



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: April 3, 2025

Agenda Item No. 6

Mobility Zones - Phase 1 Zones

Information

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Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

Issue:

SACOG staff—in partnership with city and county staff, regional partners, and community members—have developed 23 Mobility Zones and prioritized ten Phase 1 Mobility Zones.

Request:

Review & Discuss at Meeting

Recommendation for Board:

None; this is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

None; this is for information only.

Background:

In January 2024, SACOG launched the Mobility Zones project, a three-year, six-county effort funded by a \$5 million federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to improve clean, shared, and active transportation in equity-priority areas. SACOG has a signed grant agreement and the federal funds are fully obligated.

Building on the Green Means Go and Engage, Empower, Implement (EEI) programs, the project takes a place-based, community co-creation approach, working closely with residents to shape decisions and priorities. Over three years, SACOG will identify ten Mobility Zones, analyze transportation challenges, prioritize projects, and advance at least one project in each county. The project engages 70+ agency staff and 30+ community leaders across seven advisory committees and a Task Force.

SACOG introduced the project to the Board in April 2024, highlighting its phased approach and equity-driven goals. In December 2024, the board adopted an Equity Priority Communities map for the project, incorporating resident input and built-environment data to identify areas with high transportation and quality-of-life needs. This map, developed with agency and community partners, serves as the foundation for selecting Mobility Zones for further study and investment.

Discussion/Analysis:

The Mobility Zones project is a community-centered approach to addressing transportation equity gaps often overlooked by traditional planning models. By integrating ground-truth data, community-led decision-making, and place-based planning, this initiative ensures transportation investments align with local needs.

Recap: Mobility Zones 101

Last month staff outlined Mobility Zones' technical analysis and mapping process. The multiphase process layers information about equity needs and transportation needs to identify places in the region that have high needs in both. The process uses a bottom-up approach, listening to communities about their unique needs and tailoring the analysis to reflect the differences of each county and community. Ultimately this process identified 23 Mobility Zones across the region. More detailed information about this analysis is available in the Technical Methodology (Attachment E).

Prioritization Process

While all 23 Mobility Zones have distinct challenges, this first phase of the Mobility Zones program is only scoped to analyze 10 places. Through a structured community engagement process, these 23 Mobility Zones were evaluated using ranked-choice voting and consensus-building to identify 10 Phase 1 Mobility Zones to move forward at this time. The five Community Committees, along with Municipal and Technical Committees, reviewed demographic, transportation, and land use data, prioritizing two to three zones per county. Attachment C includes a roster of organizations represented on each Mobility Zones Committee. Ultimately, the collaborative prioritization process with community members and agency staff selected 10 Phase 1 Mobility Zones for further analysis and pilot project implementation:

- **El Dorado County:** Georgetown/Coloma/Kelsey
- **Yolo County:** Woodland, Bryte/Broderick
- **Yuba County:** Brownsville, Linda/Olivehurst
- **Sutter County:** South Yuba City
- **Placer County:** North Auburn
- **Sacramento County:** Florin, Ben Ali/Swanston, Rosemont/Western Rancho Cordova

Staff anticipates returning to the remaining 13 Mobility Zones in future phases of the Mobility Zones program. An online map showing the general location of all 23 Mobility Zones, including the Phase 1 Mobility Zones, is available at this link: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/43a15dd7933a451eb6808643536223ab>

This iterative, community-driven process ensures that planning efforts reflect local priorities while aligning with regional and municipal initiatives. Several Phase 1 Mobility Zones overlap with ongoing SACOG and partner initiatives, such as SACOG's Green Zones program, which focuses on sustainable land use and economic development. Some Mobility Zones also serve as site locations for REAP Offsite Board Tours. Additionally, all of them have been recognized or designated by State and Federal Priority Programs, including Federal Opportunity Zones, AB 1550 California Climate Investments Priority Populations, and SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities.

Next Steps

Staff work is currently focused on defining discrete boundaries for each of the ten Phase 1 Mobility Zones (the boxes shown on the map just indicate general areas). Staff, in partnership with Civic Thread, Breathe California Sacramento Region, California Health Collaborative, Health Education Council, Camptonville

Community Partnership, and Sacramento ACT, has also conducted outreach in each area to better understand the community's needs and inform zone boundaries. Staff will return in May with the 23 Mobility Zones, including the proposed Phase 1 Mobility Zones and their boundaries, for the Board to consider adopting. The May presentation will also reflect community engagement results and feedback from agency partners.

If the board adopts all 23 Mobility Zones, including the ten Phase 1 Mobility Zones with boundaries in May, Staff will conduct finer grain analysis in each zone and begin working with community and agencies to identifying projects that address transportation challenges for communities in the Phase 1 Mobility Zones.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Staff and consultant work on Mobility Zones is included in the adopted Overall Work Program and Budget.

List of Attachments:

Attachment A: Presentation Slides

Attachment B: Mobility Zones Committee Roster

Attachment C: 23 Mobility Zone Profiles

Attachment D: Summary of the Zone Selection Process

Attachment E: Technical Methodology Memo

Attachment F: Comments on the Committee Process