



## Megaregion Working Group Summary

### Information

**Prepared by:** James Corless

**Attachments:** Yes

**Approved by:** James Corless

**Referring Committee:** Not applicable

### 1. Issue:

A summary of the Megaregion Working Group Meeting held on Friday, April 28, 2023 and Megaregion Advocacy Day held on April 19, 2023.

### 2. Recommendation:

None, this is for information only. This item was held over from the May 18, 2023, board meeting.

### 3. Background/Analysis:

The Megaregion Working Group is a partnership between the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in the Bay Area, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the San Joaquin Council of Governments, with four Representatives from the board of each agency (Attachment A). The agencies represent 16 counties and 136 cities with a total population of nearly 11 million people stretching from the Central Valley and Bay Area to the Sierra Nevada Foothills and Lake Tahoe Basin. The Working Group's mission is to better connect the people and economies of the Megaregion. To accomplish this, our regions work to speak with a common voice on behalf of cities and counties at the federal and state legislatures and support the efforts of business groups and associations within and across our jurisdictional boundaries.

In 2021, the Megaregion Working Group identified a list of twelve shared transportation investment priority projects, collectively known as the "Megaregion Dozen". The Working Group identified State and Federal Funding advocacy for the twelve projects as a priority in its January 2023, meeting.

### 4. Discussion/Analysis:

#### *Megaregion Advocacy Day:*

The Megaregion Working Group participated in the first Megaregion Advocacy Day on April 19, 2023. The focus of the Megaregion Lobby Day meetings was to provide joint advocacy for "Megaregion Dozen" projects and relevant state and federal grant funding opportunities, and aligning the timelines for developing our Regional Transportation Plans and Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS). Six Megaregion Working Group Representatives and staff from MTC, SACOG, and SJCOG attended meetings with five state agencies. See Attachments B and C for more information.

#### *Megaregion Working Group Meeting:*

The second Megaregion Working Group meeting of 2023 was held on Friday, April 28, 2023 (Attachment D). The meeting focused on state and federal funding opportunities to advance the “Megaregion Dozen” projects. The Megaregion Working Group heard prepared remarks from Federal Rail Administration (FRA) Administrator Amit Bose, who discussed rail safety, and passenger rail grant programs. Representatives and staff who attended the Megaregion Advocacy Day then reported out on their roles during the meetings, the lessons learned, feedback received, and their general takeaways.

Megaregion staff then provided updates on “Megaregion Dozen” projects, including a scope amendment update to the Valley Rail Extension Program. Staff shared the updated “Megaregion Dozen” Brochure (Attachment E) and provided a detailed overview of the twelve projects’ funding needs, pending grant applications, recent awards, and future funding programs in consideration.

*Attachments:*

- Attachment A: Megaregion Working Group Membership Roster
- Attachment B: Megaregion Advocacy Day Representatives and Staff in Attendance
- Attachment C: Megaregion Advocacy Day Schedule
- Attachment D: Megaregion Working Group April 28, Meeting Agenda
- Attachment E: Megaregion Dozen Brochure
- Attachment F: Megaregion Working Group April 28 Meeting Summary Notes

**5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

The staff work associated with the Megaregion Working Group is included in the Overall Work Program and Budget.