

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Regional Transportation Plan-Sustainable Communities Strategy Citizens' Advisory Committee

**MEETING DATE:** November 4, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4

**STAFF CONTACT:** Peter Imhof

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee to guide update of the Regional Transportation Plan-Sustainable Communities Strategy and provide comments.

### SUMMARY:

During the September 2015 report on the process for update of the Regional Transportation Plan-Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP-SCS), the SBCAG Board heard public comment suggesting that SBCAG form a citizens' advisory committee to guide the update of the RTP-SCS. This item presents this proposal for Committee discussion. Staff will communicate Committee comments to the full SBCAG Board for further direction.

### DISCUSSION:

During the September 2015 report on the process for update of the Regional Transportation Plan-Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP-SCS), the SBCAG Board heard public comment suggesting that SBCAG form a citizens' advisory committee to guide the update of the RTP-SCS. This item presents this proposal for Committee discussion.

The existing RTP-SCS adopted by the Board in August 2013 meets all state requirements, including the Air Resources Board targets for GHG emissions, and is consistent with the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). In the next cycle, the core inputs and parameters (e.g., regional growth forecast, RHNA, SB 375 GHG targets) will not change, so there will be no new growth or housing to accommodate that is not already included in the 2013 plan. The RTP-SCS adopted in 2013 was able to accommodate forecast growth almost exclusively within existing, available General Plan land use capacity and is broadly consistent with adopted SBCAG member agencies' General Plans and community plans, which have been extensively vetted through local planning processes. Any assumed changes to existing, adopted land uses were made only with the support and approval of local agency staff.

Because the core inputs and parameters will not change, we expect changes to the 2017 RTP-SCS to be limited and not involve major, substantive changes. SBCAG staff therefore questions whether the creation of a new citizens' advisory committee is necessary or advisable to guide the update of the plan in the next cycle. To the degree creation of new advisory committee would result in - or create expectations for - major revisions of the plan, it may create needless controversy and could create challenges for state certification of plan.

It is important to note that SBCAG does not have land use authority and the RTP-SCS does not directly regulate land use or supersede local government General Plan land use authority. SB 375 itself is explicit that the SCS does not supersede cities' and counties' land use authority and local government General Plans need not be consistent with the RTP-SCS. If a new citizens' advisory committee seeks to influence the direction of future growth and land use in the region through the RTP-SCS, SCBAG staff notes that there may be the potential for conflict with underlying local agency land use planning.

SBCAG favors and encourages public participation in the plan update process. In September, the SBCAG Board approved a robust Public Participation Plan meeting statutory requirements for the next plan update. Outreach under this plan already includes an extensive list of groups, including all of the stakeholders mentioned during the September public comment proposing the formation of the new advisory committee (Attachment 1). The Public Participation Plan again assigns guidance of the update process to the Joint Technical Advisory Committee (JTAC), composed of TPAC and TTAC, which was effective at guiding development of the RTP-SCS approved in 2013.

If the Board is inclined to create a new citizens' advisory committee, it has several options. However, a number of questions and issues would need to be resolved.

**Options:**

- Create a separate, new committee composed of public members.
- Re-define and expand the Joint Technical Advisory Committee to include additional public members.
- Wait until the third RTP-SCS update cycle (when there will be a new regional growth forecast and RHNA) before creating a new committee or making changes to the existing process.
- No change to existing JTAC.

**Issues to be Resolved:**

- Role/authority of the committee?
- Structure of the committee, number and composition of appointees?
- Committee member appointments?
- How to resolve potential conflicts between Joint Technical Advisory Committee and new advisory committee, where direction to staff differs?
- How to resolve potential conflicts between new committee direction and local General Plans/ Community Plans (upon which RTP-SCS land use assumptions are based), where land use assumptions differ?

**COMMITTEE REVIEW**

Staff will communicate all Committee comments to the full SBCAG Board for further direction. In addition to subregional committee comments, staff will also seek Joint Technical Advisory Committee input this month, which it will also share with the SBCAG Board.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Stakeholder Outreach List

## **Appendix A: List of Stakeholder Groups**

Examples of the types of stakeholders, including private sector stakeholders, with which SBCAG may consult, coordinate, and/or communicate during the development of the RTP/SCS, include the following:

- Santa Barbara Community Action Network
- Peoples Self Help Housing
- Community Environmental Council
- Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition
- Coalition for Sustainable Transportation
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
- Los Olivos Business Origination
- Preservation of Los Olivos
- Preservation of Santa Ynez
- Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce
- Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
- Santa Ynez Valley Alliance
- The Trust for Public Land
- Citizens Planning Association
- Carpinteria Valley Association
- Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Home Builders Association of the Central Coast
- Santa Maria Valley Association of Realtors
- COLAB
- Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter
- Santa Barbara Association of Realtors
- American Institute of Architects
- County of Santa Barbara Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Women's Environmental Watch
- Sierra Club Santa Barbara
- Solvang Chamber of Commerce
- Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Chapter
- Santa Barbara Contractors Association
- Vandenberg Air Force Base
- Guadalupe Chamber of Commerce
- Santa Barbara County Community Housing Corporation
- Santa Barbara Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- California Rural Legal Assistance

- Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
- PUEBLO
- Area Agency on Aging/Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens
- Buellton Chamber of Commerce
- League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley

*Ensure you and/or your group receives all SBCAG RTP and SCS outreach information by emailing [info@sbcag.org](mailto:info@sbcag.org) or calling 805-961-8900.*