



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: February 2, 2023

Agenda Item No. 9

Regional Transit Network Study Update

Information

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Attachments: No

Approved by: Kristina Svensk

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

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

2. Recommendation:

None; this is for information. Staff is seeking 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 transportation 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 2025 Blueprint;
- 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, as well as modal integration across providers;
- Capital investments required for implementation including transit signal priority, dedicated transit lanes, vehicle requirements, branding, and fare collection strategies;
- Identification of governance, policy, performance, and funding issues associated with implementation of a regional transit network; and

- Performance measures for staff to utilize when evaluating network progress.

At the end of December, the project team completed a draft list of high-capacity transit (HCT) corridors through a data-driven process, as well as engagement with regional planning agencies and operators. This Spring we will conduct a series of public outreach activities to build awareness about the study and ask for community feedback on the corridors. The feedback collected will help inform the prioritization and refinement of the HCT corridors. Feedback and questions from the Transportation Committee and Board will continue to inform the study process.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The Regional Transit Network Study is included in SACOG's budget and Overall Work Plan.