



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: August 4, 2022

Agenda Item No. 10

Update on Citizens' Transportation Tax Initiative in Sacramento County

Information

Prepared by: James Corless

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Kristina Svensk

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

An update on the Citizens' Transportation Tax Initiative in Sacramento County

2. Recommendation:

None; this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

A transportation tax initiative will likely appear before voters in Sacramento County this November. If approved, the initiative would levy a 40-year sales tax increase that would generate roughly \$8.5 billion for transportation purposes. As you'll recall, a SACOG staff analysis presented at your May board meeting highlighted significant issues with the expenditure plan of the initiative, specifically that there are at least 26 capacity projects in the plan that are not currently planned or programmed for construction in the region's current Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). Staff worked with the parties involved and the proponents of the initiative in early June to develop an agreement that could address these issues. The resulting term sheet was approved at your June 16, board meeting and the board delegated authority to the Executive Director to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) consistent with the term sheet. As part of the action at the June meeting, the board requested that the Executive Director continue to work with and consult the four chairs (Directors Jennings, Saylor, Kozlowski and Saragosa) along with at least one board member from each of the three counties not represented among the chairs (Placer, Yuba and Sutter counties). Chair Jennings subsequently named Directors Burruss, Bradford and Harris as those board members from the three counties. Staff has been working closely with these seven board members to finalize the MOU per the board's direction.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Staff, outside legal counsel, and the board members noted above have been working closely with the other parties for the past several weeks to draft and finalize the MOU. As you'll see in the attachment, we finalized a draft MOU last week that implements the principles in the term sheet. The Executive Director has engaged in one-on-one consultation with the seven board members over the course of the past month which helped inform the final draft MOU. Board members did indeed raise several concerns with prior drafts of the MOU. Those concerns were incorporated into subsequent edits and addressed in the final draft of the document. On Wednesday July 27, the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) board approved the MOU. Given the short timeframe that we are working with, STA, SACOG and the Committee for a Better Sacramento will sign the MOU prior to your committee meetings. The next steps are for each party to issue a statement about the MOU and for the Committee for a Better Sacramento to reference the final MOU in the ballot statement that

must be filed with the County of Sacramento in early August. Several of the SACOG board members engaged in the development of the MOU also requested that the MOU come back to all three SACOG standing committees in August as an information item.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Staff believes the analysis and the work resulting from the MOU will require a significant amount of staff time in 2023. The MOU provides that STA will fund this work. However, the analysis will be a major undertaking and have an impact on the agency's staffing capacity. The work will also likely require a delay to the schedule of the 2024 Blueprint (the next MTP/SCS) development process, which would require state and federal agency approvals. Staff is researching options for delaying the plan update to minimize risk and so that transportation delivery in the region can continue even while the 2024 Blueprint is delayed.

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