



S A C O G

Transportation Committee

Item #12-11-6
Action

November 8, 2012

SACOG Safe Routes to School Policy

Issue: What should be SACOG's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) policy and should SACOG join the SRTS National Partnership?

Recommendation: That the Transportation Committee recommend that the Board approve the draft SACOG SRTS policy and approve joining the SRTS National Partnership.

Discussion: Staff has developed a draft SRTS policy in coordination with advisory committees and recommends joining the National Partnership in order to fulfill a Transportation Control Measure (TCM) in the 2009 Sacramento Regional 8-Hour Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan (Attachment A). This TCM was designed to enhance SACOG's role in supporting member agencies' efforts to implement SRTS programs and projects within their jurisdictions. The draft SRTS policy demonstrates SACOG's support for local agencies and commitment to encouraging active transportation for all residents within the Sacramento region (Attachment B).

The TCM contains the following three components:

1. SACOG must develop and adopt a safe routes to school policy;
2. SACOG must join the SRTS National Partnership; and
3. SACOG must host a regional workshop focused on collaboration between cities, counties, school districts, and transit agencies leaders on SRTS efforts.

The status of the TCM is as follows:

1. Draft policy has been reviewed by SACOG's advisory committees and submitted to Transportation Committee for approval;
2. SACOG is prepared to join the National Partnership following recommendation from the Transportation Committee at no anticipated cost; and
3. SACOG staff is working with the Institute of Local Governments (ILG) to develop a workshop, scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2012, at SACOG (Attachment C).

Staff sought input on the draft policy from staff advisory committees (Bicycle & Pedestrian, Planners, Regional Planning Partnership, Transit Coordinating Committee, and Transportation Demand Management) and made minor revisions to reflect input. The draft policy garnered positive feedback, including from a representative from the SRTS National Partnership, local SRTS coordinators, and local agency planning staff.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:LSH:gg
Attachments

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Safe Routes to School TCM

1. Within three years from the adoption of the MTP 2035, SACOG will adopt a Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) policy to promote the practice of safe bicycling and walking to and from schools throughout the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Area in order to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and enhance neighborhood safety. There are both federal and state funding programs for SRTS. As a regional agency, SACOG is an eligible applicant under the federal program for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. Under the state program, only cities and counties are eligible applicants for infrastructure projects (Caltrans 2007). With the passage of the Safe Routes to School bill (AB 1475), a “one third” distribution formula was established for federal safety funds to be allocated in equal amounts to state highways, local roads, and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) construction programs.
2. SACOG will also join the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, a network of more than 300 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and professionals working together to advance the Safe Routes to School movement in the United States.
3. In addition, SACOG will host a regional workshop for all cities, counties, school districts, and transit operators within the region to identify other potential opportunities for collaboration that would reduce greenhouse gas impacts. At a minimum, the issues discussed will include the findings from the Safe Routes to School activities described above, opportunities to increase the number of students with bus or other transit options to get to and from school, and integrating school siting practices with goals of promoting walkable neighborhoods with a wide range of easily accessible services. This workshop will be patterned after the *Stretching Community Dollars Guidebook* and workshop series that the SACOG Executive Director wrote for the California City, County, Schools (CCS) Partnership (a non-profit organization of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and California School Boards Association). That workshop series is specifically designed to help these three local government entities to take maximum advantage of opportunities for collaboration. SACOG will ask the CCS Partnership to co-host the event, and offer to make the materials prepared for the event available to the CCS Partnership for use in its on-going workshop series around the state.

DRAFT
SACOG Safe Routes to School Policy

Policy: SACOG will support environmentally sustainable, cost-effective, healthy, and equitable transportation modes by promoting safe walking and bicycling to, from, and around schools in the Sacramento region.

Strategies:

- Provide agencies with technical assistance on program and infrastructure planning along with grant review and letters of support;
- Share information with policymakers, partners, stakeholders, schools, and the public about the importance of safe routes to school through SACOG's Complete Streets Resource Toolkit and by hosting workshops and webinars;
- Maintain regional safe routes to school-related data (e.g. state and federally funded Safe Routes projects, project proximity to K-12 schools, safety, bicycle facilities, census information);
- Encourage bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements in and around school attendance boundaries through SACOG's Regional Funding Programs; and
- Facilitate development of broad-based partnerships by serving as a forum for community partners, schools, and stakeholders.

Dear Sacramento Region Community Leader:

With your leadership and involvement, communities throughout the Sacramento region can become safer places for students and residents to walk and bike to school, parks, and other destinations.

Please join fellow city, county and school colleagues from throughout the region to share your concerns and ideas at a special Safe Routes to Schools workshop hosted by SACOG, the Cities Counties Schools Partnership, and the Institute for Local Government.

Safe Routes to Schools Workshop
Thursday, December 13, 2012
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814

The workshop will include a discussion of examples, policies and programs to create safe walking and biking neighborhoods for students and residents in our cities, counties and schools around the six county region. Participants will also have the opportunity to test a new online toolkit designed to help city, county, and school leaders create safer walking and biking environments in their own communities.

To confirm your attendance at the workshop, please call 916-658-8207 or [RSVP online](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop on December 13! For more information, please contact Randi Kay Stephens at 916-658-8207 or email rstephens@ca-ilg.org.