



Scenario Planning for the Triple Bottom Line

Workshop

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Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

This workshop will provide an overview of the “what” and “why” of scenario planning as it relates to the long range land use and transportation planning SACOG is undertaking with our Pathways effort to inform the 2025 Blueprint.

2. Recommendation:

Engage in a discussion about scenario planning in preparation for Pathways discussions beginning in March and running through the summer.

3. Background/Analysis:

SACOG is undertaking an update to its long-range transportation and land use plan, the 2025 Blueprint. In one of its first actions on the plan update in early 2022, the SACOG Board of Directors adopted a Triple Bottom Line Framework for the Blueprint to guide the creation of a regional plan that will advance three coequal goals for equity, economy, and environment:

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.

As we plan for the future, we must acknowledge that the future is uncertain and subject to many external forces such as disruptive technologies, the recent global pandemic, record setting weather events from floods to California’s ongoing drought, increasing wildfire severity and frequency, economic booms and busts. We must also understand that the actions and policy decisions we make today will have long lasting impacts that affect how the region will be prepared to stand up to the challenges brought on by these uncertainties.

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 all of 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.

To better understand how the land use and transportation decisions we make today will affect the future and to help identify strategies that can remain durable across a range of futures despite changing and disruptive uncertainties, SACOG is undertaking a scenario planning effort, referred to as Pathways, as part of the process for the Blueprint. Pathways will provide the analysis and metrics that will serve as a learning tool for unpacking the many complex and intersecting issues facing the region over the next three decades around housing and land use, transportation management, regional growth, environmental resources, economic development, systemic racial disparities, and climate change and resilience. For more information on the framing for these pathways, visit [Pathway Options to 2050 - Sacramento Area Council of Governments \(sacog.org\)](https://sacog.org/Pathway-Options-to-2050-Sacramento-Area-Council-of-Governments)

4. Discussion/Analysis:

At the February board Meeting, we will be joined by Alex Steinberger, Managing Partner at Cascadia Partners, to discuss how scenario planning can be an useful tool for exploring the impacts of various policy decisions.

Mr. Steinberger is an urban planner and economist with a strong foundation in scenario planning for a broad range of projects. Alex's work primarily focuses on corridor analysis, housing, and economic development. He has experience working at a range of scales, from site-specific redevelopment projects to regional visioning efforts.

During this workshop, the board will have a chance to dive into the discipline of scenario planning, discuss what questions this type of work can be helpful in answering, and build a foundation for discussions on Pathways starting this Spring.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Pathways are one component of the 2025 Blueprint Plan Update. The Blueprint is funded by a combination of sources including Federal Metropolitan Planning funds, state Sustainable Communities Formula Program Funds, and Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Funds. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and El Dorado County Transportation Commission also provide some funding to SACOG to support development of the Blueprint to assist with the planning activities, data development, and analysis that is necessary to ensure coordination and consistency between the regional plan and the county-level Regional Transportation Plans.