



Fresno COG 2014 Regional Transportation Plan/
Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)
Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
Scoping Meeting – Sept. 10, 2012

Scoping Meeting Agenda



- Welcome/Self Introductions
- What is a Scoping Meeting?
- What is a Program EIR?
- RTP/SCS EIR Scoping Meeting Background
- What does the RTP/SCS process involve?
- What does the RTP/SCS PEIR process involve?
- What are the Project Alternatives that may be evaluated in the PEIR?
- What is the RTP/SCS PEIR schedule?
- How can you stay involved?
- What comments and questions do you have?

What is a Scoping Meeting?

It is:

- Narrowly defined in CEQA
- An opportunity to provide comments regarding the type & extent of environmental analysis to be undertaken
- The first opportunity for responsible/trustee agencies, & the public to discuss aspects of the proposed Project

It is not:

- A public hearing to determine whether the RTP/SCS should be approved or not



What is a Program EIR?

- According to CEQA, a Program EIR is prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project & are related either:
 - Geographically
 - As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions
 - In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program
 - As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority, & having generally similar environmental effects, which can be mitigated in similar ways



Scoping Meeting Background



- Fresno COG issued the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on August 27, 2012
- The NOP was mailed to over 140 responsible & trustee agencies and emailed to hundreds of other agencies & individuals
- The 30-day mandatory NOP review & comment period formally ends on September 28, 2012
- This meeting provides another opportunity to receive input from you on what you believe the PEIR should discuss and analyze

What does the RTP/SCS process involve?

- RTP shall:
 - Be an internally consistent document regarding the “long-range” regional transportation system & include:
 - ✓ A policy element
 - ✓ **A Sustainable Communities Strategy--SCS**
 - ✓ An Action Element
 - ✓ A Financial Element
 - Be integrated with the Congestion Management Program & Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
 - Highlight the EIR & public outreach process
 - Include an Environmental Justice analysis process
 - Utilize the most recent planning assumptions, local general plans & other data



What does the RTP/SCS process involve?



- The SCS shall:
 - Identify general location of uses, residential densities & building intensities within the region
 - Identify areas within the region sufficient to house all projected population growth
 - Identify areas within the region sufficient to house an eight-year projection of regional housing need for the region
 - Identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region
 - Gather & consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas & farmland in the region

What does the RTP/SCS process involve?

- The SCS shall:
 - Consider State housing goals
 - Set forth a forecasted development pattern
 - When integrated with the transportation network & other transportation measures & policies, it will reduce GHG emissions
 - Allow the RTP to comply with Air Quality Conformity Rules



What does the RTP/SCS PEIR process involve?



- The RTP/SCS PEIR will be:
 - An informational document used to meet requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Will be used to inform decision makers, agencies & the public of the potential environmental consequences of approving the proposed RTP/SCS (Project)
 - Will analyze the RTP projects & programs on a broad regional scale & include mitigation measures designed to help avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts
 - Provides the basis for further project-level CEQA [and possibly National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)] compliance for implementation of future transportation projects

What does the RTP/SCS PEIR process involve?

- The RTP/SCS PEIR will:

- Address the following environmental issues:

- ✓ Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- ✓ Agricultural Land
- ✓ Air Quality
- ✓ Biological Resources
- ✓ Cultural & Historic Resources
- ✓ Drainage/Absorption
- ✓ Economic/Jobs
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Environmental Justice
- ✓ Fiscal
- ✓ Flood Plain/Flooding
- ✓ Forest Land/Fire Hazard
- ✓ Geologic/Seismic
- ✓ GHG Emissions/Climate Change
- ✓ Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- ✓ Hydrology
- ✓ Land Use & Planning
- ✓ Mineral Resources
- ✓ Noise
- ✓ Population/Housing Balance
- ✓ Public Services/Facilities
- ✓ Recreation/Parks
- ✓ Schools/Universities
- ✓ Soil Erosion, Compaction, Grading
- ✓ Toxic/Hazardous
- ✓ Traffic/Circulation
- ✓ Utilities & Service Systems
- ✓ Vegetation
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Water Supply/y/Groundwater
- ✓ Wetland/Riparian
- ✓ Growth Inducement
- ✓ Cumulative Effects
- ✓ Mandatory Findings of Significance



What are the Project Alternatives that will be assessed?



- The PEIR will evaluate the proposed 2014 RTP/SCS and the four (4) alternatives including the:
 - No Project
 - Programmed Projects and Preferred SCS Scenario
 - Additional Alternative as deemed necessary
 - SCS Alternative Planning Strategy (APS), if necessary or applicable

How can you stay involved?

Visit the Fresno COG website for
RTP, SCS, & PEIR activities at:
www.fresnocog.org

Request notification regarding the
Draft PEIR expected to be released
in June 2012

(sign-up sheet is provided
at the sign-in table)



What comments & questions do you have?



Attendee Comments & Questions

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!