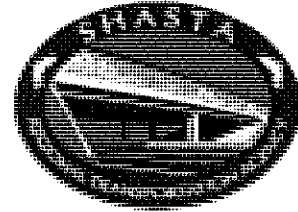


STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	6/25/13
SUBJECT:	Progress Report on the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
AGENDA ITEM:	9
STAFF CONTACT:	Daniel Wayne

SUMMARY:

The Shasta Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is updated every fifth year in conformance with state and federal law and as a prerequisite to state and federal transportation funding. In preparation for the 2015 RTP, staff will discuss the planning process, scope of work, and the inclusion of board priorities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors receive a presentation regarding the 2015 RTP scope of work and anticipated schedule.

DISCUSSION:

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) are required by federal and state law to develop and adopt a compliant RTP before receiving federal and state transportation funding. The Shasta RTP is developed by SRTA in concert with its member agencies, the general public, and funding partners.

The RTP is a comprehensive, 20+ year vision of a balanced, multimodal transportation system for the region. The RTP establishes regional goals; identifies present and future needs, deficiencies and constraints; discusses potential solutions; estimates available funding; and proposes specific investments. The RTP includes a comprehensive list of transportation needs from which transportation improvement programs are prepared for funding.

The Shasta RTP must be updated every five years. Beginning with the 2015 planning cycle, the impact of land use and regional development patterns on vehicle miles traveled and associated emissions must be considered. More specifically, SRTA must prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) demonstrating how the region intends to meet its California Air Resources Board assigned target of 0% increase in per capita greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks between 2005 and 2020. Although each region is responsible for the content and strategies found in its SCS, state law charges the California Air Resources Board with reviewing and approving the validity of the plan's underlying technical methodology.

Steps during the regional planning process include:

- Develop a long-term (20 year) visioning framework – References include the most recently adopted RTP; local general plans; economic development plans; and the ShastaFORWARD>> Regional Blueprint with accompanying community values and priorities assessment. Results from a board of directors priority-setting workshop (tentatively scheduled for October) will also be incorporated.
- Assess existing conditions – Data obtained via the Highway Performance Monitoring System, local and state traffic counts, and intelligent transportation systems infrastructure are utilized to assess the current physical condition and utilization of the transportation network.
- Forecast future population and employment growth – The agency's travel demand model satisfies the technical capabilities required for forecasting future travel demand. Data from the California Department of Finance and other accepted sources are utilized after validation by local agencies.
- Assess projected land uses in the region and identify major growth corridors – The agency coordinates with its member agencies in identifying new and prospective development and analyzing its impacts on the regional transportation network via travel demand modeling.
- Identify and analyze alternative transportation improvement strategies – At least two alternative transportation investment scenarios are identified for each RTP cycle, including a 'no-build'/zero investment alternative.
- Update RTP goals, objectives, policies, and actions – Based on the selected build alternative and priorities provided by the board of directors, goals are prepared and translated into measurable outcomes and activities that implement the regional vision.
- Estimate the impact of the transportation system on air quality within the region – Travel demand model post-processing is utilized to quantify future vehicle emission levels, including greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develop a financial plan that covers transportation system maintenance, system preservation, and new capital investments – Transportation improvements are prioritized and pared down to a fiscally-constrained project list based on anticipated funding levels.
- Development and application of performance measures – Locally relevant metrics based on the priorities of respective funding partners are utilized to quantify the effectiveness of the RTP in meeting stated objectives.
- Analyze environmental impacts – An environmental impact report is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Local projects may reference the report rather than undergo their own project level analysis if consistent with the overarching plan (also known as tiering).

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may discuss and provide further direction to staff for inclusion in the upcoming board priority-setting session and/or RTP planning process.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans, the cities and county, and Redding Area Bus Authority are integral partners in the formation of the RTP and its various elements. The RTP is reviewed and accepted by federal funding partners (Federal Highways Administration and Federal Transit Administration), state funding partners (Caltrans), and resource agencies (such as California Air Resources Board).

FINANCING:

With exception of the RTP environmental impact report (see agenda item 5-5, proposed consultant contract), the RTP is completed in-house by staff and budgeted in the Overall Work Program under Work Element 701.01 (\$93,640.70). To be eligible for federal or state funds, transportation projects in the region must be included in an up-to-date RTP that conforms to applicable laws.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Little', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Scope and Schedule for Development of the RTP

ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR PREPARATION OF THE 2015 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) (INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (SCS) and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR))

TASKS	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Activity-based Travel Demand Model																												
Activity-based TDM testing & validation process																												
Incorporate CA Household Travel Survey into activity-based TDM																												
Incorporate 2014-2019 RHNA numbers into TDM																												
SMUG technical review and recommendation for approval																												
Activity-based TDM to SRTA board of directors for adoption																												
SCS/RTP Planning and Community/Stakeholder Engagement																												
Adopt Public Participation Plan, including SB 375 related requirements																												
Administer board priority setting online survey																												
Board priority setting session - discuss results of survey and consider adoption																												
Develop first-cut SCS in consultation with local agency staff, including identification of Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), development of land use and population assumptions, and perform travel demand/emissions modeling																												
- On-call traffic consultant completes SCS modeling & analysis for Redding																												
- Staff performs SCS modeling & analysis for Shasta Lake, Anderson, Shasta County																												
- Validate SCS analysis for three cities & county																												
- Report back to partner agencies, make adjustments and model further iterations as necessary																												
Develop & publish capital project selection guidelines and priorities for inclusion in RTP																												
Consultation with local agencies and other interested parties - unconstrained project list identified																												
Assess and revise/update RTP exhibits, narratives, goals/objectives/policies, and the most recent guidance and legal requirements																												
Develop and incorporate expanded performance measurement into RTP																												
Informational meeting to SRTA Board - report on progress, preview next steps, and receive direction																												
Host public workshops w/ visualizations to present issues and policy choices and solicit public input																												
SCS/RTP Environmental Impact Report																												
EIR RFP, proposal review, and contracting process																												
EIR scoping meetings (agency & public)																												
Prepare Draft EIR																												
Print draft SCS/RTP & EIR; prepare for mailing																												
55-day public comment period on draft SCS/RTP & EIR (following ARB SCS acceptance)																												
Respond to comments																												
Adoption Process																												
Early consultation and information exchange with ARB regarding modeling methods and																												