



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: February 2, 2023

Agenda Item No. 10

Caltrans/SACOG Memorandum of Understanding

Information

Prepared by: Kristina Svensk

Attachments: No

Approved by: Kristina Svensk

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

Information sharing on a Memorandum of Understanding being developed between Caltrans and SACOG to solidify a partnership to guide the development of Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plans in the Sacramento region.

2. Recommendation:

None; this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

California's Senate Bill 1 (SB1) provides a robust package of funding for transportation infrastructure and programs, including the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP). Eligibility for this funding, per Streets and Highways Code, is reserved for projects that "make specific performance improvements and are part of a comprehensive corridor plan designed to reduce congestion in highly traveled corridors by providing more transportation choices for residents, commuters, and visitors to the area of the corridor while preserving the character of the local community and creating opportunities for neighborhood enhancement projects." In December 2018, the California Transportation Commission adopted guidelines for the development of Comprehensive Corridor Management Plans (CMCPs), which provides guidance and clarification on the requirements of the plans and the eligibility for SCCP funding.

Historically, Caltrans District 3 planning staff have taken the lead role to develop CMCPs, with SACOG (and other key participants along the specific corridor) as a stakeholder to provide comments during the process. Caltrans follows a Corridor Planning Process that was last updated in 2020, and lays the groundwork to ensure the plans meet the goal of recommending projects and congestion improvement strategies that are both eligible and competitive for SCCP funding in the state.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

In 2022, Caltrans wrapped up two crucial CMCPs in the region along I-5 and I-80. At this time, SACOG's Director of Transportation initiated a conversation with Caltrans' District 3 Deputy Director of Planning to discuss the potential to develop a partnership approach for future plans, both new and updates to previous/existing corridors. Given the mutual desire to create a stronger partnership across multiple efforts across the region, Caltrans was supportive of this concept.

SACOG has been working with legal counsel to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies that outlines goals, roles, and responsibilities for future CMCP documents. The MOU is modeled after a similar approach taken by Caltrans District 11 (San Diego) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), which has resulted in successful partnerships for major corridors in their region. The MOU is intended to provide the framework for defining responsibility and partnership in the development of the corridor plans, and paves the way for productive discussions surrounding approaches to corridor solutions. Key concepts in the MOU include:

- Potential for SACOG or Caltrans to serve as the CMCP lead agency. The agreement specifies that when one agency is the lead, the project manager for the CMCP will be from the lead agency, and provides a co-lead and co-manager role for the supporting agency.
- Various technical and project advisory groups will be established for oversight to the administrative/management elements of the CMCPs, as well as the technical work products.
- Financial responsibility for the CMCPs will vary depending on the initiating agency and availability of funds to each agency. There is no explicit responsibility defined in the MOU, and is designed to allow creativity and flexibility for each independent effort.

The US-50 corridor is the last remaining key corridor in the region that requires an updated CMCP. Currently the corridor has many needs related to transit coordination/connection and safety (among others), and does not have a current document, making it ineligible for SCCP funding. SACOG has discussed with Caltrans the concept of SACOG leading the US-50 CMCP, including a funding strategy that includes applying for competitive grant funding through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning program (and more specifically, the Strategic Partnerships program). This MOU, once executed, will apply to this upcoming effort for US-50 and will be the first of many enhanced partnerships between the two agencies.

The SACOG/Caltrans MOU is currently in legal review with SACOG legal counsel. Once review is complete, it will be circulated to Caltrans for their agency legal review and signatures by both SACOG's Executive Director and Caltrans District 3 Director.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the MOU. Funding for actual studies will be decided upon at the time each study is initiated.