



Transportation Committee

July 29, 2009

SB 375 / Metropolitan Transportation Plan Implementation Calendar

Issue: Preparations for next MTP, including SB375 implementation.

Recommendation: None; this is information only.

Discussion: The purpose of this memo is to set forth the major steps leading to adoption of the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). SACOG adopted its last MTP in March 2008. We anticipate adopting our next MTP by December 2011. This will give us the option to continue to use 2035 as our planning horizon year, same as the current MTP. The major steps, including meeting the requirements of SB375, follow (see attached timeline).

1. Update Growth Forecast—Completed December 2009
As in the past, we will use Stephen Levy of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy to estimate growth in employment (by type), population, and demand for housing, in five-year increments through 2050. We expect the forecast to be lower in the near term, but it will be interesting to see what the results are for the mid- and longer-terms.
2. Update Financial Plan—Completed March 2010
This will be required by the federal government due to near-term slower economy and growth rates, both of which affect many of our revenue streams, especially at the state and local level.
3. Submit proposed greenhouse gas emission target to California Air Resources Board (CARB)—Completed May 2010
This will be supported by a good deal of technical work, building scenarios influenced by factors such as: the current MTP, the Blueprint, the updated growth forecasts and financial plan, recently adopted plans (e.g., local government General Plan updates and Regional Transit's Master Plan), new market conditions, and new and pending state and federal laws and policies.
4. Conduct public involvement process for new MTP—May 2010 through spring 2011
This will start with a major regional forum focused on the fifth anniversary of the Blueprint, the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, and how they relate to the next MTP.
5. CARB gives SACOG greenhouse gas emissions target—June through September 2010
They must release the draft by June 30 and the final by September 30, 2010.
6. Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process—spring 2010 through November 2011 and beyond
Under SB375, this process now must be consistent with the MTP. The SACOG Board will adopt the RHNA methodology in the fall of 2011, before action on the final MTP. The specific allocations for market rate and affordable housing for each local government will be adopted no later than September 2012.

7. MTP Adoption—December 2011

SB375 requires either that the MTP itself (the new term used is Sustainable Communities Strategy or SCS) must meet a greenhouse emissions target provided by CARB, or we must prepare an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that meets the target. We don't know at this time whether we will need to create an APS. The law does not require us to implement the APS, as it may rely on revenues or other factors that are too uncertain to meet federal requirements for the MTP. During the preparation of this first post-SB375 MTP, we will prepare a more detailed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) than in the past, mainly to review more comprehensively land use and natural resources impacts and to aid our member governments in taking full advantage of the substantial CEQA benefits for certain housing and mixed use projects that are included in SB375.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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Attachment

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