

Attachment C: 2025 Blueprint Process and Engagement to Date

Since 2022, SACOG has undertaken a series of steps with multiple points of input to develop a long-range transportation and land use plan that is shaped by the board's adopted Triple Bottom Line and informed by the objective of achieving the region's GHG reduction target. These steps, outlined in more detail below, have aimed at ensuring the data and assumptions that support the plan are rooted in local planning, vetted by local agency staff and statewide experts, and informed by robust public outreach. These steps ensure that the plan reflects local agency and resident priorities and market conditions while also balancing state, federal, and regional imperatives.

Adoption of Regional Growth Forecast

For each plan update, SACOG prepares a long-range projection of regional population, employment, and household growth. For the 2025 Blueprint, the projections [adopted by the SACOG board in 2022](#) cover a timeframe from 2020 to 2050 and anticipate that the region will grow by nearly 600,000 people, 263,000 new jobs, and 278,000 new homes. This growth, while representing a slower growth rate than the previous plan, reflects the latest birth, mortality, and immigration data available. The growth forecast assembled by SACOG staff with support from the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy and a panel of statewide experts asserts that the region will remain among the fastest growing parts of California and will experience robust growth over the coming decades. The region is projected to add more than 8,000 jobs and 9,000 new homes annually, numbers not seen on a recurring basis since the early 2000s.

Call for Transportation Projects and Local Agency Interviews

SACOG staff conducted a call for transportation project nominations and a series of local agency kickoff meetings with local planning, department of transportation, and public works staff in late 2021 and into Spring 2022. SACOG received nominations for more than \$28 billion in transportation investments including new or expanded roads and highways, light rail expansions, new transit vehicles, maintenance and rehabilitation, active transportation projects, and other programs. Additionally, SACOG interviewed all 28 member agencies about key development projects, changes since the last MTP/SCS update, and local policy priorities. Interview questions included a jurisdiction-specific conversation around where growth is occurring and will likely occur in the coming years, housing product type trends, recent policy change that could impact land use change, existing plan area absorption rates, and environmental, infrastructure, or regulatory constraints.

Development of Base year, Buildout, and Community Type Geographies

Over the course of 2020-2021, SACOG staff created a parcel-level 2020 base year (what existed in January 2020), buildout inventory (what is allowed to be built according to local general and specific plans or new plans in process), and pipeline inventory (projects that are under construction or about to break ground). These data form the guardrails for future land use assumptions in the 2025 Blueprint; in other words, staff

assumes that any jurisdiction-specific growth between the years 2020-2050 will be an amount and type of growth somewhere between what exists today and what local governments currently allow in their general plans, specific plans, and pipeline projects.

SACOG worked with local staff to review and validate the base year and buildout inventories over a six-week period in January 2022. SACOG staff also made edits to the community type geographies in response to feedback from local staff and the SACOG board. The regional set of community types (the areas for which the land use assumptions are summarized) are summarized in Attachment D.

While largely the same as what was included in the 2020 MTP/SCS, several of the changes reflect new local planning documents, green zone nominations for the Green Means Go program, annexations, transition of some developing communities to established communities (when more than 50 percent of the plan area is built out), and the disaggregation of developing communities into developing communities already under construction and potential developing communities not yet under construction.

Development and Evaluation of Pathways

To help inform the board's deliberations on land use and transportation decisions for the 2025 Blueprint, SACOG developed three pathways, or scenarios, that explore the many complex and intersecting growth issues facing the region. Between April 2022, and March 2023, SACOG worked with jurisdictional staff and the board to develop, revise, and evaluate three potential regional growth scenarios for the years 2020 to 2050. These pathways charted distinct land use futures, investment decisions, and underlying development economics. The Pathways development process included the following steps:

- **April-May 2022:** SACOG staff sent local government planners the pathway land use assumptions for a six-week review period. Planners were provided context as to the purpose of each pathway and asked to focus their reviews on the alignment of pathways with local market conditions, planning and policies, the availability of backbone infrastructure, and any other local conditions that would impact the distribution of growth across pathways. Examples of feedback included comments on increasing or decreasing growth in specific community types, whether growth aligned with current understanding of infrastructure phasing, and potential barriers to realizing each of the pathway development patterns.
- **July 2022:** Based on initial feedback, SACOG staff sent a set of revised pathway land use assumptions to local government planners for additional feedback and ground truthing.
- **August 2022:** Presentations to committees and board to discuss Pathways and a guest presentation from Cascadia Partners on the buildout inventory. ([Staff Report/Attachments, Presentation](#)):
- **February 2023:** Based on feedback from planners and the board, SACOG staff sent the [final Pathways land use assumptions](#) to local government planners.

- **March 2023:** Committees and board discuss evaluation of pathway land use performance metrics ([Staff Report/Attachments](#), [Presentation](#))
- **June 2023:** Committees and board discuss evaluation of pathway transportation assumptions and performance metrics ([Staff Report/Attachments](#), [Presentation](#))
- **October & November 2023:** Building on the lessons learned from Pathways, the board discussed the challenges of achieving the regional GHG target, the consequences of not achieving the target, and potential additional strategies (like pricing, school buses, and telework) the region can deploy to help reduce emissions from passenger vehicles.

Development and Evaluation of Discussion Scenario

SACOG staff used feedback from the public, local planners, the SACOG board, and analysis of the Pathways performance metrics to develop a Discussion Scenario that can be used by the SACOG board, partner agencies, and stakeholders to discuss how the region should grow over the next 25 years.

In August 2023, SACOG held a local planner workshop to discuss how the Pathways perform across the Triple Bottom Line goal metrics and key considerations as SACOG develops a single set of land use and transportation assumptions the plan. A Draft Discussion Scenario was then sent to local government staff for a six-week review period from September to October 2023. During this period, local staff were asked to provide comments related to things like new pipeline projects, key public investments related to new growth areas, potential barriers to realizing the assumptions, and infrastructure phasing. During this review period, SACOG received feedback through a regional workshop with local staff, five countywide “office hours” meetings, 10 individual jurisdiction meetings, and 11 comment letters or emails. While not all suggested changes were made to the Discussion Scenario, SACOG staff revised the Discussion Scenario assumptions to reflect local feedback and made minor adjustments to account for rebalancing to maintain the same regional growth projection and updated pipeline project assumptions.

Public Outreach and Engagement

SACOG emphasized robust public input in the initial phase of plan development to ensure that residents’ vision for the region’s future is reflected in the 2025 Blueprint. This was conducted through polling, pop up workshops, surveys, focus groups, and a regional workshop which in combination reached more than 7,000 residents, elected officials, business leaders, and staff from every jurisdiction in the region. In March 2023, staff summarized the outcomes of this outreach in presentations to each of the SACOG board committees ([staff report](#) and presentation).