

AGENDA: November 15, 2007

TO: Regional Transportation Commission's Transportation Policy Workshop

FROM: Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director

RE: Regional Blueprint Grant Application by the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) consider a request from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) for participation in and support of a second Regional Blueprint Grant Application.

BACKGROUND

In 2002 the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) initiated a planning process known as the Regional Blueprint to analyze various future growth scenarios. Incorporating various assumptions regarding priorities, density, environmental constraints, economic growth, and the transportation system, the project used Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to provide graphic feedback on how various assumptions would affect the region's future. In December 2004 the SACOG board adopted a preferred growth alternative. The document includes numerous guiding principles to assist decision makers when development and growth-related decisions are to be made, and some are intended to be adopted into a city or county general plan when updates are done.

Other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) around the state are working on regional blueprints similar to the SACOG model. There have been discussions suggesting that some funding programs could be tied to a region's completion of a regional blueprint, although to date, no formal action has been taken to do this. The concept is being promoted through a series of workshops sponsored by the California Center for Regional Leadership and RTC staff has attended some of those workshops.

Last year AMBAG submitted a grant application to develop a regional blueprint for the Monterey Bay region and was successful in securing funding. The RTC decided not to participate in that grant application and decided to provide a letter of support for AMBAG's grant application.

DISCUSSION

Mark Griffin of AMBAG will attend the Transportation Policy Workshop meeting to present AMBAG's request for RTC participation in and support of an application by AMBAG for a second Regional Blueprint application. [Attachment 1](#) provides some information on the intent for the second Blueprint Grant and the work done with the first Blueprint Grant.

Staff recommends that the RTC consider the request from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) for participation in and support of a second Regional Blueprint Grant Application.

SUMMARY

AMBAG was successful in securing a grant for Blueprint planning in the Monterey Bay Region. AMBAG proposes to submit a second Blueprint planning grant application to continue the work being done under the first grant. Staff recommends that the RTC consider AMBAG's request for participation and support.

Attachments 1: Excerpt from AMBAG's Application for a Second Blueprint Planning Grant for the Monterey Bay Region.