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**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
JULY 16, 2014**

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
STRATEGY JOINT-WORK PROGRAM: STATUS REPORT**

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this status report (Attachment A) on the Joint-Work Program between Metro and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to implement the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

ISSUE

On July 26, 2012, the Board adopted a resolution to collaborate with SCAG on the delivery of a Joint-Work Program to implement the RTP/SCS. As part of that action, staff was directed to provide quarterly status reports to the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee. The attached report provides a status update on the 11 work elements.

DISCUSSION

Since adopting the resolution, Metro and SCAG staffs have been actively engaged in moving implementation efforts forward. Attachment A includes a list of the 11 work items identified in the Joint-Work Program and a brief summary of progress. Detailed briefings on each of these items will be provided to the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee over the course of the year.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work with SCAG on the Joint-Work Program. A final report on the RTP/SCS Joint-Work Program will be prepared in the summer and will include recommendations to the Board and SCAG Regional Council for inclusion in the 2016 RTP/SCS.

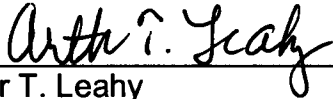
ATTACHMENT

A. RTP/SCS Joint-Work Program: Status Report June-August 2013

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Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>1</p> <p>CEO's Regional Sustainability Working Group</p>	<p>An effort to actively work on the implementation of the RTP/SCS, document and monitor progress, and provide direction for opportunities for the upcoming 2016-2040 RTP/SCS.</p>	<p>SCAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met monthly. • Focused on various funding programs that are under development at the State level, including the Cap & Trade Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Active Transportation Program(ATP). • Developed criteria and process for ATP application evaluation at the SCAG level.
<p>2</p> <p>Sustainable Transportation Demonstration Program</p>	<p>This will provide local agencies with planning, programming, and/or capital funds to implement Compass Blueprint projects or other innovative, multimodal approaches that exemplify the guidance in Metro's Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy. The goal of the program will be to support multimodal projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. Complete streets, multimobility hub programs, and Safe Routes to School programs are examples of the types of projects that could be funded through the demonstration program. The program will be designed to assess how these, and other multimodal investments, can be successfully applied in different places and contexts.</p>	<p>Metro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding has not been identified for program implementation, but staff continues to explore grant opportunities, such as the Southern California Air Quality Management District's Mobile Source Air Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) that could support one or more projects. • SCAG has completed the Call for Proposals for the 2013 Sustainability Program, which is an expansion of the Compass Blueprint. The program will support planning efforts that advance the goals of the SCS. Local jurisdictions within Los Angeles County submitted a total of 30 projects, requesting a total of \$4,264,000, of which 8 projects, totaling \$ 895,000 will be funded. Metro will continue to explore strategies to support implementation of these and other innovative multimodal projects consistent with the direction in the Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy.

Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>3 First/Last Mile Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Policies and guidelines that serve as a resource for local governments seeking to partner with Metro and SCAG on improvements in transit catchment areas. Additional funding will be sought for a second phase of the plan to implement demonstration projects that advance the guidance from the Plan and to quantify the impact of these investments.</p>	<p>Metro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Planning Guidelines were approved by the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Metro Board in April 2014. • Metro received the SCAG Sustainability Award, and the APA LA Award of Merit for the First/Last Mile Strategic Plan. • Metro has prepared and submitted an ATP application to seek funding for first/last mile planning around all 22 Metro Blue Line stations. • Per Board direction, Metro staff also provided grant writing assistance for the first/last mile pilot stations seeking ATP funding. These include: Expo/Bundy Station, 17th Street/Santa Monica City College Station, Arcadia Station, and Duarte Station. • Staff is also conducting first/last mile planning for the North Hollywood and Universal City stations. • SCAG has also applied for ATP funding to implement temporary "pop-up" first/last mile improvements and planning components.
<p>4 Countywide Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Identify a strategy to help local communities establish new Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs and to sustain and enhance existing efforts. The Strategic plan will assess current SRTS efforts and needs; coordinate with agencies, organizations, and stakeholders for the exchange of information and ideas; identify data needs and performance metrics; pursue additional funding sources to increase SRTS investment in Los Angeles County; and identify a strategy to provide technical resources to communities.</p> <p>A pilot program is underway that will complement and inform the development of the Countywide SRTS Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Metro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement and monitor the Safe Routes to School Pilot Program to increase the number of children and families walking, bicycling, or taking transit to school safely, and that will eventually become a vibrant and self-sustaining program at the individual schools. The pilot program is intended to provide a model for other schools. Partners include the Los Angeles Unified School District, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The following activities are anticipated for Summer 2014: • In partnership with the City and LAUSD, develop conceptual plans for improving bicycle and pedestrian access to five schools • Convene SRTS Strategic Plan Working Group

Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>5</p> <p>Regional Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan</p>	<p>Identify the best locations for charging infrastructure based on market demand and travel patterns. The Regional PEV Readiness Plan will become part of a larger effort to support regional sustainability, while promoting economic development within the Green Technology sector. SCAG will continue to work with a diverse group of stakeholders to serve as a clearinghouse for zero and near-zero emission vehicle resources and implementation strategies. The key deliverables include: a Regional PEV Readiness Plan and two model Sub regional PEV Readiness Plans (South Bay Cities and Western Riverside Council of Governments). This effort is funded with grants obtained from the California Energy Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy.</p>	<p>SCAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCAG hosted the So Cal Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEV) Coordinating Council, sharing findings and recommendations from the 2 1/2 year study of the PEV market and charging station environment. Metro staff participated regularly and shared updates regarding Metro’s plans and installations. • SCAG and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation partnered to host four regional webinars to address business threats to public EV station hosts, and to assist public sector staff with applications for a California Energy Commission (CEC) grant opportunity (PON 13-606). • SCAG is currently visiting subregional Councils of Governments(COGs) throughout LA County to direct local staff to SCAG website resources, and share finding and recommendations from the So Cal PEV Readiness Plan.
<p>6</p> <p>Conservation Planning Policy</p>	<p>Build upon already-established programs that assist with more efficient transportation project delivery, including but not limited to, Orange County Transportation Authority’s Measure M Environmental Mitigation Program and Riverside County’s Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plans (MSHCP). The policy will explore opportunities to optimize the use of transportation mitigation funds to support natural land restoration, conservation, protection and acquisition, and offers GHG emissions reduction benefits. The deliverables will likely include identification of priority conservation areas and the development of regional mitigation policies or approaches for the 2016 RTP/SCS.</p>	<p>SCAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant selection and the project kickoff took place in November 2013. • Draft work products were delivered in January 2014, which included a draft inventory of natural resources GIS databases, a draft report on existing information and data gaps, a draft list of relevant science experts and a draft list of key stakeholder organizations. Consultant is on schedule to complete final products from April-June2014. • A combined Habitat Assessment Protocol workshop was convened on March 19th, 2014, which examined a potential tool (CHAP) to measure habitat quality.

Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>7</p> <p>Expedite Active Transportation Funding</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to ensure local infrastructure is in place to support the expansion of the rail system.</p> <p>This will include building off the First-Last Mile Strategic Plan to identify needs around new station areas and developing new financial tools to support these investments.</p>	<p>SCAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Brown signed into law SB 99 which created the Active Transportation Program (ATP). This new program consolidates several state and federal funding sources including the federal Transportation Alternatives Program. SB 99 directed the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans to develop guidelines for this program. Staff has participated in the process, attending listening sessions and providing comments/recommendations. In addition, staff has participated in commenting on the draft ATP application and instructions. The Guidelines will be finalized on March 20th and the CTC will accept applications March 21st through May 21st. We also anticipate working with SCAG to develop its guidelines for this program. Metro staff developed 4 applications for funding. • Worked closely with Congestion Reduction Initiatives staff to incorporate direction from the Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy into the guidelines of the Express Lanes Pilot Program for the expenditure of excess toll revenues. The guidelines focus on advancing integrated, multimodal strategies, with 40% of excess • Collaborating on outreach to state legislators to increase the \$100 million FY 15 allocation in the Governor's Cap & Trade Expenditure Plan to \$500 million for the Sustainable Communities Implementation Program. If successful, this increased funding would support activities to expedite the implementation of the RTP/SCS including active transportation projects.
<p>8</p> <p>High Quality Transit Area Study</p>	<p>A High Quality Transit Area (HQTA) is generally a walkable transit village or corridor, consistent with the adopted RTP/SCS, and is within one half-mile of a well serviced transit stop or corridor with 15-minutes or less transit service frequency during peak commute hours.</p> <p>Review the incentive programs offered by Metro and SCAG that could be better linked or leveraged to realize the RTP/SCS vision for reducing GHG emissions and capturing growth in High Quality Transit Areas (as defined in the RTP/SCS). The study should document existing rules and practices, consider best practices, and provide recommendations for program modifications. The study will be initiated when additional funding or staff resources become available.</p>	<p>SCAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCAG staff prepared a paper which examined the challenges and best practices of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in the context of the High Quality Transit Areas. The paper includes, among others, two TOD case studies and incorporating findings from interviews of TOD experts in Los Angeles County respectively. SCAG staff presented the 60-page TOD paper to its CEHD Policy Committee on June 5, 2014. The TOD paper is available on the SCAG website.

	<u>Work Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Status</u>
9	High Quality Transit Corridor Needs Assessment	Studies to better understand transit needs and transit capacity enhancements that will be required to accommodate additional growth planned for in the RTP/SCS.	SCAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of its future budget considerations, SCAG is evaluating options for needs assessment studies to better understand transit needs and transit capacity enhancements that will be required to accommodate additional growth planned for in the RTP/SCS.
10	Performance Metrics and Monitoring	Improve Performance Measurement and Monitoring of the benefits and co-benefits (health, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, etc.) of transportation projects and plans through efforts such as the bicycle data clearinghouse and the Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy. Develop a strategy to improve Performance Measurement and Monitoring of transportation projects and plans to provide a basis for quantifying the benefits of investments proposed in future RTP/SCSs.	Metro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCAG and Metro conducted a joint workshop on Sustainable Transportation and Performance Measurement as part of SCAG'S Toolbox Tuesday program on June 24, 2014. The Workshop is designed to exchange information and engage cities and other stakeholders in conversations about measurement and monitoring. Conducting pilot study in collaboration with Caltrans and the South Bay COG to understand the opportunities for, and limitations to, using sustainability performance metrics in Subregional planning to assess and better communicate the tradeoffs between alternative land-use and transportation planning scenarios. A project update will be presented at the July Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee.
11	Develop Legislation	The CEO Regional Sustainability Working Group has discussed proposed legislation. As previously noted, multiple meetings have focused on the Cap and Trade Program, the TAP and the Active Transportation Program.	CEO Regional Sustainability Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency staffs are coordinating with Metro and SCAG Government Relations to promote legislative activities in the 2014 State Legislative Program that support the implementation of the RTP/SCS and the Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy. This will include developing a strategy for ensuring that a significant portion of Cap & Trade Program revenues are dedicated to sustainable transportation.