



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Date: February 6, 2025

Agenda Item No. 4

Land Use Implementation Activities for February 2025

Information

Author: Dov Kadin

Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

Issue:

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the land use implementation activities staff participates in on an on-going basis.

Request:

Review & Discuss at Meeting

Recommendation for Board:

None; this item is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

None; this item is for information only.

Background:

The Sacramento Region Blueprint Project

In 2002, the Sacramento region faced the prospect of worsening congestion—a projected increase of over 50 percent by the year 2025—and increasing air pollution based on then-projected land use patterns, transportation funding levels, and transportation investment priorities. To solve these challenges, the SACOG Board of Directors initiated the Sacramento Region Blueprint project, an extensive study of the linkages between transportation, land use, and air quality. As its core goal, the Blueprint project aimed to support local governments with high quality data and modeling tools so that decisions regarding future growth and its effects on quality of life issues, such as traffic congestion and air pollution, could be made with the best information available. In addition to developing detailed land-use and travel data, an extensive community outreach effort was conducted to develop and assess guiding principles for the region's long-term growth. The adopted Blueprint is a regional growth map that is illustrative of how the region can grow according to the seven Blueprint principles that were developed collaboratively with member agencies, elected officials, stakeholders, and the public throughout the two-year Blueprint process. These seven Blueprint principles include: housing choice and diversity, transportation options, mixed use, compact development, use existing assets, quality design, and conserving natural resources.

The Blueprint's Relationship with the SACOG's Long Range Planning

After the adoption of these Blueprint principles in 2005, SACOG changed the way we do our long-range transportation plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), by adding a land use forecast that embodies the Blueprint principles and meaningfully integrates land use and transportation strategies into the plan. As a result, the 2008 MTP was the first in our region to show a future where the region would see reduced congestion, reduced air pollution, increases in housing types, increases in transportation options—including walk, bike, and transit—and more natural resources and agricultural land conserved.

Although commonplace now, the Blueprint and the 2008 MTP were among the first in the nation to integrate transportation and land use and changed the way we do regional transportation planning. Following the adoption of our 2008 MTP, the state passed Senate Bill (SB) 375. This law, heavily inspired by SACOG's work, requires that all regional planning organizations create a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that considers land use and transportation together in the long-range plan as a means for achieving statewide goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing people with opportunities to reduce the time and distances they need to drive in cars for daily activities.

The technical term for SACOG's long-range plan is the MTP/SCS. For the latest iteration of the region's MTP/SCS, the SACOG board has renamed the plan the 2025 Blueprint.

Implementing the Blueprint

As with all planning efforts, implementation of the plan is critical to achieving the regional transportation, air quality, quality of life, and prosperity goals that the plan sets forth. Successful implementation requires the work and support of regional partners and local cities and counties. Supporting local efforts around MTP/SCS and Blueprint implementation is therefore a critical part of SACOG's work. SACOG conducts several Blueprint and MTP/SCS implementation land use activities in response to requests from member agencies, developers, and non-governmental organizations including: (1) provision of data and/or technical and grant support to member agencies implementing the Blueprint; (2) review and comment on development proposals regarding their consistency with the Blueprint principles or the MTP/SCS; and (3) educational presentations on the Blueprint and the MTP/SCS.

Many of the Blueprint and MTP/SCS land use implementation activities conducted and coordinated by SACOG come through the Land Use and Natural Resources committee. Every month, staff will prepare a receive and file item for the committee and the board with a summary of land use activities SACOG has participated in to support local implementation of the MTP/SCS and the Blueprint principles.

Discussion/Analysis:

In 2024, SACOG staff conducted the following Blueprint and MTP/SCS implementation activities related to land use:

- Provided MTP/SCS consistency letters to eight different projects throughout the year for the purposes of CEQA Streamlining benefits. These letters are included as attachments to this staff report. SACOG provided specific assistance to City of Sacramento staff as part of litigation related to the City's use of said CEQA streamlining on the American River One project.

- In September, SACOG partnered with the Sacramento Housing Alliance to host a housing tour to discuss the work happening in unincorporated Sacramento County and the City of Roseville as well as to provide an affordable housing workshop for jurisdictional partners.
- SACOG frequently provides technical assistance to member agencies on State/Federal grant programs. In 2024, SACOG provided ongoing assistance to potential applicants to the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program, including most recently direct assistance to a potential project in Woodland.
- Green Means Go Related Activities
 - Worked with project sponsors on revised scopes within the 21 Green Means Go grant projects funded by the statewide Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 program
 - Concluded housing accelerator program in Yuba City and Marysville, a follow-up from initial workshops. The accelerator studied development options on individual parcels in green zones.
 - Participated in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants working group, including developing an infill list of Green Means Go projects.
 - Held major Green Means Go convening in September 2024 to increase state legislators and other stakeholders' confidence in Green Means Go, improve collaboration between local and state policymakers, and elevate Green Means Go as a model for future investments
 - Worked with wide array of stakeholders to protect REAP 2 funding from proposed budget cuts
 - Accelerated conversations with special district infrastructure providers, resulting in a forthcoming 2025 program focused on relationship building between jurisdictions, special districts and SACOG.
- Regional grants implementing the Blueprint
 - Obligated the federal Reconnecting Communities/Neighborhood Access grant award, which brings \$22.5 million to the region in support of Green Means Go. Staff is currently executing the subrecipient agreements with jurisdictions for this federal award.
 - Submitted PRO Housing grant application to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) discretionary program
- Provided presentations throughout the year to promote SACOG programs and work related to the Blueprint.
 - SACOG staff presented at the 350 Sacramento General Meeting to discuss infill housing and climate goals for the region.
 - SACOG staff were invited to co-presented with Wasatch Front Regional Council about our Green Means Go efforts as part of a panel on *Land Use & Housing Linkages*, at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) 2024 Annual Conference.
 - SACOG staff presented at the National American Planning Association conference on the region's innovative use of public health metrics as part of the 2025 Blueprint.
- Participated in ad hoc and ongoing working groups on various topics related to blueprint implementation, including:
 - Land Use, Transportation, and Climate (LUTRAC) monthly meetings between SACOG, Sacramento Regional Transit, SMUD, and the Air District to coordinate comments on projects and plans related to shared goals amongst the agencies
 - SACOG/Local Agency Formation Commission working group (only one meeting held so far, but more are planned in 2025)
 - City of Sacramento Revisions to Parking Requirements Residential Working Group
 - Statewide Assembly Bill (AB) 2097 Stakeholder Meetings to work through implementation of statewide efforts to reform parking mandates

- Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative, a multidisciplinary network of local and regional agencies, organizations, businesses and associations working together to advance climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in their own communities and throughout California's Capital Region.
- In an ongoing effort to provide feedback to statewide partners on SACOG challenges and opportunities, SACOG commented on a Request for Information from the Strategic Growth Council on challenges to infill development in December 2024.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

List of Attachments:

1. 10th and R Mixed Use SACOG Letter
2. 13C Studios SACOG Letter
3. 19th and Capital SACOG Letter
4. 2000 16th Street Mixed Use Project
5. F St Housing Project SACOG Letter
6. K St Hotel SACOG Letter
7. Remington Project SACOG Letter
8. Sac Bee North Project SACOG Letter