



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: October 3, 2019

Agenda Item No. 7

Sacramento Region Parks and Trails Strategic Development Plan Launch

Information

Prepared by: Victoria Cacciatore

Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

SACOG is launching the Sacramento Region Parks and Trails Strategic Development Plan to develop a vision and strategic implementation approach for a connected regional trail system.

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information.

3. Background/Analysis:

The SACOG region has almost 500 miles of walking and biking paths connecting homes, job centers, schools, and other daily destinations. However, development of trails has been uneven across the region and, following statewide trends, often missing in disadvantaged communities. People wanting to bike and walk in the region endure safety hazards on roadways, with active transportation users experiencing a disproportionate amount of the fatal and serious injury crashes relative to their mode share. Lastly, a lack of access to low-stress facilities for biking and walking also challenges our ability to increase rates of biking and walking as outlined in our Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Throughout the nation, trails are being recognized for their transformative power to address challenges communities face, including chronic disease, mobility, social equity, funding, and economic development. By building on our existing assets to develop a regional trail network, the region can support attracting and retaining talent and businesses, create opportunities for more healthy lifestyles, and develop safer, comfortable places for people to bike and walk.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

In May, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) awarded SACOG a Sustainable Communities planning grant to develop a regional trail vision and strategic implementation approach for a connected trail system. The strategic development plan will help us identify how we grow the regional trail network to create low-stress active transportation access for disadvantaged populations to parks and other community destinations. We are working with El Dorado County Transportation Commission and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency to ensure the plan will identify and prioritize opportunities across all six counties.

The ultimate system will add to the region's sustainability and quality of life through increased active

transportation opportunities that can help improve public health. We will reach out to new partner organizations in planning and prioritizing projects that increase access and improve connections to the trails and parks network.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This two-year effort is funded with a Caltrans Sustainable Communities grant for \$229,000 and \$29,670 of SACOG Transportation Development Act funds.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

- 1 - Advance Economic Prosperity
- 4 - Connect Low-Income & Disadvantaged Populations to Jobs & Opportunity