



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: August 1, 2019

Agenda Item No. 6

2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy: Status of Work on the Draft Plan and Update on Policies and Implementation Activities

Information

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Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

Staff has completed technical analysis of transportation and land use assumptions and refined an initial set of policies and implementation activities for the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020 MTP/SCS).

2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee discuss and provide feedback and policy direction on implementing policies for the 2020 MTP/SCS.

3. Background/Analysis:

In April 2019, the SACOG board endorsed the Preferred Scenario for the 2020 MTP/SCS. The Preferred Scenario consists of a land use forecast, revenue forecast, transportation project list, and roadway pricing strategy. The Preferred Scenario staff report and its attachments are available on SACOG's website at the following link: <https://bit.ly/30C2KIB>.

Following the board's endorsement of the Preferred Scenario, staff has worked to complete final analysis of the plan, develop implementation policies and strategies, and begin writing the plan document and accompanying environmental impact report (EIR) in preparation for plan adoption in February 2020.

In June, staff received feedback from all three board committees on an initial set of policy topic areas, implementation activities, and performance indicators that will support the 2020 MTP/SCS. The board was generally supportive of staff's proposed approach to create specific policies and strategies organized under four topic areas including: (1) New Mobility and Transit; (2) Transportation Revenues and Pricing; (3) Growth and Land Use Pattern; and (4) Investment Priorities. Following committee direction, staff worked to better align the topic area names with SACOG's work plan goals and reached out to local and partner agency staff for additional feedback on both general policies and specific actions.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Modifications to the transportation project list for the Preferred Scenario

Since the adoption of the Preferred Scenario, staff, in consultation with project sponsors, has made some minor modifications to projects included in the Preferred Scenario transportation project list. In general, these changes are part of regular modifications to the four-year program of projects contained in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). The nature of these changes includes minor adjustments to the scope, cost, and timing of programmed projects. None of these changes have significant impact on the budget priorities or performance of the plan. One project list change is an increase in the budget for improvements along a section of Highway 70 between Marysville and Butte County that has a relatively high rate of collisions and fatalities. The new scope adds passing lanes to a Caltrans safety project, increasing the budget from \$105 million to \$141 million. Caltrans needs the larger project to be listed in the 2020 MTP/SCS to secure state funding in 2020 for the implementation phase. These changes will all be reflected in the project list that will be part of the draft plan that staff will ask the board to release for public comment in September.

Plan Policies and Implementation Activities

To support the positive outcomes in the plan, including improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, the plan must include strong implementation policies and strategies. Staff has continued to refine the policies and implementation activities presented to committees in June based on input received from local staff, the state, and partner agencies. Attachment B describes draft policies, actions, timelines for implementation, responsible parties, and indicators for measuring progress. The comments we received from member and partner agency staff are summarized as follows:

- 1) Add emphasis on the importance of leveraging new technologies that make the transportation system responsive to travel behavior.
- 2) Further call out the importance of attracting jobs to housing-rich communities and housing to jobs-rich areas.
- 3) Identify incentives that support transformational land use projects that improve transportation system performance.
- 4) Provide additional policies and actions that support investments that benefit rural communities, natural resources, and agriculture.
- 5) Further emphasize the need to prioritize funding for projects that support infill development, affordable housing, and reduced vehicle miles traveled.
- 6) Strengthen policies and actions related to investing in environmental justice communities.
- 7) Further specify policies and actions that support traditional (bus and light rail) transit service.

Final Analysis and Plan Performance

Staff has completed final technical analysis on the land use and transportation assumptions that make up the foundation of the 2020 MTP/SCS. Based on this work, staff believes that the plan meets Clean Air Act requirements to improve air quality to healthy standards and achieves the 19 percent greenhouse gas reduction target assigned to the region by the California Air Resources Board. Attachment A describes the major policy assumptions that allow the plan to meet the new, more ambitious SB 375 greenhouse gas reduction target.

Staff is seeking any further direction on policies and strategies from committees this month. We will use the committees' input to complete a public review draft of the full plan that the board will take action to release in September for a 60-day review and comment period. Following the public review period, staff will brief the board on comments received, and how those comments will be addressed in the final plan. The plan update is on schedule for final board adoption in February 2020.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Work on the 2020 MTP/SCS is included in the Overall Work Programs and Budgets for fiscal year 2019-2020.

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

- 1 - Advance Economic Prosperity
- 3 - Assist Local Economic Development Strategies
- 4 - Connect Low-Income & Disadvantaged Populations to Jobs & Opportunity
- 5 - Establish the Sacramento Region as an Innovator & Test-Bed for New Ideas
- 6 - Help the Region Advance a Vision for "Next Generation Transit"
- 7 - Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects