



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of February 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 5-B

PREPARED BY: Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

2026 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Development Update

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) is a long-range (minimum 20-year horizon) transportation planning document MCTC is required to update at least once every four years. The 2026 RTP/SCS will outline transportation infrastructure investments, coordinated with local jurisdictions land use planning, through the year 2049. Planned transportation improvements must be financially constrained based on reasonable funding estimates, and performance measures will be defined to evaluate plan effectiveness. Building upon prior plans and anticipated for adoption in Summer 2026, development of the 2026 RTP/SCS began with data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement and public outreach, and the establishment of plan goals and objectives.

At this stage of the RTP/SCS development process, MCTC staff are actively evaluating Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scenarios to assess greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction performance pursuant to California Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), as well as associated travel demand forecasts required for federal air quality conformity. Working in close coordination with the SCS consultant and a Valley-wide air quality specialist consultant, MCTC is testing alternative land use and transportation strategy combinations using the regional travel demand model to quantify vehicle miles traveled (VMT), emissions outcomes, and overall system performance. This iterative scenario analysis informs refinement of the preferred strategy and ensures the 2026 RTP/SCS meets both state climate targets and federal air quality requirements.

MCTC will host a focused public workshop in accordance with SB 375 and MCTC Public Participation Plan guidelines. The workshop will center on the SCS and will present a summary of the SCS purpose and statutory framework, the alternative scenarios being

modeled, and draft performance results derived from the regional travel demand model. Feedback received through this process will be incorporated into continued technical evaluation and selection of the preferred SCS approach within the 2026 RTP/SCS. The meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, with both in-person and virtual participation options, and will be recorded for those unable to attend.

Upcoming Hybrid Workshop Date:

- Date: February 25, 2026
- Time: 5 – 6 p.m.
- Location: 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201 Madera, CA 93637
- Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090052298>

Following the public workshop, MCTC will convene its SCS Advisory Committee to review the results of the Sustainable Communities Strategy scenario analysis, including GHG performance, travel demand outcomes, and public input received during outreach activities conducted. The Committee will deliberate on the comparative performance of the analyzed scenarios and consider stakeholder feedback before taking formal action to recommend a preferred SCS scenario to the MPO Policy Board for inclusion in the 2026 RTP/SCS.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact on the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.