

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT		MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Shasta <i>FORWARD</i> >> Regional Blueprint: Community Values & Priorities Assessment Report and FY 08/09 Blueprint Grant Application		10/28/08	6

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Receive a project update and accept the 'Community Values & Priorities Assessment' report; and
2. Approve attached resolution authorizing FY 08/09 Regional Blueprint grant application.

SUMMARY

The recently completed Community Values & Priorities Assessment for Shasta*FORWARD*>> is summarized by way of three core community values expressed through fifteen priorities. The full report is provided by attachment. Staff recommends approval of the attached FY 08/09 Regional Blueprint grant application. The completed application package was due October 10. Authorizing resolution is provided by attachment for agency consideration.

DISCUSSION

Project Background

The Shasta County RTPA was awarded a grant from the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program in 2006 (\$375,000) and again in 2008 (\$140,000). Blueprint grants support regional collaboration and data gathering to effectively accommodate population growth and meet emerging state and federal requirements. Shasta County's regional blueprint effort, known as Shasta*FORWARD*>>, is currently underway.

Central to Blueprint Planning is a public engagement process designed around growth modeling and visualization techniques. The intent is to create a more approachable, accessible, and engaging planning process for all citizens. In lieu of technical and sometimes onerous reports, Shasta*FORWARD*>> utilizes maps, animations, and graphical performance measures to help 'tell the story' of Shasta County's future and better understand the long-term outcomes stemming from current trends, policies, and practices. This future is known as the 'Current Trend' scenario.

Through community-defined alternative scenarios, regions can explore new ideas and assumptions about growth and development. These alternatives are cross-evaluated and compared against the Current Trend scenario. Performance measures and consistency with local values and priorities are used to rank scenarios and select a preferred regional growth vision.

Each city and the County are involved throughout the visioning process. When completed, the Preferred Regional Growth Vision will be presented for consideration and possible incorporation into respective city, county, and RTPA plans and programs as appropriate.

Shasta*FORWARD*>> adds new data, technical modeling methodology, public engagement tools, and a regional forum needed for future RTPA compliance with SB 375.

It is anticipated that the ShastaFORWARD>> community visioning process will be completed by July 2009. Key deliverables include the following:

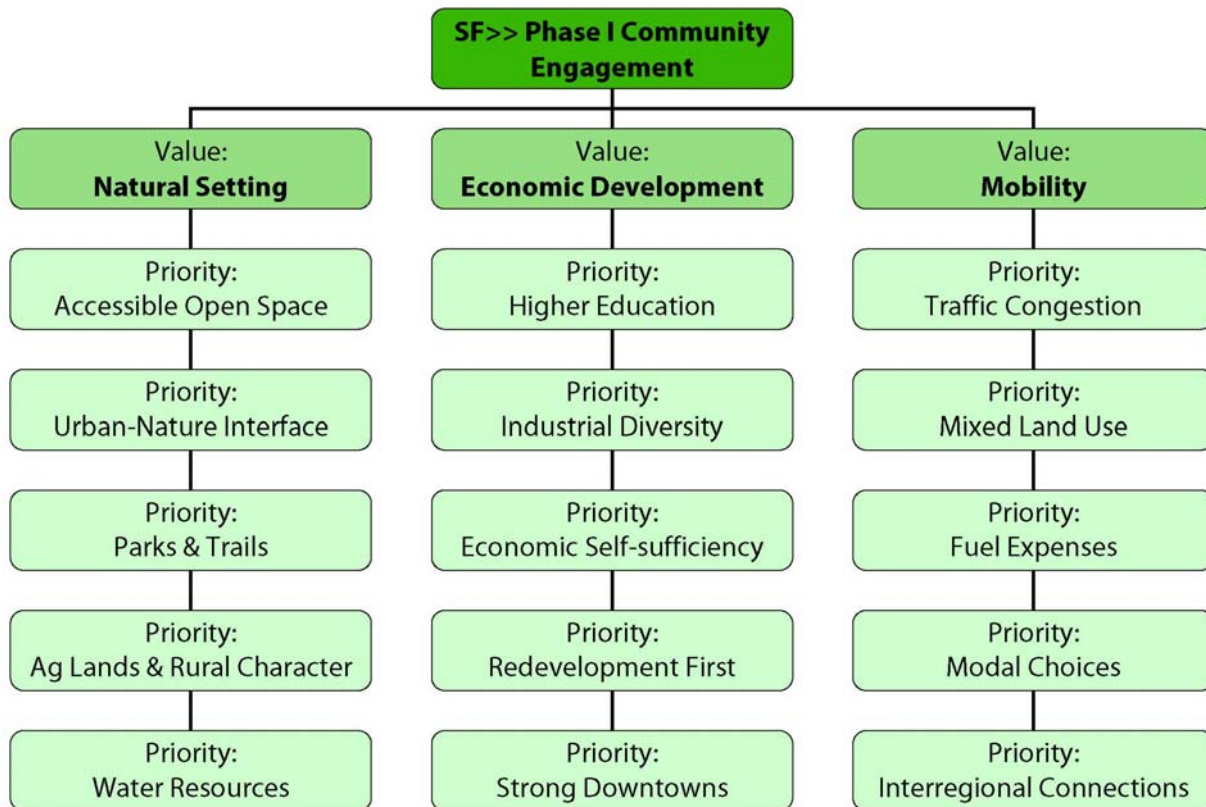
- A final report describing the region’s community-defined growth vision and accompanying implementation strategies;
- Scenario modeling output, including land use maps and projected progress toward regional goals and performance measures; and
- Regional GIS datasets and modeling outputs for use by local agencies and the RTPA.

Project Update

Over the past several months, the Community Values & Priorities Assessment was carried out. An estimated 1,700 residents directly participated in this effort by completing a survey or attending a small-group outreach session. Put another way, approximately 1 out of every 80 Shasta County residents age 16 and older voiced their thoughts and opinions thus far. The Community Values & Priorities Assessment report (Attachment D) summarizes and presents a preliminary analysis of all public input gathered during this effort. More specifically, the report includes the following major headings:

- Public Engagement Methods and Participation Results
- Community Values & Priorities Assessment
- Next Steps: Community-based Scenario Development

As illustrated below, community input was organized into three core values, expressed through fifteen priorities.



Residents have been invited to examine and comment on draft findings and all source data during a 21-day review period. The final report reflects all feedback received.

Agreed upon community values and priorities provided the building blocks for alternative growth scenario outlines generated during community workshops in Anderson, Burney, Redding, and Shasta Lake. With assistance from the public, these outlines will be used to create three scenarios, which will be fully developed akin to the 'Current Trend' scenario.

A multi-step vetting process is underway to help insure that the visioning process is community-driven and the resulting alternative scenarios reflect local interests. At key decision points, the ShastaFORWARD>> Steering Committee, planning commissions, and agency councils/boards are asked to review and provide feedback. As previously directed by the RTPA, project findings and recommendations will be presented to local governing councils and boards responsible for land use planning for their consideration.

A partial project calendar covering September '08 through June '09 is provided by 'Attachment B'.

FY 08/09 Regional Blueprint Grant Application

Approximately \$4,250,000 is available to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to fund continuing and new Blueprint projects in FY 08/09. Applications were due to Caltrans no later than October 10, 2008.

Requested tasks are designed to sharpen outreach, visioning, and modeling capacities to reflect community values and priorities as well as emerging state and federal planning requirements. Comments and suggestions provided by city and county planning officials have likewise been incorporated into the proposed scope of work. In summary, the Shasta County RTPA's FY 08/09 grant application requests assistance in the following areas:

- 1) Transportation & Infrastructure Assessment (\$75,000) – Determine the maximum increment of additional growth that can be accommodated by currently planned roadway improvements. The focus will be on strategic locations (i.e. downtown cores, major transit corridors, and key development "node" locations).

Test the impacts of additional growth based on the previously described scenarios by "loading" more intensity/density at key locations to ascertain the level of additional improvements that will be required to accommodate significant additional development. This will involve development of various growth scenarios at each location in order to establish a range of improvements options for consideration.

Estimate the costs and/or benefits associated with the capacity increases required under each scenario. Determine appropriate ways to incorporate public transit to serve the growth centers, including the need for transit centers, route configuration modifications, etc.

These tasks will be repeated for sewer and water infrastructure.

The end result is a cost/benefit analysis based on a range of intensity/density scenarios within the sub-area planning zone. The analysis will assist local city and county jurisdictions in tailoring community growth strategies toward Blueprint program goals.

- 2) Local Agency Participation & Inter-agency Support (\$75,000) – Kick-starts inter-agency coordination relating to technical resources and products. Additionally, it is intended that this platform will be the first steps toward greater collaboration in the larger far-northern California region. Subtasks include a) development of a platform, library, and sharing tools necessary to facilitate access and exchange of technical modeling data, b) technical training session for GIS users throughout Shasta County and nearby North State regions, and c) reimbursement for partner agency staff time and resources for technical training session and activities essential to delivery of grant funded tasks.

- 3) Meta-Analyses of Scenario Outputs (\$75,000) – Builds upon existing technical work tasks previously funded through the Blueprint program and adds technical capacities needed to maintain and carry-out the vision. Augments technical modeling, mapping, visualization, and performance measuring capabilities needed to explore community-defined regional growth strategies. Also includes sub-area planning for development in core urban zones and regionally significant transportation corridors.

- 4) Preferred Scenario Communications Support (\$75,000) – Builds upon existing public information and communication efforts, including production, design, printing, and regional distribution of print media, such as brochures, mailers, inserts, advertisements, and/or other methods as appropriate.

- 5) Update Travel Model for Public Transportation Modeling (\$25,000) – Update Shasta County Travel Model with new Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) routes and schedules. Explore public transportation service scenarios needed for alternative scenario modeling.

The total cost of tasks outlined above is \$325,000, of which \$260,000 (80%) is requested in the FY 08/09 grant application. An authorizing resolution from the RTPA is required to receive any grant funds that may be awarded (see Attachment A).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The ShastaFORWARD>> project study area encompasses all of Shasta County, including each city, the county, and all other entities interested in transportation and land use. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) administer the Blueprint program and provide grant funds.

FINANCING

All Blueprint efforts to date are funded up to 80% through California Regional Blueprint Planning Program grants. In FY 06/07, \$375,000 was awarded to the RTPA. An additional \$140,000 was awarded in FY 07/08. The required 20% match funds are budgeted in the Overall Work Program. Grant funds expended to date for ShastaFORWARD>> equal approximately \$284,000.

Should all proposed FY 08/09 tasks be fully funded, the minimum local share will be \$65,000. Matching funds – less any eligible in-kind contributions – are provided by State Planning funds.

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DSL/DTW/jac

Attachments: Attachment A: Resolution 08-14
Attachment B: SF>> project calendar (Sept '08 – June '09)
Attachment C: FY 08/09 Blueprint Grant Application
Attachment D: Community Values & Priorities Assessment Report