

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Overall Work Program

MEETING DATE: February 1, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 8

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive presentation on next years FY 2007-08 OWP emphasis areas and offer comments and proposals.

DISCUSSION:

STAFF CONTACT: Michael Powers

Introduction

Each year, in accordance with federal and state regulations, SBCAG adopts an Overall Work Program describing the comprehensive planning activities proposed to be undertaken during the next fiscal year, either by SBCAG or other entities within the region (e.g. local governments and transit operators). The document provides detailed information on each major activity, including a description of the work to be performed, the major products of the effort, key milestones and funding information.

The OWP serves three important objectives. First, it serves as a reference to be used by citizens, planners and elected officials throughout the year to better understand SBCAG's objectives and how these will be met through the regional comprehensive planning process. Second, the OWP is used as a management tool to ensure that the planned activities are accomplished both on time and within budget. Third, the OWP serves as documentation to support the various federal and state grants that finance SBCAG's planning program.

Schedule

SBCAG is beginning the process of developing the FY 2007-08 OWP. Accordingly, we are seeking input from TTAC members on issues that should be addressed on a regional basis during the coming year. We are also asking that local governments and transit operators make us aware of any significant transportation planning activities they may be contemplating, so that these can be incorporated in the OWP prior to its adoption by the SBCAG Board. Transit

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

operators are advised that this is a federal requirement. TTAC will have an opportunity to review the draft document next month. Final approval is anticipated in April or May of this year.

The OWP is prepared in recognition of the Federal Planning Emphasis Areas published jointly by FTA and FHWA. Unfortunately, USDOT has not yet released the federal Planning Emphasis Areas that are intended to reflect SAFETEA-LU planning priorities.

Existing Continuing Commitments

A work activity that will consume a lot of financial and staff resources this next fiscal year will continue to be the Measure D reauthorization. Staff expects that some other major projects will be completed by June of 2007, such as the RTP update. However, some projects will continue, e.g., the Central Ave. Extension/SR 246 feasibility study. From the federal perspective, staff is responding to new planning requirements imposed by SAFETEA – LU, such as the need to prepare a "Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan" (a new condition imposed as a condition of receiving 5310, JARC, New Freedom funds) and a new "Participation Plan" in consultation with "all interested parties." Both activities are expected to be completed by June but implementation will occur this next fiscal year.

New Challenges

From the state perspective, the state infrastructure bond bill measures imposed significant requirements on regional agencies in addition to improving the revenue picture for transportation. Assuming SBCAG is successful in receiving Prop. 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account funds, SBCAG will assist other agencies in preparing the mandated corridor mobility plans associated with improvements to Highway 101, between Mussel Shoals and Casitas Pass, and the Santa Maria River Bridge.

All FTIP's and Plans adopted after July 1, 2007 must comply with SAFETEA LU planning provisions and any amendments to these documents after July 1 2007 appear to trigger all the requirements for the document. Staff plans to make the Plan and FTIP mostly "compliant" by July of this year but the guidelines have not yet been finalized so the standard for compliance is not yet known.

Following update of the Regional Growth Forecast staff will update the travel model forecasts and initiate preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. As you may recall, the RHNA has proven to be a significant challenge in years past and will likely be a source of debate as the region addresses the need for affordable housing. Other program updates include the Congestion Management Program and the Travel Trends Report. Implementation of the ITS Architecture Plan and Highway 101 Strategic ITS Plan will accelerate the application of telecommunications technology to transportation problems.