

October 15, 2015

Subject: Urban Footprint
Quarter: 3rd Quarter 2015
Reporting Period: July 2015-October 2015
Staff Lead: Mike McCoy

Recommended Action:

For information only – no action required.

Background:

The Urban Footprint tool continues to be supported by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and multiple regional planning organizations as a dynamic open source scenario planning tool to analyze the transportation, energy, water, household cost, fiscal, and physical activity-related public health impacts, on proposed land use scenarios during the plan development and decision making process. Version 1.0 was completed in 2012 with SGC funding.

Update:

The Strategic Growth Council in association with SACOG, SCAG, the National Association of Regional Councils and the National Center for Sustainable Transportation have begun discussions of a national approach to open source land use and transportation planning tools focusing on but not limited to Urban Footprint.

There is broad recognition among these parties and their sponsors of the need for standard, transparent, accessible tools that can calculate the complex interactions of urban design, transportation, pollution exposure, public health, government finance, and social justice and bring broad audiences into the land use and transportation decision process.

The two tracks of interest being pursued by the parties are:

1. A thorough professional analysis of the software architecture and functions of Urban Footprint conducted by an independent, disinterested party and
2. Consideration of a collaborative, joint, non-profit structure for the management of further open source development, finance, governance and management involving these parties and additional institutions and foundations with interests in providing and using such tools.

Depending on the findings of current efforts proposals to federal and foundation sources will be considered for the first quarter of 2016.