

ITEM 12 – Information

June 20, 2018

Implementing the Concepts of TPB’s Seven Endorsed Initiatives

Staff Recommendation: Briefing on TPB staff activities.

Issues: None

Background: The board will be briefed on TPB staff activities to date.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
SUBJECT: Staff Activities to Advance the Seven Endorsed Initiatives
DATE: June 14, 2018

This memo summarizes staff activities to advance efforts to implement projects, programs, and policies represented by the seven transportation improvement initiatives endorsed by the TPB earlier this year.

In December of 2017 and January of 2018, the TPB endorsed a set of seven regional transportation improvement initiatives. These initiatives were the outcome of a two-year effort lead by the TPB's Long Range Plan Task Force that undertook a methodical evaluation of what projects, programs, and policies the region could undertake to substantively improve the unsatisfactory performance outcomes anticipated to be delivered by the 2016 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP).

With its endorsement, the board issued a call to action for its member jurisdictions and agencies to commit to fully explore the concepts contained in the initiatives and take action to implement projects, programs, and policies to fully realize the potential improvements in the transportation system's performance.

Chairman Allen advised staff to work with the appropriate subject matter experts to identify specific implementation actions that TPB members could take—individually and collectively—to make the projects, programs, and policies part of TPB's future financially constrained long-range plans.

ACTIVITIES

TPB staff have been working on a few different fronts to build awareness of the endorsed initiatives among a number of partners and inviting them to identify what actions the TPB and its members can take to implement the initiatives. Figure 1 summarizes the staff activities which have either been completed, are underway, or planned. The following section provides a summary description of these activities.

Figure 1 Staff Activities to Advance TPB Endorsed Initiatives



TPB Planning Activities

Visualize 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan, scheduled to be adopted later this year, (October 2018) will substantively reflect the TPB's endorsed initiatives in several different ways.

The first step of the long-range plan was to solicit inputs from the TPB members jurisdictions and agencies to the plan. In January of this year, TPB staff performed an assessment of the major projects to determine how best they supported or advanced five of the seven endorsed initiatives, since the two bicycle and pedestrian initiatives were endorsed later. This information was shared with the TPB at the time it approved the inputs to be included in the regional air quality conformity analysis.

Following this action, the seven endorsed initiatives were added to Visualize 2045, as part of the first-ever aspirational element in a TPB long-range transportation plan. For the first time, in addition to projects that the region's transportation agencies expect to be able to afford between now and 2045, the plan includes aspirational projects, programs, and policies that go beyond financial constraints. Introducing these initiatives as an element of the long-range transportation plan not only elevates their status as aspirational goals, but also demonstrates the region's commitment toward making them a reality. This commitment can be leveraged when local leaders are called upon to make decisions on projects, programs, and policies that impact the transportation system.

Additionally, for all TPB-administered project selection programs, including the Transportation and Land Use Connections Program (TLC), the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP), and the Enhanced Mobility Program, TPB staff have incorporated applicable initiatives into the selection criteria or priorities.

To highlight local efforts that are already in line with the seven endorsed initiatives, TPB staff have asked jurisdictional staff to present relevant projects, programs, and policies at monthly TPB Technical Committee meetings. Sharing local efforts that are consistent with the initiatives helps elevate the status of these efforts and serves to promote the endorsed initiatives.

Regional Subject Matter Experts

The TPB is looking to its subject matter experts on TPB and COG subcommittees and through member agencies for current and best practices for implementing these initiatives. TPB staff have presented or are scheduled to present this call-to-action to the following committees: COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee, COG Housing Directors Advisory Committee, TPB Commuter Connections Subcommittee, TPB Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee, and the TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. Each committee has been invited to brief the TPB with its recommendations in the later part of this calendar year.

The Commuter Connections Subcommittee has convened a monthly working group of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) experts to discuss projects, programs, and policies that can support the endorsed initiative which calls for increased teleworking and other TDM programs. The working group has been briefed and asked to provide ideas for projects, programs, and policies pertinent to their respective focus areas and jurisdictions.

The COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee has been discussing the initiative focused on “Bringing jobs and housing closer together” at several meetings, and is scheduled to present feedback from their deliberations at the July 20 TPB meeting.

The COG Housing Directors Advisory Committee received a presentation on this at their May meeting. The TPB Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee and the TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee will be discussing the initiatives at their upcoming June and July meetings.

Public Stakeholders Building Awareness

Building awareness among members of the public about the TPB’s purpose and expectations for the endorsed transportation improvement initiatives will be critical to secure the support for actions to be taken at local, state and regional levels to implement the projects, programs and policies to realize the benefits the initiatives have to offer. To this end, staff has been working with TPB officers to reach out to the media, other policy committees, technical, and citizen advisory committees at the local levels.

Additionally, TPB staff conducted twelve public forums throughout the region, including an online forum that was recently held on June 6. Collectively, these forums garnered over 300 participants throughout the region who shared their observations and aspirations for their communities as they relate to the endorsed initiatives. The TPB’s Citizens Advisory Committee and Access for All Committee also participated in public forums at their respective meetings.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will be working with the COG and TPB committee subject matter expert groups to assist them in identifying specific actions the TPB and its members could take. Staff intends to provide an opportunity for the representatives of these groups to share their suggestions for further actionable items with the TPB during the board meeting in the latter half of this year. Staff anticipates TPB will consider the suggestions from these various groups and take appropriate action.

