

# REGIONAL TRANSIT ISSUE PAPER

Agenda Item No.	Board Meeting Date	Open/Closed Session	Information/Action Item	Issue Date
8	02/09/15	Open	Information	01/15/15

Subject: Updating the TransitAction Plan -- Process, Goals and Schedule

## ISSUE

Whether to move forward with updating Regional Transit's long-range transit plan, TransitAction.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

No action is required at this time. The Board will be engaged in the review and development of modifications to TransitAction. An updated long range plan for RT will be developed and presented to the Board for adoption after public review of the draft Plan Update in the fall of 2015.

## FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

## DISCUSSION

Long-range planning is one of four steps in Regional Transit's (RT's) ongoing planning process. The other three steps are the recently-adopted Strategic Plan, annual Capital and Operating Budget activities and actions, and update and adoption of the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) which occurred in 2014. Where the SRTP is a 5 to 10-year look-ahead, the long-range plan is a 20-year look-ahead for the District.

TransitAction is RT's previously adopted long range plan for expanding transit services within RT's service area. Working with the RT Board, various stakeholders including the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and the general public between 2007 and 2009, TransitAction developed a comprehensive and aggressive plan and vision for expanding transit services within RT's service area. TransitAction was adopted by the RT Board in 2009.

TransitAction focused on a 2030 timeframe and identified different service types and levels of expansion scenarios for the region. Ultimately, the RT Board selected and adopted a scenario for growing transit services which focuses on service expansions including light rail extensions to the Sacramento Airport, and Citrus Heights; streetcar/trolley projects in Downtown Sacramento/West Sacramento, and Rancho Cordova; a three-fold increase in bus services for "main line/arterial" services such as Hi-Bus (also known as Bus Rapid Transit) in addition to neighborhood-level bus services, as well as support for improved passenger amenities. TransitAction also developed long-term service standards, transit oriented development (TOD) guidelines, and coordinated with the development of RT's American with Disabilities Act (ADA)/Paratransit Plan. TransitAction identified three (3) tiers of funding programs of projects and the RT Board adopted the tier that requires a new funding equivalence of ½-cent sales tax to fund.

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Approved:

Presented:

Final 02/02/15

General Manager/CEO

Director, Long Range Planning

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## Goals for the Plan Update

RT will work with the Board, various stakeholders including SACOG, and the community to update TransitAction to reflect 2015 conditions and more-recent forecasts for the region for 2035/2036 that are consistent with SACOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). Moreover, new considerations including passage of the federal Moving Ahead for Progress (MAP-21) transportation authorization, state-based Cap & Trade legislation, a resurgent economy and proposed significant development projects in the region, as well as the recent adoption by the Board of RT’s Strategic Plan, will influence the updating of TransitAction.

The RT Board will be engaged in several workshops to help inform this process and outcome with the first workshop scheduled for the March-April 2015 time frame. Among the issues to be discussed with the RT Board for direction will be:

- What are the key challenges and opportunities for transit in RT’s service area moving forward?
- What should the level of tradeoff between “fix it first” and “expand the system”?
- Should issues such as system security, system cleanliness, and public perception be addressed into the Update?
- What should be the focus of service expansions to serve existing communities?
- What should be the focus of service expansion to serve future communities and new growth areas in the Sacramento region?
- What funding strategies and levels should be evaluated and ultimately included in the update of TransitAction?

In addition to these considerations and issues, the update of TransitAction will take into consideration with RT’s ADA/Paratransit Plan, the opening of the South Line in the early fall of 2015, developing a “Program of Interrelated Projects” (PIRP) to maximize opportunities within MAP-21, and ongoing strategies for new funding sources locally.

## Schedule

The update of TransitAction is expected to be completed with its adoption by the RT Board by the end of 2015.