San Joaquin Council of Governments

Sustainable Communities Strategy

Working Group Meeting #1

March 18, 2025

SJCOG
San Joaquin Council of Governments

Purpose + Goals

1. Provide an overview of the 2026 RTP/SCS process

2. Share and discuss initial findings of emerging trends gathering during key expert interviews

3. Present the engagement and outreach plan and get input on potential community outreach partners we can work with

Agenda

① Brief review: *What is the RTP/SCS?*

② 2026 RTP/SCS Project Overview

- *Process overview*

- *Discussion: Emerging Trends*

③ Engagement & Outreach Plan

④ Next Steps

* This meeting will be recorded *

Introductions

1. Name
2. Organization/Background
   - *Organization*
   - *Role*
3. How long have you been engaged with the SCS Working Group?
4. What's your favorite place to visit in San Joaquin region in the springtime?

1 What is the RTP/SCS?

What is the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)?

- SJCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Agency (MPO) for the San Joaquin County region.

- As an MPO, SJCOG is required by federal law to prepare and update a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years.

- The plan defines multimodal transportation investment priorities through 2050.
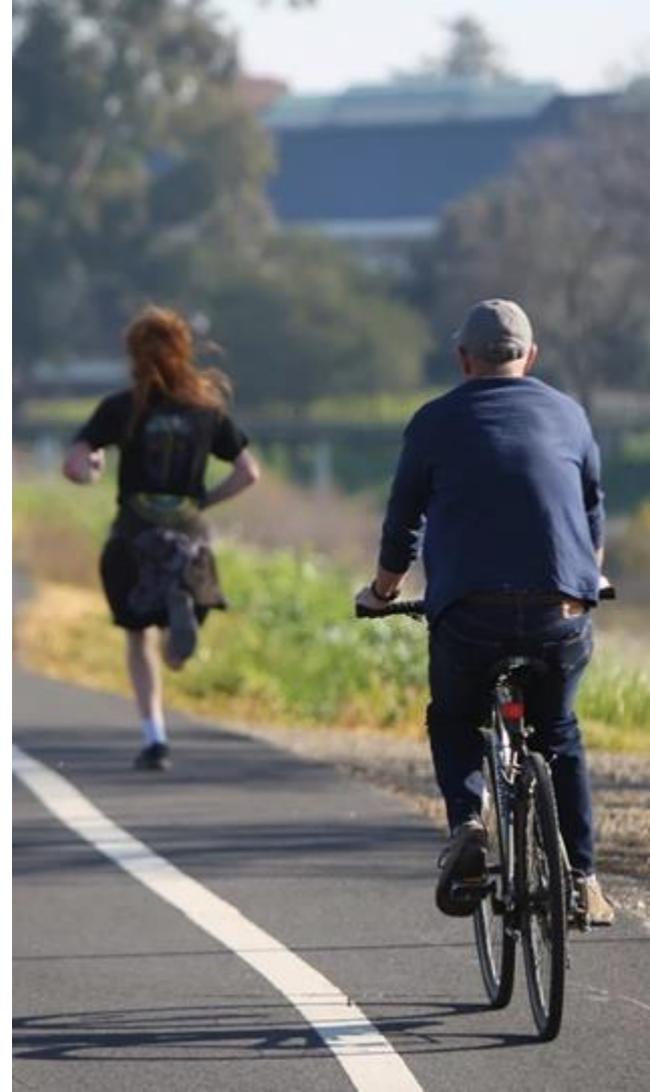
What is the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)?

- Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) requires SJCOG to adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) every four years.

- The SCS sets forth a forecasted regional development pattern + associated measures and policies.

- Together, the RTP and SCS must achieve the GHG emissions reduction target set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
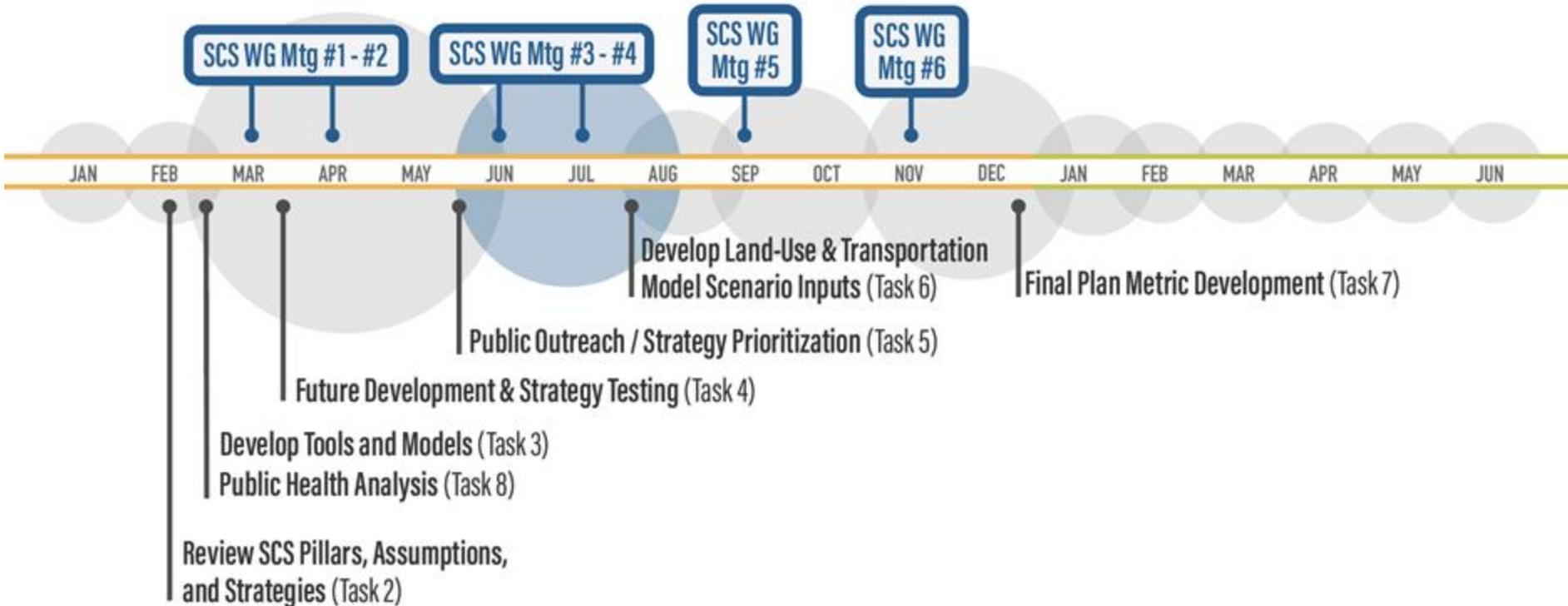
RTP/SCS Components

Sustainable Communities Strategies

Financial Element

Policy Element

Action Element

Fiscally Constraint
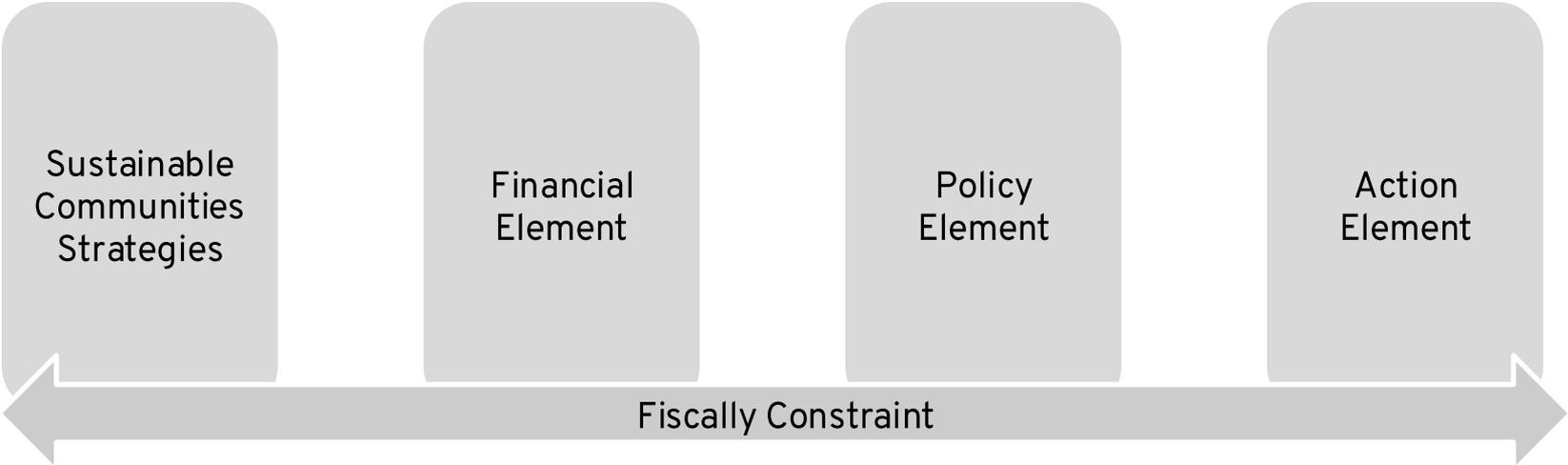
2 2026 RTP/SCS Project Overview

Approach: **Key Tasks & Engagement Phases**

TASK 2: **Review SCS Pillars, Assumptions, and Strategies**

Expert Interviews
Regional and National Subject-Matter Experts

- Understand trends impacting the 6 SCS Pillars
- Identify regional strategies

Project List Review
SJCOG Transportation Planners

- Review 2022 (or draft 2026) project list
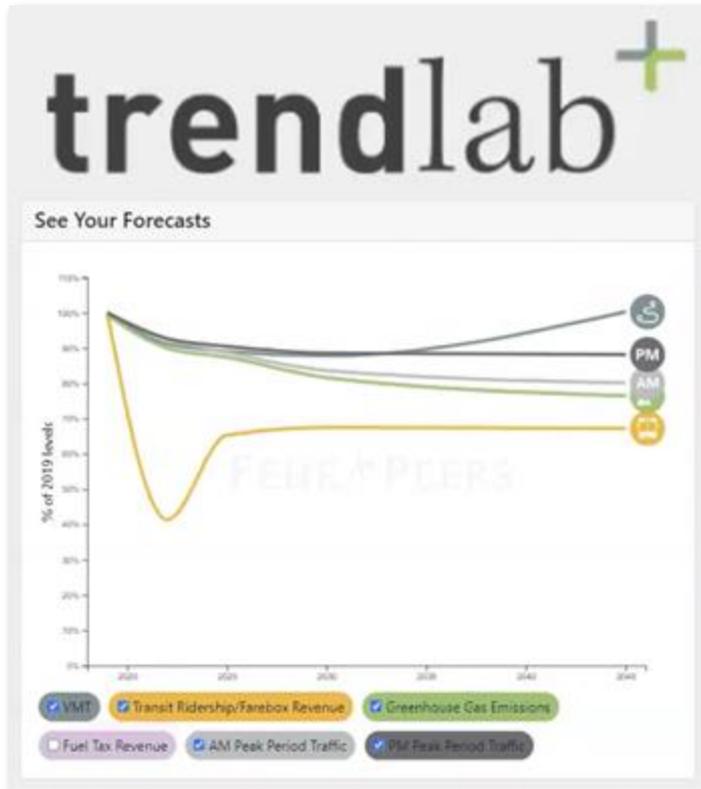- Classify transportation projects by strategy

4-5 Initial Draft Futures ☑

30 Draft Strategies ☑

TrendLab+
Central tool for regional strategy evaluation

- Measure VMT, Transit Ridership, and GHGs
- Test performance of regional strategies in each of our plausible futures

TASK 4: **Future Development and Strategy Testing**

Plausible Futures
SCS Working Group Meeting #2 will identify 3 futures from the initial 4-5.

Strategy Evaluation Matrix
Scoring regional strategies across four metrics in three futures.

Emphasis: Reduced Driving

1

Center equity in public investment decision making

Anti-Displacement Studies, Community Benefit Agreements for development on public land, Regional Gentrification and Displacement Risk Report

$

	Climate Migration	Transportation Tech	E Economy
VMT Reduction	1	1	1
Transit Ridership	1	0	0
GHG Reduction	2	2	2
Housing Affordability	4	4	4

Prioritizing Strategies
Inviting jurisdictions & SCS WG to help

Goal of Exercise:

- Prioritize and group the 30 regional strategies
- Results of this exercise will inform land use allocations

TASK 5: **Public Outreach / Strategy Prioritization**

Scenario choosing
Interactive public workshops

- Scenario choosing pop-up events across San Joaquin County.
- Participants identify the best aspects of each alternative land use allocation

Land Use Allocations
Envision Tomorrow
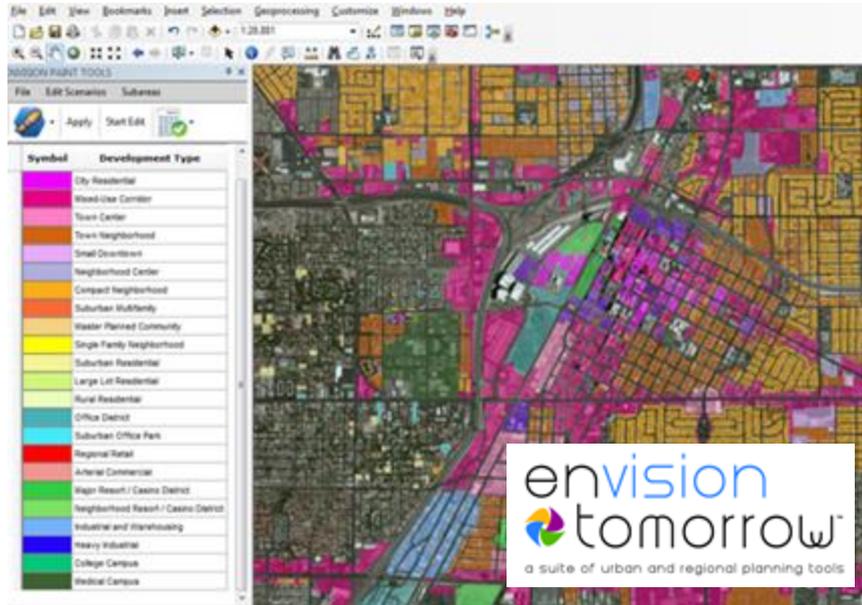
Scenario Report Cards
Used in Public Workshops

TASK 7: **Final Plan Metric Development**

| CARB Reporting | Scenario Development Report |

	% of LW Jobs near HQT in EJ Areas	Total LW Jobs near HQT in County	% of Total LW Jobs near HQT	Total LW Jobs in County	% of LW jobs County Total	Total Jobs in County
			Future (2046) TOT			
San Joaquin County		6166		76672		321468
Escalon	0%	0	0%	682	28%	2435
Lathrop	100%	34	2%	2122	17%	12850
Lodi	20%	1121	17%	6693	23%	28557
Manteca	0%	0	0%	7133	29%	24743
Ripon	0%	0	0%	1193	23%	5123
Stockton	95%	4878	12%	39216	25%	159279
Tracy	0%	131	1%	11550	22%	53332
Unincorporated	0%	3	0%	8083	23%	35149

- Summarized as an appendix within the RTP

Relative Improvement in Coronary Heart Disease Prevalence

Scenario A
- No improvement
- 0.1% - 2%
- 2.1% - 4%
- 4.1% - 6%
- > 6%
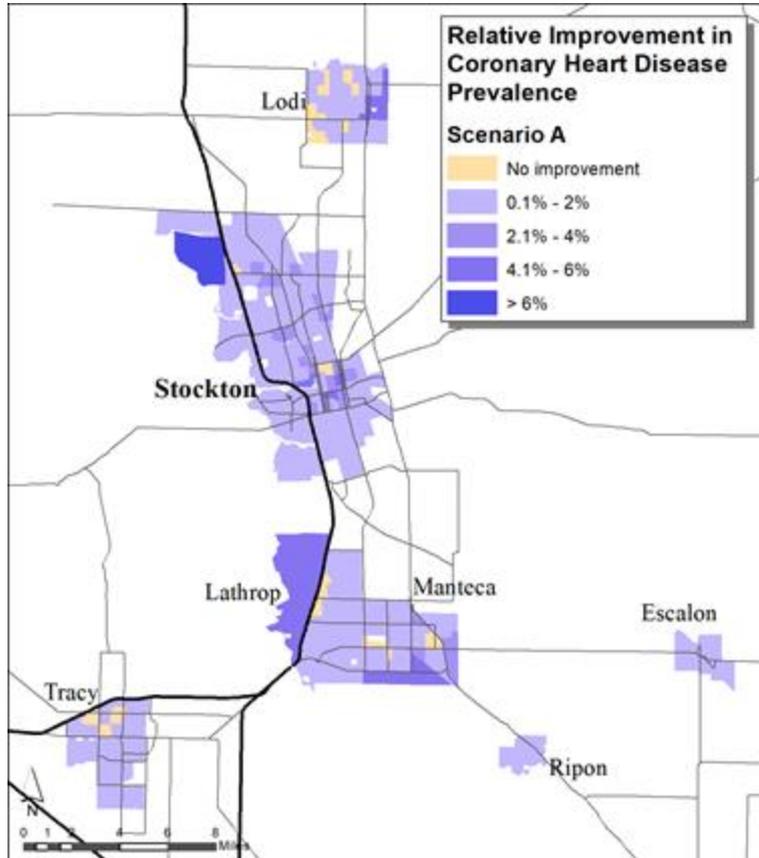
Public Health Indicators

- Urban Design 4 Health (UD4H) will calibrate and run NPHAM on each scenario and preferred
- Results to be summarized in scenario "report cards" and scenario development report
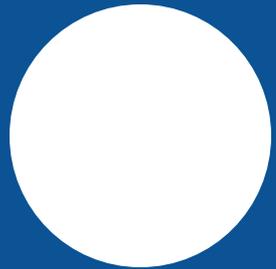
BREAK

Drivers of Change

Drivers of change are used to test existing and proposed strategies under a range of future conditions.
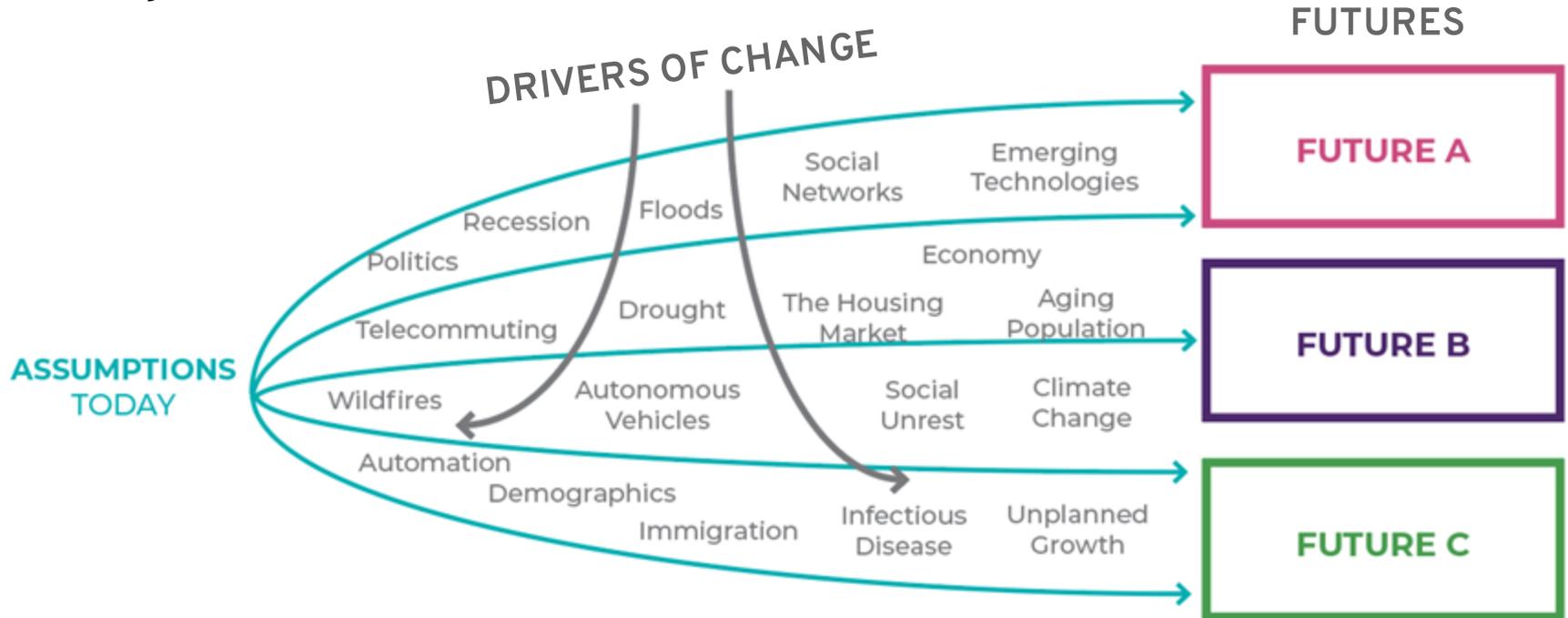
Regional Strategy Pillars & Expert Interviews

Drivers of Change:
What are emerging trends related that would influence SJCOG's policies and investments?

Regional Strategies:
What could SJCOG start doing now to be better prepared to address these drivers of change?

Affordable Housing & Development	Public Health	Workforce Development
Transportation & Mobility	Technology	Climate & Environmental Resiliency

Transportation, Mobility, & Technology

Transportation Funding is uncertain in the future (federal funding uncertainty, gas tax revenue decreases, reliance on grants).

Transportation/technology innovations offer **opportunity** <u>and</u> **risk** that should be balanced with safety considerations.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) could enhance traffic management, safety, emergency response, resource efficiency.
- Skepticism/concern of Autonomous Vehicles (AV)
- Hydrogen fueling and electric vehicle infrastructure
- Drone and bot deliveries

Infill and **Transit Oriented Development** are **necessary** to support **transportation, mobility, and transit goals.**

Need for a convener/educator to support innovation. SJCOG could help bring stakeholder together to advance technology innovations locally and host public education campaigns to support local use/adoption.

Who We Talked To

Ken Baxter, San Joaquin Regional Transit District (SJRTD)

Rene Gutierrez, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

Gloria Huerta, MíoCar

Almarosa Vargas, Stockton Police Department (use of AI)

Housing, Development, and Workforce Development

San Joaquin County's **housing market is shaped by incremental migration from the Bay Area,** with lower-income households moving to Stockton while higher-income earners settle in areas like Mountain House and Lathrop, though growth constraints in these areas may shift future development.

Rising housing costs, state financing challenges, and insurance requirements are affecting affordable housing production, which is largely concentrated in Stockton, raising **concerns about concentrated poverty and the need for place-based investments.**

The region remains **a leader in logistics and advanced manufacturing but faces challenges in attracting high-tech businesses** due to a lack of local talent, while retail and office space demand remains weak.

Economic concerns include **vulnerabilities in the logistics sector, the impact of automation on jobs, and a shifting demographic trend toward an aging population,** emphasizing the need for workforce training and economic diversification to enhance resilience.

Who We Talked To

Thomas Pogue,
University of the Pacific Center for Business and Policy Research (CBPR)

Ed Wanket,
San Joaquin Partnership

Kristine Williams,
Enterprise Community Partners

Climate Resiliency

There are **climate threats** to the **San Joaquin County region** including **flooding, groundwater depletion, saltwater intrusion, extreme heat and air pollution.**

There are **a lot of resources to help understand potential impacts** and a **coalition of organizations/partners** working to **identify solutions.**

Solutions to mitigate climate threats are being identified and invested in **including nature-based solutions, crop shifting, levy resiliency projects and more.**

Many of these **solutions rely on grant resources** and governmental funding **that may be at risk or is uncertain in the future.**

Who We Talked To

Carrie Schloss,
Nature Conservancy

Annika Ragsdale,
Delta Stewardship Council

Shalilah Bess,
City of Stockton

Public Health

San Joaquin County **struggles with limited healthcare access, transportation barriers, high chronic disease rates, and a growing mental health and substance use crisis**, particularly related to fentanyl, **forcing many residents to seek care outside the county.**

Improving walkability, sidewalk connectivity, and public safety are key strategies for addressing health challenges, however, concerns about freeway pollution and industrial emissions highlight the need for environmental health mitigation.

Current efforts are focused on harm reduction for opioid use, community screenings, **increased awareness of transportation services, and addressing mobility and healthcare challenges for the aging population.**

The RTP/SCS impact is limited by financial constraints and local implementation capacity, **emphasizing the need for health-based (transportation) project evaluation criteria and stronger integration with land use planning.**

Who We Talked To

Barb Alberson, San Joaquin County Public Health Services

Kimberly Robinson, Reinvent South Stockton Coalition

Jim Chapman and **Larry Frank,** UD4H

3 Engagement & Outreach Plan

Engagement Plan

The overall goals for the engagement process are to:

- **Raise general awareness** about the RTP/SCS process and engage local residents through meaningful public outreach

- **Engage with local partners** to develop a shared vision and inform the development of the SCS process.

- **Conduct broader outreach through education and online engagement** to encourage participation among the key stakeholder groups and obtain input to help inform the SCS study.

- **Develop easily understood informational materials that are language and culturally appropriate** and can educate hard-to-reach audiences.

- Maintain clarity and **transparency about how input is used in the decision-making process.**

Key engagement activities

- SCS Working Group Meetings

- Focus Group Discussions

- General Public Outreach

  - Pop-up workshops

  - SJCOG-hosted public workshop

General Approach <mark>Focus Group Discussions</mark>

- **Recruit:** Focus on geographic areas SJCOG has not historically reached with success, such as rural communities or specific language groups.

- **Share Out:** Send out focus group invites via mailing list, email or phone calls.

- **Participants:** Focus on 5-10 people with a shared cultural or social identity for each group

- **Timing:** Create the session at a time and place that is most convenient to that particular group

General Approach Pop Up Workshops

- **Potential venues:** farmers' markets, CBO presentations, a chamber of commerce, or an event that brings together the local community. The team will look to SJCOG to help identify locations and events through the generous outreach awareness schedule.

Discussion

Are any organizations or community champions we should try to connect with as part of this process that can give valued feedback?

4 Next Steps

Next meeting:

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2:30p-4:00p (virtual)