From Transportation to Climate Protection: Coordination at the Countywide Level

Jake Mackenzie, Chair SCTA/RCPA
Vice Mayor, City of Rohnert Park, CA

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference - February 2011
Typical California County

- High growth for the past 25 years
- Suburban/rural with small cities
- High cost of housing
- Freeway still under construction
- Rail service – still in the works
## Population Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloverdale</td>
<td>3,989</td>
<td>4,924</td>
<td>6,831</td>
<td>8,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotati</td>
<td>3,346</td>
<td>5,714</td>
<td>6,471</td>
<td>7,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healdsburg</td>
<td>7,217</td>
<td>9,469</td>
<td>10,915</td>
<td>11,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petaluma</td>
<td>33,834</td>
<td>43,166</td>
<td>54,550</td>
<td>57,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rohnert Park</td>
<td>22,965</td>
<td>36,326</td>
<td>42,236</td>
<td>43,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>83,320</td>
<td>113,261</td>
<td>147,595</td>
<td>159,981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sebastopol</td>
<td>5,595</td>
<td>7,008</td>
<td>7,774</td>
<td>7,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoma</td>
<td>6,054</td>
<td>8,168</td>
<td>9,275</td>
<td>9,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>22,744</td>
<td>26,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated County</td>
<td>133,361</td>
<td>162,675</td>
<td>150,223*</td>
<td>151,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoma County Totals</td>
<td>299,681</td>
<td>388,222</td>
<td>458,614</td>
<td>484,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Unincorporated County Population shows a decrease in 2000 because of the incorporation of the Town of Windsor.

40 – 50 percent growth in the past 28 years, including the creation of the Town of Windsor, the 4th largest city in the county.
Travel Trends

More people are driving alone

Ratio of cars per person has increased

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered Vehicles</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Vehicles per person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>51,582</td>
<td>103,405</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>240,204</td>
<td>299,681</td>
<td>.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>428,000</td>
<td>484,470</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fee paid Registered Vehicles in Sonoma County (source: DMV)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Travel to work</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drive Alone</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>74.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bike/Walk</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other means</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel to Work Mode Share in Sonoma County (source: US Census)
Active Community Input

Environmental groups, train enthusiasts, bicyclist have active input into local government
Land use policies tackled early

Urban Growth Boundaries – all nine cities since 1990
Ballot initiatives sales tax measures

• Open Space & Agricultural Preservation (1990/2006)
• Measure M – Countywide transportation (2004)
  ▸ SMART (2008) 2 county rail system

▸ Vehicle License Fee (2010- fail) – potholes, safe routes to school, bike paths
Smart Growth
Transportation Policies

- Reduce trips by car
- Enhance transit
- More bicycle trips
- Better pedestrian access
State legislation requiring connection between land use and transportation planning

SCTA/RCPA has taken the lead locally on SB 375

Board provides leadership

Advisory committees are key to coordination among local jurisdictions
New agency – creation of RCPA
California Assembly Bill 811 (2009)

- Coordinate countywide climate protection efforts nine cities and multiple county agencies
- Secure grant funding for GHG reducing efforts
- Data collection, public information and education are significant elements of the climate protection effort.
RCPA/SCTA

- Shares Board – one member from each incorporated city and 3 county supervisors
- Shares Staff – ten total, of which 2 are exclusive to climate change
- Shares transportation goals
Implementation

• Climate Action Plan produced in 2006 by CPC, approved by all cities

• Development of Sonoma County Energy Independence Program

• Grants for development of Green My Ride Transportation programs – TDM

• Clean fueled buses

• Electric vehicle fleet
Next steps

- Update Climate Action Plan
- Keep Moving Forward
  - Efficient Buildings
  - Clean Energy
  - Green My Ride
  - Conservation & Adaptation
Sonoma County Transportation Authority/
Regional Climate Protection Authority

www.sctainfo.org