



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: November 4, 2021

Agenda Item No. 6

2024 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Update

Information

Prepared by: Binu Abraham

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Kristina Svensk

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

The framing of the 2024 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) around a Triple Bottom Line framework of equity, economy, and environment

2. Recommendation:

None; this item is for discussion of the draft goal statements for the 2024 MTP/SCS update. This item is intended to begin a conversation about what a Triple Bottom Line approach would look like as a guiding framework for the 2024 MTP/SCS update.

3. Background/Analysis:

The land use and transportation challenges facing our region are complex and are aggravated by a global pandemic, record-setting drought, and a longer fire season. We continue to witness the effects of a staggering statewide housing crisis. Finding solutions to these challenges, as they relate to a regional planning effort like the MTP/SCS, requires a holistic approach that examines the relationships between land use decisions, transportation infrastructure and programs, market conditions, and public policy. To this end, the MTP/SCS is a comprehensive planning effort that aims to create an integrated, multimodal transportation system paired with an efficient regional land use pattern that connects housing to jobs, education, goods and services, and recreational opportunities, while protecting and enhancing our natural and working landscapes. Ultimately, the MTP/SCS will outline the transportation investment and land use strategies for the Greater Sacramento region. These transportation and land use strategies aim to connect communities, protect, and preserve our natural assets and agricultural lands, improve air quality, serve an inclusive and competitive economy, and facilitate attainable housing that is affordable to all residents. For more about the plan, see Attachment A: "What is the MTP/SCS?"

4. Discussion/Analysis:

In advance of beginning the detailed work of developing the MTP/SCS, including testing various land use strategies, transportation investment packages, and financial solutions for funding those investments, the SACOG board will need to adopt a policy-level framework to guide this work. This Policy Framework represents a high-level organizing structure for major policy imperatives, regional priorities, and questions to be addressed in the region's long-range transportation plan. As a foundational element of the plan update process, the Policy Framework for the 2024 MTP/SCS will inform the overall work plan for the update, guide the specific analyses and research conducted for the plan, and guide how the plan should address federal and

state requirements.

Staff believes this plan represents an opportunity for the board and the region to come together around a regional vision for advancing economic prosperity, supporting environmental health and resiliency, and promoting equity through reducing transportation and housing disparities by race/ethnicity and income. This framework of the three “E’s” – economy, environment, and equity – was first introduced in the 1990s as a business strategy to incorporate environmental and social responsibility goals into a company’s “bottom line” of their balance sheet. For SACOG, this framework provides a continued emphasis on our agency goal of tying our infrastructure investments to economic prosperity, gives appropriate emphasis to the environmental and climate resilience goals that our plan tries to achieve, and notably elevates equity – and the work of the board’s Race, Equity and Inclusion working group – to a level of significance that’s equal to the challenge that the region and the nation is facing. This framework could also help strengthen the ability of our local jurisdictions and partner agencies to compete for transportation funding at the state and federal level and will need to make a strong case that our projects are included in a long-range plan with a strong emphasis on climate and equity.

Attachment B provides draft goal statements for each of the three “E’s” as well as questions that the plan would strive to answer under this type of framework. Staff is looking for committee feedback, questions, and suggestions on how and whether this Triple Bottom Line framework can provide an organizing structure for the 2024 update of the MTP/SCS. Staff will use any direction or feedback from committees this month to help shape the Policy Framework for the plan that the board will consider adopting in February 2022.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Work on the MTP/SCS is included in the adopted budget and Overall Work Program. As a multi-year project, not all future year costs have been identified, but expenditures will be included in future year budgets.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Goal 3 : Vibrant Places