

Call for SACSIM19 Beta-Testers

1. Introduction

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is seeking beta-testers for testing the latest travel demand model (SACSIM19) and new features. The beta-testing group will have access to the latest version of SACSIM19 in advance to the release date concurrent with the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS, long range transportation plan), February 2020. Beta-testing group will conduct model scenario testing for reasonableness of the latest SACSIM19 features including Pricing and AV/TNC functionalities. Findings from the Beta-testing will be incorporated into the MTP/SCS Preferred Scenario prior to the anticipated adoption Spring 2019.

2. Background

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is a voluntary association of governments. Member jurisdictions include: the County of Sacramento (including the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento); the County of Yolo (including the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland); the County of Sutter (including the cities of Live Oak and Yuba City); the County of Yuba (including the cities of Marysville and Wheatland); Placer County (including the cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville and Town of Loomis) and El Dorado County (including the City of Placerville).

SACOG is the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Counties of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, and for Placer and El Dorado Counties except for the Lake Tahoe Basin. To receive federal or state funding, projects nominated by cities, counties, and agencies must be consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS).

The MTP/SCS is the long-range transportation plan that identifies various constraints in the metropolitan transportation system and proposes solutions to those constraints. The MTP/SCS sets policies to guide transportation decisions and proposes a financially constrained plan of capital, operational, and management improvements needed by 2035.

SACOG, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Sacramento region, has the primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of travel demand forecasting methods and models for the region. These models are used by agencies like SACOG for regional-scale policy analyses of land use and transportation plans. The travel demand model currently used by SACOG is the Sacramento Activity-Based Travel Simulation Model, or “SACSIM”. Versions of SACSIM are identified by the year the model code and data files are first utilized for a publicly released analysis.

3. **Description**

The beta-testing group will test new features of the latest version of the travel demand model “SACSIM19” and document findings in preparation for the adoption of the 2020 MTP/SCS Preferred Scenario. SACOG staff will provide an initial training on the new features of SACSIM19. The beta-testing group will test an array of modeling scenarios including Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) and/or Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). Examples of model scenarios to test may include scenarios such as: Express/HOT Lane pricing corridors, All-Lane Toll Facilities, High AV penetration, HIGH Sharing Economy, LOW AV penetration, LOW Sharing Economy. Modeling applications for testing specific scenarios may include running full SACSIM19 model runs, Assignment Only, Select Link and Select Zones tests. Example summaries of model runs will look at both corridor and regional level performance measures such as: traffic volumes, tolling revenues, travel times, travel speeds, and congested vehicle miles traveled.