation?
4	Does the RTP include a discussion of the regional airport system?
5	Does the RTP include a discussion of regional pedestrian needs?
6	Does the RTP include a discussion of regional bicycle needs?
7	Does the RTP address the California Coastal Trail? (Government Code 65080.1) (For MPOs and RTPAs located along the coast only)
8	Does the RTP include a discussion of rail transportation?
9	Does the RTP include a discussion of maritime transportation (if appropriate)?
10	Does the RTP include a discussion of goods movement?
Programming/Operations	
1	Is the RTP consistent (to the maximum extent practicable) with the development of the regional ITS architecture? (23 CFR 450.306(g))
2	Does the RTP identify the objective criteria used for measuring the performance of the transportation system?
3	Does the RTP contain a list of un-constrained projects?
Financial	
1	Does the RTP include a financial plan that meets the requirements identified in 23 CFR part 450.324(f)(11)?
2	Does the RTP contain a consistency statement between the first 4 years of the fund estimate and the 4-year STIP fund estimate? (65080(b)(4)(A))
3	Do the projected revenues in the RTP reflect Fiscal Constraint? (23 CFR part 450.324(f)(11)(ii))
4	Does the RTP contain a list of financially constrained projects? Any regionally significant projects should be identified. (Government Code 65080(4)(A))

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5	Do the cost estimates for implementing the projects identified in the RTP reflect "year of expenditure dollars" to reflect inflation rates? (23 CFR part 450.324(f)(11)(iv))
6	After 12/11/07, does the RTP contain estimates of costs and revenue sources that are reasonably expected to be available to operate and maintain the freeways, highway and transit within the region? (23 CFR 450.324(f)(11)(i))
7	Does the RTP contain a statement regarding consistency between the projects in the RTP and the ITIP? (2016 STIP Guidelines Section 33)
8	Does the RTP contain a statement regarding consistency between the projects in the RTP and the RTIP? (2016 STIP Guidelines Section 19)
9	Does the RTP address the specific financial strategies required to ensure the identified TCMs from the SIP can be implemented? (23 CFR part 450.324(f)(11)(vi) (nonattainment and maintenance MPOs only)
Environmental	
1	Did the MPO/RTPA prepare an EIR or a program EIR for the RTP in accordance with CEQA guidelines?
2	Does the RTP contain a list of projects specifically identified as TCMs, if applicable?
3	Does the RTP contain a discussion of SIP conformity, if applicable?
4	Does the RTP specify mitigation activities? (23 CFR part 450.324(f)(10))
5	Where does the EIR address mitigation activities?
6	Did the MPO/RTPA prepare a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the RTP in accordance with CEQA guidelines?
7	Does the RTP specify the TCMs to be implemented in the region? (federal nonattainment and maintenance areas only)