

MEMO

Submitted by: Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director

To: Regional Planning Committee (RPC)

Subject: Presentation of the Grand Boulevard Initiative by Rich Napier, San Mateo City/County Association of Governments, and Corinne Goodrich, SamTrans.

Date: July 27, 2010

Executive Summary

The Grand Boulevard Initiative (GBI) is one of the Bay Area's leading examples of an inter-agency collaboration based on a shared interest in sustainable development. The collaboration, which has been working together for several years, includes 19 cities joined by El Camino Real (SR 82), San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), Santa Clara Transportation Authority (VTA), Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, San Mateo City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG), and SAMCEDA (San Mateo Economic Development Association.) ABAG and MTC have coordinated with this effort and regional agency staff participate in both the Grand Boulevard Task Force and Working Committee.

By bringing together all of the agencies with partial responsibility for the corridor, the GBI has advanced a shared vision for planning, transportation, and development, and has provided a supportive infrastructure of tools, programs, and presentations to assist local governments in their planning and development efforts. The El Camino Real corridor is a regional Priority Development Area, and nearly every city in this corridor has adopted a plan to increase residential density along El Camino and make it more pedestrian-friendly. VTA, C/CAG and SamTrans have released a Draft Multimodal Corridor Transportation Plan for coordinated transportation improvements serving El Camino Real, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The plan illustrates the connection between transit improvements and the land use densities needed to support them. Rich Napier, Executive Director of C/CAG, and Corinne Goodrich, Strategic Development Manager for SamTrans, will present the Grand Boulevard and answer RPC questions.

Recommended Action

This is a discussion item. In the next phase of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, regional staff will be meeting with jurisdictions and transit agencies at the County level to determine an appropriate collaborative planning structure. Each County or Corridor sub-region will evaluate their growth forecast and transportation needs in relation to their own Priority Development Areas, and will help to determine how regional planning and infrastructure should be shaped. Elected Officials who serve on regional boards will be leading these meetings. Regional agency staff asked staff from the Grand Boulevard Initiative to present GBI as a resource for the RPC to consider similar city-CMA-transit collaborations, existing or proposed, in their jurisdictions. Questions to consider include:

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- Where else in the Bay Area to transit corridors or Priority Development Area clusters suggest natural opportunities for collaborative planning?
- What is the appropriate political structure for a balanced collaboration and shared decision-making between cities, counties, transit and regional agencies?
- What tools support local governments in promoting a shared vision for growth and development?
- How is the public engaged?
- How does the transit vision connect to land use development?

Attachments:

- **Grand Boulevard Adopted Vision, Guiding Principals and Potential Strategies, October 2006 and April 2007**