REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Staff Report
April 15, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Regional Transit Master Plan Presentation

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Azadeh Doherty, Principal Planner (916) 808-3137

Presenters: Mike Wiley, Regional Transit District

Department: Transportation

Division: Office of the Director

Organization No: 3416

Description/Analysis:

Issue: The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) is undertaking a comprehensive update of its Transit Master Plan, Short Range Transit Plan and ADA/Paratransit Plan. This process includes an extensive public and stakeholder engagement program. RT will present the preliminary vision for the Transit Master Plan and solicit Council feedback.

Regional Transit has developed a general vision for the update of its Transit Master Plan that will shape the transit system in Sacramento over the next 30 years. This vision will map out strategies for future capital investments, types of operations, service levels, etc. The City of Sacramento is also working on a comprehensive update of its General Plan. The new General Plan will focus on quality of life, resource protection, and the type of future growth within the City over the next 20 years. In order to create a transportation system that serves the needs of the citizens of Sacramento in the next 25 to 30 years, the Mobility element of the City's General Plan and RT's Transit Master Plan will have to support one another. The Mobility Element contains policies that promotes

multi-modal transportation and will advance transit service improvements and expansion throughout the City. These policies are discussed at length in the Mobility Element of the new General Plan.

Between now and 2030, the City is expected to grow by approximately 200,000 residents and about 150,000 jobs. The 2030 General Plan promotes Smart Growth and supports SACOG's Blueprint by accommodating compact development at strategic locations. A key element of Smart Growth is the expansion of the transit system which will help minimize urban sprawl, loss of open space, and traffic congestion.

Policy Considerations: None

Environmental Considerations: None

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: Not Applicable

Financial Considerations: None

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not Applicable

Respectfully Submitted by: Francesca L. Halbakken

Francesca L. Halbakken
Operations Manager

Approved by: Jerry Way

Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

Mark Hanson

RAY KERRIDGE
for City Manager

Table of Contents:

Report Pg. 1

Attachments

1 Powerpoint Presentation Pg. 3

Attachment 1

PowerPoint Presentation

Regional Transit Master Plan

Regional Transit

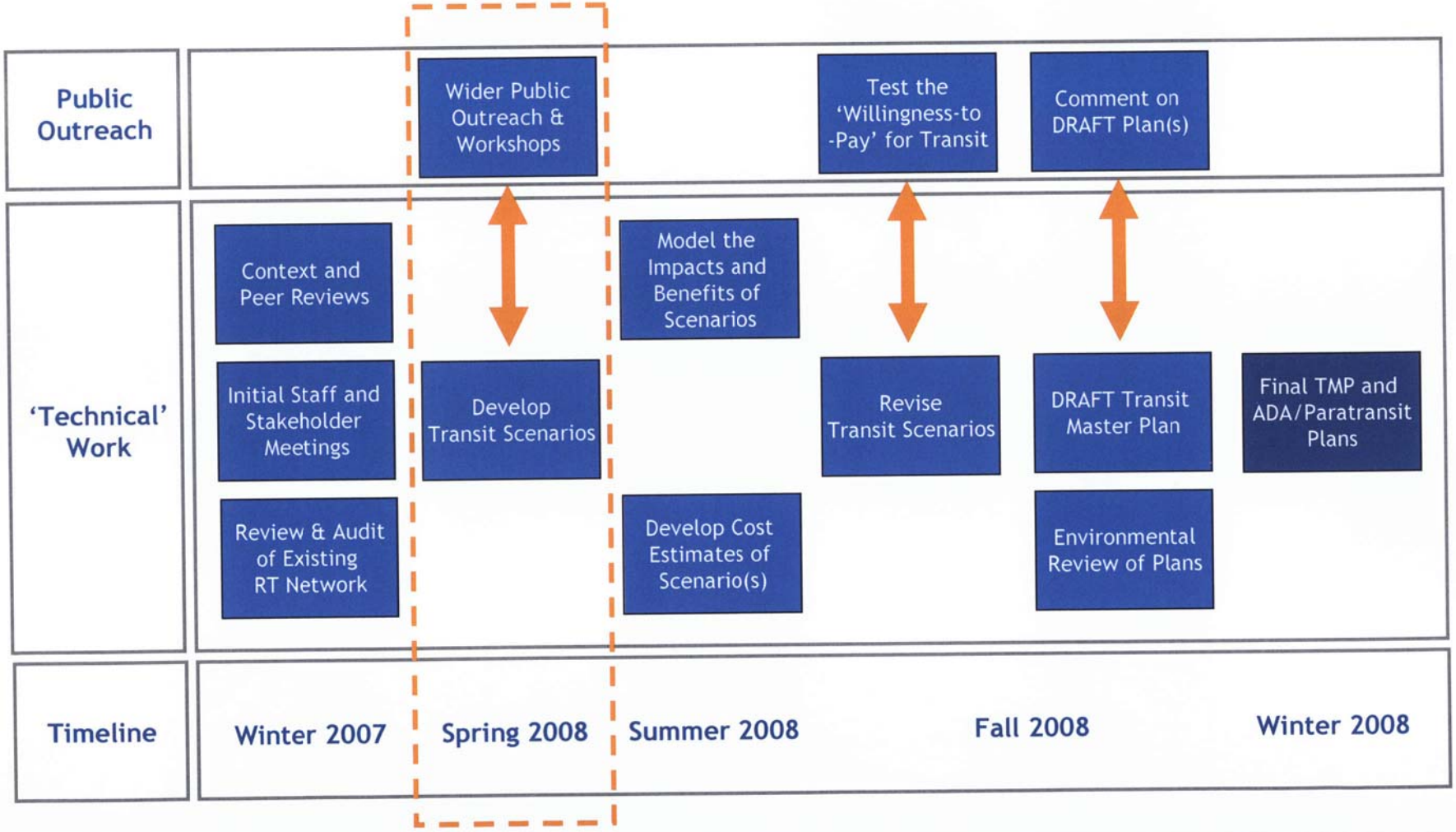
Why do we need a Transit Master Plan?

- The last Regional Transit Master Plan (TMP) was developed in 1993

- Region has experienced large population, employment and housing growth - but still more to come
- An aging population is putting increased pressure on resources - and and it will only continue to grow
- The *Blueprint Preferred Land-Use Scenario* has been developed to tackle these challenges using *Smart Growth* principles
- Transit is critical to this future

- Can only be developed through extensive outreach and participation from key stakeholders and the public - 'the People's Plan'
- Funding is a critical issue
- Need for a Vision to guide RT for the next 25-30 years

When will it be ready?

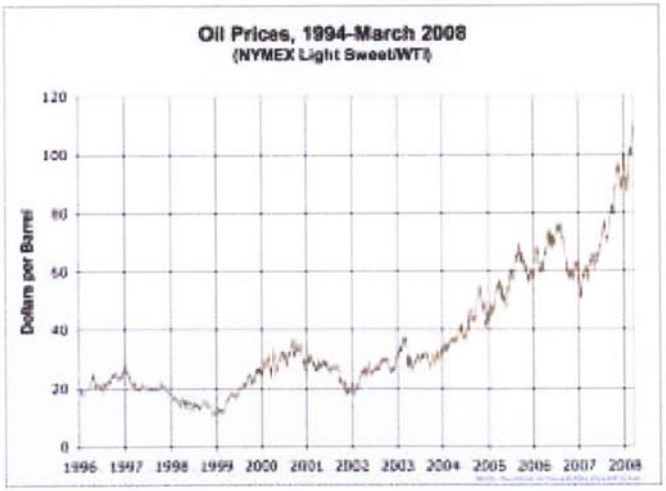


The transit starting point

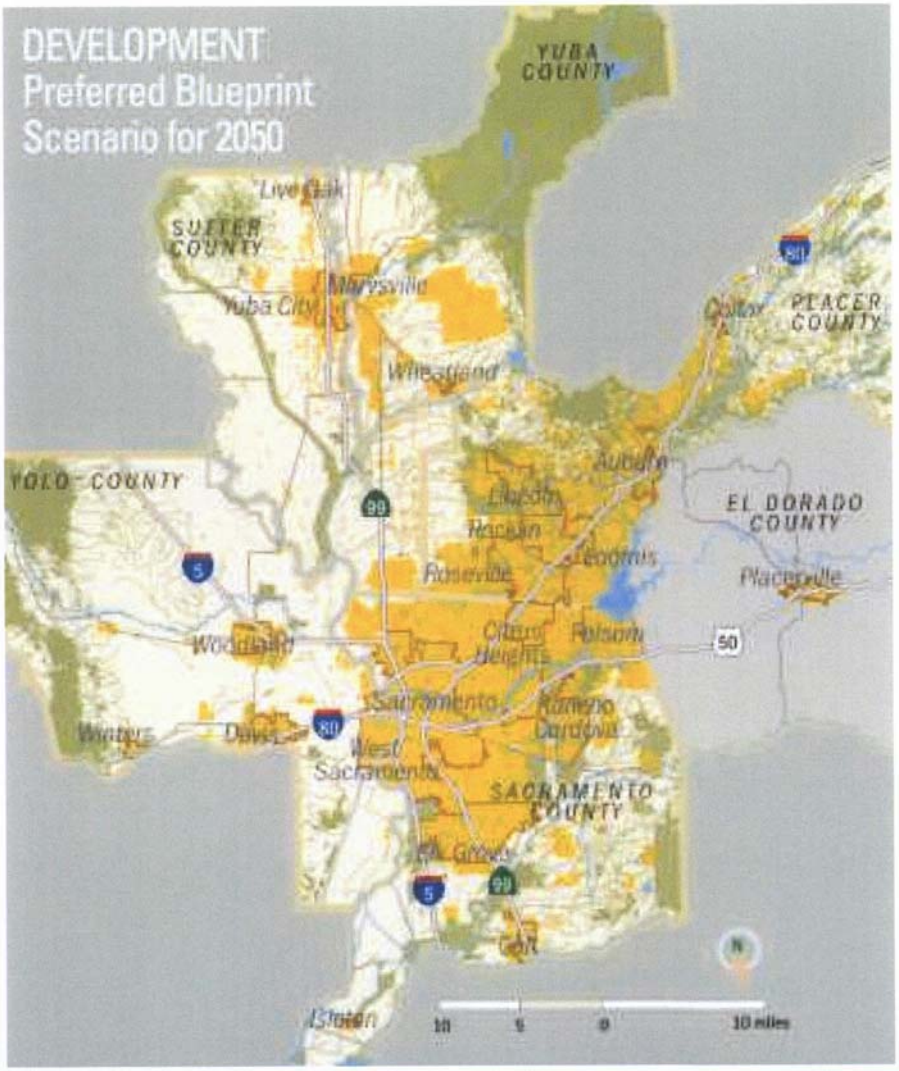
- Existing transit services only a small share of the total trips made in the region on transit - 1% of all trips, 2% of commute trips and 20% of commute trips into the Sacramento central business district
- Total RT ridership is growing but bus ridership is down
- RT fares only cover about 20% of their total operating costs - approximately $30m out of a total operating cost of $148m
- Perception of RT services as 'social service' rather than mass transit
- RT only one of 14 transit agencies

Major challenges to be addressed

- 30+ years of largely suburban development
- Transit provided by RT but the Cities and the County are responsible for land use decisions
- SACOG forecasts that Sacramento County will continue growing over the life of the TMP:
  - Population - 54% increase (1.2m to 1.9m)
  - Households - 55% increase (474,000 to 732,000)
  - Jobs - 80% increase (542,000 to 976,000)
  - 65+ age – over 150% increase (from 13% to 22% of the total population)
- Gas and energy prices continue to rise
- Growing awareness of climate change issues
- How can we afford to provide services for a growing region?
- These are all **Big Challenges**



With big challenges come big solutions... the Blueprint land-use vision



Peer Review

- We see other cities and regions doing more with transit
- What 'best practices' can RT/Sacramento learn from cities in the USA, Canada and elsewhere?
- How can we move transit from a 'lifeline' to a 'lifestyle' service?

So what is the emerging Transit Vision for Sacramento?

- As a starting point to the TMP, we need your help and input to develop our transit vision for Sacramento
- Key issues:
  1. We have to develop a TMP that provides mobility options to support the delivery of the *Blueprint Preferred Alternative* and supports our *Smart Growth* future
  2. The TMP has to respond to population growth, aging population, increased housing and employment as well as helping to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases and congestion
  3. The TMP must aim to increase the number of people who use transit - attracting "lifestyle users" by reducing the barriers to transit
  4. The TMP must be visionary and pragmatic...capable of being funded (both capital and operations)
- Our focus today is developing the Vision for the TMP

How can RT attract more users to the system?

Making a trip in Sacramento...

- Is transit an option? How do I find out?
- Route planning - easy information on schedules, tickets?
- Access to transit - safe, easy & convenient walk?
- Waiting at the transit stop - do I feel safe? Am I going the right way? How long to wait?
- The transit journey - paying my fare, getting a seat, pleasant or threatening? Where do I get off?
- Do I need to transfer? If so, where and how?
- My journey's end - when do I get off? Where is my final destination?
- ...And how do I get home again ?

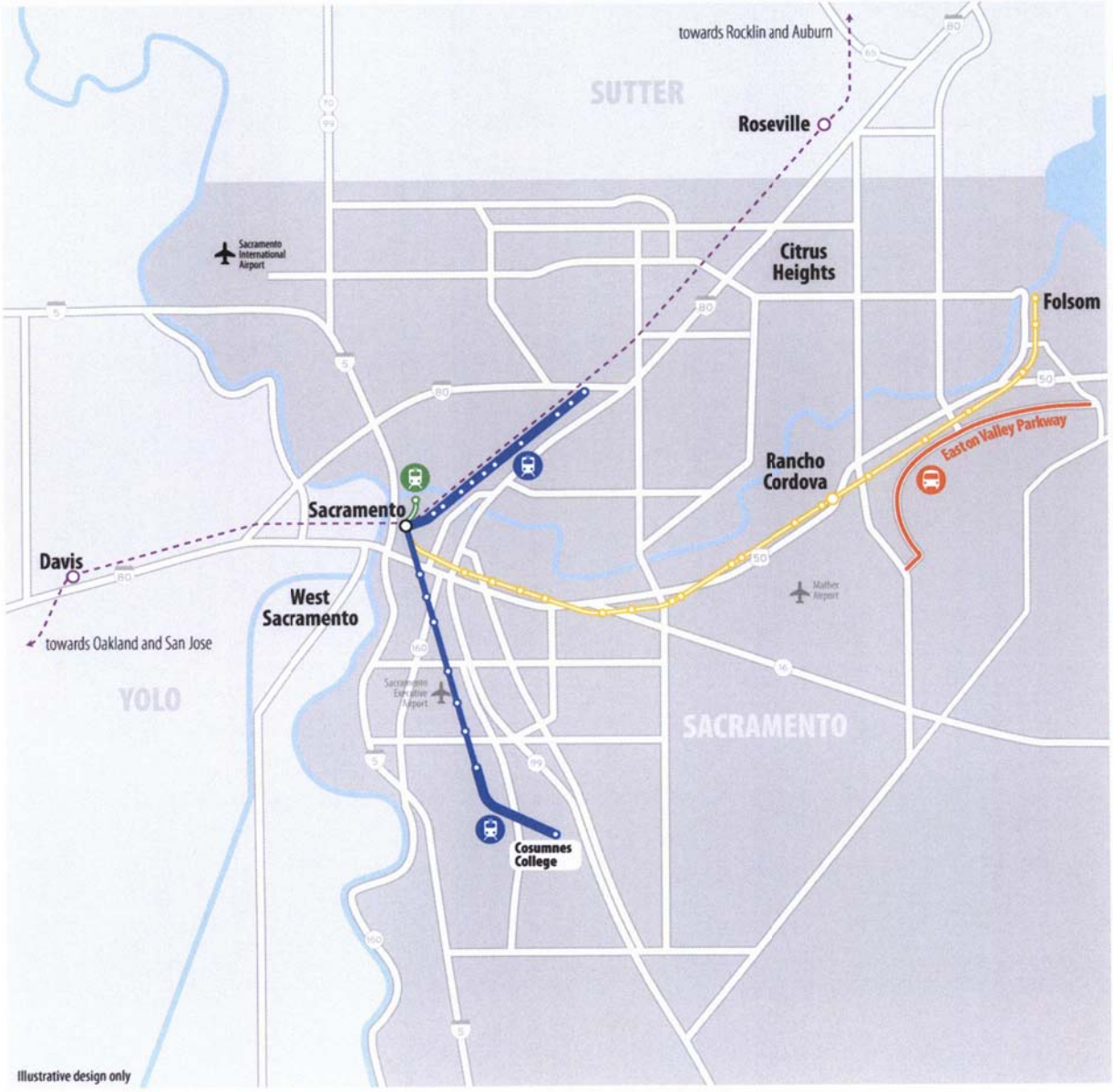
Transit Master Plan

Reducing the barriers to using transit ... mobility for all

- Improving the availability and quality of transit information
- Improving access to the transit network
- Enhancing the waiting environment at stops and stations
- Improving and simplifying the network and fares
- Improving the in-vehicle experience
- Quick, direct and frequent transit services
- Wayfinding to help people get to their final destinations (and back again)
- Expanding the transit network and increasing service frequencies (24- hour operation)

Scenario A: Base Case - Financially Constrained to Existing Sources

Assumes that the Blueprint smart growth measures are not implemented and that transit provision is very much a *status quo* offer



Scenario A - Base Case

Rail Services

- **Blue Line** — South Line Phase 2 extension and NE double tracking
- **Gold Line** — No changes
- **DNA Line** — 1st phase built to Richards Boulevard
- **Streetcar** — No Streetcar
- **Capitol Corridor** — No change (40-120 minute headways)

Bus Services

- **Local Bus** — Same levels of service as today (not shown)
- **Express Bus** — No incremental changes
- **BRT** — No BRT
- **Easton Valley Parkway** — Built

Funding & Policies

- **Land-Use / Growth** — Continuation of suburban growth
- **Revenue Requirement** — Existing Measure A

Ticketing & Information

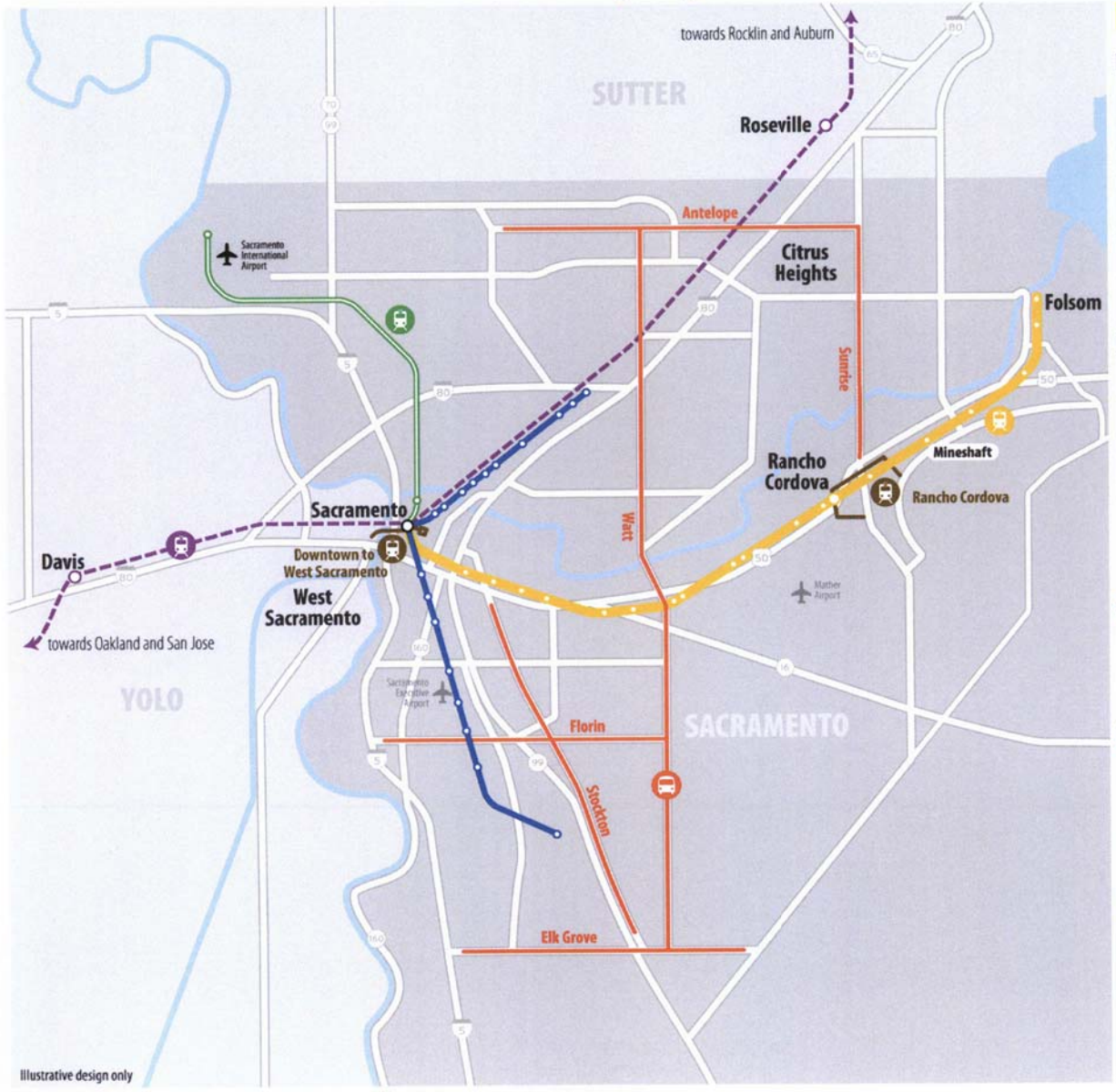
- **Ticketing** — RT implement cashless electronic smartcard system
- **Timetable Info** — Printed timetables and information available online
- **Maps** — System Map available online and in print

Environments

- **Passenger Safety** — Security cameras at 50 light rail stations
- **Stops and Stations** — No incremental change
- **Pedestrian Improvements** — No incremental change

Scenario B Blueprint and MTP2035

Assumes that the *Blueprint Preferred Alternative* land-use is delivered and that the transit network is as proposed in SACOG's MTP2035



Scenario B - Blueprint and MTP2035

Rail Services

- **Blue Line** — No further development from Scenario A
- **Gold Line** — Double-Track to Folsom + New station at Mineshaft
- **DNA Line** — Single track DNA line built
- **Streetcar** — Downtown-West Sacramento and Rancho Cordova
- **Capitol Corridor** — 30 minute peak headways

Bus Services

- **Local Bus** — 250% increase in local fixed route services (not shown)
- **Express Bus** — Express services using new car-pool lanes (not shown)
- **BRT** — 6 BRT routes implemented

Funding & Policies

- **Land-Use / Growth** — Blueprint land-use implemented
- **Revenue Requirement** — Existing Measure A + New Source(s)

Ticketing & Information

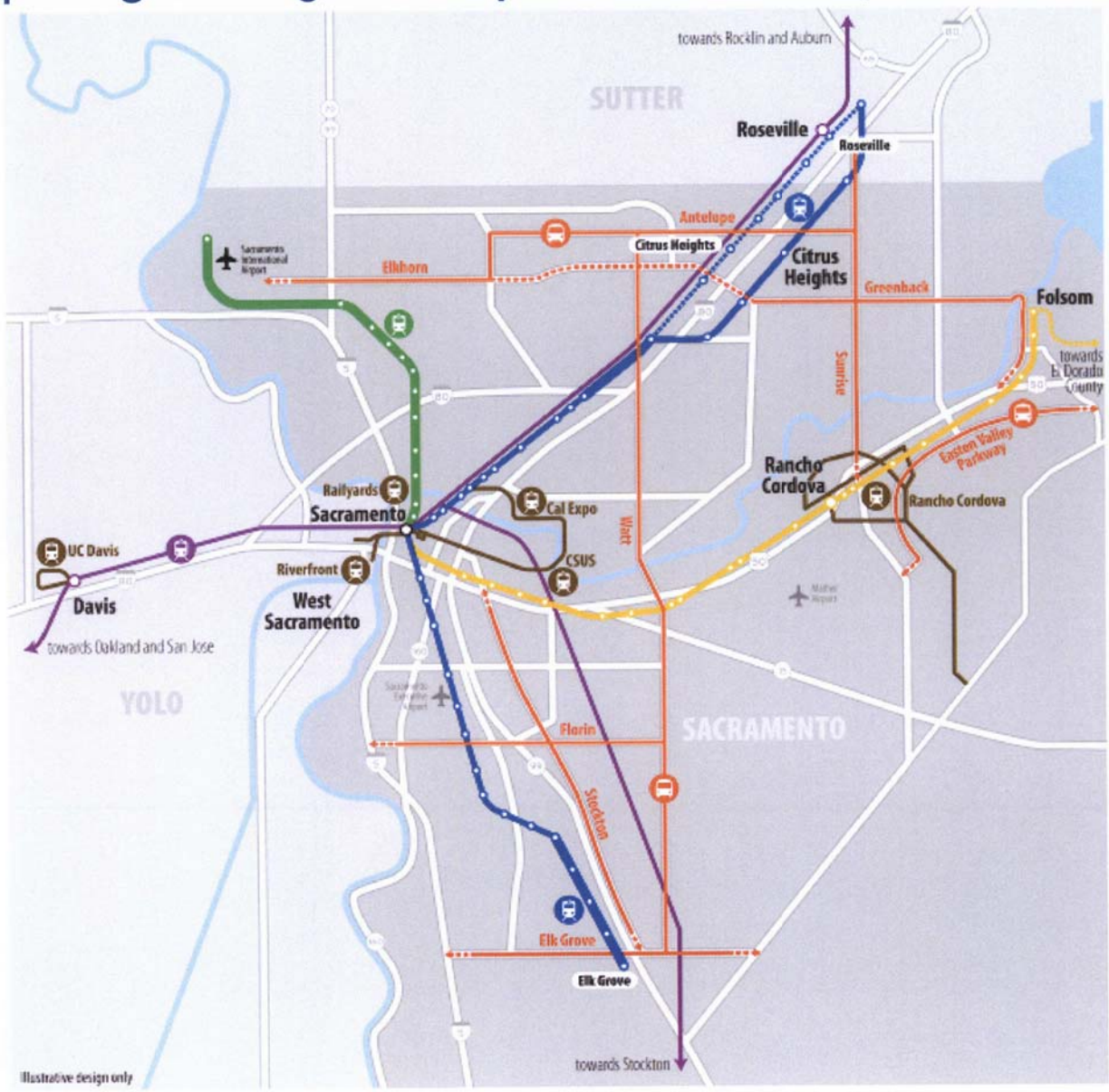
- **Ticketing** — Implement region-wide integrated, smartcard system
- **Timetable Info** — Real-time next bus / LRT information at stops
- **Maps** — System Map available online and in print

Environments

- **Passenger Safety** — Security cameras at 50 light rail stations
- **Stops and Stations** — Targeted station area improvements
- **Pedestrian Improvements** — Targeted local pedestrian improvements

Scenario C: Integrated Transit Solution

Extends the transit offer beyond the MTP2035 providing a fully integrated package linking the *Blueprint* with Transit, TDM and TOD policies and projects



Scenario C - Integrated Transit Solution

Rail Services

- **Blue Line** — Extensions to Elk Grove, Citrus Heights and Roseville
- **Gold Line** — Extension towards El Dorado County
- **DNA Line** — Double-Track to airport with express services
- **Streetcar** — Full streetcar network established
- **Regional Rail** — 15 minute peak headways

Bus Services

- **Local Bus** — More community + neighbourhood shuttles*
- **Hi-bus** — High frequency, capacity and quality core network*
- **Enhanced/Express Bus** — Direct, premium services offered*
- **BRT** — Extend MTP routes using only exclusive right-of-way

* [not shown]

Funding & Policies

- **Land-Use / Growth** — Blueprint land-use implemented
- **Revenue Requirement** — Existing Measure A + New Source(s)

Ticketing & Information

- **Ticketing** — Implement region-wide integrated, smartcard system
- **Timetable Info** — Real-time next bus / LRT information at stops
- **Maps** — Free local area maps available online

Environments

- **Passenger Safety** — Cameras at all stops and on all vehicles
- **Stops and Stations** — Improvements to all stations and key stops
- **Pedestrian Improvements** — Improve access to all stops/stations

Finding the funding

- RT will need funding to build and operate the system – in particular, Scenarios B and C will require an additional funding source
- Work done by SACOG in developing the MTP2035 (Scenario B) has assumed an additional ¼¢ sales tax
- Convened a national Finance Panel of experts to provide ideas and views on innovative funding techniques
- Will be using a 'willingness-to-pay' tool to test the public's appetite for paying for transit improvements

- But we need your ideas and input too...

The community engagement plan

- Partnership group including 100+ key stakeholders and agencies
- Using working/sub-groups for detailed discussions
- Wider public outreach to develop 'The People's Plan'
  - Interactive workshops and community meetings
  - Speakers bureau
  - Schools program
  - Interactive website including online 'chats' with the General Manager
  - Newsletters, phone line, advertising, flyers
  - Media engagement
  - Community bus

- We want your input on:
  - Both the range and the specific projects included in the Scenarios
  - Any specific ideas, comments or issues that may have been overlooked

Upcoming Community Events

City of Elk Grove	May 5	5:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m	Council Chambers 8400 Laguna Palms Way
City of Sacramento Community Convention	May 8	4:30 p.m- 7:00 p.m.	Cesar Chavez Plaza Park 910 I Street
City of Folsom	May 14	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Folsom Community Center 52 Natoma Street
City of Citrus Heights	May 20	6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.	Council Chambers 6237 Fountain Square Drive
City of Rancho Cordova	May 21	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Council Chambers 2729 Prospect Park Drive
Sacramento County – Arden Arcade/ Carmichael	May 22	5:00 p.m. –6:30 p.m.	North Central Division 2500 Marconi Avenue
CSUS- Neighborhood Groups	May 29	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	California State University – Sacramento Alumni Center, 6000 J Street
City of Sacramento	June 4	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Library Galleria – East Meeting Room Sacramento Public Library 828 I Street

Please see our handout for more presentations at your local public meetings

Thank you

Further information available online at:
www.sacrt.com/tmp