



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: August 4, 2022

Agenda Item No. 7

Public Hearing: 2023 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, Amendment #2 to the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Action

Prepared by: Jose Luis Caceres

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Kristina Svensk

Referring Committee: Not applicable

1. Issue:

The current 2021 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is set to expire. As part of the process of updating it, members of the public are invited to provide comment.

2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee hold a public hearing to receive comments.

3. Background/Analysis:

The Draft 2023 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (Draft MTIP), Amendment #2 to the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020 MTP/SCS), and Air Quality Conformity Analysis are out for public review. The draft documents are available under “Notices” at www.sacog.org and are attached (Attachments A and B).

The primary document in this package is the Draft MTIP. It contains over 400 projects spread across the six-county region and programs \$2.1 billion in federal, state, and local funds to projects in the four-year period of the document. Without the Draft MTIP, agencies would be unable to encumber federal transportation funds or complete environmental documents, resulting in delays to critical transportation infrastructure projects.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

The Draft MTIP adds, deletes, marks completed, and revises multiple projects from the current 2021 MTIP. However, it does not contain any new funding decisions nor make any policy changes. It contains every project in the SACOG region that has federal transportation funding scheduled for action in the next four years, and these projects are already in SACOG’s 2020 MTP/SCS, either individually listed or as part of air quality-exempt lump sum categories.

As these projects are all part of the 2020 MTP/SCS, the changes also amount to a revision to the project list in the 2020 MTP/SCS. Therefore, federal rules require that SACOG amend the 2020 MTP/SCS.

Federal rules also require that SACOG conduct an accompanying Air Quality Conformity Analysis. SACOG staff determined that the transportation activities in the Draft MTIP and Amendment #2 to the 2020 MTP/SCS meet federal regulations for regional air quality conformity and are consistent with air quality goals set for

ozone, particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM10), and fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

In developing the Draft MTIP, SACOG staff contacted sponsors directly and reviewed their projects for accuracy, clarity, financial constraint, air quality conformity, and consistency with the 2020 MTP/SCS.

The public review period opened July 14, and closes August 12, 2022. After holding this public hearing and receiving comments, staff will return to the Transportation Committee and Board in September to request approval. Attached is the MTIP Development Schedule (Attachment C).

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

There is no fiscal impact.

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

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Objective 1: Invest in and protect the transportation infrastructure needed to implement the region's economic prosperity plan.

Objective 3: Improve people's ability to get to jobs, schools, and other economic opportunities.

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Objective 3: Prioritize cost-effective transportation investments that enhance mobility while improving safety, air quality, and the condition of transportation infrastructure and assets.