

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan

MEETING DATE: November 19, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 9

STAFF CONTACT: Scott Spaulding

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive presentation and provide comments on the draft Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties developed in partnership with the Ventura County Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION:

Following the Thomas Fire in December of 2017 and the Montecito Debris Flow in January of 2018, the need for a regional transportation emergency preparedness plan became clear. The response to these disasters was targeted and effective, but reactive, primarily focusing on addressing the extended closure of US 101 by establishing escorted bus service through the closed corridor, additional rail service, and commercial maritime passenger service. These efforts demonstrated the need for advanced preparedness planning and training to better prepare for future emergency events that will likely impact the movement of goods and people in our region. In partnership with SBCAG, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) successfully applied for grant funding through the Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant (APG) Program to develop a Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (TEPP) for both counties. The grant was awarded in May 2018 and in June 2019 VCTC and SBCAG selected Claris Strategy as the prime consultant to assist with developing the TEPP. Claris staff will present an overview of the TEPP at the board meeting.

The TEPP will:

- Outline roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies and organizations during an emergency event
- Utilize existing plans to avoid duplicating efforts and maximize existing processes and procedures
- Develop a comprehensive inventory of transportation assets, including ADA accessible vehicles
- Outline communication protocols and procedures, including with counterpart agencies (between SBCAG and VCTC, with transit operators, with emergency service offices, etc.) and external communications to the public and transit users
- Cover a variety of emergencies, including but not limited to wildfires, mudslides, flooding, terrorist incidents, earthquakes, tsunamis and other events
- Develop an approach to training and drills for appropriate personnel
- Identify transportation stakeholders and resources to support ongoing implementation and regular updating of procedures and best practices addressed in the plan

A stakeholder advisory committee consisting of transit operators, law enforcement, fire, health departments, community organizations, government agencies, and other organizations has provided input into the development of the plan. Four advisory committee meetings, two workshops, and numerous individual stakeholder meetings have been held to develop input for the TEPP. These meetings addressed topics such as previous emergencies and disasters and the transportation responses to these incidents, assisting vulnerable populations, the role of public transportation and research on other areas' experience with emergencies among other items. The two workshops focused on potential hazards and threats to transportation networks and their operations. Staff from both agencies plan to recommend that a small amount of funding be budgeted annually beginning in FY 21/22 to allow for ongoing training and scenario simulation to support the plan.

As part of the development of the TEPP, a companion Technical Memorandum was also created. The Technical Memorandum reviewed the current emergency preparedness regarding transportation in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and determined a list of findings and recommendations. The findings include lessons learned as a part of this project, as well as areas for improvement and recommended actions to improve emergency preparedness

An administrative draft of the plan was provided to the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management and transit operators in both counties in July. Incorporation of input from these stakeholders as well as input from members of the advisory committee occurred in August, and the TEPP was presented to TTAC in September. The draft TEPP was presented to the Ventura County Transportation Commission at their November 6 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (web posting only)
- B. Draft Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan Technical Memorandum (web posting only)