California Interregional Blueprint from the Rural Perspective

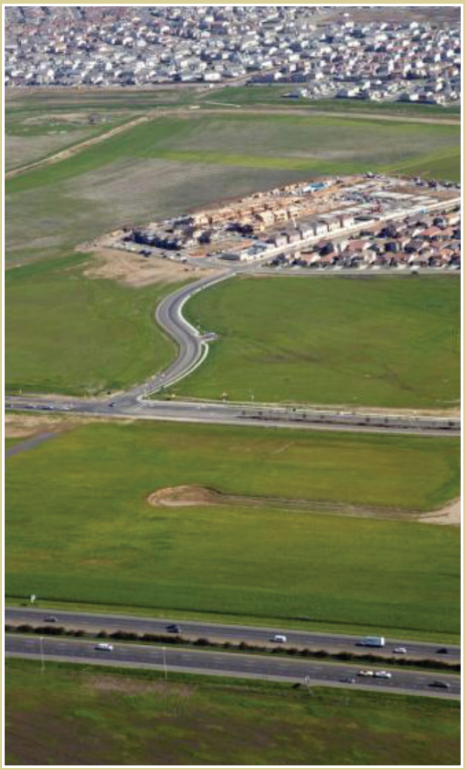
Caltrans is preparing a state-level transportation blueprint that focuses on the interregional movement of people and goods. The primary objectives of the California Interregional Blueprint (CIB) are to better understand interregional travel and to better align the State's long-range transportation plans and processes with those of California's 44 regional transportation planning agencies. Understanding interregional travel needs and how the state and regions plan to meet those needs will ultimately lead to projects that improve the quality of life in both rural and urban parts of the state.

The initial phase of the CIB opened the conversation on inter regional travel by integrating the state long-range modal plans and developing a narrative that describes how these plans relate to regional transportation and land use plans. The next phase will expand on this initial analysis by including new transporta tion plans and programs such as the State Rail Plan and updated regional transportation plans. This next phase also will add more robust modeling and data programs, including a statewide travel demand model and a statewide freight model. The statewide travel demand model will provide a consistent measurement of vehicle miles traveled associated with interregional travel and will provide the ability to evaluate alternative scenarios for addressing interregional transportation needs. These tools and programs will help us respond to the legislative requirements of Senate Bill 391 (on next page).

Interregional and long distance travel contributes to the already daunting transportation challenges faced by rural California. Given the low density of these areas and current funding formu las, rural areas lack the funds needed to maintain and further sup port the travel demands. Recreational trips and goods movement traffic between regions and other states further burden the rural road system. In agricultural areas, farm-to-market travel is one of the most important segments of the economy, but it is often overlooked. The CIB's emphasis on interregional travel will lead to a better understanding and accounting of these trips.

RURAL CHALLENGES

- Road Safety
- Transportation Funding
- Protecting the Natural Environment
- Goods Movement Truck Traffic
- Wildland Fires
- Farm-to-Market
- Urban Encroachment
- Heavy Recreational Travel



Rural agencies, by engaging in the CIB process, can help guide the direction of the State's long-range transportation plans and help identify the best use of Interregional Transportation Improvement Program funds targeted for interregional travel needs. Rural agencies need to ensure that data included in the travel models and potential scenarios reflect rural interests. Rural agencies, along with providing input into the process, will be able to take advantage of improved modeling tools and data developed through the CIB. These tools will help rural areas as they undertake their own long-range transportation plans and regional blueprint planning programs.

SENATE BILL 391

- Identify the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system
- Prepare Interim Report by December 31, 2012 relating the effects of SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategies on the statewide system
- Develop California Transportation Plan by December 31, 2015 that identifies the integrated multimodal system needed to achieve maximum feasible greenhouse gas emission reductions

For questions about the California Interregional Blueprint (CIB) please visit: **www.californiainterregionalblueprint.org** or contact Laurie Waters at (916) 653-4466 or at laurie_waters@dot.ca.gov