

Advancing the Triple Bottom Line through the 2024 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

The MTP/SCS is a path to lead the region into the horizon year. To get to there, the region needs to develop land use, transportation policies and investment strategies that are strong enough to work with economic, societal, and environmental trends. Through the plan development process, it is common to find strategies or goals that have not been identified, or there is a need to re-think strategies because of significant changes happening in the world. In preparation for what is ahead, the MTP/SCS will be designed to achieve three goals: Equity, Economy, and Environment, or the three “E’s.” This Triple Bottom Line framework will shape discussions and strategies for the MTP/SCS.

Below are draft goal descriptions of the three E’s in the Triple Bottom Line framework:

Equity: A just and inclusive region where investments are being made in historically marginalized communities so race can no longer be used to predict health or economic outcomes, and outcomes for lower-income residents are improved.

Economy: A diversified regional economy built on the expansion of key economic clusters, including agriculture and food, health sciences, and innovative mobility. An inclusive economy in which all people have access to resources that give them the opportunity to realize their full potential.

Environment: A safe and resilient region for all residents, where natural resources and air quality are sustainably managed so people can thrive here for generations.

To help shape the draft goals and the Triple Bottom Line framework, please review the following questions, and prepare for a conversation about how these three goals might influence work on the MTP/SCS.

Equity

- How can the MTP/SCS help reduce racial disparities in both transportation and housing?
(Example of an indicator for housing: The percent of new small lot/attached housing units in high opportunity areas.
Example of indicators for transportation: # of crashes in communities of concern, increased transportation investments in areas of high concentration of minorities.)
- How can the MTP/SCS help reduce overall mobility disparities experienced by low-income communities?
(Example of an indicator of mobility disparity: Increased transit access to essential destinations (hospital/schools) for disadvantaged communities)
- How can SACOG and our partners more genuinely engage Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities to help shape investments and policy priorities in the MTP/SCS?
- How can a focus on racial equity generate positive outcomes for all residents of the region?

Economy

- How can the MTP/SCS prioritize infrastructure investments and growth patterns that support the region's key economic clusters (Food and Ag, Health and Life Sciences, Advanced Mobility)?
- How can the MTP/SCS better connect the workforce, and low-income workers in particular, to jobs and opportunities?
- What investments does the region need to make to improve our competitive standing among peer regions across the country looking to grow, attract and retain a talented workforce?

Environment

- How can the MTP/SCS transportation investments and strategic growth planning reduce carbon emissions in the region?
- How can the MTP/SCS prioritize infrastructure investments and growth patterns that will help make the region more resilient in the face of climate change and ensure that vulnerable and marginalized communities don't endure the worst of climate-induced natural disasters?
- How can the MTP/SCS help reduce or mitigate harmful tailpipe emissions and other automobile related pollutants that negatively contribute to health, such as asthma, heart disease and lung disease?