

AGENDA: February 5, 2004

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
RE: Draft Policies and Evaluation Measures for the *Regional Transportation Plan*

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve amendments to the 2001 *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) Goals and Policies (Attachment 1) for inclusion in the Draft 2005 RTP; and
 2. Approve Evaluation Measures for inclusion in the Draft 2005 RTP (Attachment 2).
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BACKGROUND

A minor update for the *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) is underway. As approved by the Commission at its June 5, 2003 meeting, staff is working with the Commission's partner agencies, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and San Benito Council of Governments (SBCOG), to update our *Regional/Metropolitan Transportation Plans* (RTP/MTP) for the years 2005-2030 in coordination with each other to save money and reduce duplication of effort.

At its September 18, 2003 Policy Workshop, the Regional Transportation Commission reviewed the 2001 RTP Goals and Policies and identified possible amendments to those Goals and Policies for the RTP update. Next, in response to Caltrans and California Transportation Commission comments that RTP updates need to include more quantitative/systemwide measures which include data collection and ongoing system monitoring, staff developed a list of possible evaluation measures for the 2005 RTP. The RTP Goals and Policies and possible Evaluation Measures were distributed along with a solicitation for comments to each of the Regional Transportation Commission's Committees -- Bicycle, Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory and Interagency Technical Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

Policy Element

The Commission spent seven months developing Goals and Policies for the *2001 RTP* (Attachment 1). Given the extensive level of committee, Commission, and public review that went into development of the *2001 RTP*, the Commission indicated at its September Policy Workshop its intent to reaffirm the 2001 Goals and Policies and only make minor amendments to the plan for this update.

The Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) reviewed the 2001 *RTP* Policy Element at its October meeting and unanimously recommended the Commission readopt the existing Goals and Policies.

Members of the Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) suggested the following amendments:

- Policy 1.6: Should include a specific policy regarding pedestrian safety
- Policy 2.6.3 is redundant to 1.3.5.
- Policy 5.4: Should include a specific policy which gives funding priority to pedestrian improvements, especially near fixed route transit

Evaluation Measures

The draft list of possible evaluation measures for the RTP Update is attached (Attachment 1). The evaluation measures will be used to evaluate the set of projects in the RTP on a system wide basis, i.e. all of the projects as a whole, and evaluate over time the performance of the region's transportation system. The staff recommended measures are listed at the top of the spreadsheet. Other measures identified or recommended by the Commission's Committees and other agencies are also noted.

By contrast, project by project evaluation measures were developed for the *2001 RTP* (Attachment 3). For the 2001 RTP, each evaluation measure referred to a policy from the RTP list of policies, and used the same numbering system. Staff and project sponsors did not find that those evaluation measures were an effective tool for evaluating or selecting projects for the 2001 RTP.

Though there are several useful evaluation measures that were identified by Commission committees or other agencies, staff believes that the RTP should include a limited number of Evaluation Measures (15 or less) for which data is readily available. In many cases, the data for the staff recommended Evaluation Measures are already reported in the Commission's *Transportation Monitoring Report*. Additionally, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments already makes projections for many of the other measures through the regional model.

Recommendation on Policy Element and Evaluation Measures

Staff recommends the Commission approve the draft Evaluation Measures (Attachment 2) and RTP Policies (Attachment 1) with the following amendments:

- Policy 1.6.2: Change to address both pedestrian and bicycle collisions.
- Policy 2.2: Change reference to HOT Lanes to High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes.
- New - Policy 5.4.13: Give priority to pedestrian improvements, especially near fixed route transit

Final approval of the RTP Goals and Policies and Evaluation Measure will occur after the full RTP document has been circulated for public comment. Therefore, the set of Policies and Evaluation Measures will remain a draft until that final approval by the Commission. Initially staff had recommended the Commission hold public hearings on each individual section of the RTP. However, since this is a minor update of the RTP, staff believes that public comment will be more fruitful taken in combination with the Plan as a whole.

Schedule

Staff continues to work with AMBAG, TAMC, and San Benito COG on developing the coordinated RTP/MTP. The current schedule for the RTP/MTP includes the following:

- March 2004: Draft countywide RTP Project List circulated
- April 2004: RTC adopts RTP Project Lists
- April-June: AMBAG prepares the Air Quality Conformity Analysis based on the constrained project list (will not include Expenditure Plan projects)
- May: Environmental consultants initiate environmental document for joint RTP/MTP
- August: MTIP due to the feds, AMBAG plans to submit one month later due to STIP adoption delays
- November: Santa Cruz and Monterey County Sales Tax Measures on the Ballot—if approved by voters, AMBAG will re-run and re-circulate a revised conformity analysis (takes approximately 6 months).
- Dec.- Jan: Draft RTP and EIR Circulated for Review
- April 2005: Final RTP/MTP and EIR Adopted

Staff continues to work with project sponsors and the ITAC to update the project lists for the plan. Those lists will be reviewed by Commission Committees in February and March.

SUMMARY

The Commission is in the process of updating the *Regional Transportation Plan*. Staff recommends the Commission approve Policies and Evaluation Measures to include in the Draft RTP, which will be circulated for public review later this spring.

- Attachments:
1. 2001 RTP Goals and Policies
 2. Draft RTP Evaluation Measures
 3. 2001 RTP Evaluation Measures