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## Senate Bill 375 Planning Requirements

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### Findings and Declarations

- “Without improved land use transportation policy, California will not be able to achieve the goals of AB 32” [SB 375 § 1(c)]
  - SB 375 is also designed to help meet clean air act requirements [SB 375 § 1(d)]
  - The Legislature intends to build upon the Blueprint process by requiring MPOs to develop an SCS which will be the land use allocation in the RTP. [SB 375 § 1(e)]
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## What is a Sustainable Communities Strategy?

- Land use allocation adopted by an MPO in its RTP that:
    - Meets ARB target, if feasible  
[Govt. § 65080 (b)(2)(B)]
    - Consistent with federal requirements
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## What must an RTP contain?

- Four internally consistent elements  
[Govt. § 65080(b)]
    - Action element
    - Financial Element
    - Policy Element
    - Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)
  - Note: Travel demand model methods, results, and key assumptions must be usable and understandable to the public  
[Govt. § 14522.2(a)]
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## What is in the RTP Policy Element?

- Discussion of regional transportation issues
  - Identification and quantification of regional needs
  - Articulation of short and long-range goals
  - Pragmatic and objective policy statements
- [Govt. § 65080(b)(1)]

## What must an MPO do for its SCS?

- Identify
    - Uses for various locations, residential densities, building intensities, areas sufficient to house entire population, and transportation networks
  - Consider
    - Best scientific information on resource and farming lands, state housing goals, and spheres of influence adopted by LAFCOs
  - Allow
    - Compliance with Clean Air Act conformity provisions
  - Quantify
    - Greenhouse gas reductions and any difference from ARB-set target
- [Govt. § 65080 (b)(2)(B),(F),(G)]

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## Addressing the Jobs/Housing Balance

- Is each region required to achieve a jobs housing balance?
    - “The region’s existing and projected housing need shall reflect the achievement of a feasible balance between jobs and housing within the region using the regional employment projections in the applicable regional transportation plan.”  
[Govt. § 65584.01(d)(1)]
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## What is an Alternative Planning Strategy?

- A separate document, not part of an RTP
  - A regional alternative that meets the ARB set target when an SCS does not
  - A demonstration of how the targets would be met through alternative development policies, or additional infrastructure improvements, transportation measures or polices
  - Identifies the impediments that prevent the SCS from meeting the target
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## State and Federal Planning Laws

- State and federal planning requirements set boundaries for assumptions and strategies pursued in an RTP
    - Require use of reasonable planning assumptions, such as adherence to development pattern in a local government general plan
    - Limit funding to “reasonably available” sources for future projects and programs
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## CEQA-Related Provisions

- ARB approved SCS/APS allows consistent projects to
    - Limit project level analysis of growth inducing impacts, or project specific impacts, or cumulative impacts
  - Provides graduated CEQA benefits to housing and mixed use “transit priority projects” that meet increasingly stricter criteria
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## Staff Conclusions

- Either SCS or APS can be designed to meet a stringent ARB target
  - Lack of authority, funding, and other factors would require an APS
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