



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Date: March 6, 2025

Agenda Item No. 2

From Plan to Action: Implementing the 2025 Blueprint

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:

None; this is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

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

Background:

Last month, staff presented 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 the progress to date was the adoption of an ambitious set of land use and transportation assumptions 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 major assumptions last year, the board established the prevailing land use and transportation strategies for the plan. 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:

This month, staff is asking for feedback from the committee on policy priorities and refinements for the 2025 Blueprint. By the end of this year, the board will consider adoption of a plan that will include policies and strategies for how to best achieve the board's triple bottom line goals and vision for the region. These policies and strategies will outline the various 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.

As described above, the 2025 Blueprint will build on the policies and priorities of the region's current plan. **Attachment C** describes the existing set of regional plan policies organized by the four priority areas described above. Each update of the regional plan offers an opportunity to reflect on progress we've made on realizing these policies, course-correct based on new understandings, and introduce new or innovative ideas for solving regional challenges.

To support this reflecting back and opportunity to course correct, the board emphasized public input in the development of the 2025 Blueprint plan to ensure that the plan is reflective of the residents of the region's

vision for the future. Through focus groups, polling, surveys, and a regional workshop, our engagement activities reached nearly 6,000 residents, more than 300 elected officials, and many community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and others. The values and priorities that emerged through this outreach are captured in the themes below:

Ensure Access and Opportunity for All Residents: Provide inclusive engagement processes to ensure all residents can access housing, jobs, and services without being disproportionately impacted.

Provide Housing Options for all Incomes and Life Stages: Recognize the wide variety of needs and preferences of residents in various stages of life, ensuring that housing options are accessible and affordable to all individuals and families across the region.

Invest in Existing Communities: Bringing new life to communities by making better use of existing buildings and vacant or underutilized land while preserving neighborhood character.

Create Complete Communities: Foster communities where residents can get to stores, recreation and other places easily and have access to many transit options.

Support Safe and Convenient Transportation Options: Maintain the region's existing transportation network while reducing congestion and providing alternative transportation options.

Prepare for Natural Disasters to Protect People and Property: Safeguarding lives and property by ensuring communities can minimize and respond to natural disasters.

Protect and Conserve Open Space and Agriculture: Ensure conservation of open space and agriculture to enhance the well-being and economic prosperity of residents, and beauty of the region.

In March, staff will ask the committee to reflect on these themes, the triple bottom line framework, the board adopted land use and transportation assumptions of the 2025 Blueprint, and the policies in the region's current plan. The discussion questions below are intended to aid in the committee's discussion to ensure we create a cohesive regional vision for the future that reflects the opinions of residents and the diversity of the region.

Staff will use the discussion and any feedback provided by the committee to begin to refine a package of policies for inclusion in the 2025 Blueprint for further committee review in April ahead of an anticipated draft plan and EIR release in May.

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?

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 a schedule of the 2025 Blueprint tour of boards and councils.

- **In March and April**, SACOG staff will ask committees to weigh in on policies aimed at realizing the vision of the 2025 Blueprint. As mentioned above, these policies will shape the actions, roles, and responsibilities for plan implementation that SACOG and our partners around the region will engage in over the coming years.
- **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 (OWP)/Budget

List of Attachments:

Attachment A: Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework

Attachment B: Federal and State Planning Requirements and 2025 Blueprint Policy Development

Attachment C: 2020 Plan Policies

Attachment D: Schedule of Tour of Boards and Councils