

Meeting Minutes

Joint Meeting of Scenario Planning Model & Public Health Working Groups

July 14, 2015 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Agenda: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees/CommitteeDocLibrary/phwg071515agn.pdf>

Public Health Work Program Comments:

SCAG staff presented progress on the FY 14-15 Public Health Work Program which can be found at:

http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Documents/PublicHealthWorkProgram_ActionPlan_rev031015.pdf

- One member expressed their belief that the focus was too great on Active Transportation and not enough on other health impacts such as Goods Movement and/or proximity of housing to highways.

Comments on Scenario Planning Model Presentations:

Joe DiStefano from Calthorpe Analytics and Lawrence Frank from Urban Design for Health presented on the Public Health Module for Urban Footprint. This included a technical presentation of the model methodology. Due to the length of the presentation there was a limited amount of time for questions. SCAG staff will ensure there is additional time to discuss the model outputs with interested stakeholders.

- Members requested access to the SPM for local jurisdictions for local planning activities. The local interface is not yet available but should be available in Fall of 2016.
- One member expressed concern around errors in classification of private parks which were listed as vacant land or residential. Member was worried this would negatively affect ranking of projects. It was explained that 'perfect data' is difficult to achieve and that there will be opportunities for local jurisdictions to improve their base layers once the local interface is released. The current assumptions will be on the conservative side given the types of land use inconsistencies that were discussed and any minor errors across the study area will not have noticeable impacts given the size of the region.
- One member wanted a better understanding of how the tool could be used for analysis of the creation of a 6,000-person town created from farmland, since there would be no baseline data. It was explained that large demographic shifts will always pose challenges – but that future scenarios with different land use plans could be analyzed if a theoretical demographic makeup was used.
- One member asked if the model could integrate behavior change impacted by factors other than Built Environment – such as attitudes/concerns related to transportation. It was explained that the current tool does not have that capacity but it would ideally be incorporated into future iterations.
- One member wanted to better understand if/how this model could be available to areas across the state. The current model has been calibrated using data from across the state, however detailed studies with specific scenarios have not been developed by all regions and are therefore not freely available. The goal is to make it available publicly.
- Questions around methodologies and data were raised. The presentations are available at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees/Pages/CommitteeL2/SingleCommittee.aspx?CID=35> for review and download and further discussion.

Comments on RTP/SCS Strategies:

SCAG staff presented the proposed Public Health Strategies and actions for the 2016 RTP/SCS and informed participants that comments are requested by July 31st, 2015 to Baerg@scag.ca.gov

- Details may be viewed at:
http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Documents/PublicHealthWorkProgram_ActionPlan_rev031015.pdf
- One member raised two specific questions on language:
 - Strategy 1.C refers to ‘Leverage existing activities” – which was clarified by SCAG staff to refer to identifying areas where agencies are doing similar work and can be informed by each other’s work. SCAG will work to bring these types of projects together.
 - Strategy 2.D: refers to “Identifying policies that create barriers” to public health. SCAG staff explained this referred to rules that hinder or undermine the larger health goals of projects that will support improved public health outcomes. The goal is to identify how SCAG can identify best practices from other member agencies to get around barriers.