Regional Transit Network Study

Receive and File
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Attachments: No   **Referring Committee:** Transportation

1. Issue:
A review of and update on the Regional Transit Network Study.

2. Recommendation:
Receive the staff presentation and provide feedback on the Regional Transit Network goals, process, and existing conditions.

3. Background/Analysis:
SACOG recently underwent an extensive effort to shape and define strategies for advancing regional transit initiatives in the region, outlining high level strategies that included the need to develop a truly regional transit network predicated on fast, reliable, high frequency transit service. The Next Generation Transit Study, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2021, identified a strong need for regional and intercity/intercounty/interagency travel (among other conclusions), which the current systems collectively cannot accommodate in an effective and efficient manner. As the region's designated metropolitan planning agency, SACOG is focused on ensuring that any transportation study, plan, or investment is completed through a regional lens, while also exhibiting a clear connection to and benefit to other regional entities. To initiate the implementation of the Next Generation Transit strategies, SACOG's first action item has been to develop a regional transit network.

4. Discussion/Analysis:
The Regional Transit Network will be inclusive of near-term speed and reliability improvements as well as long term network development. The network is being developed through a year-long study process, and will result in: · A regional map of corridors that SACOG can integrate into the Blueprint (MTP/SCS 2024); · Potential regional high-capacity transit corridors (including state highways and arterial roadways throughout the six-county region) that can provide connectivity across jurisdictions; · Key connections and first/last mile opportunities; · Connectivity between service providers; · Capital investments required for implementation including transit signal priority, dedicated transit Transportation Committee Meeting Date: November 3, 2022 Agenda Item No. 21 lanes, vehicle requirements, branding, and fare collection strategies; · Identification of adjacent land uses, potential ridership, transit stop spacing, and integration with other modes of transportation; · Identification of policy, performance, and funding issues associated with implementation of a regional transit network; and · Performance measures for staff to utilize when evaluating network progress. SACOG staff are working with a consultant team to complete the study. Phase 1 of the study includes

developing an Evaluation Framework which will include the study's vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures that can be used to guide the technical process. The Evaluation Framework will include an estimated 32 performance measures and identify when each metric should be used (e.g., during the corridor identification process, corridor screening, and/or corridor prioritization). Performance measures will be linked to the study's goals, which currently include: fast and reliable service, equitable investment, access and connectivity, financial stewardship, and climate smart. These goals align with SACOG's Triple Bottom Line policy framework of equity, environment, and economy. The team is currently in Phase 2 of the process, and in the early stages of beginning to identify potential corridors. Feedback and questions from the Transportation Committee and board will inform the study process.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:
The Regional Transit Network Study is included in SACOG's budget and Overall Work Plan.

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

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity
  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.