

AGENDA: August 2, 2007

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: George Dondero, Executive Director
RE: RTP Guidelines Update

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

In 2006 AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act became law. This legislation set green house gas emission reductions goals to be achieved by 2020 and requires the Air Resources Board to develop a plan for reducing green house gases by 2009. According to recent studies transportation is responsible for approximately 41% of green house gas emission in California. Current discussions suggest that the key to successful implementation of AB 32 includes incorporating new requirements into the regional and local planning process.

DISCUSSION

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is pursuing an update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines that would incorporate AB 32 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and enhance the use of the regional blueprint planning process. The guideline update was initiated in response to Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata's request ([Attachment 1](#)) that the CTC incorporate emission reduction measures that address climate change and measure the impacts of land use plans on vehicle miles traveled.

The CTC initiated a RTP Guidelines Work Group on June 28, 2007. Presentations regarding blueprint planning processes, and the role of regional transportation plans in addressing climate change and transportation emissions were given by Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Air Resources Board. Senate Bill 375 was discussed ([Attachment 2](#)) and traffic modelers presented the benefits and challenges of assessing and projecting the impacts of land use on transportation systems. The role of blueprint planning in achieving transportation emission reductions through land use decisions that reduce vehicle miles traveled was the theme throughout the workshop. As a reminder, AMBAG has received a grant to develop a regional blueprint plan that covers Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties. A summary of the workgroup's findings and recommendations are expected to be provided to the Legislature by the end of 2007.

Proposals that support coordination between regional transportation systems and land use are generating significant discussion at the state and local levels. Three recent articles from the Sacramento Bee pertaining to statewide and local blue print planning efforts are provided as

Attachment 3.

Attachment 1: Letter to California Transportation Commission from Senator Don Perata

Attachment 2: Senate Bill 375 Steinberg Fact Sheet

Attachment 3: Sacramento Bee Articles pertaining to Blue Print Planning