



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: MTC Planning Committee, ABAG Administrative Committee, and Joint Policy Committee

DATE: December 3, 2010

FR: Executive Director

W. I.

RE: Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy: Schedule of Key Milestones

Background

Per Senate Bill (SB) 375, the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is intended to accomplish two principal objectives:

1. Identify areas within the nine-county Bay Area sufficient to accommodate all of the region's population, including all income groups for the next 25 years; and
2. Forecast a land-use pattern, which when integrated with the transportation system, reduces greenhouse-gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks.

MTC and ABAG are preparing an integrated and internally consistent transportation and land-use plan. That is, the transportation policies and investments identified in the plan will align with and support the SCS land-use pattern. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) prepared by ABAG is also linked to the SCS by SB 375. The SCS must identify areas within the region where both an 8-year and 25-year housing need can be accommodated. The law also requires that the SCS and RHNA be consistent with one another; and that local governments adopt their housing elements 18-months after the adoption of the RTP. The RTP, SCS, and RHNA will be adopted by early 2013.

Schedule of Key Milestones

A summary of the key milestones is depicted in the process chart (attached). Several activities are occurring in parallel which explain the overlap in dates between phases. Only major events and key decision points are identified. Many advisory, sub-regional and stakeholder meetings and public outreach activities are occurring throughout this planning effort.

Phase One: Performance Targets and Initial Vision Scenario

March 2010 – February 2011

- **Greenhouse Gas Targets:** MTC prepares its analysis and recommendations for greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the Bay Area. The California Air Resources Board sets for the Bay Area targets of 7 percent per capita below 2005 levels by 2020 and 15 percent per capita below 2005 by 2035.
- **Housing Target:** ABAG identifies a formula for calculating the 25-year regional housing need. This is a specific calculation of the number of units needed to meet the target to house all the population of the region.
- **Performance Targets:** MTC and ABAG identify a set of transportation and land-use performance targets that further define outcomes to be achieved through the RTP/SCS and will be used in the analysis of scenarios, projects and the plan itself.

- **Projections 2011:** ABAG prepares Projections 2011 which serves as the base case to show how the Bay Area would develop through a continuation of present trends and policies.
- **Initial Vision Scenario:** ABAG and MTC define an unconstrained Initial Vision Scenario designed to accommodate the totality of the housing need for all economic groups and which directs development more to Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and to other locally-identified areas which can help reduce automobile travel and associated greenhouse gas emissions. The initial vision scenario and base case will be evaluated against the performance targets. The results of the initial vision scenario will tee-up the development of more detailed SCS scenarios that will show various ways to help us achieve the targets.

Phase Two: Scenario Planning, Transportation Policy and Investment Dialogue, and Regional Housing Need Allocation

January 2011 – February 2012

- **Detailed SCS Scenarios:** ABAG and MTC, with input from local governments and stakeholders, identify one or more relatively constrained land-use/transportation alternatives to be tested against the greenhouse gas, housing and other performance targets. Trade-offs among the alternatives are identified and debated. The analysis and discussion will result in a preferred SCS scenario that will become the Draft SCS.
- **Transportation Policies & Investments:** MTC forecasts the 25-year transportation commitments, new revenue projected to be available to the region and identifies, discusses and analyzes prior RTP transportation policies and investment strategies (including incentives) needed to support the SCS land-use pattern.
- **Regional Housing Needs Allocation:** Over a 2-year period, ABAG develops the Regional Housing Needs Determination and Allocation (RHND and RHNA, respectively) process as mandated by State housing element law. The RHND is the projected regional need for housing (over an eight year planning period) expressed as the number dwelling units (allocated among four income categories) required to meet that need. The RHNA is the allocation of the RHND among all jurisdictions in accordance with the adopted methodology. Per SB 375, the RHNA must allocate housing units within the region consistent with the SCS land-use pattern.

Phase Three: RHNA, Environmental/Technical Analysis and Plan Preparation

March 2012 – October 2012

- **Regional Housing Needs Allocation:** ABAG prepares RHNA plan for adoption.
- **Environmental/Technical Assessments:** MTC and ABAG prepare an Environmental Impact Report on the RTP/SCS per the California Environmental Quality Act. The EIR addresses streamlined CEQA review for certain residential and transit priority projects per SB 375. Other technical analyses are also prepared.

Phase Four: Plan Adoption

November 2012 – April 2013

- **RTP/SCS:** MTC and ABAG prepare RTP/SCS for adoption by both boards.



Steve Heminger

SH:AN

J:\COMMITTE\Planning Committee\2010\December 10\4a_RTP-SCS Schedule_121010AN.doc