



Mobility Zones Program Overview

Information

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Attachments: Yes

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

Issue:

This item provides an overview of the Mobility Zones project.

Recommendation:

None; this item is for information only.

Background/Analysis:

In 2022, SACOG submitted a \$5 million application to the federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for a new Mobility Zones program and the program was selected for funding. At their March 2023, meeting, the board accepted the RAISE award and authorized staff to conduct contracting and budgeting activities to initiate the program. At their April 2023, meeting, the board adopted a strategy for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) that will direct future CRP funding to implement the Mobility Zones actions.

Since then, staff have completed necessary agreements with the Federal Transit Administration to access the RAISE grant funds, hired a principal planner (Kathleen Hanley) to manage the program, and procured consultants to support the development of the program. Civic Thread, a non-profit organization that works to empower residents in institutionally underserved communities to achieve healthy built environments, is under contract to lead community engagement for Mobility Zones. Steer, a global multi-disciplinary consulting firm, is under contract to lead the planning and analysis work for Mobility Zones.

Discussion/Analysis:

The Mobility Zones program will build on the success of the Green Means Go program by taking a place-based case study approach to improve transportation for the Sacramento Region's diverse communities. Over the course of the three-year grant-funded work, Mobility Zones will identify about 15 neighborhood-sized 'zones' around the six-county region that represent the diverse people and places within our region. The program will then analyze the conditions within each zone to understand those communities' unique transportation challenges and opportunities, and what types of improvements are needed to increase those communities' ability to get where they want to go and get there sustainably. Following this analysis, the program will prioritize projects within each zone and will select one project per county to advance using implementation funding from the RAISE grant award. The full scope of work for the Mobility Zones program is included in Attachment A. After the RAISE grant funded work is complete, Mobility Zones will continue to implement

near-term transportation improvements in these zones, including utilizing CRP funds.

The Mobility Zones program is structured to reconcile the tension between the region's mode shift, zero-emission transition, and vehicle miles traveled reduction goals, and the real-world challenges of the region's urban, suburban, and rural communities. The program seeks to better understand the challenges with implementing these policy goals and will provide feedback into SACOG's future policy and long-range planning work. The Mobility Zones program also pilots a new framework to elevate community voices' in SACOG's work, consistent with Objective 1A in SACOG's adopted Racial Equity Action Plan: "Invest in and strengthen partnerships with community representatives, leaders, and organizations by establishing regular meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), funding CBOs to work with SACOG to engage community members, and maintaining regular communications with CBOs." The Mobility Zones program's decision-making, including identifying zones and prioritizing projects, is governed by seven committees:

- Five Community Committees, one for each county with Yuba and Sutter combined, that include representatives from community-based organizations and other engaged residents. These community members will be compensated for their expertise and participation in the project. A list of the community organizations that have been contacted to participate in these committees is included in Attachment B.
- One Municipal Committee that includes representatives from the cities and counties in the six-county region.
- One Technical Committee that includes representatives from regional agencies, including regional transportation planning agencies, air districts, transit operators, utilities, and regional organizations like Valley Vision.

These committees will meet quarterly throughout the three-year program development process with the first cycle of meetings scheduled for late April and early May. The lessons learned utilizing this community co-led framework will inform future SACOG engagement practices.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The staff time and consultant costs are included in SACOG's approved Budget and Overall Work Program (Budget/OWP) for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and proposed Budget/OWP for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.