



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Date: March 7, 2024

[[!Agenda Item No. {{item.number}}!]]

Phase One 2025 Blueprint Outreach Results and Principles

Information

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Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Clint Holtzen

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

Issue:

The collection and compilation of results from the Phase 1 outreach and engagement effort for the 2025 Blueprint was completed at the end of 2023. Seven key principles have emerged from the Phase 1 outreach and engagement activities.

Recommendation:

None; this item is for information only. Staff requests that the committee review the staff report and participate in the presentation, providing feedback on the principles developed from the Phase 1 outreach and engagement effort.

Background/Analysis:

SACOG heavily emphasized public input in the initial phase of plan development to ensure that residents' vision for the region's future will be reflected within the 2025 Blueprint. This type of regional-scale, long-range planning asks residents to think long-term and reflect on their values and priorities for their future and the wellbeing of future generations.

The development of the 2025 Blueprint began with robust outreach and engagement throughout the SACOG region that included the following efforts:

- a series of eight focus groups, half administered in Spanish, and with 69 regional residents representing each of the six-counties and included individuals from a range of demographics including age, gender, ethnicity, household income, work status/profession, housing status, years lived in the region, and levels of awareness and interest in community, government, and development;
- a scientifically administered and demographically representative poll, in partnership with Valley Vision, that surveyed 3,000 residents;
- attendance at 30 events and pop-up locations in 27 of 28 jurisdictions across the region, including festivals, farmers markets, and popular transit stops to collect responses on a survey that received 2,790 responses, half of which were gathered through grant-funded outreach by 12 community-based organizations; and
- a Blueprint Workshop attended by over 300 elected officials, public agency staff, and community leaders from across the six-county Sacramento region;

These outreach and engagement efforts were designed and implemented using a genuine and proactive approach to engage representatives of Black, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, and communities of color along with rural, urban, and under-resourced communities. This was done to be consistent with the Blueprint's [Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework](#) and to work toward the [Racial Equity Action Plan](#) goal of increasing community engagement in SACOG's work.

SACOG staff worked to aggregate and analyze the data collected through the numerous outreach techniques (i.e., focus groups, poll, surveys, workshop) that were employed as part of the Phase 1 outreach and engagement efforts. A full summary of input from each outreach technique is included in Attachments B, C, D, and E. SACOG staff developed seven draft principles from the themes that emerged from analysis of all the responses collected through this outreach and engagement effort. Staff recommend that the seven principles developed directly from input received from the Phase 1 outreach and engagement efforts detailed above be used to help shape the policies, strategies, and programs in the 2025 Blueprint, consistent with the Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework.

Discussion/Analysis:

At the committee meeting, SACOG staff will present on principles that emerged from SACOG's outreach that illustrate the issues, concerns, and hopes that are important to residents throughout the region. The committee presentation will dive into these in more detail, but some highlights of what SACOG learned through the Phase 1 outreach efforts include:

- Residents acknowledge and agree that there is a need to reduce racial and economic disparities in the region, specifically as it relates to transportation, housing, and access to jobs and recreational opportunities.
- Residents recognize that their housing needs may change throughout their lives and that the region needs to provide affordable and accessible options for all individuals and families. This includes offering a mix of housing options, from apartments to single family homes, even if most people will continue to aspire to live in single family homes in the suburbs.
- Residents expressed a desire to reinvest in existing neighborhoods and communities. This means different things in different parts of the region, but generally people supported creative reuse of existing buildings and vacant parcels as a way to make more efficient use of existing assets and enhance the qualities that make them want to live here.
- Residents expressed an interest in neighborhoods with easy access to parks, restaurants, schools, and services. They recognized the benefits of walkable developments that range from overall quality of life, better health outcomes, to making their neighborhoods more affordable and sustainable.
- Residents had concerns over worsening traffic and the state of repair of the region's transportation system. They expressed interest in multimodal solutions to these challenges and that improvements to the transportation system can encourage more people to use transportation methods other than their personal automobile. Some key issues that people viewed as impediments to using alternative modes of transportation (e.g., transit, bicycling, walking) include concerns with safety, inconvenient transit, and slower travel times of transit.
- Residents expressed concern related to the increase in natural disasters like flooding events and wildfires in the region. Associated concerns included the safeguarding of lives and property from such events and ensuring adequate emergency evacuation routes.
- Residents identified open space and agriculture as aspects of the region that they value and would like to preserve.

Staff used the input described above to develop seven principles that capture the opinions and needs of residents and will present these for discussion at the Transportation, Land Use, and Policy and Innovation committees at your March meetings. The purpose of these principles is to synthesize what we learned through our outreach in a way that the SACOG board and staff can use to ensure the assumptions, policies, and implementation strategies we develop for the Blueprint consider and integrate the needs and opinions of residents from across the region.

Staff will be asking for reactions and questions from board members to help us refine these principles which will serve as the foundation for a comprehensive final report describing all the outreach conducted for the Blueprint, what we learned from that outreach, and how that input is used in developing the final plan. To this end, staff propose to bring these principles, as well as specific examples of the input we received, into board discussions about land use and transportation assumptions and priorities over the coming year. Prior to the committee meetings, board members will receive a detailed schedule of the major presentations, requested board actions, and milestones for the remainder of the year and into 2025.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The Blueprint is funded by a combination of sources including Federal Metropolitan Planning funds, state Sustainable Communities Formula Program Funds, and Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Funds. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and El Dorado County Transportation Commission also provide some funding to SACOG to support the development of the Blueprint to assist with the planning activities, data development, and analysis that is necessary to ensure coordination and consistency between the regional plan and the county-level Regional Transportation Plans.