

Draft 2012 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Outreach

Workshops and Public Hearings

In January, SCAG began to conduct outreach workshops and public hearings throughout the region on the Draft 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities (RTP/SCS). To fulfill one of the requirements of Senate Bill 375, SCAG invited all elected officials in the region to the workshops. SCAG partner agencies have assisted us in getting the word out on this outreach effort to other stakeholders and the general public as well. The workshops have featured a video detailing the vision of the Draft Plan, county-specific presentations by SCAG staff and opportunities for comments and questions from elected officials, stakeholders and the general public in attendance. Some of the issues and concerns raised through the workshops were related to funding strategies, additional funding needs for active transportation, Sustainable Communities Strategies, the role of Neighborhood Electric Vehicle programs in the plan, Goods Movement and High Speed Rail Programs. This last round of Draft RTP workshops and public hearings ends on February 6. The formal 55-day public review and comment period for the Draft RTP ends on February 14. Materials from the workshops, including the PowerPoint presentations, are available at <http://rtpscs.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Workshop-Materials.aspx>.

Presentation to Tribal Governments

In January, SCAG had the opportunity to present the Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS to the Tribal Governments at a meeting of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) in Los Angeles. TASIN is comprised of gaming tribes within the SCAG Region and Santa Barbara County.

SCAG iRTP

For the first time in SCAG's history, the Regional Transportation Plan is available as an e-government website. On December 30, 2011, SCAG launched the iRTP, the nation's first fully interactive version of a regional transportation plan. Visitors can read and submit comments on the RTP/SCS on this dynamic website, which features the most flexible public comment opportunities ever offered, plus easy browsing by chapter, powerful search, and compatibility with a wide range of mobile devices and selective download and print. The site supports SCAG's efforts to increase public participation, support open government and reduce environmental impact. Visit the iRTP at <http://scagrtip.net>.

Economic Analysis

At SCAG's Economic Summit on December 1, 2011, Dr. Wallace Walrod of the Orange County Business Council presented to the Regional Council an initial economic assessment of the Draft RTP/SCS. With the release of the Draft RTP/SCS for Public Review and Comment, the economic team led by Dr. Walrod conducted an additional assessment of the draft plan. At February's Regional Council meeting, Dr. Walrod will provide an update of the work to date. I have attached a copy of his Power Point for your review.

California Transportation Commission (CTC) 10-year Needs Assessment

SCAG is very fortunate to have California Transportation Commission Chairman Dario Frommer attend the February 2 meeting to discuss the 10-year Needs Assessment report recently completed and submitted to the State Legislature. SCAG staff has worked over the last year to provide information and support the CTC's important statewide work effort that was submitted to the State Senate Transportation Committee last week. A summary of the CTC's important 10-year needs assessment findings is included in this month's Regional Council agenda. This report is important for the Regional Council to discuss as it is consistent with the needs and

findings contained in the Draft 2012-2035 SCAG RTP/SCS. I testified along with fellow Executive Directors from MTC, SANDAG and SACOG at the Senate Transportation Committee last week in support of the CTC findings and working together on next steps.

Professional Recognition and Information Sharing

SCAG's work was recently recognized at an international conference of transportation professionals. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) held its 91st Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 22-26. The information-packed program attracted more than 11,000 transportation professionals from around the world. This year, TRB selected six papers from SCAG, which were jointly prepared by SCAG staff and consultants. The primary subject of these papers was SCAG's Activity-based Travel Demand Model framework and analysis. Activity-based approaches aim at predicting travel behaviour associated with a trip and the activities associated with the trip.

Sustainable Communities Strategy Evaluation by ARB

SCAG staff recently conducted a meeting with California Air Resources Board (ARB) staff to answer questions and provide data/information related to SCAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). ARB staff is scheduled to provide a report to their Board in late February on their evaluation of SCAG's Draft SCS. The purpose of this meeting was for SCAG to provide additional detail and information to ARB to assist them in completing their staff report. At this time all material and information has been provided to ARB staff and SCAG awaits the results of the evaluation of our SCS by ARB staff. The ARB Board meeting originally scheduled for February 23 has been cancelled and they are proposing a workshop at our office that date. The ARB Board action on the DRAFT SCS has been moved to March 22.

International Cooperation

On January 26, SCAG hosted a Joint Seminar with the Korean Transportation Institute (KOTI). The joint seminar focused on "Global Climate Change: Technological, Planning and Modeling Innovations" at SCAG's Los Angeles office. Dr. Jaehak Oh, KOTI vice president, presented, "Innovation in transport systems for green growth" and "Creation of KTX economic zone: hub of regional economy." SCAG's presentation focused on the recent planning and modeling innovations in addressing global climate change in the context of SB 375 implementation. There was consensus on discussing three major topics: (1) smart growth policies (2) model and transportation database and (3) hi-speed rail.

Sixth Annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards

SCAG is now accepting nominations for its Sixth Annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards. Last year's Recognition Awards Program was well received and we hope to build on this momentum and enjoy another memorable program this year. The Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards are presented annually in recognition of projects that demonstrate excellence and achievement in the four key elements of Compass Blueprint planning: Livability, Mobility, Prosperity and Sustainability. Last year's prestigious President's Excellence Award went to the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the Sustainable Transit Communities Program and the America Fast Forward, 30/10 Plan.

This year's Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards Program will be held April 4, in conjunction with the SCAG Regional Conference & General Assembly at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles, CA. This will be an excellent opportunity to showcase an innovative project at SCAG's General Assembly in front of an audience of over 700 members and interested stakeholders, including state and local elected officials, public and private sector CEOs, partner agency representatives, city managers, planning directors, and business, labor, community and environmental leaders. The deadline for nomination submission is: Wednesday, February 8, at 2:00 pm.