

Megaregion Working Group Meeting Notes

Friday, January 27, 2023

12:30-2:30 p.m. meeting held via Zoom with public participation available throughout

Next Meetings

- Friday, April 28
 - Friday, September 29
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Meeting Agenda

- Introduction to the Megaregion & Megaregion Working Group 2023 Agenda
- Funding Update for Megaregion dozen transportation project priorities
- Legislative Update

Working Group Representatives in Attendance

SACOG Board Members: Bonnie Gore, Paul Joiner, Gary Bradford

MTC Commissioners: Nate Miley, James Z Spering

SJCOG Board Members: Nancy Young, Robert Rickman, Gary Singh, Leo Zuber

Meeting Summary

This is the first meeting of the Megaregion Working Group in 2023, with SACOG Director Gore nominated to serve as Chair. Opening remarks were provided by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry, who is a supporter for aligning planning with our regional partners and is sponsoring SACOG's legislation to extend the Blueprint.

The main topics group discussed priorities for 2023, staff provided a funding update update on the Megaregion transportation projects, as well as legislative priorities for the year.

Introduction to the Megaregion & Working Group 2023 Agenda

- James Corless presented the item, providing an overview of each of the four priorities for 2023 that were adopted by the working group:
 - **Supporting the Megaregion Dozen transportation project priorities.** This includes updating advocacy materials, coordinating with lead agencies, and providing regular updates to the Megaregion working group.
 - **Coordinated and cross-disciplinary planning.** Long-range planning efforts involves addressing the intersecting issues of transportation, housing, climate change/resilience and economic development within and across Megaregional borders. One key priority of the Megaregion has been aligning long-range plan calendars, for which SACOG is currently pursuing a legislative extension of the

agency's long-range plan that will align with the next scheduled update of MTC's plan.

- **Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Electrification.** SACOG has taken the lead, with the support of megaregion partners, utilities, and a planning grant from Caltrans, to identify medium and heavy-duty freight charging and refueling infrastructure needs across the megaregion.
- **Roadway Pricing.** Although each of the three regions are in a different place in terms of roadway pricing deployment, with several facilities currently in the Bay Area, it is vital to establish policies, support the funding of facilities, and provide synergies around pricing across the Megaregion.
- Executive Directors at MTC and SJCOG expressed support for the priorities, noting the importance of these issues as we continue to coordinate planning functions with Megaregion partners.

Funding Update

- Staff at MTC, SJCOG, and SACOG provided background on the adoption of the Megaregion dozen project priorities list, gave an update on the project status, and informed the group of recently submitted applications and expected grant opportunities.
- Several Project Lead Agencies applied to the recent State SB 1 program, the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, for the following projects: the Port of Oakland Green Power Microgrid, I-80 Westbound Truck Scales Replacement, I-80 and U.S. 50 Yolo Express Lanes, and the I-5 Sacramento Express Lanes.
- Staff noted the upcoming State SB 1 program, the Transit and Intercity Capital Rail Program, and shared the projects that would be submitted for competition: Sacramento-Roseville Third Track, Valley Rail Extension, Valley Link Passenger Rail, and Amtrak South Bay Connect.
- Staff provided next steps to support these projects, including providing letters of support to upcoming grant programs, updating the advocacy materials with the latest updated project information, and developing a strategic funding matrix for the projects.

Legislative Update

- SACOG staff provided an overview of the legislation to extend the timeline of SACOG's long-range plan two years to align more closely with the timeline for MTC and SJCOG's long-range plans. SACOG staff shared the benefits of this proposal, including to support the coordinated planning with Megaregion partners, to better integrate community engagement, and to include SACOG's planning efforts such as the RAISE grant, and the Engage Empower, Implement program.

- MTC staff provided an overview of their priority to address the projected transit revenue shortfalls that will impact transit operations across the state, though most acutely to large transit operators. They are proposing multi-year state-assistance for transit operations to allow transit agencies more time to employ strategies to rebuild ridership that has declined.