

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	4/28/15
SUBJECT:	Public Hearing for Draft 2015 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
AGENDA ITEM:	9
STAFF CONTACT:	Daniel Wayne, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The 2015 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are due to Caltrans no later than June 2015. As required by Senate Bill 375, the RTP now includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) demonstrating how the region intends to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Draft documents are available between March 17 and May 16 for public review and comment. A public hearing must be held for the RTP (including SCS) and EIR. The final 2015 RTP and EIR will be presented to the June board of directors meeting for adoption.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

- 1) Hold a public hearing on the Draft 2015 RTP (including the SCS) and Draft EIR; and
- 2) Provide feedback to staff to staff regarding the content, format, and any other aspect of the Draft 2015 RTP (including SCS) and Draft EIR.

DISCUSSION:

Background – SRTA is required by federal and state law to develop a long-range (20-year) RTP. The purpose of an RTP 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.”¹ Key elements of the 2015 RTP for Shasta County include:

- A regional vision, supported by a program of short- and long-range strategies;
- An evaluation of regional mobility needs in light of population, housing, and job forecasts;
- An SCS pursuant to Senate Bill 375 for the reduction of passenger vehicle greenhouse gas emissions; and
- A list of transportation improvements with anticipated construction timeline and a funding plan.

SRTA’s RTP is updated every four-years in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners. With limited exceptions, transportation projects must be included in the RTP in order to be

¹ California Transportation Commission, 2010 California Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines

eligible for federal and state funding. An EIR must be prepared alongside the RTP in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Staff is presenting the 2015 RTP and EIR to the board of directors in stages as shown in the following schedule:

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
• Board priorities survey results	Dec 2013	• Receive presentation
• Draft vision statement with accompanying goals, policies, and strategies • Preliminary Strategic Growth Areas	Feb 2014	• Review and approve
• Transportation projects list	Apr 2014	• Review and approve
• Travel demand model • Draft performance measures	Jun 2014	• Adoption • Review and approve
• Progress report	Oct 2014	• Provide direction
• Public hearing on Draft 2015 RTP (w/SCS) & EIR	April 2015	• Hold public hearing to receive comments on Draft RTP (w/ SCS) & Draft EIR
• Offer presentations to city councils and board of supervisors, including at least one additional public hearing for the SCS.	May 2015	• Review and comment • Second SCS public hearing
• Final 2015 RTP • Final EIR	June 2015	• Certify EIR and adopt 2015 RTP
• California Air Resources Board review of SCS (60-day)	July - August 2015	• Review and approve technical methodology and assumptions

Public Review and Comment Period – The Draft 2015 RTP and accompanying Draft EIR were circulated to interested parties on March 17 and made available through the agency’s website, which now includes an online comment tool. The public review and comment period ends on May 16. A public hearing is required for the Draft RTP and Draft EIR. A second public hearing is required for the SCS portion of the RTP; this can be accomplished during one of the agendized presentations that will be offered to the city councils and the Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The 2015 RTP addresses Federal Planning Factors specified in the federal transportation bill and California Planning Emphasis Areas generated by the Federal Highway Administration California Division and Federal Transit Administration Region 9.

An administrative draft of the 2015 RTP was made available in November for review by SRTA's partners, including local jurisdictions, Redding Area Bus Authority, and Caltrans. Feedback was incorporated into the draft 2015 RTP and EIR prior to general public circulation. The Draft 2015 RTP and Draft EIR was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee.

TAC comments to be added.

FINANCING:

Preparation of the 2015 RTP and EIR was budgeted in the agency's FY 2013/14 and 2014/15 Overall Work Program under several work elements and funded by Federal Highway Administration Planning funds, State Planning Programming and Monitoring funds, and Proposition 84 grant funds.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Draft 2015 Regional Transportation Plan (including SCS)
www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1653
2015 Regional Transportation Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report
www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1654

In the Superior Court of the State of California
in and for the County of Shasta

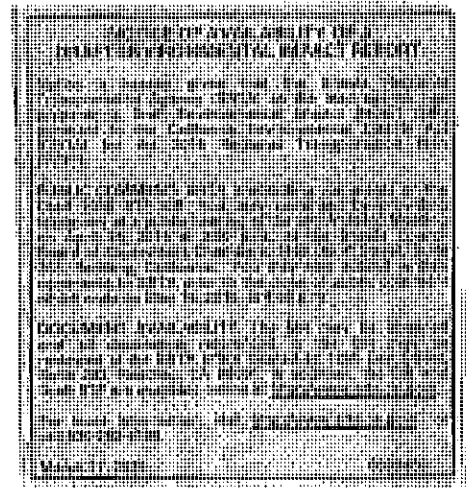
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6809459 NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

State of California
County of Shasta

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I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct,
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