



Advocacy Update

Receive & File

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Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Policy & Innovation

Issue:

Update on state and federal advocacy activities.

Request:

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Recommendation for Board:

None, this item is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

None, this item is for information only.

Background:

The Policy and Innovation Committee receives regular updates from both staff and our lobbyists at the regularly scheduled meetings and a summary report of activities that occurred in the prior month. At the last meeting, in March, SACOG's federal lobbyists, Capitol Transportation Consulting and Pavluchuk & Associates, provided an overview of early actions of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy following his confirmation and overview of recent Executive Orders and their implications on transportation programs and projects. Attachment A, Federal Report, provides an overview of federal activities for the month of March. On the state side, spot bills need to be amended with substantive language in March, and policy committees are actively hearing legislation. Budget subcommittees have also been meeting to discuss the Governor's January budget proposal. Attachment B, State Report, provides an overview of state activities.

Discussion/Analysis:

SACOG staff and SACOG's federal and state lobbyists will provide a more detailed update at the meeting with the latest information regarding state and federal advocacy efforts. In February and March staff went back to Washington D.C. for two membership policy conferences; National Association of Regional Councils and Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Much of the focus of these conferences was on learning and preparing for the upcoming reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Bill due to expire in September 2026. Additionally, time allowed for meetings with delegation staff to discuss reauthorization and current regional impacts on the freeze of federal funds.

On the state side, SACOG continues to focus on the evolution SB 375. As part of this, the Big 4 MPOs reached an agreement on a SB 375 reform framework, Attachment C. SACOG and the other Big 4 MPOs, will use this to guide our advocacy. SACOG continues to monitor bills related to housing and transportation as they begin to move through the legislative process. SACOG's state lobbyist will provide more information at the meeting.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

List of Attachments:

Attachment A - Federal Report

Attachment B- State Report

Attachment C- Framework