

**Board Report**

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**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
JUNE 15, 2016****SUBJECT: SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT/PERFORMANCE METRICS****ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE****RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE status report on **Sustainability Annual Report and Sustainability Performance Metrics**.

ISSUE

In April 2015, Metro released its first Countywide Sustainability Annual Report (Annual Report). Staff is updating the Board on the progress to date on the second Countywide Sustainability Annual report and presenting case studies that will be featured in the report (Attachment A). The case studies exemplify Metro's sustainability principles, represent various geographies in Los Angeles County, inform County stakeholders of new and innovative sustainability projects, and aim to inspire future sustainability projects countywide.

DISCUSSION

In December 2012, the Board adopted the Metro Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy (CSPP). As part of the Implementation Plan in the CSPP, staff was directed to produce an annual report tracking sustainability indicators countywide. Last year, Metro released the first of these reports which included case studies and sustainability performance metrics. In preparation for the 2016 Annual Report, staff compiled a list of potential case studies of sustainable transportation projects from around the county (Attachment A), as well as status updates on the Implementation Plan (Attachment B). The case studies were selected based on geographic diversity and exemplifying Metro sustainability principles from the CSPP.

The goal of the Annual Report is to track how Metro is integrating sustainability principles into Metro activities and to track countywide sustainability outcomes, consistent with CSPP direction. The CSPP also includes a list of specific sustainability performance metrics. These performance metrics track sustainability outcomes influenced by Metro's activities as well as those outside of the agency's direct control.

The 2015 annual report included three main components: 1) case studies, 2) implementation status update, and 3) sustainability performance metrics. The case studies focused on transportation-related projects throughout Los Angeles County that exemplify Metro's sustainability principles. These case studies were representative of various land use conditions, geography, and travel patterns throughout the county. The case studies highlighted new and innovative sustainability projects, and aimed to advance continued sustainability work in the region. The report also provided a status update on various activities Metro is undertaking to implement the countywide sustainability policy. The section on performance metrics established a baseline measurement for the following:

- vehicle miles traveled
- total person trips for carpool and active transportation
- number of jobs within a half-mile radius of station
- population within a half-mile radius of station
- pedestrian and cyclists killed or injured in car crashes
- daily total CO2 emissions for LA County
- daily total vehicle delay for LA County
- average trip lengths for auto trips
- average trip lengths for total trips
- Metro transit ridership total annual boarding

Following the release of the 2015 Sustainability Annual Report, the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee directed staff on July 15, 2015 to augment the performance metrics. Subject to data availability and other technical considerations, these new metrics are to include equity, job access, technology, vehicle ownership, activity centers, bicycle and pedestrian safety, emerging technologies and shared mobility, environmental justice and income in Los Angeles County. Staff was requested to consider reporting techniques that utilize online or interactive media. Further, this effort should improve the sensitivity and reliability of metrics over time by emphasizing observed data over modeled data. Finally, as part of the effort to improve metrics, staff was directed to design a framework by which the Board could consider developing quantified objectives.

Staff is initiating procurement for a technical consultant to assist with the enhanced metric assignment. We currently anticipate circulating the case studies and implementation status update components presented here later this year. Staff also plans to update the Implementation Plan for future annual reports to better reflect new and evolving work efforts related to implementing the sustainability policy in the CSPP.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to develop the case studies and implementation status for release later this year. For 2017, staff anticipates updated sustainability performance metrics per Committee feedback and setting a framework for performance metrics goals. Staff will report back to the Committee as needed to with updates regarding the agency's on-going efforts.

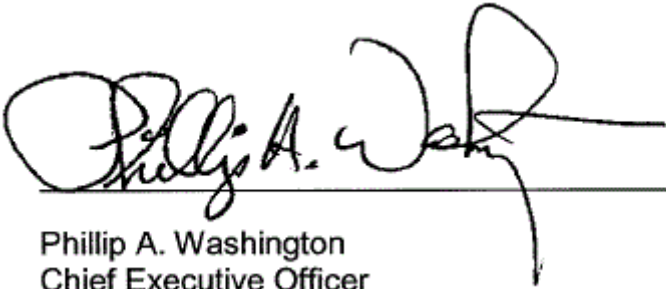
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Proposed List of Case Studies for 2016 Annual Report

Attachment B - Draft Program Metrics Update

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ATTACHMENT A

Proposed List of Case Studies for 2016 Annual Report

Rosemead Boulevard Safety Enhancement and Beautification Project
Terminal Island Freeway Environmental Sound Barrier aka “The Great Wall of Mulch”
Metro Bike Hub in El Monte
Go LA, a mobility marketplace for the Los Angeles Region
Metro Open Streets Program
Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Stations
Gold Line Maintenance Campus
Avalon Green Alley South of the Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project
Santa Monica Colorado Esplanade Project
Metro Division 13 Bus Maintenance and Operations Facility
Electric Bus Program
Peck Water Conservation Park Trail Head in Unincorporated County – as part of the Emerald Necklace – Rio Hondo trails
Metro Carshare Program
San Gabriel River Greenway Improvements – West Bank (Phase 1)

Case Study Descriptions:

Rosemead Boulevard Safety Enhancement and Beautification Project

Lead: City of Temple City

Sustainability Principles: Access, Prosperity, Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods, Community Development

The Rosemead Boulevard Safety Enhancement and Beautification Project resulted from Temple City’s vision to improve safety and enhance multi-modal access along Rosemead Boulevard after Caltrans relinquished jurisdiction to the City in 2008. The project includes protected bicycle lanes with landscaped islands, transit stop improvements, improved sidewalks and pedestrian accessibility, and pedestrian amenities such as street furniture and public art. The project was completed in May 2014.

Terminal Island Freeway Environmental Sound Barrier aka “The Great Wall of Mulch”

Lead: City of Long Beach

Sustainability Principle: Environmental Stewardship

The Mulch Wall, completed in August of 2013, is a demonstration project of an alternative soundwall, located on the east side of the Terminal Island Freeway in West Long Beach. The wall is made from 800 cubic yards of locally repurposed wood chips derived from street tree trimming operations and contained in reinforced chain link box. The wall blocks sound as well as a traditional masonry block sound wall at a much lower cost.

Metro Bike Hub in El Monte

Lead: Metro

Sustainability Principles: Access, Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods

In September of 2015, the first Metro Bike Hub opened at the El Monte station. The Metro Bike Hub provides secure-access, high-capacity bicycle parking facility with additional bike services. The facility offers retail sale of bike parts, repairs, and rentals during the staffed hours, as well as bike clinics and other events to help support bike transportation. The development of the Metro Bike Hub program along with other Metro bike services such as bike share and bike lockers will promote first-last mile access and connectivity between modes.

Go LA, a mobility marketplace for the Los Angeles Region

Leads: City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Xerox Innovation Group (XIG) Grenoble and Xerox PARC (Palo Alto Research Center, Xerox Mobility group in Xerox State and Local Solutions, and many other stakeholders

Sustainability Principle: System Productivity

In partnership with the City of Los Angeles and powered by Xerox, the Go LA app and platform integrates all the available transportation mode options for getting around the Los Angeles metro area. The app uses the variety of modes to compute the fastest, cheapest, and most sustainable ways to get to a destination. The year-long pilot program launched in January 2016 and will culminate in an RFP process.

Metro Open Streets Program

Lead: Metro

Sustainability Principle: Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods, Community Development

In September 2013 the Metro Board approved the framework for the Open Streets Competitive Grant Program. The program funds a series of regional events that temporarily close streets to automobile traffic and open them to cyclists, pedestrians and other modes of non-motorized transportation. The program aims to provide opportunities for riding transit, walking and riding a bike, possibly for the first time; to encourage future shift to more sustainable transportation modes; and to encourage civic engagement related to the development of multi-modal policies and infrastructure at the city/community level. Cycle 2 of the program is expected to begin in the fall of 2016.

Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Stations

Lead: City of Pasadena

Sustainability Principles: Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods,

Through the Metro Call for Projects grant program, the City of Pasadena has upgraded 38 Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations in public parking facilities, and funded the installation of 12 new level 2 chargers at private properties with the condition to allow for public access for charging. These charging stations will reduce vehicle miles traveled by locating them near light rail stations and employment destination points. The project was completed in June of 2015.

Gold Line Maintenance Campus

Lead: Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, Metro

Sustainability Principles: Healthy Neighborhoods, Environmental Stewardship

The Gold Line Maintenance Campus, located in the City of Monrovia as part of the recent Metro Gold Line extension, was designed and built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards. It aims to reduce the consumption of natural resources and reduce pollution during operations, as well as provide a healthy work environment for staff. The facility includes features such as stormwater capture for

infiltration into the ground, solar power production, irrigation using Smart Technology and reclaimed water, and use of recycled and locally sourced materials. The facility was dedicated in May 2015.

Avalon Green Alley South of the Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project

Leads: The Trust for Public Land, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

Sustainability Principles: Access, Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods, Community Development, Urban Greening, Context Sensitivity, Environmental Stewardship

Avalon Green Alley South, completed in September 2015, is the first section of a new network of Green Alleys that will encourage walking and social interaction among local residents with its interconnected pedestrian walkways and gathering spaces. The alley incorporates vines, fruit trees, community-designed murals, and a pedestrian zone; it also includes Low Impact Development (LID) infrastructure features that showcase ways to address the heat island effect and improve water quality and flood control through the use of permeable surfaces, native plantings, and natural filtration.

Santa Monica Colorado Esplanade Project

Lead: City of Santa Monica

Sustainability Principles: Access, Prosperity, Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods, Community Development, Urban Greening, Context Sensitivity

Scheduled for completion in May/June 2016, the Colorado Avenue Esplanade will form a gateway into the City from the Expo station and will provide pedestrian and bicycle linkages among the Expo station and Downtown Santa Monica. The project contains tree lined 20 foot wide sidewalks of decorative, two-color textured paving; festival lighting; wooden tree wells; and a separate bicycle track. The construction of the project is located between the new Downtown Santa Monica Expo Rail Station at 4th Street to the Santa Monica Pier entrance on Ocean Avenue.

Metro Division 13 Bus Maintenance and Operations Facility

Lead: Metro

Sustainability Principles: Urban Greening, Context Sensitivity, Environmental Stewardship

The Division 13 Bus Maintenance and Operations facility, built by Metro, is located in downtown Los Angeles. The facility is designed to accommodate up to 200 compressed-natural-gas buses. It is set to achieve LEED Gold goal certification and promotes incorporates regionally sourced and recycled material content, more efficient use of water, reclaimed or recycled water, a green roof, native vegetation, and artwork referencing the unique local context. The facility began operations in February of 2016.

Electric Bus Program

Lead: Foothill Transit

Sustainability Principles: Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods

Foothill Transit has committed to operating a 100% electric bus fleet by the year 2030 to further its sustainable transportation efforts and promote vehicles with zero tailpipe emissions. By 2014, Foothill Transit had procured 15 Proterra electric buses and was operating a fully electrified bus line; this year, the agency added two more electric buses to its fleet.

Peck Water Conservation Park Trail Head in Unincorporated County – as part of the Emerald Necklace – Rio Hondo trails

Leads: Amigos de los Rios, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Watershed Projection and Los Angeles County Recreation and Parks

Sustainability Principles: Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods, Urban Greening, Environmental Stewardship

This project, completed in 2010, consisted in clearance of surface concrete left over from prior Quarry industrial to enable urban greening enhancements adjacent to an existing County Class A Bike Trail within Peck Water Conservation Park. The enhancement included low water use irrigation, way finding and interpretive signage, an extensive native plant restoration area and native tree canopy to support local bird habitat and create a nature preserve setting with a clear view of the San Gabriel Mountains for local residents.

Metro Carshare Program

Lead: Metro

Sustainability Principles: System Productivity, Green Modes

In May of 2015, Metro launched a carshare program to provide transit patrons an additional option, short-term car rental, for making the first-last mile connection. Zipcar, the first carshare company to join the program, helped make this option feasible by putting in place a one-way policy: after renting a car, users can drop it off at any other available Zipcar space.

San Gabriel River Greenway Improvements – West Bank (Phase 1)

Leads: Amigos de los Rios, Mountain View, El Monte Union and El Monte City School Districts, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Watershed Protection and Los Angeles County Recreation and Parks

Sustainability Principles: Access, Green Modes, Healthy Neighborhoods, Community Development, Urban Greening, Context Sensitivity

This project, completed in 2015 in El Monte, consisted of blight removal and urban greening improvements to the West Bank of the San Gabriel River – adjacent to the existing Bike and Equestrian Trails. Improvements included trash removal, site grading, planting of native habitat trees and shrubs, a San Gabriel Mountain abstract mural, installation of site amenities, exercise equipment, benches, tables and nature based play elements and some decomposed granite trails in addition to wayfinding and interpretive signage. The project established connections between four schools located adjacent to the river with the greenway.

Attachment B

Draft Program Metrics Status Update

Metro Countywide Sustainability Implementation Plan Items and Status			
Implementation Item	Initiation Timeframe	Metro Participants	2016 Status
1. Performance Measurement and Monitoring			
1.1 Develop/Refine Sustainability Assessment Tools to evaluate the sustainability of projects and plans.	0-2 year	Countywide Planning	> Staff is continuing to develop methods to assess sustainability in Metro projects. The Long Range Transportation Plan is utilizing sustainability metrics.
1.2 Include sustainability performance metrics in the Sustainability section of the Short Range Transportation Plan.	0-1 year	Countywide Planning	> The Short Range Transportation Plan is not being updated this year.
1.3 Evaluate and report on progress toward achieving sustainability policies and priorities by developing an annual report on the program and countywide performance metrics.	Annual	Countywide Planning	> The second annual report is currently being developed by metro staff. > Metro is currently in the process of updating the countywide performance metrics based on input from the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee.
1.4 Include sustainability performance metrics in the Sustainability section of the Long Range Transportation Plan.	Next Cycle	Countywide Planning	> Metro created new sustainability performance metrics by which all projects for the proposed sales tax measure were evaluated. The same measures will apply to the upcoming LRTP.
1.5 Conduct before and after studies of projects funded through the Call for Projects to quantify impact.	Current and Future Cycles	Countywide Planning, Highway Program	> Projects with a sustainability focus were highlighted as part of board and stakeholder discussions around future call for projects (Agenda Item Number 23 of the September 2015 Board Meeting). Additional assessment pending as part of process toward 2017 Call.
2. Integration of Sustainability Principles into Metro's Planning Functions			
2.1 Strengthen Call for Projects link to Metro's sustainability commitments.	0-1 years	Countywide Planning, Highway Program	> Criteria used to evaluate project applications for the 2015 Call included a "Complete Streets" integrated, multimodal transportation network, consistency with Senate Bill (SB) 375 goals of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGe), and First/Last Mile access to the transit system.
2.2 Continue to provide technical and financial support to cities and the county to advance transit supportive planning through the continuation of the TOD Planning Grant Program and the anticipated Toolkit for Transit Supportive Planning that will be released in late summer 2016.	0-2 years	Countywide Planning	> A total of 35 TOD Planning Grants totaling in \$21.5million have been allocated to Los Angeles County municipalities. > The development of the Toolkit for Transit Supportive Planning is underway. The Toolkit will include a series of Los Angeles County relevant best practices that local municipalities can utilize to advance transit supportive planning and local and regional sustainability goals.
2.3 Per Board Direction, continue development of an Active Transportation and Design Policy that will advance the Context Sensitivity, Green Modes and Healthy Neighborhoods policy priorities.	0-2 years	Countywide Planning	> This plan is now referred to as the Metro Complete Streets Policy, which was adopted by the Metro Board in October 2014. As part of implementation of Metro's Complete Streets Policy, Metro developed an Active Transportation Strategic Plan (Plan), which identifies needs, resources and strategies to improve and increase walking, bicycling and transit use in LA County. The Metro Board will consider the adoption of the Plan in May 2016.
2.4 Organize staff webinars and briefings, as needed, to highlight trends and promote continuous learning within Countywide Planning, as well as between departments, on sustainability issues.	Ongoing	Countywide Planning, other depts. as applicable	> Received report from pro-bono communications team (Seed-LA) on proposed methods to foster continuous communication. Created internal briefing as needed on issues of interest (e.g. CEQA guidelines update)

2.5 Per Board Direction, develop a Countywide Safe Routes to School initiative to promote active transportation among school-age children.	1-3 years	Countywide Planning	> Staff is currently managing a Safe Routes to School Pilot Program working with ten schools to provide education and encouragement to promote a safer environment for students to walk and bike to school. This program will help inform the development of the Countywide Safe Routes to School Initiative. > Staff has convened a Countywide Safe Routes to School Technical Advisory Committee and conducted a series of six Safe Routes to School Stakeholder Summits across all Sub-regions to provide input and guidance as Metro and its Partners continue to identify strategies to promote safe walking and bicycling among children and their families to and from schools, and to improve mobility and health in communities throughout Los Angeles County.
2.6 Per Board Direction, develop safe routes to transit programs that target families as well as youth, senior, and low-income populations.	1-4 years	Countywide Planning	> Developed scope for upcoming Blue Line first/last mile study that will focus on community engagement and needs
3. Pilot Projects & Community Partnerships			
3.1 Subject to management and board approval, develop a Sustainable Transportation Demonstration Program to support city partners in implementing innovative capital or operations improvements that apply guidance from the policy. Seek funding from SCAG, AQMD, State Strategic Growth Council, and federal/state grants.	0-2 years	Countywide Planning	> Three demo projects have been selected and are in the procurement phase. Metro staff is in communication with the respective Council of Government for each project.
3.2 Per Board Resolution, partner with the Department of Public Health and Tree People to develop a Systemwide Urban Greening Plan to improve placemaking, increase environmental stewardship, and create livable streets around transit stations with funds awarded by the State Strategic Growth Council.	0-2 years	Countywide Planning	> The Urban Greening Plan was completed, and the plan and accompanying Urban Greening Toolkit are available on the Metro Sustainability in Countywide Planning website. > The Urban Greening Implementation Action Plan was approved by the Ad-Hoc Sustainability committee in January 2016 and includes a demonstration project component to fund four (4) Urban Greening demonstrations that improve accessing transit stations.
4. Collaboration/Outreach/Education			
4.1 External: Disseminate information on the policy, associated strategies, and tools to regional stakeholders and the greater public.	0-2 years	Countywide Planning	> Staff is continuing outreach through meetings and presentations with Councils of Government on our current efforts. > Staff updated the Metro Countywide Planning Sustainability website to better disseminate information on policies and events, as well as collect feedback from the public.
4.2 Internal: Disseminate information on the policy, associated strategies, and tools for inter- and intra-department coordination and collaboration.	0-2 years	Countywide Planning	> Create sustainability considerations, focused on first/last mile, in the joint development process. Developed agency-wide approach for cap-and-trade Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program.
4.3 Organize forums and workshops to promote and inform cities, industry professionals, and other stakeholders of best practices in the areas of active transportation, transportation demand management, and other sustainability topics.	Ongoing	Countywide Planning	> Metro developed curriculum and conducted Sustainable Design Trainings for successful Call for Projects funding recipients. The intent of the trainings is to assist cities in drafting a sustainable design plan for each call project starting with the 2013 Call for Projects. > Metro also held an Active Transportation Summit in 2016 which connected stakeholders to resources and services that can help lead to implementation of safer and more accessible streets for all users
5. Regional Planning & Policy Development			
5.1 Partner with SCAG to conduct a First-Last Mile Strategic Plan to explore opportunities to increase ridership through access improvements adjacent to transit stops.	0-2	Countywide Planning	> Staff is conducting ongoing coordination meetings with cities and Councils of Government around the new Expo and Gold Stations to promote first/last mile strategies. > The Blue Line First Last Mile Plan, funded by the Active Transportation Program, is in the procurement process. The agreement letter has been signed by Metro and is pending execution by Caltrans. > Metro also has developed a First Last Mile training program co-funded by the Southern California Association of Governments

5.2 Serve on advisory committees to develop regional policies and plans that seek to implement the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.	0-4	Countywide Planning	> Metro takes part in the Southern California Association of Government's CEO Sustainability Working Group.
5.3 Continue efforts to coordinate a Countywide Zero-Emissions Truck Collaborative to accelerate market adoption of zero and near-zero vehicles in Los Angeles County.	0-2	Highway Program, Countywide Planning	> In 2012 Metro formed a Countywide Zero-Emission Trucks Collaborative to promote consistency among public agencies working to catalyze the development and deployment of zero-emission trucks in Los Angeles County. This collaborative includes the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). These stakeholders meet on an ad-hoc basis and have shared information on upcoming (State and Federal) funding opportunities, evaluated non-solicited proposals, continuously discussed ways to increase our regional competitiveness for grant funding, and pursued eligible funding for testing and demonstrating new zero and near-zero emission truck technologies.
5.4 Provide leadership for the development of the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy by working with SCAG and engaging other County Transportation Commissions to share best practices, advance innovation, and develop coalitions to advocate for greater federal and state funding.	0-4	CEO's Office, Countywide Planning	> Metro has extensively coordinated with the Southern California Association of Governments on the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.
6. Funding			
6.1 Seek federal, state, and local funds to implement planning guidance and strategies to advance both Metro's sustainability goals and those of the RTP/SCS.	0-4	Countywide Planning	> Metro assisted in developing Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities applications and participates in a Southern California Technical Assistance group to advise applicants and cities on first/last mile and transportation infrastructure improvements to include in applications. > Metro developed a transportation component menu for developers and cities available on Metro's Sustainability in Countywide Planning website.
7. Policy Updates			
7.1 Review and consider updates to the policy at least every five years.		Metro Board, Countywide Planning	> As part of this report to the committee, staff will consider updated/streamlined reporting mechanisms and prioritization of implementation actions

Metro Countywide Planning and Development Sustainability Policies of Countywide Relevance

Policy/Program	2016 Status
Green Design	
Urban Greening Plan	Complete
Urban Greening Implementation Action Plan	In Progress
Vehicle Technology	
Sustainability Demonstration Projects	Implementation
SCAG Joint-Work Program: EV Readiness Plan	Implementation
Local Access	
First/Last Mile Strategic Plan	Complete
Rail to River Intermediate ATC Feasibility Study	Complete
Connect US Action Plan	Implementation
Blue Line First/Last Mile Study	In Progress
Active Transportation Strategic Plan	In Progress (Almost Complete)
LA River Bike Path Feasibility Study	In Progress
First/Last Mile Demonstration Program	Implementation
Open Streets Program	In Progress
Eastside Access Improvements	Implementation (Construction Started)
Bicycling Outreach, Education and Encouragement	Implementation
Safe Routes to School Pilot	Implementation
Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor (ATC) Connector	Implementation
Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor (ATC) Connector Project – Segment B	Implementation (Alternative Analysis)
Performance Measurement	
Sustainability Assessment Tool	Revising
South Bay Climate Action Plan	In Progress
Mobility Matrices	Complete
System Productivity	
Car Share Pilot Program	Operating
Downtown Los Angeles Bike Share Pilot	Implementation (Launch Summer 2016)
Vanpool	Implementation
Bike Hub/Bike Parking	Implementation
Complete Streets	
Complete Streets Policy	Complete
Call for Projects	Implementation
Transit-Oriented Development	
Union Station Master Plan	Implementation
TOD Toolkit	In Progress (Almost Complete)
TOD Planning Grants	Implementation
AHSC Policy Framework	In Progress
TDM/Virtual Access	
Regional Rideshare including: Ridematching, Guaranteed Ride Home, Metro Rewards, Go Metro to Work Free, Bike Week, Rideshare Week	Implementation