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**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

**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 covers activities on the 11 work elements for the period between June and October 2013.

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 implement the RTP/SCS and will provide updates to the Board on a quarterly basis. A final report on the RTP/SCS Joint-Work Program will be prepared by January 2014 and will include recommendations to the Board and SCAG Regional Council for inclusion in the 2016 RTP/SCS.

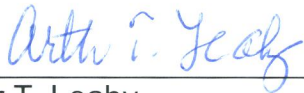
ATTACHMENT

A. RTP/SCS Joint-Work Program: Status Report June-October 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.
<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"> • The 2014 budget includes planning funds to further develop a Sustainable Transportation Demonstration Program. • 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>First-Last Mile Strategic Plan</p> <p>3</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"> • Draft Planning Guidelines have been developed and vetted internally. • A fifth and final project Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 30th to share the Draft Planning Guidelines. • Staff presented preliminary project concepts to Metro's TAC, Streets and Freeways Committee, the Northern Corridor Cities, City of Los Angeles, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Los Angeles County Board Deputies. Additional outreach is planned to the sub regional agencies for November and December. • The Draft Planning Guidelines have been posted on Metro's website and are available for public comment through January 17, 2014. • The Final Planning Guidelines will be brought to the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee for consideration and action in the 3rd Quarter.
<p>Countywide Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan</p> <p>4</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"> • In August 2013, Metro Safe Routes to School Program officially launched its website which is regularly updated with new information. • In October, as part of International Walk to School Day, staff worked with two local schools to help celebrate the benefits of walking to school. There were 230 participants. • Metro launched the SRTS Pilot Program in February 2013 to encourage the use of alternative travel modes among students, such as walking, biking, and riding public transit. The data and information gathered from this program will help inform the SRTS Strategic Plan. • Over the next few months, staff will be seeking stakeholder input to develop the Countywide SRTS Strategic Plan and implement and monitor the SRTS pilot program.

Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>Regional Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan</p> <p>5</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"> • The Southern California Regional PEV Readiness Plan was completed in December 2012, and is paired with a PEV atlas which details PEV locations and trip information intended to guide local infrastructure planning. • Two sub regional focus studies (South Bay Cities and Western Riverside COGs) for the PEV Readiness Plan have been completed and additional material is forthcoming. • The effort will be fully completed by November 30, 2013. The studies are available on the SCAG website.
<p>Conservation Planning Policy</p> <p>6</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"> • A questionnaire was circulated to each of the six County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) to ascertain their mitigation policy and practices, and to elicit information about open space planning in each county. • SCAG recently completed the procurement process for the Policy.

Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>Expedite Active Transportation Funding</p> <p>7</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. 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. We are attending listening sessions for the guidelines and will continue to monitor their progress. We also anticipate working with SCAG to develop its guidelines for this program. •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 funds available for system connectivity/active transportation.
<p>High Quality Transit Area Study</p> <p>8</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"> • Background research is still being conducting and a preliminary literature review has been completed. This literature review will be supplemented with a more detailed analysis. • Funding for other parts of the study is under consideration as part of SCAG's 2016-2045 RTP/SCS.

Work Item	Description	Lead	Status
<p>9 High Quality Transit Corridor Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Studies to better understand transit needs and transit capacity enhancements that will be required to accommodate additional growth planned for in the RTP/SCS.</p>	<p>SCAG</p>	<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.
<p>10 Performance Metrics and Monitoring</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Metro</p>	<p>Performance metrics and monitoring serve as the overarching theme for the November Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCAG and Metro will be conducting a joint workshop on Sustainable Transportation and Performance Measurement as part of SCAG'S Toolbox Tuesday program. The Workshop will take place in the Third Quarter and is meant to share progress and engage cities and other stakeholders in conversations about measurement and monitoring.
<p>11 Develop Legislation</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>CEO Regional Sustainability Working Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating with Metro 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 a significant portion of Cap & Trade Program revenues are dedicated to sustainable transportation.