



Advocacy Update

Receive and File

Prepared by: Sabrina Bradbury

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Policy & Innovation

1. Issue:

Update on state and federal advocacy activities.

2. Recommendation:

None; this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

In Washington D.C., SACOG's federal lobbyists, Devon Barnhart, Capitol Transportation Consulting, and Jason Pavluchuk, Pavluchuk & Associates, continue to advocate for funding and programs that advance SACOG's priorities. Congress agreed to a continuing resolution that will keep federal programs operating until December 16, 2022. Meanwhile, the US Department of Transportation continues to announce grant awards and release Notices of Funding Opportunities for new grant programs. Attachments A is a summary of this activity prepared by SACOG's federal lobbyists.

In Sacramento, staff completed a competitive process to select a firm for state advocacy services. A review panel, consisting of SACOG Staff and the Policy and Innovation Committee Chair, selected Politico Group for state advocacy services. The Executive Director is in the process of negotiating and executing a contract with Politico Group.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Federal Advocacy

SACOG, El Dorado County Transportation Commission, and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, are continuing to provide federal grant coordination to support members and partners in the application processes and ensure our region continues to be competitive in these discretionary grant programs. SACOG is also working with its federal lobbyists to strategize on how we continue to advocate for funding to support the Green Means Go program, both as part of the budget process and through discretionary grant programs.

State Advocacy

SACOG staff is in the process of identifying state advocacy priorities for the 2023 legislative session. The SACOG Transportation Committee will be considering an action item this month on whether to extend the timeline of the Blueprint (SACOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy). If the board approves of moving forward with an extension of the Blueprint timeline, it will involve sponsoring legislation and require that we focus much of our state lobbyists' time on advocating for the legislation. Attachment B outlines some of the benefits and risks of extending the timeline for the Blueprint.

Staff provided an update at the committee meeting with the latest information regarding advocacy efforts and grant coordination.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

SACOG's advocacy activities and lobbying contracts are paid for through member dues.

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