



Scenario Planning for Equity, Economy, Environment: Envision Utah Case Study

Workshop

**Prepared by:** Kacey Lizon

**Attachments:** No

**Approved by:** James Corless

**Referring Committee:** Land Use & Natural Resources

**1. Issue:**

A workshop focused on the Envision Utah story of planning for the future.

**2. Recommendation:**

This item is for information and discussion.

**3. Background/Analysis:**

SACOG is undertaking an update to its long-range transportation and land use plan, the 2024 Blueprint. The 2024 Blueprint will be focused on achieving the Triple Bottom Line of goals for the region:

- **Equity:** A just and inclusive region where government makes investments for and with historically marginalized communities so race can no longer be used to predict health or economic outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved.
- **Economy:** A diversified regional economy in which all people have access to resources that give them the opportunity to realize their full potential. This future economy will also capitalize on key economic clusters where the region can achieve a competitive edge over our peers across the country, including agriculture and food, health sciences, and innovative mobility.
- **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.

SACOG will need to engage its stakeholders—public sector agencies, private and nonprofit sector interests, and the region’s residents—over the next two years to determine how best to achieve those goals as the region accommodates 566,000 more people by 2050.

The way the region grows to accommodate new people is not pre-determined. Where people live, where they work, what jobs they have, and how they move around to daily destinations is all influenced by a combination of public policy and investment, market and societal trends, and environmental conditions. As the regional planning agency for the six-county Sacramento region, SACOG has the opportunity and responsibility to consider these different factors, develop a vision for how the region grows over the next 30 years, then create a regional financial plan and policies for how the public agencies in the SACOG region, in partnership with

community based and business stakeholders, can realize that vision.

This workshop will provide the board an opportunity to learn how another region, the Wasatch Front, and the state of Utah, went through a similar regional visioning and planning effort. Envision Utah will share its best practices and lessons learned for developing and implementing a long-range plan.

#### **4. Discussion/Analysis:**

SACOG's original Blueprint regional planning effort from 2002-2004 was inspired in large part by the 1998 regional growth planning effort of [Envision Utah](#). Founded in 1997 by a group of concerned community, government, and business leaders, Envision Utah is a nonprofit organization that engages Utahns in collaborative, bottom-up decision making on issues of growth.

Envision Utah's first visioning effort was born out of a crisis. In the mid-1990s Utah faced serious issues as the state looked toward adding one million new residents in only 25 years. With housing prices rising, traffic congestion increasing, and limitations on water and air quality becoming more apparent each year, business leaders recognized the need to act. Envision Utah was created and it launch a broad-based planning process to develop the [Quality Growth Strategy](#), a 20-year vision for how the Wasatch Front region could grow. Since that time, Envision Utah has conducted many other local, regional, and state visioning [projects](#) on several of growth and quality of life issues, to facilitate Utahns in determining the communities they want.

At its October meeting, the SACOG board will have a workshop with Ari Bruening, JD, AICP, CEO of Envision Utah. Mr. Bruening will tell the story of some of Envision Utah's most notable scenario planning efforts, lesson learned and best practices.

#### **5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

Work for the 2024 Blueprint update is included in SACOG's adopted Overall Work Program and budget.

#### **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**