

March 27, 2015

Memorandum

Date: March 24, 2015

To: MWCOG Greenhouse Gas Multi-Sector Working Group - Transportation Subgroup

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Subject: Examples of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies from Other MPOs

The purpose of this memo is to provide members of the Transportation Subgroup with examples of greenhouse gas reduction strategies for use in their discussions at the March 27, 2015 meeting. Staff chose examples from four MPOs in three states (Oregon, California, and Washington) that require incorporation of greenhouse gas reductions in transportation planning. The MPO examples in this memo are Metro (Portland), Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and Puget Sound Regional Council. Although there are other examples in these states, these MPOs were chosen because there is documentation specifically referring to greenhouse gas reduction strategies readily available on their websites.

Metro

Portland, Oregon

Website: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/climate-smart-strategy>

Which greenhouse gas reduction strategies are being considered?

The Climate Smart Strategy recommends a list of three Climate Smart actions for 2015 and 2016 to “demonstration the region’s commitment to work together to begin implementing the Climate Smart Strategy.

Those actions are:

1. Advocate for increased federal, state, regional, and local transportation funding for all transportation modes as part of a diverse coalition with top priorities of maintaining and preserving existing infrastructure, and implementing transit service enhancement plants and transit supportive investments.
2. Advocate for federal and state governments to advance Oregon’s transition to cleaner, low carbon fuels, and more fuel-efficient vehicle technologies.
3. Seek opportunities to advance local and regional projects that best combine the most effective greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

Link for Short List of Climate Smart Actions for 2015 and 2016:

http://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/CSC_Short%20List-2014_12_09.pdf

The Climate Smart Strategy includes a “Toolbox of Possible Actions” which lists near-term (2015-2020) actions the state, region, cities, counties, and special districts can take. Medium and longer-term actions will be identified in the next update of the Regional Transportation Plan (scheduled for 2016-2018). The actions are grouped into ten policy categories:

1. Implement the 2040 Growth Concept and local adopted land use and transportation plans.
2. Make transit convenient, frequent, accessible, and affordable.
3. Make biking and walking safe and convenient.
4. Make streets and highways safe, reliable, and connected.
5. Use technology to actively manage the transportation system.
6. Provide information and incentives to expand the use of travel options.
7. Manage parking to make efficient use of vehicle parking and land dedicated to parking spaces.
8. Secure adequate funding for transportation investments.
9. Support Oregon’s transition to cleaner, low carbon fuels, more fuel-efficient vehicles, and pay-as-you-drive insurance.
10. Demonstrate leadership in climate change.

Link for Recommended Toolbox of Possible Actions:

http://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/CSC_toolbox-actions2014_12_09.pdf

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

San Francisco, California

Website: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/plan_bay_area/

Which greenhouse gas reduction strategies are being considered?

Table 23 (page 87) in Chapter 4 of Plan Bay Area lists eight programs are being invested in through the Plan Bay Area climate initiative because they have been identified for their greenhouse gas reduction potential. The programs are:

1. Commuter Benefit Ordinance
2. Car Sharing
3. Vanpool Incentives
4. Clean Vehicle Freebate Program
5. Smart Driving Strategy
6. Vehicle Buy-Back and Plug-in of Electric Vehicle Purchase Incentive
7. Regional Electric Vehicle Charger Network
8. Climate Initiatives Innovative Grants

Links to Plan Bay Area:

Entire Plan Bay Area (125 MB):

http://files.mtc.ca.gov/pdf/Plan_Bay_Area_FINAL/Plan_Bay_Area.pdf

Chapter 4 of Plan Bay Area (15 MB):

http://files.mtc.ca.gov/pdf/Plan_Bay_Area_FINAL/4-Investments.pdf

Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

Sacramento, California

Website: <http://sacog.org/mtpscs/mtpscs/>

Which greenhouse gas reduction strategies are being considered?

In Chapter 6 of SACOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), there 31 policies and a number of supporting strategies, consistent with Senate Bill 375, in four interrelated categories: Land Use and Environmental Sustainability; Finance; System Maintenance and Operations; and System Expansion. Note: this is not exclusively a list of greenhouse gas reduction strategies.

Links to SACOG's RTP/SCS:

Link to entire RTP/SCS

<http://sacog.org/mtpscs/files/MTP-SCS/MTPSCS%20WEB.pdf>

Link Chapter 6 of RTP/SCS

<http://sacog.org/mtpscs/files/MTP-SCS/6%20-%20Policies%20and%20Strategies%20Final.pdf>

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)

Seattle, Washington

Website: <http://www.psrc.org/transportation/t2040/t2040-pubs/final-draft-transportation-2040/>

Which greenhouse gas reduction strategies are being considered?

While only state agencies in Washington are required to consider greenhouse gas emissions, Transportation 2040 as adopted in 2010 contained a Four- Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy:

- **Land Use:** implement VISION 2040, further the goal of balancing jobs and housing, focus growth in centers and provide for efficient communities;
- **User Fees:** transition the region over time to a user fee/roadway pricing system;
- **Choices:** continue to provide travelers options to the single-occupant vehicle;
- **Technology:** support development of technology to dramatically reduce tailpipe emissions; PSRC in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Ecology created two scenarios of potential technological improvements by 2040 – a Likely and an Aggressive scenario.

Link to Transportation 2040 Update, Appendix L: Climate Change Background:

<http://www.psrc.org/assets/10544/T2040Update2014AppendixL.pdf>