

## **DISCUSSION DRAFT BLUEPRINT PREFERRED SCENARIO FOR 2050 MAP AND GROWTH PRINCIPLES**

### **BLUEPRINT CONCEPT MAP**

The Blueprint map depicts a way for the region to grow through the year 2050 in a manner generally consistent with the growth principles summarized below. The map is a result of numerous public workshops and meetings with local staff and elected officials. The map is intended to be interpreted and used as a concept level illustration of the growth principles. It was developed with parcel-level data and analysis to help ensure that the growth concepts were being applied in a realistic manner; however, it is not intended to be applied or implemented in a literal, parcel-level manner.

For example, the map assumes certain levels and locations of both “reinvestment” (i.e. additional development on already built parcels) and greenfield development (i.e. large-scale development on vacant land). The purpose of this mapping is to illustrate, generally, the amounts and locations for these types of growth. It is not intended to indicate that a specific parcel should or should not be developed in a particular manner. That level of planning is the responsibility of local governments, and is beyond the specificity appropriate for regional-scale, long-term scenario planning.

### **GROWTH PRINCIPLES**

1. Transportation Choices: Developments should be designed to encourage people to sometimes walk, ride bicycles, ride the bus, ride light rail, take the train or carpool. Use of Blueprint growth concepts for land use and right-of-way design will encourage use of these modes of travel and the remaining auto trips will be, on average, shorter.
2. Mixed-Use Developments: Buildings homes and shops, entertainment, office and even light industrial uses near each other can create active, vital neighborhoods. This mixture of uses can be either in a vertical arrangement (mixed in one building) or horizontal (with a combination of uses in close proximity). These types of projects function as local activity centers, contributing to a sense of community, where people tend to walk or bike to destinations and interact more with each other. Separated land uses, on the other hand, lead to the need to travel more by auto because of the distance between uses. Mixed land uses can occur at many scales. Examples include: a housing project located near an employment center, a small shopping center located within a residential neighborhood, and a building with ground floor retail and apartments or condominiums on the upper floor(s).
3. Compact Development: Creating environments that are more compactly built and use space in an efficient but aesthetic manner can encourage more walking, biking, and public transit use, and shorten auto trips.
4. Housing Choice and Diversity: Providing a variety of places where people can live – apartments, condominiums, townhouses, and single-family detached homes on varying

lot sizes – creates opportunities for the variety of people who need them: families, singles, seniors, and people with special needs. This issue is of special concern for the people with very low-, low-, and moderate-income, often our teachers, other public employees and professionals, as well as retail employees, service workers and other people for whom finding housing close to work is challenging. By providing a diversity of housing options, more people have a choice.

5. Use of Existing Assets: In urbanized areas, development on infill or vacant lands, intensification of the use of underutilized parcels (for example, more development on the site of a low-density retail strip shopping center), or redevelopment can make better use of existing public infrastructure. This can also include rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings, denser clustering of buildings in suburban office parks, and joint use of existing public facilities such as schools and parking garages.
6. Quality Design: The design details of any land use development - such as the relationship to the street, setbacks, placement of garages, sidewalks, landscaping, the aesthetics of building design, and the design of the public right-of-way (the sidewalks, connected streets and paths, bike lanes, the width of streets) - are all factors that can influence the attractiveness of living in a compact development and facilitate the ease of walking and biking to work or neighborhood services. Good site and architectural design is an important factor in creating a sense of community and a sense of place.
7. Natural Resources Conservation: This principle encourages the incorporation of public use open space (such as parks, town squares, trails, and greenbelts) within development projects, over and above state requirements; along with wildlife and plant habitat preservation, agricultural preservation and promotion of environment-friendly practices such as energy efficient design, water conservation and stormwater management, and shade trees to reduce the ground temperatures in the summer. In addition to conserving resources and protecting species, this principle improves overall quality of life by providing places for everyone to enjoy the outdoors with family outings and by creating a sense of open space.

## **A NOTE ON TRANSPORTATION**

A transportation system has been created to go with the Discussion Draft Preferred Blueprint Scenario for 2050 (i.e. the land use map) for purposes of identifying the basic connections between the land use pattern and transportation system performance. However, any decisions to make changes to the transportation investment priorities reflected in the currently adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will only be made by the SACOG Board of Directors through subsequent updates to the MTP. In other words, the transportation system which underlies the Blueprint Map is for educational purposes, and does not reflect a policy recommendation or decision by the Board.