

Achieving State Goals Through Transportation Project Prioritization: *Regional Perspective*

Maura Twomey, Executive Director

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Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

- Every Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan, including a Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years
- RTP/SCS must meet various Federal and State statutes and goals
- The purpose of RTPs is to encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of a regional intermodal transportation system that, when linked with appropriate land use planning, will serve the mobility needs of goods and people
- Guided by a vision, goals, and policies to meet the needs of the region

Federal RTP Requirements

- Primary federal requirements regarding RTPs are addressed in the metropolitan transportation planning rules
- Federal planning factors and requirements:
 - Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency
 - Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users
 - Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users
 - Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight

Federal RTP Requirements (continued)

- Additional Federal planning factors and requirements:
 - Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between (regional) transportation improvements and State and local, planned growth, housing, and economic development patterns
 - Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight
 - Promote efficient system management and operation
 - Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system
 - Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
 - Enhance travel and tourism

Federal RTP Requirements (continued)

- RTPs must also address requirements from:
 - Clean Air Act Conformity requirements
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Environmental Justice
 - The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

State RTP/SCS Requirements

- In addition to federal requirements, MPOs must also address state requirements for the RTP/SCS:
 - Climate change (SB 375, SB 32, Executive Orders)
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – program level environmental impact report

Policy Goals

- RTP/SCS is designed to meet multiple and often competing goals
 - Safety and climate
 - Equity and economic
 - Accessibility and system preservation
- Not all projects will meet every single goal and that's ok

Project Selection and Plan Evaluation

- Evaluation criteria developed to prioritize various transportation projects, programs, etc.
- Performance measures evaluate how well various combination of projects and land uses (i.e., scenarios) implement the RTP/SCS goals
- Evaluation criteria and performance measures are developed with input from the public, stakeholders, and technical staff from partner agencies

Outreach and Engagement

- Regional transportation planning is a collaborative process, involving a wide range of stakeholders and partners.
- Process is designed to foster involvement by all interested parties through public participation.
- Outreach and engagement is done at all levels:
 - Community events
 - Public workshops
 - Technical advisory committees
 - Board of Directors
- Both at the MPO and RTPA level – main intent is to better involve the public and local entities in the planning process and decision making.
- Engagement is done over time *throughout* the development of the RTP/SCS

Takeaways

- Every region is different
- Multiple RTP/SCS goals to meet all federal and state statutory requirements; not just the climate goals
- Plan is not stagnant – updated every 4 years based on new laws, policies, and guidance