



A Path Forward

Statewide Summit ♦ February 10, 2009

Department of Health Services East End Complex
1500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, California 95814

From Shasta to San Diego, elected officials and business leaders alike are grappling with how to respond quickly and effectively to the economic crisis. Meanwhile, climate change has accelerated the need to craft public policies that address deep-rooted public policy challenges including water supply, affordable housing, energy efficiency, and public health. *Regional Blueprints* offers a framework for tackling multiple public policy objectives and while progress at the local level continues to evolve, nearly 200 individuals representing sixty different agencies and eighteen regions participated in this year's gathering confirming that the spirit for innovation remains alive and well in the state of California.

Embracing the concept of partnership, the Summit Planning Team representing ten different state agencies, set forth an ambitious program for this year's event: showcase state agencies' commitment to sustain regional blueprint efforts into the future, highlight innovations taking place in the regions, and marshal the resources and political will necessary to accomplish the stated objectives of Regional Blueprints.

In a defining moment during the opening plenary, Director Will Kempton stated "Regional Blueprints in California is at a cross-road as it evolves out of its origins as a voluntary program focused on the nexus of land use and transportation." The following Digest provides a summary of the discussions that transpired on February 11th, but in no way portends to present the entire range of the issues raised. *Regional Blueprints* represent a promising innovation in governance in California and remains an evolving program perpetually in search of technical tools and leadership necessary to tackle the enormity of regional challenges statewide.

The *Regional Blueprints* Planning Team thanks you for your participation in the 2009 Summit.

- *The Regional Blueprints Summit Planning Team*

I. Regional Blueprints in a Time of Change

Will Kempton, Director, California Department of Transportation

Cynthia Bryant, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Lynn Jacobs, Director, California Department of Housing and Community Development

The Opening Plenary recognized the emerging focus on regional perspective as California plans for growth. While **Regional Blueprints** have been a voluntary program promoting the connection between transportation and land use, the passage of SB 375 presents new set of challenges and opportunities in areas of affordable housing, health, transportation systems. Now in its fourth year, Regional Blueprints acknowledge that the process of planning for growth is proving to be equally as important to the plans themselves. To date, 16 of 18 MPOs have received grants to date. Blueprint efforts are dynamic and adaptable.

2: State Agency Panel

Moderator: Gregg Albright, Deputy Secretary, California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Dr. Mark Horton, Director, California Department of Public Health

Bridgett Luther, Director, California Department of Conservation

James Goldstene, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board

Mark Cowin, Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resources

The Obama administration is looking towards California for solutions to climate change - **Regional Blueprints** is at the forefront of this process. The culture of **Regional Blueprints**, where decision-making is shared, provides a platform for making long terms investments in health, energy, water, and conservation planning. Integrated management of public resources has the potential to lead to innovations in building public infrastructure such as levees, roads, recycling facilities, and energy transmission lines and renewable energy facilities. The Strategic Growth Council represents an ongoing venue for state agencies to continue the pursuit of sustainability principles and innovation in governance

3. MPO Summary (1/2 page)

Moderator: Therese McMillan, Deputy Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Susan Freedman, Senior Regional Energy Planner, San Diego Association of Governments

Larry Rillera, Energy Consultant, California Energy Commission

David Shabazian, Senior Planner, Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Bill Mueller, CEO and Managing Partner, Valley Vision

Kathleen Grassi, Assistant Public Health Director,

Fresno County Public Health Department

John Wright, Former Planning Director, City of Clovis

SANDAG/CEC Presentation: Population increasing faster than jobs and housing in region. SANDAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is a policy approach connecting transportation and land use plans. The Smart Growth Concept Map spurred the CEC/SANDAG collaboration.

SACOG/Valley Vision Presentation: Rural Urban Connections Strategy. Reducing agricultural land development while addressing the decline of the agricultural industry in the region. Impacts on road systems, labor supply, more severe fires, increased demands on water supply due to urbanization and state and Federal regulations. Opportunities: markets for agricultural products through more Farmers Markets. Agritourism expanding beyond wine tasting. Carbon Sequestration—fast growing forests and low impact farming practices. Forestry—better management plans. Recreation -- key way to make urban/rural connection. Water forum brought together water interests, preceded Blueprint. 30% reduction in water demand if tighten up urban footprint. Water purveyors don't like to get involved in land use planning. More engagement needed.

Fresno County Public Health Department/San Joaquin Blueprint Presentation: In the Central Valley, the challenge of blueprint is moving from big picture discussions and visioning exercises to implementation. "As goes the SJV, so goes CA...and as goes CA, so goes the nation." -Gov. Schwarzenegger. It is well documented that the San Joaquin Valley is at the bottom of Congressional districts in health, education, income.

The San Joaquin Blueprint effort is poised to vote on the four growth scenarios developed through a comprehensive public outreach process over the past two years. The proposed density detailed in the preferred scenarios ranges from 4.3 to 10 per acre. Development patterns are being reinforced by agricultural conservation programs and innovative transportation solutions such as the Metro Rural loop in Fresno.

Partnerships with public health have been established based on the three key areas of overlap including: neighborhood improvement, project review and process, policy development. These three areas are working to incorporate public health into general plan language. People in Fresno are now calling public health entities for support related to neighborhood challenges such as safe routes to school or access to parks. In Fresno, the public health sector adds value to the Blueprint Planning process through improved communications with the public, access and analysis of data pertaining to public health, community relationships with mono-lingual pockets of the community that are key to robust public engagement processes.

4. Luncheon with Senator DeSaulnier

With the backdrop of state budget negotiations still underway [at the time of the 2009 Blueprint Summit the state budget had not yet been signed], Blueprint is a positive symbol of bi-partisanship. With 80% of the state's population participating in blueprint planning processes, regional convergence and collaboration are well rooted across the state. Federal and state support for transit options results when higher densities are achieved. Federal Representative Oberstar and Tauscher have expressed an interest in identifying incentives in the stimulus and federal reauthorization bill to operationalize funds for transit - blueprint planning represents a workable solution. Here in California, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research has the convening capacity to use the RTP, RHNA and legislature to move *Regional Blueprints* forward. CALCOG's bill in 2009 (SB 406) aims to further integrate local-regional-state capacity to allow COGs to raise \$50million through vehicle license fees.

5. World Café Summary

See the World Café Synthesis Paper...

6. Affiliate Panel Summary (1/2 page)

Shelly Potchika, *Reconnecting America*

Stuart Cohen, *Transform*

The Independent Sector nationwide is hearing the public ask elected leaders to take a new direction in transportation planning and public investment. Ridership is up 32% since 1995 nationwide and the transit sector is experiencing a certifiable “building boom.” \$250B in transit planned nationally over the next twenty years including \$9.2B spent in last six years. Survey data suggests that “walkable urbanism” will comprise 1/3 of the US Housing market by 2030. However, not all transit oriented development is alive. In Denver, where five new metro rail lines offer promising examples of combining traditional suburban patterns of growth with pockets of high density.

In the Bay Area, MTC’s funding has been crucial to the establishment of more efficient land use patterns. From the non-profit perspective, community engagement has led to success of the Priority Development Areas. In Windsor, a largely rural community, the downtown area is now 100% walkable. Although it will be two years until CARB sets regional GHG targets, Bay Area projections for a Sustainable Community Strategy call for the provision of cheaper transportation alternatives such as few miles driven and additional fees for vehicle miles traveled. Coordination between public/non-profit communities has been an essential element of the Bay Area’s success. AB32 scoping plan have not yet passed and controversial issues such as congestion pricing, pay as you drive insurance, and climate impact fee on gas and/of vehicles are likely to provoke heated public discourse.

7. CLOSING ADDRESS

Kome Ajise, *Caltrans*

Today’s session demonstrated a common purpose among agencies. Seven state executives talked about their agencies’ commitment to Blueprints principles. I call this the “alignment of missions.” Partnerships outside of transportation remain essential. Sen. DeSaulnier provided an inspirational speech at today’s luncheon offering promising solutions to the funding challenges facing *Regional Blueprints*. World Café interesting provided a series of in-depth conversations that will be transcribed and used by Regional Blueprints in the future. The closing Affiliates panel provided a sense of optimism based on on-the-ground experiences of the public partnering with citizens to create more livable, healthy communities.

Summit Data from February 10, 2009

ATTENDEES BY TYPE	
City Government	4
County Government	36
Regional Government	25
State Government	71
Federal Government	4
Universities	10
Non-Governmental Organizations	13
Consultants	8

ATTENDEES BY INTEREST AREA	
Agriculture	1
Air	6
Conservation/Resources	12
Councils of Governments - MPOs	31
Energy	5
Housing	7
Planning	21
Public Health	15
Transportation	51
Water	1

CITY GOVERNMENTS

City of Corning
 City of Ukiah
 Fort Bragg City Council

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Amador County
 Amador County Transportation Commission
 Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
 Calaveras Council of Governments
 Council of Fresno County Governments
 Council of San Benito County Governments
 El Dorado County Transportation Commission
 Fresno County Department of Public Health
 Glenn County
 Kern Council of Governments
 Lassen County
 Merced County Association of Governments
 San Joaquin Council of Governments
 San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's
 Shasta County Public Health
 Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency
 Tehama County Transportation Commission
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 Trinity County Transportation Commission

 Tulare County Association of Governments
 Tuolumne County Transportation Council
 Yolo County

REGIONAL AGENCIES

Association of Bay Area Governments
 Caltrans - District 07
 Caltrans - District 08
 Caltrans - District 10
 Metropolitan Transportation Commission
 Sacramento Area Council of Governments
 Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
 San Diego Association of Governments
 Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 Southern California Association of Governments

STATE AGENCIES

California Center for Physical Activity
 California Air Resources Board
 California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
 California Coastal Conservancy
 California Department of Conservation
 California Department of Housing and Community Development
 California Department of Public Health
 California Department of Transportation
 California Department of Water Resources
 California Energy Commission
 California Health and Human Services Agency
 California State Senate
 Governor's Office of Planning and Research

FEDERAL AGENCIES

California Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal
Highway Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

CONSULTANTS

CirclePoint
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
EDAW
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
MIG, Inc.

UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS

UC Berkeley
UC Davis - Center for the Study of Regional
Change
UC Davis - Information Center for the
Environment

Section 4: Summit Planning Process (1/2 page)

- a. Number of agencies participating in the planning process
- b. Location of venue (DPH) the role of planning team

Section 5: Conclusion (1/2 page)

- a. Invitation to contribute to the discourse - comprehensive planning is a work in progress!
- b. Invitation to the upcoming Regional Blueprint events (April 1 - Ontario and April 22 - Davis)