

Establish Plan Principles and Goals

Create a vision and determine desired results of the RTP/SCS Plan by establishing a set of Principles and related Goals.

Recommended Principles: System Planning, Fiscal Constraint and Sustainability

The RTP is first and foremost a transportation plan and investment strategy; therefore, Staff proposes to continue to use the foundational concepts (principles) from the 2011 RTP - System Planning and Fiscal Constraint. However, with the passage of SB 375, staff proposes a new principle, Sustainability.

Recommended Goal Categories: 1. Mobility, 2. Safety and Health, 3. Community Vitality, 4. Economic Vitality, 5. Environmental Quality, 6. Social Equity, 7. Land Use, and 8. System Preservation

Based on the 2011 RTP, SB 375 requirements and several discussions with the SCS Steering Committee, Staff proposes the goals above, which relate to the proposed RTP/SCS Principles.

Once discussed and approved by the SCS Steering Committee, Staff will present the proposed RTP/SCS Principles and Goals to the public at the upcoming Public Workshops to gather public input.

Develop Regional Growth Forecast

Project growth in population, jobs and housing units to determine the future travel and housing needs of the region.

Any planning effort depends heavily on an accurate forecast for future growth in population and employment. This is especially true with the requirement of SCB 375 to coordinate land use and transportation planning.

As part of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint effort, the eight Valley MPOs have commissioned a Demographic Forecast Report which takes a fresh look at the growth assumptions in this region and incorporates the latest state and federal demographic information, including the 2010 Census.

Develop Land Use Forecast

Utilizing the latest growth forecast, prepare a land use pattern to accommodate the estimated increases in population, employment and housing.

Not only must the RTP accommodate the future travel needs of the increased population, the SCS must 'Identify areas within the region sufficient to house all the population of the region, including all economic segments of the population, over the course of the planning period...' and 'Identify areas within the region sufficient to house an 8-year projection of the regional housing need for the region'. In addition, to the listed requirements, the SCS land use pattern will be developed (based on the latest planning assumptions) to help achieve the goals of the plan.

Develop Revenue Forecast

Project reasonable future transportation-related revenues to determine available funds to improve the transportation system.

One of the proposed principles of the RTP/SCS is fiscal constraint. In this region, which historically does not receive its fair-share of revenues and at this time in history, fiscal constraint is especially important. To plan accurately we must project revenues realistically so that we can focus each dollar on the most pressing needs.

Develop Project List

Coordinate with the member agencies to develop a RTP Project List, based on available transportation funds.

StanCOG will develop a RTP project list which will improve the overall transportation system by meeting the goals of the RTP/SCS; which will be coordinated with the land uses to improve the overall quality of life in the region and further meet the goals of the RTP/SCS; which will ensure the region meets air quality conformity; and which will ensure fiscal constraint.

Create Land Use and Transportation Investment Scenarios

Create land use and transportation investment scenarios to better analyze a variety of land use patterns and their transportation implications.

StanCOG will create 3-4 scenarios that will explore and clearly convey the impact of where the region grows over the next 25-years (to what extent growth is focused on infill and compact design); and how it grows (the shape and style of the neighborhoods and transportation systems that will shape growth over the life of the plan). Each scenario will consist of a transportation investment strategy coordinated with a land use pattern.

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Integrate Transportation System with Land Uses

Coordinate transportation system investments with the land use plan

The likely reduced growth and revenues forecasted for the region will necessitate a more limited package of transportation projects. As a result certain projects from the 2011 RTP may not be included in this RTP/SCS. A focus should be made to identify transportation investments that achieve high cost-effectiveness and strong performance benefits. Transportation investments, especially to transit, should be coordinated with the proposed land use pattern to maximize the cost-effectiveness and general performance of each project. As part of this task, StanCOG will develop a 'Smart Growth Concept Map' that will link land use and transportation planning.

Develop RTP/SCS

Prepare a long-range vision and investment strategy for the region's transportation system and prepare an enhanced land-use element with associated policies that could help guide future land use and transportation planning.

It is important to note that even though StanCOG will develop a land use map and recommendations for new growth, the decisions on when, where and how to develop lie solely with the local jurisdictions.