



## Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Date: April 3, 2025

Agenda Item No. 3

From Plan to Action: Implementing the 2025 Blueprint Part 2

Information

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**Attachments:** Yes

**Referring Committee:** Not Applicable

### Issue:

The SACOG Board has adopted an ambitious vision for future growth and mobility in the region. Now we must identify the suite of implementation policies that will ensure that vision moves from plan to action.

### Request:

Review & Discuss at Meeting

### Recommendation for Board:

Not applicable

### Recommendation for Committee:

Provide feedback and direction to staff to inform implementation policies for the 2025 Blueprint.

### Background:

This month's item continues the conversation from March to identify policies that will support and encourage the efforts of SACOG and partners around the region to implement the vision of the 2025 Blueprint.

As a reminder, in February staff provided an overview of the progress the board has made so far on the update to the region's long-range plan, the 2025 Blueprint (February 20, 2025 Board Meeting; [Item #7](#)). Among this progress was the adoption of an ambitious land use forecast and set of transportation investments designed to support a triple bottom-line policy framework centered around equity, economy, and environment. **Attachment A** describes the triple bottom line goals adopted by the board of directors and illustrates some of the ways the policies and strategies of the plan can support outcomes consistent with those goals.

With the adoption of these components last year, the board established the overarching land use and transportation outcomes the plan seeks to achieve. They outline a land use forecast over the next 25 years to accommodate an additional 600,000 people, the construction of 278,000 new homes, and the creation of 260,000 jobs. The forecast prioritizes new growth in existing cities, suburbs, and small towns, with a particular emphasis on revitalizing commercial corridors, rural main streets, and green zones. To the extent the region expands outward, it does so strategically with phased developing community growth that focuses on buildout

of greenfields already under construction. The plan also provides for more diversity of housing, including apartments, accessory dwelling units, condos, small homes, cottages, and single-family homes on both smaller and larger lots. Job growth remains robust in the region's existing job centers such as Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, Roseville, and Yuba City and Marysville. The plan also calls for more job growth in housing rich communities like Elk Grove, Woodland, the Highway 65 Corridor in Placer County, and western El Dorado County.

The plan aims to shorten, on average, distances between homes, jobs, services, and amenities, expand a variety of housing options to address housing unaffordability, and provide residents with access to a safe and efficient multimodal transportation system that reduces emissions and manages congestion by investing in and revitalizing existing communities, commercial corridors, and rural main streets.

To pay for the transportation investments in the plan, the plan calls on the region and the state to work together to modernize how we pay for transportation by deploying tolling for the first time in the region and examining how a change from a fuel tax to a usage charge could stabilize and increase available state and regional funding sources.

With the major assumptions of the plan laid out, now is the time to identify specific policies to support implementation of the plan. The policies for the 2025 Blueprint will build on the priorities and commitments from the region's current plan, the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and SACOG's Strategic Plan. As such the 2025 Blueprint policies will aim to deliver on the promise of the plan by focusing on the following priorities from [SACOG's Strategic Plan](#) adopted by the board in 2022:

#### Build vibrant and inclusive places

We will help create opportunities for more residents to live and work in equitable, environmentally healthy, and economically vibrant communities by providing a mix of housing types that will ensure more residents have options to live in walkable places that are affordable, have access to economic opportunity, and allow people to spend less time driving.

#### Foster the next generation of mobility solutions

We will help make it easier, safer, and cleaner for everyone to move through the region by implementing innovative mobility projects, investing in high-capacity corridors and high-frequency bus service, and improving the responsiveness of our transportation system.

#### Modernize the way we pay for transportation infrastructure

We will improve the reliability and condition of our roads, sidewalks, trails, and transit systems by finding new and innovative ways to finance the costs of building and maintaining the system in both the near- and long-term.

#### Build and maintain a safe, equitable and resilient transportation system

We will help maintain the transportation system we have while simultaneously redesigning and reinvesting in the system to better meet the needs of communities by investing in cost-effective, multimodal projects and programs.

### Plan Policies and Federal and State Requirements

As a federal and state mandated plan, the Blueprint is required to include policies and strategies that outline the various steps needed to drive implementation of the plan across numerous agencies, partners, and stakeholders. Simply, the plan's policies are a resource for promoting consistent and supportive actions among state, regional, and local agencies. Further, local agencies can refer to specific policies to demonstrate alignment with the MTP/SCS when seeking funding from state or federal programs. Alignment with the regional plan is a requirement for some programs, but more broadly can provide a strong signal to state and federal leaders that the region is coordinated, in line with federal and state priorities, and ready for investment. **Attachment B** describes some of the federal and state requirements and context that are important to keep in mind when considering policies for a regional plan like the 2025 Blueprint.

### **Discussion/Analysis:**

The Land Use and Natural Resources Committee (LUNR) began its discussion of plan policies at its March meeting. The committee emphasized the importance of focusing on infill infrastructure and left-behind corridors and addressing the need for safe routes to schools. Additionally, there was interest in demonstrating support for quicker, more affordable changes through quick builds and tactical measures to address safety needs, rather than solely relying on long-term built environment changes. The committee also highlighted the necessity of defining cost-effective road planning safety standards. In discussing the potential for micromobility and transit in the plan, the committee emphasized the need to distinguish between what solutions would work, or not, in urban, suburban, and rural contexts. Further, the committee was interested in seeing more focus on delivering cost-effective transit services. With regard to a modernized system for paying for transportation, the committee emphasized the importance of understanding the reality of what it would take to fully meet the region's and state's needs.

Based on the committee's initial feedback and the discussions and analysis conducted over the past two years on the plan, staff has created a set of draft policies that build on and refine the policies of the 2020 MTP/SCS. These policies and their associated actions outline the steps needed to drive implementation of the plan. Simply, the plan's policies are a resource for promoting consistent and supportive actions among state, regional, and local agencies— as well as advocacy groups, the private sector, and community-based organizations.

**Attachment C** includes draft plan policies organized by the four strategic priority areas described above along with examples of how these policies may show up in the actions taken by SACOG, cities and counties, transit agencies, and partners around the region. Each update of the regional plan offers an opportunity to reflect on progress we've made, course-correct based on new understandings, and introduce new or innovative ideas for solving regional challenges.

In April, each of the SACOG committees will have the opportunity to review and provide direction on the policies for the 2025 Blueprint. The questions below were presented to the LUNR committee in March and continue to serve as a guide for thinking about the policies for the plan to ensure we create a cohesive regional vision for the future that reflects the opinions of residents and the diversity of the region.

1. Does the current set of policies still capture the priorities of residents in the region? What new themes have emerged from the public outreach that may require adjustments?
2. Is the Triple Bottom Line fully accounted for in the current policies? What additional topics or actions seem to be missing?
3. Do the current policies reflect your community's role in the region's future? What's missing?
4. What questions do you have about how SACOG will create and use the policies in the 2025 Blueprint?

Staff will use the discussion and any feedback provided by the committee to refine these policies for inclusion in the 2025 Blueprint which we expect to request board authorization to release along with the associated EIR in May.

***Major Next Steps:***

- **February through June**, SACOG will visit each county board and city council in the region to discuss the 2025 Blueprint and co-present with local staff on how the plan reflects and is implemented by work happening in each jurisdiction around the region. Attachment D includes the current schedule of local agency visits.
- **In May**, the board will consider releasing the draft plan and EIR for two months of public review and comment. The draft plan will describe the land use and transportation assumptions and strategies of the 2025 Blueprint as well as the implementation policies and their associated actions, roles, and responsibilities. During this review, staff will continue to meet with interested stakeholders, hold public hearings, revisit the many community-based organizations that helped with outreach for the plan, and wrap up the tour of regional boards and councils.
- **In August, September, and October** staff will work to address input received during the public review, finalize changes to the plan and EIR, and brief the board on major themes in feedback we receive. The board will also give direction on any substantive changes that could affect the plan's major assumptions or policies.
- **In November**, the board will consider adopting the 2025 Blueprint and certifying the EIR. Following this action by the board, staff will submit the plan and EIR with all required appendices and documentation to our federal and state agencies for final approval.

**Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

**List of Attachments:**

Attachment A – Policy Framework

Attachment B – Federal and State Requirements

Attachment C – Draft 2025 Blueprint Principles

Attachment D – Local Tour to Boards and Councils Schedule