



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
T: (213) 236-1800  
www.scag.ca.gov

#### REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

President  
Jan C. Harnik, Riverside County  
Transportation Commission

First Vice President  
Art Brown, Buena Park

Second Vice President  
Curt Hagman, County of  
San Bernardino

Immediate Past President  
Clint Lorimore, Eastvale

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive/Administration  
Jan C. Harnik, Riverside County  
Transportation Commission

Community, Economic &  
Human Development  
Frank Yokoyama, Cerritos

Energy & Environment  
Deborah Robertson, Rialto

Transportation  
Ray Marquez, Chino Hills

## SPECIAL MEETING

# JOINT MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC AND TC)

**Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend  
In-Person & Remotely**

**Thursday, March 2, 2023**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

### **To Attend In-Person:**

**SCAG Main Office - Regional Council Room  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

**SCAG Riverside Office – Suite 805  
3403 10th Street  
Riverside, CA 92501**

### **To Watch or View Only:**

**<https://scag.ca.gov/scag-tv-livestream>**

### **To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:**

**<https://scag.zoom.us/j/85971017575>**

### **To Attend and Participate by Phone:**

**Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833**

**Meeting ID: 859 7101 7575**

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at [aguilarm@scag.ca.gov](mailto:aguilarm@scag.ca.gov). Agendas & Minutes are also available at: [www.scag.ca.gov/committees](http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees).

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1420. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



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## Instructions for Attending the Meeting

SCAG is providing multiple options to attend the meeting:

**To Attend In-Person and Provide Verbal Comments:** Go to the SCAG Main Office located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or one of the remote locations noticed in the agenda. The meeting will take place in the Regional Council Room on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor starting at 9:30 a.m.

**To Watch a “View-Only” Live Stream (for those who do not desire to offer public comments):** Click the following link: <https://scag.ca.gov/scag-tv-livestream>

### To Attend on Your Computer

1. Click the following link: <https://scag.zoom.us/j/85971017575>
2. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click “Download & Run Zoom” on the launch page and press “Run” when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
3. Select “Join Audio via Computer.”
4. The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, “Please wait for the host to start this meeting,” simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.

### To Attend by Phone

1. Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully.
2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 859 7101 7575**, followed by #.
3. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing # to continue.
4. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.

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*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

#### OUR VISION

*Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

#### OUR CORE VALUES

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*



## Instructions for Participating and Public Comments

*You may participate and submit public comments in three (3) ways:*

- 1. In Writing:** Submit written comments via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov) by 5pm on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. You are **not** required to submit public comments in writing or in advance of the meeting; this option is offered as a convenience should you desire not to provide comments in real time as described below. All written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.
- 2. Remotely:** If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) or at the time the item on the agenda for which you wish to speak is called, use the “raise hand” function on your computer or \*9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.
- 3. In-Person:** If participating in-person, you are invited but not required, to fill out and present a Public Comment Card to the Clerk of the Board or other SCAG staff prior to speaking. It is helpful to indicate whether you wish to speak during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) and/or on an item listed on the agenda. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called; items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted on with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

***In accordance with SCAG’s Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is “willfully interrupted” and the “orderly conduct of the meeting” becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.***

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JOINT MEETING OF THE  
POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC)  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

VIDEOCONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION

**SCAG Riverside Office**  
3403 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 805  
Riverside, CA 92501

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

**Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee**

<b>Adele Andrade-Stadler</b> 2956 West Shorb Street Alhambra, CA 91803	<b>Wendy Bucknum</b> Mission Viejo - City Hall 200 Civic Center Serenata Room Mission Viejo, CA 92691	<b>Letitia Clark</b> 28000 Marguerite Parkway Mission Viejo CA, 92662
<b>Steve De Ruse</b> 15508 Jacana Drive La Mirada CA, 90638	<b>Debra Dorst-Porada</b> Ontario - City Hall 303 East B Street Conference Room 1 Ontario, CA 91764	<b>Rose Espinosa</b> La Habra - City Hall 110 East La Habra Boulevard La Habra, CA 90631
<b>Mark E. Henderson</b> South Bay Cities Council of Governments 2355 Crenshaw Blvd, Suite 125 Torrance, CA 90501	<b>Kathleen Kelly</b> Palm Desert - City Hall 73-510 Fred Waring Drive Council Chamber Conference Room Palm Desert, CA 92260	<b>Tammy Kim</b> Irvine - City Hall 1 Civic Center Plaza Irvine CA, 92614
<b>Lauren Kleiman</b> Newport Beach - City Hall 100 Civic Center Drive, Bay 2E Newport Beach CA, 92660	<b>Matt LaVere</b> Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration 800 South Victoria Avenue, 4th Floor Ventura CA, 93009	<b>Jed Leano</b> Claremont - City Hall 207 Harvard Avenue Claremont, CA 91711
<b>Anni Marshall</b> 330 Descanso Avenue Avalon, CA 90704	<b>Andrew Masiel</b> Pechanga Development Corporation 45000 Pechanga Parkway Journeys Building, 2nd Floor Temecula CA, 92592	<b>Casey McKeon</b> 23421 South Pointe Drive, Suite 270 Laguna Hills, CA 92653
<b>Bill Miranda</b> Santa Clarita - City Hall 23920 Valencia Boulevard First Floor, Mural Room Santa Clarita, CA 91355	<b>George Nava</b> Brawley - City Hall 383 Main Street Brawley, CA 92227	<b>Kim B. Nguyen</b> Garden Grove - City Hall 11222 Acacia Parkway City Council Conference Room, 3rd Floor Garden Grove, CA 92840



JOINT MEETING OF THE  
POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC)  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

<p><b>Misty Perez</b> 960 Westlake Boulevard Suite 202 Westlake Village CA, 91361</p>	<p><b>Gabriel Reyes</b> 14583 Torrey Way Adelanto CA, 92301</p>	<p><b>David Shapiro</b> Calabasas - City Hall 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302</p>
<p><b>Becky Shevlin</b> Monrovia - City Hall 415 South Ivy Avenue Monrovia CA, 91016</p>	<p><b>Andy Sobel</b> Santa Paula - City Hall 970 East Ventura Street Santa Paula, CA 93060</p>	<p><b>Benjamin Vazquez</b> Santa Ana - City Hall 20 Civic Center Plaza, 8th Floor Council Member Office Santa Ana, CA 92701</p>
<p><b>Tony Wu</b> 4509 Temple City Blvd. Temple City, CA 91780</p>	<p><b>Frank Zerunyan</b> USC Price 650 Childs Way, RGL 200 Los Angeles CA 90089</p>	

**Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)**

<p><b>Margaret Clark</b> Rosemead - City Hall Council Chamber 8838 E. Valley Blvd. Rosemead, CA 91770</p>	<p><b>Ned Davis</b> Westlake Village - City Hall 31200 Oak Crest Drive Westlake Village, CA 91361</p>	<p><b>Shari Horne</b> Laguna Woods - City Hall 24264 El Toro Road Laguna Hills, CA 92637</p>
<p><b>Britt Huff</b> Rolling Hills Estates - City Hall 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274</p>	<p><b>Dan Kalmick</b> Huntington Beach - City Hall 2000 Main Street, 4th Floor, CR1 Huntington Beach, CA 92648</p>	<p><b>Elaine Litster</b> Simi Valley City Hall 2929 Tapo Canyon Road City Managers Conference Room Simi Valley, CA 93063</p>
<p><b>Vianey Lopez</b> Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration 800 South Victoria Avenue Conference Room, 4th Floor Ventura, CA 93009</p>	<p><b>Cynthia Moran</b> Chino Hills - City Hall 14000 City Center Drive, Second Floor City Council Office Chino Hills, CA 91709</p>	<p><b>Jennifer Stark</b> Claremont - City Hall 207 Harvard Avenue Claremont, CA 91711</p>
<p><b>Tamala Takahashi</b> Burbank - City Hall 275 East Olive Avenue Council Conference Room Burbank, CA 91502</p>	<p><b>Connor Traut</b> 5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 700 Santa Ana CA, 92707</p>	



**JOINT MEETING OF THE  
 POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC)  
 SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Transportation Committee (TC)**

<p><b>Elizabeth Becerra</b>                  Victorville - City Hall                  14343 Civic Drive                  Conference Room A                  Victorville, CA 92392</p>	<p><b>Andrew Do</b>                  County Administration South                  601 North Ross Street                  First Floor, Room 103/105                  Santa Ana, CA 92701</p>	<p><b>Darrell Dorris</b>                  Lancaster - City Hall                  44933 Fern Avenue                  Conference Room A                  Lancaster, CA 93534</p>
<p><b>James Gazeley</b>                  Lomita - City Hall                  24300 Narboone Avenue                  City Council Office                  Lomita, CA 90717</p>	<p><b>Jason Gibbs</b>                  Santa Clarita - City Hall                  23920 Valencia Boulevard                  First Floor, Orchard Room                  Santa Clarita, CA 91355</p>	<p><b>Laura Hernandez</b>                  2620 Captains Avenue                  Port Hueneme CA, 93041</p>
<p><b>Fred Jung</b>                  Fullerton - City Hall                  303 W. Commonwealth Avenue                  Fullerton, CA 92832</p>	<p><b>Trish Kelley</b>                  Mission Viejo - City Hall                  200 Civic Center                  Serenata Room                  Mission Viejo, CA 92691</p>	<p><b>Richard Loa</b>                  Palmdale - City Hall                  38300 Sierra Highway, Suite A                  Palmdale, CA 93550</p>
<p><b>Ken Mann</b>                  Lancaster - City Hall                  44933 Fern Avenue                  Conference Room A                  Lancaster, CA 93534</p>	<p><b>Steve Manos</b>                  Lake Elsinore - City Hall                  130 South Main Street                  Conference Room B                  Lake Elsinore, CA 92530</p>	<p><b>Marsha McLean</b>                  Santa Clarita - City Hall                  23920 Valencia Boulevard                  First Floor, Orchard Room                  Santa Clarita, CA 91355</p>
<p><b>Carol Moore and Ross Chun</b>                  Laguna Woods - City Hall                  24264 El Toro Road                  Laguna Woods, CA 92637</p>	<p><b>Ara Najarian</b>                  50 N. Brand Boulevard, Suite 830                  Glendale, CA 91203</p>	<p><b>Maria Nava-Froelich</b>                  Calipatria Unified School District                  501 West Main Street, Room 4                  Calipatria, CA 92233</p>
<p><b>Frank Navarro</b>                  Colton - City Hall                  Council Conference Room                  650 N. La Cadena Drive                  Colton, Ca 92324</p>	<p><b>Ed Reece</b>                  Claremont - City Hall                  207 Harvard Avenue                  Claremont, CA 91711</p>	<p><b>Zak Schwank</b>                  Temecula - City Hall                  41000 Main Street                  Great Oak Meeting Room                  Temecula CA, 92590</p>
<p><b>Hilda Solis</b>                  Kenneth Hahn Hall of                  Administration                  500 West Temple Street                  Room 856                  Los Angeles, CA 90012</p>	<p><b>Cynthia Sternquist</b>                  6131 Camellia Avenue                  Temple City, CA 91780</p>	<p><b>Michael Vargas</b>                  Perris - City Hall                  101 North D Street                  Mayor's Office                  Perris, CA 92570</p>
<p><b>Scott Voigts</b>                  Lake Forest City Hall                  100 Civic Center Drive                  Lake Forest, CA 92630</p>	<p><b>Donald Wagner</b>                  County Administration South                  601 North Ross Street                  First Floor, Room 103/105                  Santa Ana, CA 92701</p>	<p><b>Alan Wapner</b>                  Ontario - City Hall                  303 East B Street                  Executive Conference Room                  Ontario, CA 91764</p>



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**CEHD - Community, Economic and Human Development Committee**  
**Members – U 2023**

- 1. Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama**  
CEHD Chair, Cerritos, RC District 23
- 2. Hon. David J. Shapiro**  
CEHD Vice Chair, Calabasas, RC District 44
- 3. Hon. Ashleigh Aitken**  
Anaheim, RC District 19
- 4. Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler**  
Alhambra, RC District 34
- 5. Hon. Al Austin**  
Long Beach, GCCOG
- 6. Hon. Gary Boyer**  
Glendora, RC District 33
- 7. Hon. Drew Boyles**  
El Segundo, RC District 40
- 8. Hon. Wendy Bucknum**  
Mission Viejo, RC District 13
- 9. Hon. Don Caskey**  
Laguna Hills, OCCOG
- 10. Hon. Ramon Castro**  
Imperial County CoC
- 11. Hon. Letitia Clark**  
Tustin, RC District 17
- 12. Hon. Steve DeRuse**  
La Mirada, RC District 31
- 13. Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada**  
Ontario, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 14. Ms. Lucy Dunn**  
Business Representative, Non-Voting Member
- 15. Hon. Keith Eich**  
La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36

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## COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

---

- 16. Hon. Rose Espinoza**  
La Habra, OCCOG
- 17. Hon. Waymond Fermon**  
Indio, CVAG
- 18. Hon. Margaret Finlay**  
Duarte, RC District 35
- 19. Hon. Mark Henderson**  
Gardena, RC District 28
- 20. Hon. Cecilia Hupp**  
Brea, OCCOG
- 21. Hon. Kathleen Kelly**  
Palm Desert, RC District 2
- 22. Hon. Tammy Kim**  
Irvine, RC District 14
- 23. Hon. Lauren Kleiman**  
Newport Beach, RC District 15
- 24. Sup. Matt LaVere**  
Ventura County CoC
- 25. Hon. Jed Leano**  
Claremont, SGVCOG
- 26. Hon. Anni Marshall**  
Avalon, GCCOG
- 27. Hon. Andrew Masiel**  
Tribal Govt Regl Planning Board Representative
- 28. Hon. Casey McKeon**  
Huntington Beach, RC District 64
- 29. Hon. Bill Miranda**  
Santa Clarita, SFVCOG
- 30. Hon. John Mirisch**  
Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 31. Hon. Joseph Morabito**  
Wildomar, WRCOG

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## COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

---

- 32. George Nava**  
Brawley, ICTC
- 33. Hon. Marisela Nava**  
Perris, RC District 69
- 34. Hon. Kim Nguyen**  
Garden Grove, RC District 18
- 35. Hon. Ariel Pe**  
Lakewood, GCCOG
- 36. Hon. Misty Perez**  
Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 37. Hon. Sandy Rains**  
Laguna Niguel, RC District 12
- 38. Hon. Nithya Raman**  
Los Angeles, RC District 51
- 39. Hon. Gabriel Reyes**  
San Bernardino County CoC
- 40. Hon. Rocky Rhodes**  
Simi Valley, RC District 46
- 41. Hon. Rex Richardson**  
Long Beach, RC District 29
- 42. Hon. Sylvia Robles**  
Grand Terrace, SBCTA
- 43. Hon. Sonny Santa Ines**  
Bellflower, GCCOG
- 44. Hon. Nicholas Schultz**  
Burbank, AVCJPA
- 45. Hon. Becky Shevlin**  
Monrovia, SGVCOG
- 46. Hon. Andy Sobel**  
Santa Paula, VCOG
- 47. Hon. Helen Tran**  
San Bernardino, SBCTA

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## COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

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- 48. Hon. Benjamin Vazquez**  
Santa Ana, RC District 16
  
- 49. Hon. Mark Waronek**  
Lomita, SBCCOG
  
- 50. Hon. Acquanetta Warren**  
Fontana, SBCTA
  
- 51. Hon. Tony Wu**  
West Covina, SGVCOG
  
- 52. Hon. Frank Zerunyan**  
Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

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## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

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### EEC - Energy and Environment Committee *Members – U 2023*

1. **Hon. Deborah Robertson**  
EEC Chair, Rialto, RC District 8
2. **Sup. Luis Plancarte**  
EEC Vice Chair, Imperial County
3. **Hon. Damon O'Alexander**  
San Bernardino, SBCTA
4. **Hon. Cindy Allen**  
Long Beach, RC District 30
5. **Hon. Ana Beltran**  
Westmorland, ICTC
6. **Hon. Phil Brock**  
Santa Monica, WSCCOG
7. **Hon. Daniel Brotman**  
Glendale, AVCJPA
8. **Hon. Margaret Clark**  
Rosemead, RC District 32
9. **Hon. Robert Copeland**  
Signal Hill, GCCOG
10. **Hon. Jenny Crosswhite**  
Santa Paula, RC District 47
11. **Hon. Maria Davila**  
South Gate, GCCOG
12. **Hon. Ned Davis**  
Westlake Village, LVMCOG
13. **Hon. Rick Denison**  
Yucca Valley, SBCTA
14. **Hon. Shari Horne**  
Laguna Woods, OCCOG
15. **Hon. Britt Huff**  
Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

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## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

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- 16. Hon. Dan Kalmick**  
Huntington Beach, OCCOG
- 17. Hon. Joe Kalmick**  
Seal Beach, RC District 20
- 18. Hon. Elaine Litster**  
Simi Valley, VCOG
- 19. Hon. Vianey Lopez**  
Ventura County
- 20. Hon. Lauren Meister**  
West Hollywood, RC District 41
- 21. Hon. Cynthia Moran**  
Chino Hills, SBCTA
- 22. Hon. Oscar Ortiz**  
Indio, RC District 66
- 23. Hon. Randall Putz**  
Big Bear Lake, RC District 11
- 24. Hon. Jennifer Stark**  
Claremont, SGVCOG
- 25. Hon. Tamala Takahashi**  
Burbank, SFVCOG
- 26. Hon. Connor Traut**  
Buena Park, OCCOG
- 27. Hon. Dale Welty**  
Canyon Lake, WRCOG
- 28. Hon. Edward Wilson**  
Signal Hill, GCCOG

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### TC - Transportation Committee *Members – March 2023*

1. **Hon. Ray Marquez**  
TC Chair, Chino Hills, RC District 10
2. **Hon. Tim Sandoval**  
TC Vice Chair, Pomona, RC District 38
3. **Hon. Konstantine Anthony**  
Burbank, RC District 42
4. **Hon. Kathryn Barger**  
Los Angeles County
5. **Hon. Elizabeth Becerra**  
Victorville, RC District 65
6. **Hon. Brian Berkson**  
Jurupa Valley, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
7. **Hon. Russell Betts**  
Desert Hot Springs, CVAG
8. **Hon. Art Brown**  
Buena Park, RC District 21
9. **Hon. Ross Chun**  
Aliso Viejo, OCCOG
10. **Sup. Andrew Do**  
Orange County CoC
11. **Hon. Darrell Dorris**  
Lancaster, NCTC
12. **Hon. JJohn Dutrey**  
Montclair, SBCTA
13. **Hon. James Gazeley**  
Lomita, RC District 39
14. **Hon. Jason Gibbs**  
Santa Clarita, NCTC
15. **Hon. Brian Goodell**  
OCTA Representative

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- 16. Sup. Curt Hagman**  
San Bernardino County
- 17. Hon. Ray Hamada**  
Bellflower, RC District 24
- 18. Hon. Jan C. Harnik**  
RCTC
- 19. Hon. Laura Hernandez**  
Port Hueneme, RC District 45
- 20. Hon. Heather Hutt**  
Los Angeles, RC District 57
- 21. Hon. Mike Judge**  
VCTC
- 22. Hon. Fred Jung**  
Fullerton, OCCOG
- 23. Hon. Trish Kelley**  
TCA Representative
- 24. Hon. Paul Krekorian**  
Los Angeles, RC District 49/Public Transit Rep.
- 25. Hon. Linda Krupa**  
Hemet, RC District 3
- 26. Hon. Richard Loa**  
Palmdale, NCTC
- 27. Hon. Clint Lorimore**  
Eastvale, RC District 4
- 28. Hon. Ken Mann**  
Lancaster, RC District 43
- 29. Hon. Steve Manos**  
Lake Elsinore, RC District 63
- 30. Mr. Paul Marquez**  
Caltrans, District 7, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
- 31. Hon. Larry McCallon**  
Highland, RC District 7/Air District Rep.

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## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

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- 32. Hon. Marsha McLean**  
Santa Clarita, RC District 67
- 33. Hon. L.Dennis Michael**  
Rancho Cucamonga, RC District 9
- 34. Hon. Carol Moore**  
Laguna Woods, OCCOG
- 35. Hon. Ara Najarian**  
Glendale, SFVCOG
- 36. Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich**  
ICTC
- 37. Hon. Frank Navarro**  
Colton, RC District 6
- 38. Hon. Sharona Nazarian**  
Beverly Hills, WSCCOG
- 39. Hon. Jonathan Primuth**  
South Pasadena, AVCJPA
- 40. Hon. Gil Rebolgar**  
Brawley, RC District 1
- 41. Hon. Ed Reece**  
Claremont, SGVCOG
- 42. Hon. Crystal Ruiz**  
San Jacinto, WRCOG
- 43. Hon. Ali Saleh**  
Bell, RC District 27
- 44. Hon. Zak Schwank**  
Temecula, RC District 5
- 45. Hon. Marty Simonoff**  
Brea, RC District 22
- 46. Hon. Jeremy Smith**  
Canyon Lake, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 47. Hon. Ward Smith**  
Placentia, OCCOG

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## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

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- 48. Hon. Jose Luis Solache**  
Lynwood, RC District 26
- 49. Sup. Hilda Solis**  
Los Angeles County
- 50. Hon. Wes Speake**  
Corona, WRCOG
- 51. Sup. Karen Spiegel**  
Riverside County
- 52. Hon. Cynthia Sternquist**  
Temple City, SGVCOG
- 53. Hon. Steve Tye**  
Diamond Bar, RC District 37
- 54. Hon. Michael Vargas**  
Riverside County CoC
- 55. Hon. Scott Voigts**  
Lake Forest, OCCOG
- 56. Sup. Donald Wagner**  
Orange County
- 57. Hon. Colleen Wallace**  
Banning, WRCOG
- 58. Hon. Alan Wapner**  
SBCTA

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### OUR MISSION

*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

### OUR VISION

*Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

### OUR CORE VALUES

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*





# JOINT MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC) SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments  
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Regional Council Room  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
**Thursday, March 2, 2023**  
**9:30 AM**

The Joint Policy Committees may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

## **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*The Honorable Jan C. Harnik, President*

*The Honorable Frank Yokoyama, Chair, Community, Economic and Human Development Committee*

*The Honorable Deborah Robertson, Chair, Energy and Environment Committee*

*The Honorable Ray Marquez, Chair, Transportation Committee*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public can participate in the meeting via written or verbal comments. Written comments can be emailed to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov). Written comments received by 5pm on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Written comments received after will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of this committee regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) are available at the Office of the Clerk, at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or by phone at (213) 630-1420, or email to [aguilarm@scag.ca.gov](mailto:aguilarm@scag.ca.gov).

Verbal comments can be presented in real time during the meeting. Members of the public are allowed a total of 3 minutes for verbal comments. The presiding officer retains discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting, including equally reducing the time of all comments.

For members of the public participating in-person, Public Comment Cards are available. For members of the public attending remotely, please wait for the presiding officer to call the item and then indicate your interest in offering public comment by using the "raise hand" function on your computer or pressing \*9 on your telephone.

For items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called. Items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted upon with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.



# JOINT MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC) SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Matters Not on the Agenda)**

This is the time for public comments on any matter of interest within SCAG's jurisdiction that is *not* listed on the agenda. For items listed on the agenda, public comments will be received when that item is considered. Although the committee may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon at this time.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meetings – February 3, 2022 PPG. 11

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

2. Connect SoCal 2024 Update 105 Mins. PPG. 21  
*(Kome Ajise, Executive Director, SCAG)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES  
(COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD);  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC); AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC))  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.ig2.com/Citizens/>

The Joint Policy Committees of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting telephonically and electronically, given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

**CEHD Members Present:**

<b>Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair</b>	<i>Covina</i>	<b>District 33</b>
<b>Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair</b>	<i>Cerritos</i>	<b>District 23</b>
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. David Avila	<i>Yucaipa</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Juan Carrillo	<i>Palmdale</i>	District 43
Hon. Letitia Clark	<i>Tustin</i>	District 17
Hon. Steve De Ruse	<i>La Mirada</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Paula Devine	<i>Glendale</i>	District 42
Hon. Diane B. Dixon	<i>Newport Beach</i>	District 15
Hon. Rose Espinoza	<i>La Habra</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Waymond Fermon	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Alex Fisch	<i>Culver City</i>	District 41
Hon. Peggy Huang		TCA
Hon. Tammy Kim	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	<i>Brea</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2



Hon. Matt LaVere		Ventura County CoC
Hon. Jed Leano	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Anni Marshall	<i>Avalon</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Tribal Gov't Regl Planning Rep.</i>	
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Bill Miranda	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. John Mirisch	<i>Beverly Hills</i>	<i>Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large</i>
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Trevor O'Neil	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Edward Paget	<i>Needles</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Sunny Park	<i>Buena Park</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Ariel Pe	<i>Lakewood</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Misty Perez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	<i>Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large</i>
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	<i>Bellflower</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Nick Schultz	<i>Burbank</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. David Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	LVMCOG
Hon. Becky Shevlin	<i>Monrovia</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Wes Speake	<i>Corona</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	<i>Fontana</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Christi White	<i>Murrieta</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Tony Wu	<i>West Covina</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Frank Zerunyan	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG

**CEHD Members Not Present**

Hon. Al Austin, II	<i>Long Beach</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto	<i>Coachella</i>	District 66
Hon. Ramon Castro		Imperial County CoC
Hon. Mark Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Patricia Lock-Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Gregory A. Nava	<i>Brawley</i>	ICTC
Hon. Kim B. Nguyen	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Michael Posey	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Nithya Ramen	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 29
Hon. Gabriel Reyes		San Bernardino County CoC
Hon. Rex Richardson	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Andy Sobel	<i>Santa Paula</i>	VCOG

**EEC Members Present**

<b>Hon. David Pollock, (Chair)</b>	<b><i>Moorpark</i></b>	<b>District 46</b>
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**Hon. Deborah Robertson, (Vice Chair)**

Hon. Cindy Allen  
Hon. Robert Copeland  
Hon. Maria Davila  
Hon. Ned Davis  
Hon. Rick Denison  
Hon. Julian A. Gold  
Hon. Shari Horne  
Hon. Britt Huff  
Hon. Jonathan Ingram  
Hon. Dan Kalmick  
Hon. Joe Kalmick  
Hon. Elaine Litster  
Hon. Diana Mahmud  
Hon. Cynthia Moran  
Hon. Oscar Ortiz  
Sup. Luis Plancarte  
Hon. Randall Putz  
Sup. Carmen Ramirez  
Hon. Greg Rath  
Hon. Richard Rollins  
Hon. Jesus Silva  
Hon. Sharon Springer  
Hon. Connor Traut  
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson

**Rialto**

*Long Beach*  
*Signal Hill*  
*South Gate*  
*Westlake Village*  
*Yucca Valley*  
*Beverly Hills*  
*Laguna Woods*  
*Rolling Hills Estates*  
*Murrieta*  
*Huntington Beach*  
*Seal Beach*  
*Simi Valley*  
*South Pasadena*  
*Chino Hills*  
*Indio*  
  
*Big Bear*  
  
*Mission Viejo*  
*Port Hueneme*  
*Fullerton*  
*Burbank*  
*Buena Park*  
*Signal Hill*

**District 8**

District 30  
GCCOG  
GCCOG  
LVMCOG  
SBCTA  
WSCCOG  
OCCOG  
SBCCOG  
WRCOG  
OCCOG  
District 20  
VCOG  
SGVCOG  
SBCTA  
CVAG  
Imperial County  
District 11  
Ventura County  
OCCOG  
VCOG  
President’s Appointment  
SFVCOG  
OCCOG  
GCCOG

**EEC Members Not Present**

Hon. Ana Beltran  
Hon. Daniel Brotman  
Hon. Margaret Clark  
Hon. John Valdivia

*Westmoreland*  
*Glendale*  
*Rosemead*  
*San Bernardino*

ICTC  
AVCJPA  
SGVCOG  
SBCTA

**TC Members Present:**

**Hon. Sean Ashton, (Chair)**  
**Hon. Art Brown, (Vice Chair)**  
Hon. Phil Bacerra  
Hon. Kathryn Barger  
Hon. Elizabeth Becerra  
Hon. Ben Benoit

***Downey***  
***Buena Park***  
*Santa Ana*  
  
*Victorville*  
*Wildomar*

**District 25**  
**District 21**  
District 16  
Los Angeles County  
District 65  
South Coast AQMD



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Hon. Russell Betts	<i>Desert Hot Springs</i>	CVAG
Hon. Ross Chun	<i>Aliso Viejo</i>	OCTA
Hon. Andrew Do		Orange County CoC
Hon. Darrell Dorris	<i>Lancaster</i>	NCTC
Hon. John Dutrey	<i>Montclair</i>	SBCTA
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Brian Goodell		OCTA
Hon. Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Hon. Ray Hamada	<i>Bellflower</i>	District 24
Hon. Jan Harnik	<i>Palm Desert</i>	RCTC
Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Lindsey Horvath	<i>West Hollywood</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Mike T. Judge	<i>Simi Valley</i>	VCTC
Hon. Trish Kelley	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Linda Krupa	<i>Hemet</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Richard Loa	<i>Palmdale</i>	NCTC
Hon. Clint Lorimore	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Ray Marquez	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Marsha McLean	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	District 67
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	District 9
Hon. Fred Minagar	<i>Laguna Niguel</i>	District 12
Hon. Carol Moore	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Ara Najarian	<i>Glendale</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Frank Navarro	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
Hon. Blanca Pacheco	<i>Downey</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Ed Reece	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Crystal Ruiz	<i>San Jacinto</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Rey Santos	<i>Beaumont</i>	District 3
Hon. Zak Schwank	<i>Temecula</i>	District 5
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Jeremy Smith	<i>Canyon Lake</i>	
Hon. Ward Smith	<i>Placentia</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Jose Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Hon. Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Hon. Jess Talamantes		SFVCOG

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Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Michael Vargas		Riverside County CoC
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Don Wagner		Orange County
Hon. Colleen Wallace	<i>Banning</i>	
Hon. Alan Wapner	<i>Ontario</i>	SBCTA/SBCOG
Hon. Alicia Weintraub	<i>Calabasas</i>	LVMCOG

**TC Members Not Present:**

Lorrie Brown	<i>Ventura</i>	District 47
Hon. Joe Buscaino	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Michelle Chambers		Los Angeles County CoC
Hon. Jonathan Curtis	<i>La Cañada-Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Jason Gibbs	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	NCTC
Hon. Paul Krekorian		District 49
Hon. Steven Ly	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich		ICTC
Hon. Jon Primuth	<i>South Pasadena</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Cynthia Sternquist	<i>Temple City</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Scott Voigts	<i>Lake Forest</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Paul Marquez	<i>Caltrans District 7</i>	Ex-Officio Member

**Staff Present**

- Kome Ajise, Executive Director
- Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
- Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
- Javiera Cartagena, Director of Policy and Public Affairs
- Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning
- Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
- Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
- Mike Houston Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
- Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
- Maggie Aguilar, Office of Regional Council Support

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Clint Lorimore called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. President Lorimore asked Darrell Dorris, TC Policy Committee Member, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments.

The Clerk stated that there were no written public comments received by email before and after the deadline. Additionally, the Clerk confirmed that there were no public comment speakers.

Seeing no other public comment speakers, President Lorimore closed the Public Comment Period.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Counsel Ruben Duran requested that the information item be presented on first followed by the Consent Calendar. President Lorimore acknowledged the request.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Action on the Consent Calendar was taken after Agenda Item 4.**

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meetings – September 3, 2020 and March 4, 2021

Receive and File

2. REAP 2.0 Application for Advance Funding
3. Connect SoCal 2024 Preliminary Regional and County Growth Projections

A MOTION was made (A. Brown) to approve Consent Calendar Agenda Item 1; and Receive and File Items 2 and 3. Motion was SECONDED (Huang). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

**AYES:** (CEHD) Andrade-Stadler, Avila, Boyles, Carrillo, Dixon, Espinoza, Fisch, Huang, Kim, Kelly, Meister, Mirisch, M. Nava, O’Neil, Pe, Santa Ines, Shevlin, Warren, Wu, Yokoyama, Zerunyan, (EEC) Allen, Davila, Denison, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Moran, Ortiz, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rollins, Traut, Wilson, (TC) Ashton, Barger, Becerra, Benoit, Betts, A. Brown, Chun, Do, Hagman, Hamada, Harnik, Kelley, Krupa, Lorimore, Manos, R. Marquez, McCallon, McLean, Michael, Moore, Navarro, Reece, Saleh, Sandoval, Santos, Schwank, Simonoff, W. Smith, Solache, Solis, Spiegel, Talamantes, Vargas, Viegas-Walker, Wallace, Wapner, Weintraub (73)



**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** Solis abstained on Item 1 (1)

**INFORMATION ITEM**

4. Connect SoCal 2024: Emerging Issues Update

There were no public comments on Item 4.

Sarah Jepson, Planning Director, reported that staff would be seeking their direction and input on many policy issues and potential strategies to include within Connect SoCal 2024, in addition to revisiting the emerging trends that were identified during the adoption of the last plan. She also indicated that staff would provide insights on the regions forecasted growth. She mentioned that following the staff presentation there would be a panel discussion that would feature a few of their key partners in the planning development process to help shed light on the emerging issues that they see and to provide a broader planning context that will be helpful as they develop their future plan.

Sarah Dominguez, Program Manager, provided a broad overview of the current plan and its implementation and where they are in developing the next plan as well as some of the context and emerging issues they were finding. Her presentation included an overview of what Connect SoCal is, the Connect SoCal 2020 implementation and progress, the Connect SoCal 2024 development update, and disrupted trends and emerging issues. She explained that Connect SoCal was updated every four years which allowed them to make adjustments to their plan based on new data, context and key connections. She reported that since 2020 the Regional Council has adopted a number of resolutions to help steer the region and provide a policy foundation for staff work on the next plan development. She also reported that in addition to the implementing activities staff has been working on the foundations and frameworks for the next plan which included data collection and policy development. She also indicated that since the adoption of Connect SoCal 2020 they were now facing uncertainty and as a result were revisiting some of the key disruptive data and trends that were presented to the Regional Council in September 2020. She also mentioned the emerging issues for Connect SoCal 2024 which included regional equity, resilience and the economic shifts accelerated by the pandemic.

Kevin Kane, Program Manager, provided a report on the Connect SoCal 2024 preliminary regional and county growth projections which included information on households, employment and population in the region and six counties. Specifically, his presentation included information on the preliminary regional and county forecast for growth from 2019 to 2050, the Connect SoCal horizon, and next steps in the Connect SoCal planning process. His presentation also included information on

the rate of births and deaths, the economic base, the California exit, housing, and preliminary projections indicating slower growth but steady improvement. He also mentioned that next step would be to consider the principles and a process which will guide local jurisdiction input and review of Connect SoCal 2024's forecasted regional development pattern at the local levels.

Kome Ajise, moderated a panel discussion that would allow them to continue to set the stage for policy discussions in the upcoming months. He noted that the conversation could offer opportunities and perspectives on the emerging issues and trends that they were facing in the region. Mr. Ajise introduced the following panelist: Anne Mayer, Executive Director of Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), Managing Agency of the Western Riverside Regional Conservation Authority (RCA); Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA); Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director of the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC); Seleta Reynolds, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT). As requested by Mr. Ajise, each panelist provided background information on their agencies and the role they each play in the development of Connect SoCal. Mr. Ajise also asked the panelist a series of questions.

Mr. Ajise reported that in 2021, RCTC became the managing partner of RCA, which was the cohesive alignment of habitat conservation and infrastructure development. He asked Ms. Mayer to share some lessons in terms of helping maximize this balance and sustainable outcome. Ms. Mayer noted that they have always known that advance mitigation is good policy and they have been able to demonstrate over the past 15 years that transportation projects have benefited from mitigation. She shared that not only have transportation projects been streamlined in terms of process and accelerating project delivery, but they have also been able to ensure more effective and meaningful conservation. She stated that they were seeing that there was a synergy between land use conservation and transportation as envisioned by the Riverside County integrated project. She expressed that advance mitigation and multi species habitat conservation plans work, they just need funding, and it should be an important component of any regional transportation plan as well as priorities at the state and federal level.

Mr. Ajise noted that the SGC had been working to assess the landscape of transportation planning, funding and an alignment with state climate goals and asked Ms. von Koch-Liebert how this was informing the expectations that the state has of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in this kind of planned development. Ms. von Koch-Liebert stated that Assembly Bill 285 asked the SGC to produce a California transportation assessment, and the heart of this research was really around the question of whether transportation investments are leading towards the goals and sustainable community strategies. She indicated that they were close to putting out the results of the research paper that was put together by the USCIS research institutions. She indicated that next steps on this process was going to be digging in on some of the recommendations that the researchers had put forward.

Mr. Ajise asked Ms. Reynolds how the city of Los Angeles was facing issues around equity and how it is affecting their planning and implementation of activities. Ms. Reynolds noted that during the summer of 2020, everybody in the planning space, both on the transportation and land use side, really did a lot of soul searching. She stated there was quite a bit of reckoning in that space about the need to take ownership in a tone for historic decisions. She noted that there were decisions undertaken at every level of government that did not adequately account for the legacy of inequities and racial inequities which had been inherited in transportation and land use planning. She stated this brought about or accelerated a shift in the way that the city of Los Angeles was now sort of trying to wrestle with everything from its budget to the way that it prioritizes and applies for federal and state funding.

Mr. Ajise noted that OCTA runs an enviable transit system and asked Mr. Johnson how they were thinking about transit recovery and the role of transit in the region's mobility strategies. Mr. Johnson stated that during the pandemic they learned that OC bus was absolutely critical for a segment of the population that had no other way to get to their jobs and as they think about the future of transit, they needed to try to figure out what is a temporary change due to where they had been and what was a permanent and structural change as to where they were going. He stated it was important that they don't come up with temporary solutions to the problem and pretend that they are long term. He mentioned that they were doing a better connection study to look at what the future of transit was in their county. He also mentioned that there was a lot of funding that was being talked about for transit and most of it was for capital investment which was really good. However, he stated that they recognized the importance of that capital investment, but they also needed a way to properly operate the system and maintain that system and it could not be forgotten if they were going to have the investment pay benefits for the long term.

Mr. Ajise asked the panelist to briefly address the shifts in their organizations as a result of the pandemic and what they expected to do long term. Ms. Mayer indicated that it was really important for them to make data-driven decisions and they needed to drill down and see what was really happening to people in terms of their circumstances. She indicated that they needed to make sure that they don't perpetuate inequities and look at innovation and doing things a different way while focusing on climate change and the many other new policies. She indicated that they had to make sure not to leave people behind and they needed to avoid the perspective that they know all the answers because they did not. She also mentioned that they had to be careful about making sweeping generalizations about what the future is going to look like and be careful about unintended consequences of their decisions. Ms. von Koch-Leibert also noted that they needed to really think about solutions that work for those who will telework and those who will continue to commute to their daily destinations. She indicated that one thing around teleworking that they were seeing change in was the state, they were shifting away from having so much of the policy focused staff being in Sacramento to being located around the state, and thought it was a good shift

because they were able to contribute into the policy discussions. She also noted that as a result of the number of executive order waivers that waived rules and regulations processes, procedures, and procurement structures, they were more effective and streamlined and were able to deploy resources deeply into communities and thought there was a lot of assessment that should be done moving forward. She also noted that the governor's budget proposed an office for community partnership and strategic communications, and thought it was a real investment in how that permanency can happen where this office proposes \$65 million annually to continue to have those deep community engagements and continue to create that structure that was really important during the pandemic response. Ms. Reynolds mentioned that the pandemic actually busted a lot of myths that they had held for a long time in transportation and maybe in government, such as that government can't do big things fast, and she proceeded to provide examples like the largest vaccine site being set up at Dodgers Stadium overnight.

Members of the Joint Policy Committees and panelists engaged in discussions regarding growth stability, transit recovery, equity issues, universal basic mobility, innovative micro-transit, regional connectivity, wealth and economic projections, homeownership opportunities, public safety on transit and expanding the definition of resilience.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

President Lorimore provided an update from the Executive/Administration Committee meeting. He indicated that the EAC heard a staff presentation on implementing in-person participation opportunities at the upcoming March meetings. He indicated that they would be providing a hybrid option for members but still would not be able to allow the public to attend in person. He mentioned that the RC, EAC and Policy Committee members would be required to fill out a health assessment, either prior to arrival or upon arrival at SCAG, and would have their temperature checked, that masks covering were required unless they were actively eating or drinking, social distancing measures would be used, and that staff would be sending out a survey to determine if they would be attending in-person. Lastly, he reminded members that the Policy Committees: CEHD, EEC and TC were scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Lorimore adjourned the Joint Policy Committee meeting at 11:54 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES]

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**AGENDA ITEM 2**  
**REPORT**

Southern California Association of Governments  
March 2, 2023

**To:** Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees (JPC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
APPROVAL**

**From:** Sarah Dominguez, Planning Supervisor  
(213) 236-1918, dominguezs@scag.ca.gov

**Subject:** Connect SoCal 2024 Update

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information Only – No Action Required

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

*This fall, SCAG will release the draft of Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG’s Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). In February 2022, SCAG held a Joint Policy Committee to assess regional trends disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2022, the Regional Council approved a Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024, including the formation of three special subcommittees to address key issues for the plan. This staff report and accompanying presentation revisit the trends, Policy Development Framework and introduce the subcommittee recommendations for consideration by SCAG’s Policy Committee members.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Every four years, SCAG, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the six-county region of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Imperial, is required by federal law (23 USCA §134 et seq.) to prepare and update a long-range (minimum of 20 years) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that provides for the development and integrated management and operation of transportation systems and facilities that will function as an intermodal transportation network for the SCAG metropolitan planning area.

The process for development of the plan takes into account all modes of transportation and is accomplished by a “continuing, cooperative and comprehensive” (the 3 C’s) planning approach, which is also performance-driven and outcome based. In addition, because the SCAG region includes areas designated as nonattainment for ozone or carbon monoxide under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.), the plan must conform to applicable air quality standards.

The passage of California Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) in 2008 requires that SCAG prepare and adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that sets forth a forecasted regional development pattern which, when integrated with the transportation network, measures, and policies, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light duty trucks (Govt. Code §65080(b)(2)(B)).

SCAG’s next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in September 2020 (Connect SoCal 2020).

**Connect SoCal 2024 Update**

Staff work on Connect SoCal 2024 began soon after the final adoption of Connect SoCal 2020 for all purposes in September 2020. The process follows four general phases, identified below. Currently, we are entering the Outreach and Analysis phase, while continuing Policy Development through mid-year.



The work of developing Connect SoCal to meet the statutory requirements of an RTP/SCS can be framed as asking a series of key questions:

- *How might we create a better region by 2050?*
  - Vision and Goals
- *Who are we planning for?*
  - Regional Demographic Forecast
- *Where will we grow?*
  - Forecasted Development Pattern
- *How will we move?*
  - Research and Studies
  - Program Development
  - County Transportation Commission Project List

**Trends Update**

Since 2020, staff have been tracking several trends disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic such as changes to how we move around the region and the pace of housing production. A mid-term assessment of several trends was shared at the Joint Policy Committee meeting in February 2022,

“Connect SoCal 2024: Emerging Issues Update”<sup>1</sup>. For this March 2023 update, we are seeing many of the trends (vehicle miles traveled, safety, goods movement) return to close to 2019 levels while housing production continues to rise and transit ridership continues to lag. Specifically:

*Congestion and Mode Share Changes:* While vehicle miles traveled (VMT) has almost resumed to pre-pandemic levels, transit ridership has rebounded unevenly between bus and rail but neither fully to 2019 levels. Travel behavior changes that occurred during the pandemic, most notably unsafe driving speeds, led to reduced safety both nationally and in the SCAG region. Unfortunately, while California fatalities are down 2 percent since 2021, the national rate of collision-related fatalities has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels (based on initial 2022 reports)<sup>2</sup>.

*Goods Movement:* Following sustained increases for all major international gateway facilities and high demand for consumer goods through mid-2022, by September 2022 San Pedro Bay Ports are seeing activity decline below 2019 levels.

*Telework:* The stay-at-home orders issued in March 2020 in response to the pandemic increased teleworking rates abruptly and dramatically. Within Southern California, the share of jobs that can be performed at home are relatively high (38-52 percent) compared to the national estimate of 37 percent of U.S. jobs. (Dingel and Neiman 2020)<sup>3</sup> As of 2021, the average teleworking rate across all SCAG counties was 19.3 percent.

*Housing Production:* Recent year-end data from the Construction Industry Research Board (CIRB), which measures local building permits, shows 53,745 new housing units were permitted in 2022 – the most units per year since 2006. Additionally, the CIRB data is known to undercount accessory dwelling units (ADUs) which increased to an estimated 11,110 units in 2021 according to data from California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

### **Draft Policy Development Framework Update**

Adopted in June 2022 by the Regional Council, the Policy Development Framework documented the policy direction and development of several emerging issues and policy priorities. It also detailed the establishment of the special Connect SoCal 2024 subcommittees. The attached update to the Policy Development Framework reflects recent policy discussions at both the three Policy Committees and the three special subcommittees and aims to better reflect SCAG’s work in a way that serves both the regulatory agencies and SCAG’s implementation partners. This interim draft

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<sup>1</sup> <https://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2286&Inline=True>

<sup>2</sup> <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813406>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272720300992?via%3Dihub>



will be revised as needed in the coming months and outlines how the Regional Planning Policies will be organized in the draft Connect SoCal 2024 to be released in Fall 2023.

### **Special Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittees**

#### *Process:*

Three special Regional Council subcommittees were created to dive deeper into key issues areas for Connect SoCal: Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning. Each subcommittee met 4-5 times between September 2022 and February 2023 to identify recommendations that will inform how these emerging issues are addressed in Connect SoCal 2024. These meetings featured subject matter expert presentations and guest panelists to share insights on the relative topic areas, followed by robust discussions amongst the subcommittee members.

#### *Goals:*

Racial Equity and Regional Planning: Identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal and to guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region.

Resilience and Conservation: Advance the direction set in the SCAG Regional Council Resolution on Climate Change Action and Water Action to consider opportunities for enhanced resilience and resource conservation, and develop recommendations on how Connect SoCal can support our communities in adapting to changing conditions or mitigating risks to become more resilient.

Next Generation Infrastructure: Build on Connect SoCal 2020 and provide guidance on the priorities and strategies for Connect SoCal 2024, reflecting the rapidly evolving developments across the region specific to the future of mobility and associated implications for public policy.

#### *Members:*

This subcommittee assignment required additional time and commitment from several Regional Councilmembers from across the region. We appreciate the time and thoughtful contributions from members:

#### Racial Equity and Regional Planning

1. Hon. Mark Henderson, Chair, Gardena, RC District 28
2. Hon. Colleen Wallace, Vice Chair, Banning, WRCOG
3. Hon. Darrell Dorris, Lancaster, NCTC
4. Hon. Ray Hamada, Bellflower, RC District 24
5. Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, RC District 68
6. Hon. Andrew Masiel, Tribal Govt Regional Planning Board Representative



7. Hon. Marisela Nava, Perris, RC District 69
8. Hon. Kim B. Nguyen, Garden Grove, RC District 18
9. Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto, RC District 8
10. Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama, Cerritos, RC District 23

#### Resilience and Conservation

1. Hon. Kathleen Kelley, Chair, Palm Desert, RC District #2
2. Hon. Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair, RC District #32
3. Hon. Cindy Allen, Long Beach, RC District #30
4. Hon. Lorrie Brown, Ventura, RC District #47
5. Hon. David Avila, Yucaipa, SBCTA
6. Hon. Peggy Huang, TCA Representative
7. Hon. Trish Kelley, Mission Viejo, OCCOG
8. Hon. Ann Marshall, Avalon, GCCOG
9. Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills, SBCTA
10. Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio, CVAG
11. Hon. Nick Shultz, Burbank, AVCJPA
12. Hon. Wes Speake, Corona, WRCOG

#### Next Generation Infrastructure

1. Hon. Keith Eich, Chair, La Canada Flintridge, RC District 36
2. Hon. Art Brown, Buena Park, RC District 21
3. Hon. Margaret Finlay, Duarte, RC District 35
4. Hon. Jan C. Harnik, RCTC Representative
5. Hon. Laura Hernandez, Port Hueneme, RC District 45
6. Hon. Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, RC District 63
7. Mr. Paul Marquez, Caltrans, District 7, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
8. Hon. Larry McCallon, Highland, RC District 7/Air District Representative
9. Hon. Carol Moore, Laguna Woods, OCCOG
10. Hon. George Nava, Brawley, ICTC
11. Hon. Alan Wapner, SBCTA Representative
12. Hon. Alex Fisch, Past Chair, Culver City, RC District 41

#### *White Papers and Recommendations:*

Each subcommittee prepared a White Paper to distill and document the work of the subcommittee and present the recommendations. The White Papers are attached to this staff report and include a fuller discussion of the key findings and recommendations from each subcommittee.

The recommendations from each subcommittee are as follows:

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### Racial Equity and Regional Planning

- Connect SoCal 2024 will be a vehicle to promote racial equity (as defined in the Racial Equity Early Action Plan), to address the historic impacts of systemic racism and coordinate and implement equity centered activities across the region.
- Embed a racial equity lens in Connect SoCal implementation, prioritize equity as a process and outcome that benefits and reduces burdens for the most disadvantaged communities and people across the region, and identify opportunities to measure and track success and lessons learned.
- Incorporate equity centered best practices in data collection to ensure that data assessments reflect community needs, disaggregate data by race/ethnicity and other important demographic factors, ground truth data, widely distribute data to impacted stakeholders, and incorporate community perspective in data-informed decision making.
- Break down silos within SCAG and among other local, regional, and federal agencies that are doing equity-centered work, for example State Reparations Effort and Justice40<sup>4</sup>.
- Prioritize community-centered interventions, resources, and programming that serve the most disadvantaged communities and people in the region with strategies that can be implemented in the short-to-long-term.  
Identify and target communities that are vulnerable to displacement and work towards stabilizing communities and increase access to housing that meets the needs of the region, with an emphasis on preserving and producing affordable housing, increasing homeownership opportunities, and reducing housing cost burden (for renters and homeowners), with a focus on the communities with the greatest need.
- Incorporate equity-centered economic activities that increase access to opportunity and living wages for disadvantaged communities and individuals who face barriers to employment and economic mobility.
- Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and participation of people of color and disadvantaged communities in SCAG led and funded planning processes.

### Resilience and Conservation

- Define Resilience: The capacity of the SCAG region's built, social, economic and natural systems to anticipate and effectively respond to changing conditions, acute shocks, and chronic stressors by creating multiple opportunities for a sustainable, thriving and equitable future;
- Prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards: Help the people, places, and infrastructure that are most at risk for climate change impacts, recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened;

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

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- Build strong partnerships: Coordinate across multiple sectors, scales, and stakeholders to ensure all people have access to the fundamental physical, health, and social benefits of our natural and built systems;
- Apply ecosystem-based approaches: Incorporate ecosystem resilience, protection of ecosystem services, and sustainable resource management;
- Maximize mutual benefits: Support resilience and conservation initiatives across built, social, economic, and natural systems, such as disaster preparedness, to ensure synergies across systems and reduce/avoid impacts of maladaptation.

#### Next Generation Infrastructure

- Maintain a people-centric transportation investment strategy: Ensure that deployment of new technologies support people's needs and address larger shared goals like advancing equitable access and reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Prioritize use of our public rights-of-way for all roadway users, especially focusing on the needs of non-single occupant vehicle users.
- Continue to invest in system preservation and efficiency: Fix-it-first remains a key strategy for Connect SoCal, especially recognizing greater needs associated with the transition to zero emission vehicles and ensuring system resilience. Within this context, operational improvements and targeted strategic highway capacity expansion are warranted when coupled with complementary efforts to offset any potential increases in vehicle miles traveled and especially single-occupant vehicle travel.
- Expand and enhance mobility choices: Focus on understanding and meeting the needs of existing transit riders, which will also attract new riders. Increase choices beyond driving by enhancing and supporting services across all modes of travel including transit, active transportation, micromobility, and automobiles. Reconsider the role of the automobile in our daily lives and how mobility options can increase reliable accessibility.
- Re-envision how we plan, fund, and manage the transportation system: Plan and manage the transportation system more like an investor, including asserting a role in the management of the transportation digital realm. Appropriately pricing the transportation system ensures that the system functions for all users (even during peak demand periods), generates reliable revenue, and established resources for addressing equity concerns.

The purpose of the above recommendations is to inform the on-going development and policy discussions related to Connect SoCal 2024. The recommendations are being presented to the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) for further discussion. Beyond the JPC discussion, the intent is to incorporate the recommendations into the Connect SoCal 2024 planning process across topic areas through further engagement with SCAG Policy Committees and the public.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 22-23 Overall Work Program (310.4874.01: Connect SoCal Development).

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Joint Policy Committee Connect SoCal
2. Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Policy Development Framework Update
3. Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee White Paper
4. Resilience and Conservation Subcommittee White Paper
5. Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee White Paper

THE 2024 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY  
OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



Joint Policy Committee Meeting  
March 2, 2023

## Overview

### **CONNECT SOCIAL 2024: UPDATE**

- Purpose and Requirements
- Progress to Date
- Trends Update

### **SPECIAL CONNECT SOCIAL 2024 SUBCOMMITTEES**

- Overview
- Recommendations
- Discussion

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: UPDATE**

- Overview
- Regional Planning Policies

# Connect SoCal 2024 Update

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## What is Connect SoCal?



### **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

Connect SoCal is a 20+ year plan with 6,000+ transportation projects, a regional development pattern and many supportive programs and strategies.

Beyond the Federal and State requirements, SCAG coordinates regional policies and strategies to improve housing, the economy, mobility and the environment across the six county SCAG region.



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# What is required for the RTP/SCS?



- **STATE REQUIREMENTS (SB 375)**

- Integrated regional development pattern & transportation network
- Reduce GHG emissions to meet targets for passenger vehicles

- **FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Updated every 4 years
- 20+ years into the future
- Revenues = Costs
- Demonstrate transportation conformity
- Public involvement

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# Importance of meeting our requirements



Meeting our Federal and State requirements is critical for projects in the region to receive transportation funding or approval

- **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY**

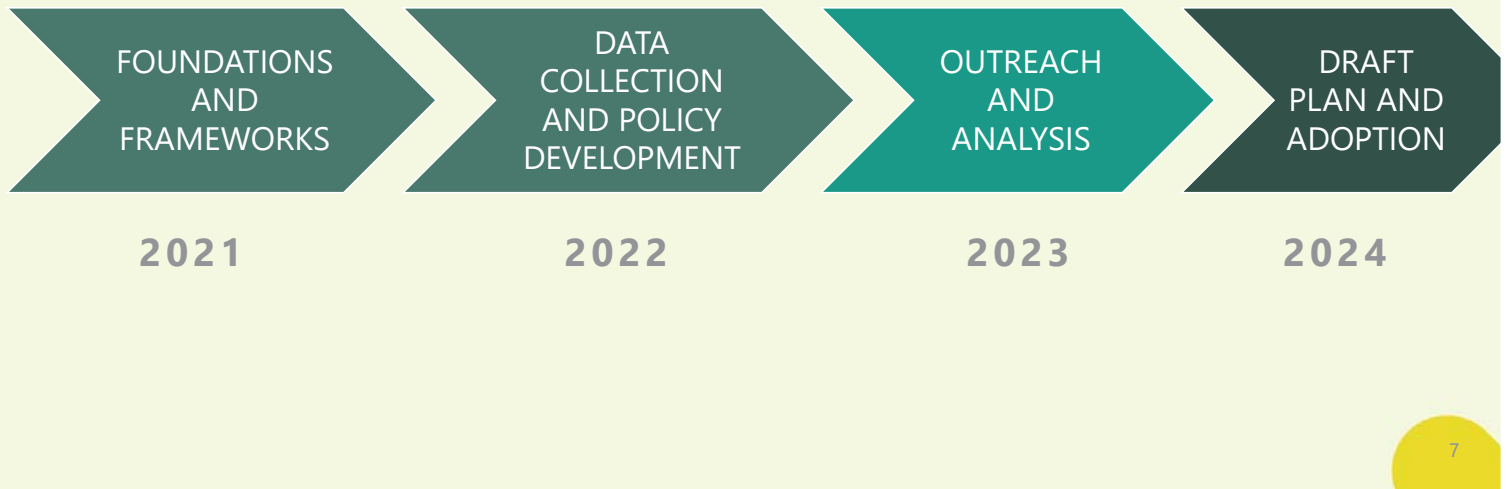
- Failure to demonstrate transportation conformity not only impacts access to federal dollars (\$41 billion in Connect SoCal 2020), but prohibits many transportation projects from advancing regardless of funding sources

- **STATE GHG EMISSION REDUCTION TARGET**

- Required by Solutions for Congested Corridors Program and the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program
- In 2020, SCAG projects were awarded a total of \$925 million in funding from both programs

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# Development Phases



7

# Connect SoCal: What have we done so far?



8

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation - Joint Policy Committee Connect SoCal (Connect SoCal 2024 Update)



# Who are we planning for?

## Who are we planning for?



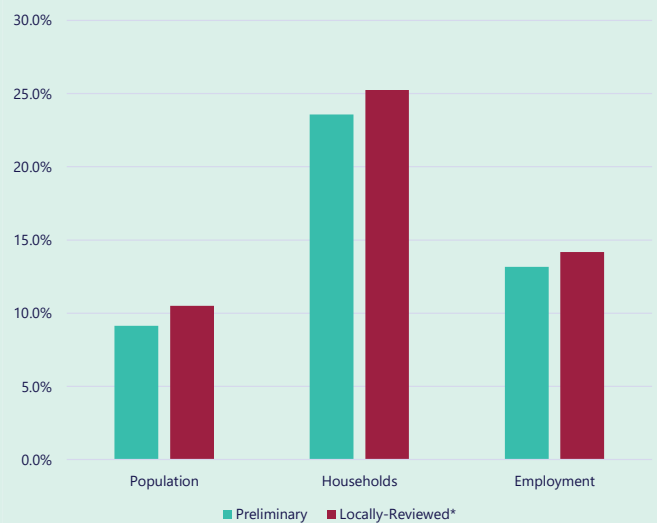
### PRELIMINARY GROWTH PROJECTION: "Slower Growth, Steady Improvement"

- +1.72M Population
- +1.46M Households
- +1.18M Employment

### STAFF REPORTS:

- Regional Growth Forecast Framework and Expert Panel (Sep 2021)
- Connect SoCal 2024: Preliminary Regional and County Growth Projections (Feb 2022)

SCAG REGION FORECASTED GROWTH, 2019-2050



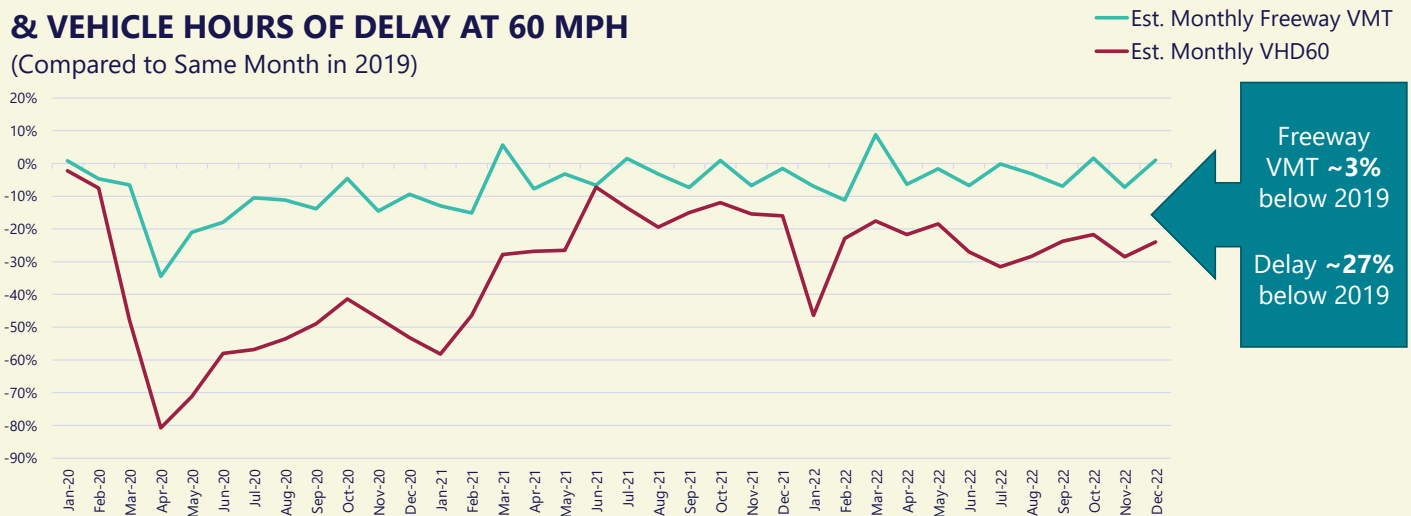
\*revisions accurate as of 2/9/23. Complete version will be shared through SCAG's Technical Working Group

# How has the region changed?

## VMT Rebounded...



**% CHANGE IN REGIONAL MONTHLY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED & VEHICLE HOURS OF DELAY AT 60 MPH**  
(Compared to Same Month in 2019)



Freeway VMT ~3% below 2019  
Delay ~27% below 2019

Source: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Performance Measurement System (PeMS)

## While our streets have become less safe

- Collisions resulting in fatality or serious injury have increased in the SCAG region by nearly 17% between 2018-21.
- The trend of increasing serious collisions occurring in the SCAG region was not slowed by the pandemic.
- Early estimates for California 2022 fatalities are showing a -2% change from 2021



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## And transit recovery is still needed

Transit/Rail Ridership in 2022  
Compared to 2019 (Sept.)

Regional Bus	↓ 27%
Metro Rail	↓ 30%
Metrolink	↓ 60%

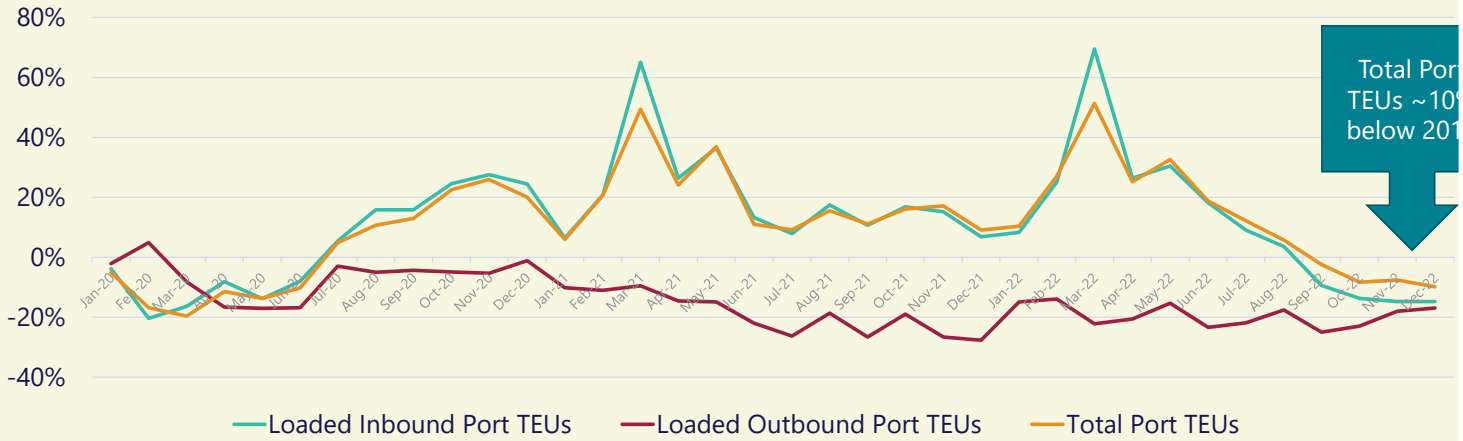


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# Goods Movement, return to normal?



## % CHANGE IN SAN PEDRO BAY PORTS TEUs (Compared to Same Month in 2019)



Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation - Joint Policy Committee Connect SoCal (Connect SoCal 2024 Update)

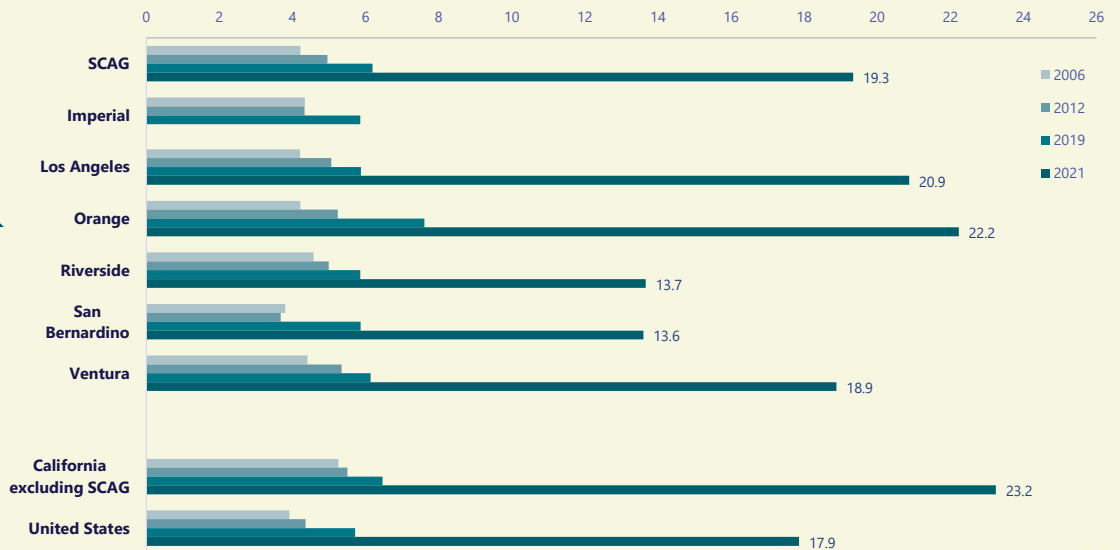


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# Teleworking is here to stay... for some



## PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS AGE 16 AND OVER WHO WORK FROM HOME



↑

Working from home increased 3x regionally

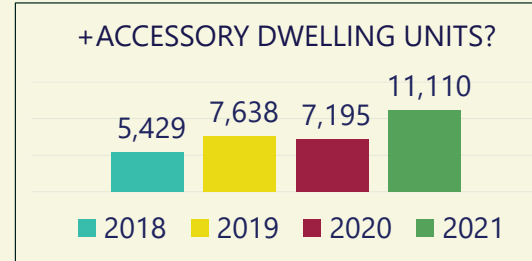
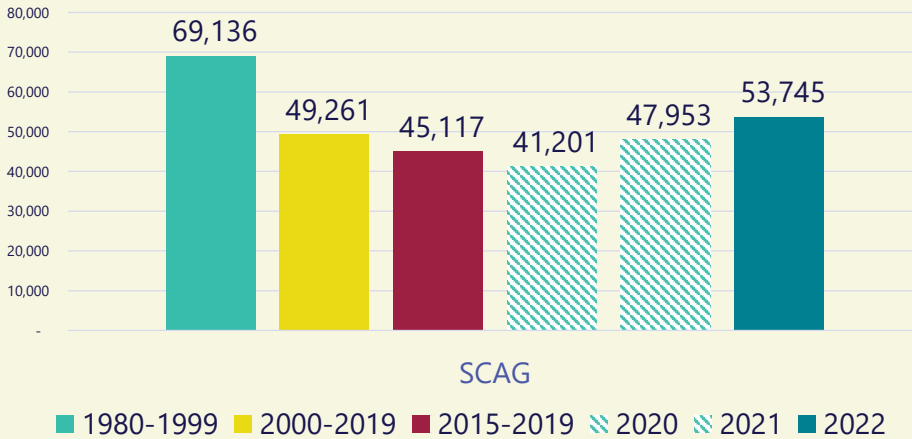
Notes: Chart report data from American Community Survey 1-year samples for 2006, 2012, 2019, and 2021, Table DP04. Data for this variable are incomplete for Imperial County. Data for Imperial County are from the 5-year sample, if available.

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# Housing production continues to increase



**ANNUAL NEW UNITS**  
COMPARING PRIOR TRENDS TO RECENT YEARS



Sources: CIRB New Units from Permits. ADU data from HCD APRs, updated 8/8/22

How might we create a better region by 2050?



## Draft Vision: A healthy, accessible, and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

1. Build and maintain a robust transportation network. (MOBILITY)
2. Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving. (COMMUNITIES)
3. Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow. (ENVIRONMENT)
4. Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all. (ECONOMY)



# Where will we grow?

# Where will we grow?



- SCAG develops a Regional Forecasted Development Pattern based on input received through the Local Data Exchange
- Research and Staff Reports
  - Connect SoCal 2024: Local Data Exchange (Multiple reports 2022-2023)
  - High Quality Transit Area (HQT) Analysis Pilot Program (2022)
  - Neighborhood Mobility Areas (October 2022)
  - Natural & Working Lands (Multiple reports 2022)
  - Brownfields Expert Panel (Feb 2023)

**NEXT:** Updated Regional Forecasted Development Pattern in June 2023

# How will we move?

# How will we move?



- COVID-19 Pandemic altered travel behavior in significant ways. This presents an opportunity to leverage innovative, shared mobility options that best fit the context across the SCAG region.
- County Transportation Commissions submitted Project Lists in November 2022

## **NEXT:**

Goods Movement Resolution (March 2023)

Connect SoCal 2024: Draft Goods Movement Approach (April 2023)

Clean Transportation Technology Policy (April 2023)

## • Research and Staff Reports

- Mobility Innovations & Pricing (March 2022)
- Mobility as a Service Feasibility White Paper (June 2022)
- Integrated Passenger and Freight Rail Forecast (June 2022)
- Regional Express Lanes Network: Concept of Operations (June 2022)
- Clean Technology Program Update (October 2022)
- Curb Space Management Study (October 2022)
- Regional Dedicated Transit Lanes Study (January 2023)
- Transportation Demand Management (Multiple reports, 2022-2023)
- Goods Movement (Multiple reports, 2022-2023)
- Connect SoCal 2024: Draft Transit/Rail Approach (Jan 2023)
- Connect SoCal 2024: Draft Active Transportation and Regional Complete Streets Policy (Feb 2023)

# Connect SoCal 2024: Next Steps



# Public outreach and engagement



## “OPEN HOUSE” STYLE WORKSHOPS

- In-person: several per County
- Virtual: several regionwide

## CBO PARTNERSHIPS

- Expand reach to underrepresented populations

## POP-UP ENGAGEMENTS

- Meet people where they are gathering

## ONLINE SURVEY

- Reach across the region



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# Development Update



FOUNDATIONS  
AND  
FRAMEWORKS

2021

DATA  
COLLECTION  
AND POLICY  
DEVELOPMENT

2022

OUTREACH  
AND  
ANALYSIS

2023

DRAFT  
PLAN AND  
ADOPTION

2024

## COMPLETED MILESTONES

- ✓ Draft Goals & Vision
- ✓ Draft Performance Measures
- ✓ Local Data Exchange
- ✓ Project List

## MILESTONES FOR 2023

- Subcommittee Recommendations
- Public Outreach and Engagement
- Plan Modeling, Analysis, Writing
- Draft Release in Fall 2023

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# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittees

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## Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittees



**NEXT GENERATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**RESILIENCE &  
CONSERVATION**



**RACIAL EQUITY &  
REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **PURPOSE**

Dive deeper into key areas for Connect SoCal and provide recommendations to the Policy Committees on how to address these issues in the Plan

### **REPRESENTATION**

Members from across the region with invited participation from business or civic leaders and practitioners

### **DURATION**

Launched in September 2022

**Final Meeting and Recommendations: January 19 (RE&RP) and 23 (R&C), February 15 (NGI)**

More info: [scag.ca.gov/subcommittees](https://scag.ca.gov/subcommittees)

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# Guest Speakers and Panelists



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# Subcommittee White Papers



- Foundations
- Discussion & Key Findings
- Recommendations



## NEXT:

- Staff will elevate recommendations as relevant in future staff reports
- Informs Regional Planning Policy development

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## KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal?
- How can Connect SoCal guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region?

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Connect SoCal 2024 will be a vehicle to promote racial equity
- Embed a racial equity lens in Connect SoCal implementation
- Incorporate racial equity centered best practices in data collection
- Break down silos within SCAG and local, State, and Federal partners
- Prioritize community-centered interventions in the most disadvantaged communities
- Identify and target communities vulnerable to displacement and work towards stabilizing
- Incorporate equity-centered economic activities
- Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and engagement of people of color/DACs

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## KEY QUESTION

- How can Connect SoCal mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate and seismic related hazards on our built and natural systems and increase our region's resilience?

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define Resilience
- Prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards
- Build strong partnerships
- Apply ecosystem-based approaches
- Maximize mutual benefits



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### KEY QUESTIONS

- How has travel changed with COVID and what will this mean for long-range transportation planning?
- (How) should our objectives for highway investment evolve?
- How do we ensure transit recovery?
- (How) should we better align the way we pay for and fund transportation with equity and resiliency goals?

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain a people-centric transportation investment strategy
- Continue to invest in system preservation and efficiency
- Expand and enhance mobility choices
- Re-envision how we plan, fund, and manage the transportation system



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# Discussion

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# Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024: Update

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# Policy Development Framework

- Adopted by the Regional Council on June 2, 2022
- Documented draft vision and goals
- Outlined policy priorities from Connect SoCal 2020, recent Regional Council actions, and emerging issues
- Established the subcommittees



**NEXT:** July 2023 Update with **Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies**

# Framework Update

## MOBILITY

- System Preservation
- Complete Streets
- Transit and Multimodal Integration
- Transportation Demand Management
- Transportation System Management
- Technology Integration\*
- Safety
- Financing the System

## COMMUNITIES

- 15 Minute Communities \*
- Housing the Region \*
- Priority Development Areas
- Priority Equity Areas \*

## ENVIRONMENT

- Sustainable Development
- Air Quality and Clean Technology
- Natural and Working Lands Preservation
- Nature-based Solutions\*
- Addressing Climate Hazards
- Water Resilience \*

## ECONOMY

- Goods Movement
- Broadband \*
- Universal Basic Mobility\*
- Workforce Development\*
- Tourism

\*New policy area for Connect SoCal 2024



# Questions? Comments?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[SCAG.CA.GOV/CONNECT-SOCAL](http://SCAG.CA.GOV/CONNECT-SOCAL)



# Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

## MARCH 2023 DRAFT UPDATE

Connect SoCal 2024, the 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), will be prepared by SCAG over the next year, in anticipation of an April 2024 adoption date. Originally prepared in response to direction by the Regional Council and approved by the Regional Council on June 2, 2022 this update to the Policy Development Framework reflects the discussions and stakeholder input received since that time through the Connect SoCal 2024 subcommittees and other working groups, to improve the clarity of Connect SoCal and its linkages to implementation. This version relies on the same Draft Plan Vision and Goals as well as the Policy Priorities that will be expanded and refined through the planning process to advance the vision and goals. It also maintains a policy development leadership structure and outlook to foster policy education, engagement, consensus building and decision-making. The major changes in this version can be found in the “Connect SoCal 2024 Plan Content” section below which serves to better link Connect SoCal to other state and local plans and respond to SCAG’s RTP responsibility to articulate both the policy and action elements of the RTP/SCS.

### DRAFT PLAN VISION AND GOALS

In January 2022, staff began engaging with stakeholders through the Regional Planning Working Groups and the Technical Working Group on the draft Goals & Vision for Connect SoCal 2024. Their feedback informed the updated draft Vision and Goals below.

The draft Vision is meant to capture what we want the region to be by 2050 and is supported by four draft Goals, each centered around a key theme (Mobility, Communities, the Environment, and the Economy). These goals are each further defined by supporting sub-Goals.

### DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

A healthy, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

### DRAFT GOALS

*Mobility:* Build and maintain a robust transportation network.

- Support investments and programs that are well-maintained and operated, coordinated, and resilient, and result in improved safety and air quality.
- Ensure reliable, accessible, affordable, and quality travel options while striving to enhance equity in transportation resources offered in underserved communities.
- Plan for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

*Communities:* Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving.

- Reinforce vibrant, human-centered communities in urban, suburban, and rural settings to increase mobility options and reduce travel distances.
- Produce and preserve a diversity of housing types to improve affordability, accessibility, and choices for all.
- Foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity, and actively seek to reduce racial and economic disparities.

*Environment:* Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.

- Develop communities that are resilient and can mitigate, adapt to, and respond to chronic and acute stressors and disruptions, such as climate change.
- Integrate the region’s development pattern and transportation network to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Conserve and restore the region’s natural and agricultural resources.

*Economy:* Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all.

- Provide physical and digital infrastructure to improve access to education, vocational training, jobs, financial systems, and to foster the growth of small businesses in underserved communities.
- Advance a resilient and efficient goods movement system that supports the economic vitality of the region, attainment of clean air, and quality of life for our communities.
- Improve regional multimodal transportation system infrastructure and efficiency to enhance the region’s global economic competitiveness.

## POLICY PRIORITIES

The Draft Policy Priorities are based upon policy direction established in Connect SoCal 2020 and recent Regional Council actions to address three of the emerging issues facing the region.

## EMERGING ISSUES

There are three salient and interconnected challenges facing our region: equity, resilience, and the economy. Actions by SCAG’s Regional Council over the past year and a half provide a policy foundation for work on the next plan development and expanded policy focus on these emerging issue areas.

### Equity

On July 2, 2020, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 20-623-2<sup>1</sup> on Racial and Social Justice, affirming SCAG’s commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and establishing the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to advance social justice throughout the agency.

On May 6, 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan<sup>2</sup>, the purpose of which is to guide and sustain SCAG’s regional leadership in service of equity and social justice. It reflects discussions and feedback provided to the Special Committee on the definition of equity and overarching goals and strategies to advance racial equity through SCAG’s policies, practices, and activities.

### Resilience

On January 7, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-628-1<sup>3</sup> on Climate Change Action that affirms a climate change crisis in Southern California and identifies actions for SCAG to undertake, including: developing a regional resilience framework, initiating a regional climate planning network, and developing a regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP). On October 12, 2022 the Regional Council also adopted a Water Action Resolution that called on local and regional partners to join together to

<sup>1</sup> <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc070220agn01.pdf?1602368143>

<sup>2</sup> <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc050621fullpacket.pdf#page=91>

<sup>3</sup> <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc010721fullpacket.pdf#page=12>

adopt an “all of the above” response to the drought and water shortage emergency. Resolution No. 22-641-3<sup>4</sup> requires SCAG to identify, recommend and integrate into Connect SoCal 2024 policies and strategies to align investments in water infrastructure with housing needs and the adopted growth forecast and development pattern.

## Economy

On July 1, 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS) Final Report and Recommendations<sup>5</sup>, which identifies five core principles to drive SCAG’s work and to act as a lens for identifying recommendations:

1. Center the economic recovery strategy on racial and gender equity; focusing in reducing the racial wealth gap;
2. Focus on rebuilding the middle class with high road employment;
3. Ensure that all strategies contribute to a climate ready region;
4. Tailor strategies to the needs of both industry sectors and geographic subregions; and
5. Bring new and diverse voices to the table.

On February 4, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2<sup>6</sup> to establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide. The Broadband Action Plan includes incorporating broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs and future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

## CONNECT SOCAL 2024 PLAN STRUCTURE

Connect SoCal 2020 was organized by a Core Vision and Key Connections. Many of the policies and strategies summarized as the Core Vision are reflective of the policies and projects developed at the local level and gathered by SCAG through the plan development process (through the Local Data Exchange with Local Jurisdictions and Project List submissions from County Transportation Commissions). Key Connections, in contrast, identified critical regional strategies to “close the gap” between what could be accomplished through intensification of core planning strategies alone, and what needed to be done to meet increasingly aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Many of these locally driven projects and policies will be carried forward into Connect SoCal 2024 but organized instead by Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies. This change will allow SCAG to better reflect the breadth of issue areas within Connect SoCal 2024, integrate the emerging issue areas within the RTP requirements, and to better support partners in demonstrating alignment with the regional plan.

- **Regional Planning Policies:** will carry on the intent of the *Core Vision* to articulate broad and established regional policies or best practices for land use and transportation planning. CTCs or local jurisdictions can point to these policies to establish alignment with the RTP/SCS.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/scag-resolution-22-647-3-water-final.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc070121fullpacket.pdf#page=13>

<sup>6</sup> <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc020421fullpacket.pdf#page=13>

- **Implementation Strategies** will be priorities for SCAG efforts in fulfilling or going beyond the Regional Planning Policies. These are not discussed within this framework but will be the subject of future staff reports and engagement with stakeholders.

The below chart articulates how SCAG will carry forward the Core Vision, Key Connections and other policy areas of Connect SoCal 2020 into this new Regional Planning Policies organization. There are several noted new policy areas based on recent Regional Council Resolutions or discussions and direction from Policy Committee members. The specific headers are subject to change and updates based on further stakeholder engagement and Policy Committee discussions between April and July 2023. Future discussions will also inform the specific Implementation Strategies mentioned above, to be included in the draft Connect SoCal 2024.

<b>Connect SoCal 2020</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Connect SoCal 2024</b>
<b>CORE VISION</b>		<b>REGIONAL PLANNING POLICIES</b>
Sustainable Development	-	<b>Mobility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System Preservation</li> <li>• Complete Streets</li> <li>• Transit and Multimodal Integration</li> <li>• Transportation Demand Management</li> <li>• Transportation System Management</li> <li>• Technology Integration*</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Financing the System</li> </ul>
System Preservation & Resilience	-	
Demand & System Management	-	
Transit Backbone	Amended to "Transit and Multimodal Integration"	
Complete Streets	-	
Goods Movement	-	
<b>KEY CONNECTIONS</b>		
Smart Cities & Job Centers	Merged under "Transportation Demand Management" and "Technology Integration"	<b>Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Air Quality and Clean Technology</li> <li>• Natural and Working Lands Preservation</li> <li>• Nature-based Solutions*</li> <li>• Addressing Climate Hazards*</li> <li>• Water Resilience*</li> </ul>
Housing Supportive Infrastructure	Broaden to "Housing the Region"	
Go Zones	Merged under "Transportation Demand Management"	
Accelerated Electrification	Revised and merged under "Air Quality and Clean Technology"	
Shared Mobility & Mobility as A Service (MaaS)	Revised and merged under "Transit and Multimodal Integration"	
		<b>Economy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goods Movement</li> <li>• Broadband*</li> <li>• Universal Basic Mobility*</li> <li>• Workforce Development *</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul>

\* New policy area for Connect SoCal 2024

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT: LEADERSHIP & OUTLOOK

Policy discussions that occur during SCAG’s Policy Committee meetings provide valuable direction to staff on areas for further research, potential strategies to address regional challenges, and priorities for what to include in the proposed plan.

Staff will bring forward informational and discussion items related to the relevant Regional Planning Policies; highlighting context and data from staff research; perspectives from academics, researchers or policy experts; and insights from local practitioners. Presentations may also focus on current subregional efforts and best practices to address Connect SoCal 2020 implementation, as well as emerging trends and new issues related to each Regional Planning Policy. The plan issue areas organized by Policy Committee are outlined in the table below.

## MAIN POLICY COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
<b><i>Regional Planning Policies</i></b>		
<p><b>Mobility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System Preservation</li> <li>• Complete Streets</li> <li>• Transit and Multimodal Integration</li> <li>• Transportation Demand Management</li> <li>• Transportation System Management</li> <li>• Technology Integration</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Financing the System</li> </ul> <p><b>Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goods Movement</li> <li>• Broadband</li> <li>• Universal Basic Mobility</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> </ul> <p><b>Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Minute Communities</li> <li>• Housing the Region</li> <li>• Priority Development Areas</li> <li>• Priority Equity Areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Development</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Air Quality and Clean Technology</li> <li>• Natural and Working Lands Preservation</li> <li>• Nature-based Solutions</li> <li>• Addressing Climate Hazards</li> <li>• Water Resilience</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Environmental Compliance</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEIR</li> <li>• Transportation Conformity</li> <li>• Environmental Justice</li> <li>• SB 375 Technical Methodology</li> </ul>

## JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

The issues facing the region are intersectional and often do not neatly fit within one committee. For that reason, it is occasionally necessary to hold a Joint Policy Committee meeting of members from all three Policy Committees (Transportation; Community, Economic, Human Development; and Energy and

Environment) to share pertinent information, discuss key plan development issues or seek coordinated actions or recommendations.

### **SPECIAL CONNECT SOCIAL 2024 SUBCOMMITTEES**

As discussed at the February 2022 Joint Policy Committee Meeting, there are a number of trends disrupted by the pandemic and emerging issues setting the context for the next Connect SoCal. To help dive deeper into key areas for Connect SoCal, SCAG established three new subcommittees: Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning

These three subcommittees were comprised of members from across the region.

They met between September 2022 and February 2023 and prepared recommendations to SCAG Policy Committees on how to address these emerging issues within Connect SoCal 2024. The findings and recommendations from those subcommittees will be used to inform ongoing policy development discussions at each Policy Committee. Agendas and materials from each subcommittee meeting can be found at their respective page at <https://scag.ca.gov/meetings-subcommittees>.



# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittee Draft White Paper

RACIAL EQUITY & REGIONAL PLANNING



# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittee Draft White Paper

## RACIAL EQUITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

### INTRODUCTION

SCAG is currently developing Connect SoCal 2024. Three special Regional Council subcommittees have been created around Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning. Each subcommittee met between September 2022 and January 2023, to identify recommendations that will inform how these emerging issues are addressed in Connect SoCal 2024.

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee was convened to respond to the following policy questions:

- What are the opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal? and
- How can Connect SoCal guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region?

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee convened four times between September 2022 and January 2023. Through the course of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meetings, staff brought forth content and experts in the field to ground how SCAG could approach racial equity in Connect SoCal by first recognizing the history and current day prevalence of systemic racism, outlining how it has manifested in inequitable outcomes across the region, and uplifting a series of best practices and resources that SCAG can explore to advance racial equity in the Connect SoCal 2024.

### SUBCOMMITTEE FOUNDATIONS

In July 2020, the SCAG Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 20-623-2 affirming that systemic racism is a human rights and public health crisis which results in disparities in family stability, health and mental wellness, education, employment, environmental justice, economic development, transportation, public safety, incarceration, and housing and reaffirming its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern California. The resolution directed a series of comprehensive actions that were grounded in building awareness, competency, and impact around racial equity in the SCAG region.

Of note, the resolution spurred the formation of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice in 2019 that led the development of the Racial Equity Early Action Plan in 2019. The Racial Equity Early Action Plan defined racial equity for SCAG and included a series of goals, strategies and actions grounded in building staff awareness and education, data, engagement, and economic activity. Informed by research, best practices, peer agency review, the Racial Equity Early Action Plan identified leading with racial equity as a focal point in addressing the pervasive and deep inequities faced by people of color across the region. SCAG recognizes that challenging racism is essential if

SCAG is to support the creation of a just and equitable society. Though all dimensions of equity are not addressed in the plan, by focusing on race, SCAG staff will develop the skills needed to address inequities faced by other marginalized groups based on gender, sexual orientation, ability and age, among others. A comprehensive status report on these efforts is included on SCAG's website.

The Connect SoCal Subcommittee on Racial Equity and Regional Planning was formed to explicitly focus and seek board direction on strategies to "Center Racial Equity in Regional Policy and Planning," which is one of the four goals identified in SCAG's Racial Equity Early Action Plan. Connect SoCal provides a regional vision for integrating land-use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable growth and serves as the guiding policy document for local planning and transportation funding across the region. Therefore, ensuring that Connect SoCal's goals, policies and metrics are centered on racial equity is critical to integrating and institutionalizing the Regional Council's commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern California through regional planning.

## SUBCOMMITTEE: DISCUSSION & KEY FINDINGS

### DISCUSSION

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee met four times between September 2022 and January 2023. Each meeting included a presentation from SCAG staff, presentations from experts in the field, facilitated dialogue by Mr. Charles T. Brown, founder and principal of Equitable Cities, and feedback collected from Subcommittee members. The meeting topics included:

- **Historic and Contemporary Impacts of Systemic Racism in the United States**

With a focus on housing and transportation, the first meeting examined the historic and contemporary impacts and outcomes of systemic racism in the United States. The content provided a national and historic perspective that illustrated the breadth of the systems that have created and perpetuated systemic racism across the country at every level of government.

Despite both the ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868, intended to provide equal protection under the law, and the 15th (1870) and 19th (1920) Amendments, which guaranteed citizens the right to vote, people of color have consistently not seen the full benefits of these rights. In 1896, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of "separate but equal" laws in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, ushering in the Jim Crow Era of racial segregation and disenfranchisement. During this era, major expansions in transportation infrastructure were encouraged by a stimulus of federal funding in California. In 1911, the newly established California Highway Commission implemented federal policy direction toward the creation of the Interstate Highway System, which included the 1921 and 1944 Federal Aid Highway Acts. The Commission determined project locations, and both state and local officials routed new freeways through existing communities of color, displacing thousands of households through eminent domain. Much of this freeway construction was in service of a suburban housing boom that was explicitly segregationist. Racist policies and decisions also influenced the siting of other types of transportation infrastructure, such as commuter railways, and the delivery of transit services.

The content included a viewing of [Segregated by Design](#), a short video that summarizes the book *The Color of Law*, which provides a historic overview of how systemic racism shaped housing policies and access to housing, homeownership opportunities for people of color, and racial segregation in the United States.

Segregated by Design highlighted how federal policies across the nation caused displacement of established and thriving Black communities for major infrastructure and public works projects. In addition, the video highlighted how a series of specific actions by the governmental actors, at all levels, across the nation, created segregated communities. For example, the United States Housing Authority of the New Deal Programs resulted in public housing projects that segregated different racial and ethnic groups. Another example was a program by the Federal Housing Administration which subsidized the development of suburbs with the requirement that the homes could only be sold to white families and the inclusion of deed restrictions that prohibited resale to African American families.

The meeting also included a presentation by Ms. Beth Osborne, Director of Transportation for America, on transportation and racial equity. Ms. Osborne highlighted the importance of roadway design and how it could create dangerous conditions for the most vulnerable users. She highlighted the increase in pedestrian fatalities (62%) between 2009-2020 and the higher risk for people of color, especially for Black and Native American pedestrians and those from low-income households.

- **Impacts and Outcomes of Systemic Racism in the SCAG region**

Building on the historic perspective that was offered in the first meeting, the second Subcommittee meeting focused on the current day impacts and outcomes of systemic racism in the SCAG region. Content included a presentation on the updated [Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report](#) that was published in 2019 and later updated in 2022. The Baseline Conditions Report highlights demographic information and important regional data on the economy, communities, mobility, the environment, and wherever possible, disaggregation of the data by race/ethnicity. The report is significant in furthering SCAG's racial equity work because it memorializes how communities across the region are faring around the above topic areas. In addition, the report disaggregates data by race/ethnicity which allows for an assessment of how people from different racial and ethnic groups are impacted around the various indicators.

A few compelling SCAG region indicators and outcomes include:

- Hispanic/Latinx (40%), Native American (39%), and Black households (38%) experience the highest poverty rates, almost twice the rates of White Households (20.2%), who have the lowest rates in the region.
- Hispanic/Latinx full-time workers (29%) are three times more likely to be living in poverty than White full-time workers (10%).
- Hispanic/Latinx Households have the highest Housing Cost Burden of any racial/ethnic group in the region with 42% of renters and 16.2% of homeowners experiencing a housing cost burden (meaning that 30% of more of household income goes towards housing cost). This is in comparison with 24.2% of White Households who are renters and 9.4% of White Households who are renters who experience a housing cost burden.
- Black households have the lowest homeownership rates at 36% in the region, compared to White households with the highest at 61%.
- Hispanic/Latinx households make up the largest percentage of residents living in census tracts with the highest CalEnviroScreen scores (highest environmental/pollution burden) in comparison to White Households who disproportionately live in the areas with the lowest percentile (least environmental/pollution burden).

Beyond the Baseline data, the Connect SoCal 2024 Plan will also include Equity Performance Measures. The proposed measures are organized around the economy, communities, mobility, and the environment. Sample measures include neighborhood change and displacement, share of transportation system usage, resilience and climate vulnerabilities, and public health impacts.

The meeting also included presentations from two community-based organizations (CBOs)/community partners, Just San Bernardino (Just SB) and Santa Ana Active Streets (SAAS). The community partners were invited to share their work to uplift the importance of equitably integrating the community perspective in ground-truthing data, meaningfully engaging vulnerable and marginalized people and communities, and working with stakeholders to identifying community needs, assets, and solutions.

- **Best Practices for Mitigating the Impacts of Systemic Racism**

The third Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meeting focused on best practices and strategies for mitigating impacts of systemic racism. The meeting started with a staff update on the Racial Equity Early Action Plan, followed by presentations by three guest speakers.

- **Racial Equity Early Action Plan:** The Racial Equity Early Action Plan includes a series of activities for SCAG to advance racial equity in the region. For example, SCAG has funded several initiatives that have advanced equitable engagement and partnerships with Community Based Organizations and community leaders. The Call for Collaboration is funded by REAP 1, in partnership with three foundations. SCAG provided \$1 million of its REAP 1.0 funding to develop a program that provided capacity-building technical assistance and grants to non-profits and CBOs. Fifteen organizations were invited to engage in land use planning efforts that support the acceleration of housing production, with an emphasis on ensuring principles of equity are included in planning processes, new funding programs, and policies.

The Go Human Program completed its Mini Grant Program, which aimed to build street-level community resiliency and increase the safety of people most harmed by traffic injuries and fatalities, prioritizing Black, Indigenous and People of Color; people with disabilities; and frontline workers, particularly those walking and biking. The program emphasized community-driven co-creation and community engagement. Go Human awarded more than \$350,000 to 26 CBO-identified and led projects, directly engaging more than 300,000 people.

In addition, SCAG is in process of developing the Sustainable Communities Program Call 4, the Call for Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice which will prioritize resources in historically disinvested areas and communities most impacted by adverse public health outcomes and air quality impacts. This program will catalyze planning activities to support housing, GHG and VMT reduction, advance equity and environmental justice, and provide needed funding to communities with the highest need.

Addressing poverty and access to economic opportunity is one of the most impactful ways to address racial inequities. In July 2021 SCAG adopted the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS). The guiding principles for the IERS are: (1) center on racial and gender equity with regard to economic opportunity; (2) rebuilding the region's middle class; (3) contributing to a climate-ready region; (4) tailoring strategies to meet both regional factors and specific needs for targeted industries; and (5) reflect new and diverse voices. As a result of one-time State funding, SCAG created a limited-term Department of Inclusive

Economic Growth that is responsible for implementing targeted economic and workforce development projects that were direct recommendations from the IERS. These projects will expand access to economic opportunity in the region by centering the community in identifying pathways to quality jobs, promoting inclusive government contracting, and by building the business case for equity.

- **Ms. Jocelyn Gibson, Sr. Consultant, ZoneCo:** Ms. Gibson was the first speaker following the staff presentation on the Racial Equity Early Action Plan. She is an experienced city planner with extensive public and private sector planning, zoning, and commercial real estate experience. Ms. Gibson’s presentation highlighted the history of zoning and how its roots are infused with racism and the intent to segregate people. Of note, the presentation highlighted the confluence of a series of actions that included policies that terrorized black families who moved into white neighborhoods, the destruction of property, racial covenants, race-based zoning, redlining, and housing finance, urban renewal, real estate practices that have shaped the segregation, housing, and wealth inequities that exist today.

The equity-centered best practices that were discussed by Ms. Gibson focused on procedures, standards, and policies. For example, Ms. Gibson highlighted the value of limiting subjective review, requiring that public engagement is representative of the community, and that appointed bodies are representative of the community to ensure that a multitude of perspectives inform decision making. Zoning standards that were recommended to advance racial equity included promoting housing diversity in all zoning districts where residential uses are appropriate, removing parking minimums, and ensuring equal access to food, services, amenities, and public goods. Finally, policy recommendations included ensuring that equity-driven policy level frameworks at the general plan level related to the zoning level implementation tools.

- **Dr. Andre Perry, Senior Fellow, Brookings Metro:** Dr. Perry is a Senior Fellow at Brookings Metro, a scholar-in-residence at American University, and a professor of practice of economics at Washington University. A nationally known commentator on race, structural inequality, and education, Dr. Perry is the author of the book “Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America’s Black Cities”.

Dr. Perry’s presentation focused on the [Black Progress Index: Examining the social factors that influence Black well-being](#). The research-based tool looked at life expectancy for black people from 1200 major black cities and metropolitan areas across the United States. The Black Progress Index highlighted, through research, the places where black people are thriving most and the social predictors that are in place.

In the presentation, Dr. Perry highlighted the 13 key predictors of life expectancy that can generally be categorized around environmental quality, family health, human and social capital, safety, and wealth. Examples of these indicators include percent of black foreign-born adults, black higher educational attainment, black household income, black homeownership rates, black commuting via walking/biking, and black business ownership rates. The tool is a valuable resource because it uplifts the places where black people thrive in the United States and the factors that are in place to support this.

- **Mr. Christopher Coes, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary:** Mr. Christopher Coes serves as the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the Office of the Secretary. Mr. Coes presented on Justice40 Program, which

established a commitment that 40% of federal investments and benefits will go to communities who have been overburdened with environmental justice harm and underserved from federal investments.

Mr. Coes highlighted that Justice40 is centered around seven areas, 39 funding programs, across five modes, and totaling \$204 billion. The presentation included an overview of the process that U.S. DOT is pursuing to carry out Justice40 including the key indicators that they are using to define disadvantaged communities and how Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) could use the indicators to identify Justice40 communities in their region. Mr. Coes highlighted that MPOs should incorporate housing, land use, and equitable economic development in their transportation planning processes and identify and prioritize the areas in the region who have experienced the greatest harm, identify a baseline and strategy for how to address those needs, identify the projects that will help address those needs, and focus on project delivery.

The content from the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meetings included a wealth of information for subcommittee members to identify opportunities for integrating racial equity in Connect SoCal 2024. The feedback received from subcommittee members is summarized in the Key Findings section with the recommendations included in the following Subcommittee Recommendations section.

## KEY FINDINGS

The overarching task of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee was to identify:

- What are the opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal? and
- How can Connect SoCal guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region?

Each of the subcommittee meetings included facilitated discussion led by Mr. Charles T. Brown of Equitable Cities with feedback collected at each meeting. The Racial Equity and Regional Planning subcommittee presentations and subsequent discussions highlighted the following key findings:

- Break down silos across governmental agencies and equity efforts.
- Important to identify short to long term recommendations and measure success.
- Systemic racism has shaped housing and transportation policy, funding, and implementation in the region.
- Housing cost burden (rental and ownership) is highest for households of color.
- People of color have lower homeownership rates in the region, with Black households experiencing the lowest homeownership rates.
- Predatory real estate practices have undervalued homes in black neighborhoods.
- Mobility infrastructure varies across the region (commuter community versus dense/transit rich community). However, the need to create walkable places is needed across the region.

- Need to identify economic development strategies to address poverty in the region, including employment opportunities for nonviolent offenders, contracting opportunities for people of color, improve wages and career ladders, and engaging the business community.
- There is a need to assess how to improve health outcomes for people of color.
- Environmental Injustice most negatively affects communities of color, with Latinx most affected in the region.
- Need to identify strategies to collect and use data and science to support black and brown communities in improving outcomes including affordable housing and mobility.
- Data should be disaggregated beyond racial/ethnic categories, identify historic trends, be shared widely, and vetted with affected communities. Essential to understand the underlying issues that are creating negative outcomes in communities of color.
- Need to include diversity and representation in jurisdictional staffing and decision making.
- Need to identify how to effectively engage affected disadvantaged communities and communities of color.
- Need to develop inclusive engagement practices, with accountability, that facilitate participation of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups.
- Need to document historic inequities as part of planning processes.
- Need to consult with indigenous and other marginalized people, beyond required consultation in environmental process.
- Broadly communicate SCAG’s equity work.
- There is a need to analyze equity for SCAG and support jurisdictions to do this assessment.

## SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the most significant opportunities that SCAG has to advance racial equity is to first acknowledge that SCAG has a role in advancing racial equity. SCAG is in a unique position to advocate, convene, coordinate, and prioritize the implementation of racial equity-centered initiatives across the region. As the largest MPO in the United States, the infusion of racial equity policy direction in Connect SoCal will have a transformative impact in the region that will shape planning and investments that are grounded in recognition of historic harms with a keen focus on addressing inequities and prioritizing resources in the communities with the greatest need.

The following recommendations were informed by the feedback received at each of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meetings. Given the intersectionality of racial equity, the recommendations are cross cutting and are centered on pursuing equitable processes and outcomes across all Connect SoCal topic areas.

1. Connect SoCal 2024 will be a vehicle to promote racial equity (as defined in the Racial Equity Early Action Plan), to address the historic impacts of systemic racism and coordinate and implement equity centered activities across the region.
2. Embed a racial equity lens in Connect SoCal implementation, prioritize equity as a process and outcome that benefits and reduces burdens for the most disadvantaged communities and people across the region, and identify opportunities to measure and track success and lessons learned.
3. Incorporate equity centered best practices in data collection to ensure that data assessments reflect community needs, disaggregate data by race/ethnicity and other important demographic factors, ground



truth data, widely distribute data to impacted stakeholders, and incorporate community perspective in data-informed decision making.

4. Break down silos-within SCAG and among other local, regional, and federal agencies that are doing equity-centered work, for example State Reparations Effort and Justice40.
5. Prioritize community-centered interventions, resources, and programming that serve the most disadvantaged communities and people in the region with strategies that can be implemented in the short-to-long-term.
6. Identify and target communities that are vulnerable to displacement and work towards stabilizing communities and increase access to housing that meets the needs of the region, with an emphasis on preserving and producing affordable housing, increasing homeownership opportunities, and reducing housing cost burden (for renters and homeowners), with a focus on the communities with the greatest need.
7. Incorporate equity-centered economic activities that increase access to opportunity and living wages for disadvantaged communities and individuals who face barriers to employment and economic mobility.
8. Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and participation of people of color and disadvantaged communities in SCAG led and funded planning processes.

Beyond the above recommendations the following conceptual preliminary strategies are recommended for further consideration as regional policy priorities and/or implementation strategies for the plan:

1. Develop an agencywide Community Based Organization Partnering (CBO) Strategy that outlines tools and resources for partnering with CBOs to increase inclusive and equitable engagement opportunities.
2. Develop a Restorative Justice Pilot Program that prioritizes comprehensive solutions, capacity building, engagement, planning, and investment in the most underserved communities in the region (1 in each county in pilot phase).
3. Develop an Equity Assessment Tool that can be utilized by SCAG in program development and delivery and a complementary tool that can be incorporated into local assistance/subrecipient programming and delivery.
4. Identify, align with appropriate State and Federal partners, and utilize equity-centered measures to track outcomes, progress, and lessons learned on Connect SoCal implementation.
5. Identify innovative homeownership models that can reduce costs and increase housing production in the region and identify strategies to engage households of color that are underrepresented as homeowners.
6. Develop and deploy community stabilization (anti-displacement) resources that can be utilized to address displacement pressures for communities across the region and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.
7. Deploy actions that expand access to training and employment, with an emphasis on lower income communities, communities of color, and others facing barriers to employment.
8. Implement strategies that support the creation and expansion of small, minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned businesses in the region.
9. Develop a resource guide and training for equitable stakeholder engagement for public agencies, including SCAG, that is culturally relevant, recognizes community contexts and histories, existing community resources and engagement opportunities, and inclusion of cultural and racial/ethnic groups.



The above list of conceptual strategies are preliminary ideas of how the recommendations move forward. Further assessment and evaluation of the policy recommendations and concept strategies will be explored through the SCAG Policy Committees and the Connect SoCal 2024 stakeholder engagement process.

## NEXT STEPS

These recommendations are intended to inform the on-going development of the Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework to provide direction for addressing emerging and cross-cutting issues in Connect SoCal 2024. They will be considered by the Joint Policy Committee alongside recommendations from the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee and the Resilience and Conservation Subcommittee in March. The scope of the subcommittee discussions also illuminated opportunities for broader recommendations to inform SCAG's work both in Connect SoCal implementation and other program areas.

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# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittee Draft White Paper

RESILIENCE AND CONSERVATION

# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittee Draft White Paper

## RESILIENCE AND CONSERVATION

### INTRODUCTION

SCAG is currently developing Connect SoCal 2024. Three special Regional Council subcommittees have been created around Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning. Each subcommittee met four times between September 2022 and January 2023, to identify recommendations that will inform how these emerging issues are addressed in Connect SoCal 2024.

The purpose of the Resilience & Resource Conservation Subcommittee is to advance the direction set in the SCAG Regional Council Resolutions on Climate Change Action (21-628-1) and Water Action (22-647-3) to consider opportunities for enhanced conservation and how Connect SoCal can support our communities in adapting to changing conditions or mitigating risks to become more resilient in the context of future growth, as well as to identify and integrate policies and strategies to align investments in water infrastructure with housing needs and the adopted growth forecast and development pattern featured in Connect SoCal 2024.

By 2050, the SCAG region is anticipated to grow by an additional 1.7 million people, with a significant 15% increase in employment. Further, the region is expected to experience shocks and stressors related to climate change, such as more intense wildfires, drought, extreme heat and rising sea levels, as well as seismic events that will negatively impact the region's public health, welfare, and the greater economy. Our region's built environment, natural and social systems, as well as the greater economy could be significantly affected by these hazards as well as the associated constraint on essential resources, with particularly acute and disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities. Significant regional public health and economic benefits could accrue if targeted strategies and investments are prioritized now to address potential impacts of climate-related shocks and stressors. Within the resilience policy space, shocks are commonly defined as sudden and acute events that threaten immediate safety and well-being, whereas stressors are commonly defined as chronic challenges that weaken natural, built, or human systems and resources.

As such, the Subcommittee's policy question at hand is:

- How can Connect SoCal mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate and seismic-related hazards on our built and natural systems and increase our region's resilience?

To tackle this question and formulate recommendations for inclusion in Connect SoCal, the goals of the body, as established by the members, are to:

- Advance the direction set in the SCAG Regional Council Resolution on Climate Change Action and Water Action to consider opportunities for enhanced resilience & resource conservation; and

- Develop recommendations on how Connect SoCal can support our communities in adapting to changing conditions or mitigating risks to become more resilient.

## SUBCOMMITTEE FOUNDATIONS

Resilience and conservation are embedded across the number of SCAG’s work. Within Connect SoCal 2020, resilience and conservation were integrated into the core vision, key goals, and guiding principles of the plan. Looking further at the Connect SoCal 2020 goals, the following elements are featured:

- Enhance the preservation, security, and resilience of the regional transportation system;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality;
- Support healthy and equitable communities;
- Adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network; and
- Promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats.

Additionally, SCAG includes a number of resilience and conservation mitigation measures in the Connect SoCal 2020 Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that address resilience and resource conservation.

Through SCAG’s unanimously adopted Climate Change Action Resolution (Resolution No. 21-628-1) from January 2021, SCAG resolved to develop a Regional Resilience Framework to “help the region plan and prepare for a changing climate, as well as potential near- and long-term disruptions to Southern California.” As part of that work, SCAG conducted a landscape resilience assessment to understand how jurisdictions are planning for climate change. Looking towards the development of Connect SoCal 2024, the Climate Change Action Resolution also called on SCAG staff to “include climate adaptation and mitigation analysis and strategies in the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).”

In October 2022, SCAG’s Regional Council also unanimously adopted a Water Action Resolution that resolved to “further explore regional water challenges and solutions [through the Resource & Conservation Subcommittee] and report findings for consideration by SCAG’s Energy & Environment Committee.” This resolution called on local and regional partners to join together to adopt an “all of the above” approach to addressing the region’s water challenges and catalyzing opportunities, and for SCAG to take action and support partners to reduce water use; improve water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; enhance water systems’ health and resilience; pursue and potentially implement new water supply and storage opportunities; and support investments in water infrastructure and conservation practices that support the region’s economic and population growth and fosters planning for the region’s housing needs.

## SUBCOMMITTEE: DISCUSSION & KEY FINDINGS

In fulfilling direction from SCAG’s Regional Council, the four meetings of the Resilience & Conservation Subcommittee included presentations from staff and subject matter experts, followed by facilitated dialogue amongst subcommittee members. Each meeting built off the previous and informed and shaped the recommendations that are included in the white paper. Meeting topics included:

- **Where We Are: Level Setting & Work Plan Prioritization**

Meeting 1 of the Resilience & Conservation Subcommittee provided the group with an overview of the Subcommittee's purpose and proposed outlook; SCAG's proposed definition of "resilience"; and resilience and conservation principles, goals, and strategies embedded in Connect SoCal 2020 and Connect SoCal 2020 Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

Resilience and conservation are key parts of the core vision, key goals and guiding principles outlined in Connect SoCal to advance the region's economic vitality, improve mobility options, and grow in a sustainable way that builds healthy and vibrant communities. As part of the Connect SoCal Guiding Principles, resilience and conservation are most prominently featured across three major efforts: Land Use & Sustainable Development, Transportation & Mobility and Planning. Furthermore, the Connect SoCal 2020 PEIR includes approximately 20 mitigation measures which address resilience and resource conservation. These mitigation measures span efforts to address wildfire risk, water conservation and planning, greenhouse gas mitigation, agriculture and forestry, biological resources, and more.

In evaluating the proposed definition of resilience for inclusion in Connect SoCal 2024, members of the Subcommittee provided feedback that the effectiveness of responding to climate hazards should be emphasized within the plan. As such, the definition was updated to include "effectively respond to climate hazards", and subsequently reviewed in Meeting 2 of the Subcommittee.

Other guidance from members included the need to:

- Prioritize strategies that promote long-term and short-term responses to resilience shocks and stressors, and monitor effectiveness;
- Build strong partnerships to ensure shocks and stressors can be effectively addressed; and,
- Secure resources for local agencies to promote disaster preparedness.

Potential opportunities for integrating this guidance in Connect SoCal 2024 include:

- Identify how Connect SoCal 2024 strategies address long-term and short-term responses to shocks and stressors;

- **How Can SCAG Have an Impact: Policy Areas of Focus & Implementation Tools**

Meeting 2 of the Resilience & Conservation Subcommittee provided an overview of SCAG's landscape analysis of resilience planning efforts across the SCAG region, as well as a more detailed analysis of resilience planning within the Inland Southern California Region. Kristopher Eclarino, Technical Project Manager at Climate Resolve, and Michelle Baron, Consultant at Climate Resolve, provided a presentation examining the state of climate adaptation planning across jurisdictions within the Southern California region. The study explored the impacts of climate-related shocks and stressors on the SCAG region to further SCAG's understanding and approach to addressing resilience at a regional scale, and involved the review of climate-related resilience planning efforts and documents, such as climate action plans, sustainability plans, resilience plans, general plans, local hazard mitigation plans, and more.

The study area consisted of 191 cities and two tribal nations within the SCAG region. Through the climate resilience landscape analysis, the following trends were found:

- 86 out of 193 (45%) of jurisdictions have adopted a standalone climate, sustainability and/or resilience plan, with 30 of the 86 plans including adaptation strategies;
- 141 out of 193 (73%) of jurisdictions have adopted a local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) at either the local or multijurisdictional level, with 105 of the 141 LHMPs accounting for climate change impacts;
- 19 out of 193 (10%) of jurisdictions have updated general plans to meet the requirements of SB 379 and SB 1035;
- 104 out of 193 (54%) of jurisdictions contain disadvantaged communities, as defined and identified via CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Of the 104 jurisdictions, 17 have adopted environmental justice goals, policies and objects and 10 have updated general plans which meet the requirements of SB 1000; and
- Drought, flood and wildfire were found to be the most frequently cited climate resilience disruption noted across jurisdiction plans.

Additionally, the following climate-related shocks and stressors were most commonly identified through the review of local planning documents:

<b>SHOCKS</b>	<b>STRESSORS</b>
<i>SUDDEN OR ACUTE EVENTS THAT THREATEN IMMEDIATE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING</i>	<i>CHRONIC CHALLENGES THAT WEAKEN NATURAL, BUILT, OR HUMAN RESOURCES</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avalanche</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• Extreme Cold</li> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Flood</li> <li>• Hazard Material Release</li> <li>• Infrastructure Failure</li> <li>• Landslide</li> <li>• Non-heat-related Severe Weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access &amp; Function Needs Population</li> <li>• Access to Open Space</li> <li>• Age Dependency Ratio</li> <li>• Aging Infrastructure</li> <li>• Car-less Households</li> <li>• Economic Security</li> <li>• Educational Attainment</li> <li>• Female Head of Household</li> <li>• Food Insecurity</li> <li>• Foreign Born</li> </ul>

Furthermore, following feedback from the Subcommittee, SCAG finalized the resilience definition to the following:

***The capacity of the SCAG region's built, social, economic and natural systems to anticipate and effectively respond to changing conditions, acute shocks, and chronic stressors by creating multiple opportunities for a sustainable, thriving and equitable future.***

Meeting 2 also included presentations from resilience experts within the region as a means of exploring resilience in the context of the region's built, economic, and natural systems. These speakers included Leah Fisher, Office Chief for Air Quality and Climate Change at Caltrans (CA DOT); Rutger de Koning and Robert Mens, Bouwinvest Real Estate Investors based in The Netherlands; Charles Wilson, Executive Director and



CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition; and, Dr. Qinqin Liu, scientist and former analyst at California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Water Resources.

Charles Wilson focused on the current state and future of water supplies in the SCAG region, noting that the SCAG's region's primary water sources are severely stressed. In the coming decades, the region will have to prioritize increased conservation, and invest in new infrastructure for stormwater capture, large scale recycling, and desalination to ensure water supply.

Leah Fisher's presentation provided an overview of Caltrans' work to implement State guidance on infrastructure resilience. Caltrans has updated their climate vulnerability assessments to keep pace with the latest climate science, and adaptation consideration of climate risks is now required for early project planning.

Rutger de Koning and Robert Mens of Bouwinvest Real Estate Investors demonstrated the emerging practice of considering climate change as an integral part of risk management for real estate investment, and the need consider mitigation to lower investment risks.

Finally, Qinqin Liu, Ph.D., shared her conceptual model framework for water, energy, food and ecosystems with climate change, and its implications for integrated regional resource policy. For example, 12 percent of energy use is for water, so it is important to assess energy intensity for regional water planning on management. She concluded that resilience depends on the coordination of multiple sectors including water, energy, agriculture and fish and wildlife, and to assess benefits, trade-offs and conflicts between these systems.

From these presentations, members of the Subcommittee highlighted that data-driven climate vulnerability assessments can better inform decision-making in all areas, including infrastructure projects, natural resource systems, and financial investments. Other areas of importance for SCAG include:

- Providing widely accessible climate hazard and resource data to help inform small-scale and large-scale decision-making in the public and private sectors;
- Prioritizing the most vulnerable people, places, and infrastructure at risk for climate change impacts - recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened; and,
- Applying ecosystem-based approaches to promote sustainable resource management.

Actions to integrate these findings in Connect SoCal 2024 could include:

- Utilize climate hazard and resource areas data to help inform local input on jurisdictional and neighborhood-level forecasted growth, as demonstrated through SCAG's Local Data Exchange completed in December 2022;
- Integrate nature-based solutions and preservation/restoration of native plants to increase water resilience, and adaptation to climate change; and,
- Map climate hazards for disadvantaged communities.

- **How Can SCAG Have an Impact: Policy Areas of Focus & Implementation Tools**

Meeting 3 of the Resilience & Conservation Subcommittee included a presentation from Dr. Meghan Jennings, conservation biologist from San Diego State University, who provided information examining ecosystem resilience in the context of climate change. SCAG Staff also provided further insight on social resilience via updates on SCAG's Regional Resilience Framework (RRF), and shared early feedback from community-based organizations (CBOs) and one tribal government participating in RRF outreach and engagement to supplement discussions on resilience and conservation principles and policies.

Findings from these presentations emphasized that ecosystem resilience is important to minimize impacts of climate change in natural lands (e.g. wildfires) and can be improved through nature-based solutions. Jurisdictions need additional staff resources and funding to address climate adaptation needs. In addition, social resilience and community networks should be prioritized and improved to minimize the impacts of shocks and stressors on the most vulnerable populations.

As such, members of the Subcommittee emphasized outreach with disadvantaged communities, and opportunities for maximizing co-benefits from conservation of wildlife and natural lands:

- Outreach and early involvement with disadvantaged communities is essential to identify potential climate vulnerabilities and potential resilience strategies, especially in the area of social resilience; and,
- Maximize mutual benefits to support resilience and conservation initiatives across built, social, economic, and natural systems, such as disaster preparedness, to ensure synergies across systems and reduce/avoid impacts of maladaptation.

In carrying over these findings to the development of Connect SoCal, approaches could include:

- Assessing and minimizing climate hazards for the most vulnerable populations, communities, natural systems, and infrastructure; and
- Integrating climate adaptation strategies that are responsive to the unique shocks and stressors present for focus areas, and avoid maladaptive impacts;

- **Resilience & Conservation Final Draft White Paper**

Meeting 4 included additional presentations from water experts and further discussion to solidify the resilience and conservation principles and policies for consideration by Policy Committees and Regional Council for inclusion in Connect SoCal 2024.

Waverly Klaw, Director of the Growing Water Smart program at the Sonoran Institute, provided information on land use strategies for local jurisdictions that can increase the resilience of the built and natural environment to the impacts of climate change. Growing Water Smart is a joint project between the Lincoln Institute and the Sonoran Institute featuring workshops that introduce communities to the full range of collaboration, communication, public engagement, planning, and policy implementation tools to realize their watershed health and community resiliency goals. Through Growing Water Smart, communities learn to better integrate land use and water planning.

David Sumi and Elise Goldman, Resource Specialists at Metropolitan Water District (MWD), spoke on the agency's WaterWise conservation efforts, as well as the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan that provides

an assessment of Metropolitan’s water service reliability, describes and evaluates sources of water supply, efficient uses of water, demand management measures, implementation strategy and schedule, and other relevant information and programs. In addition to the water reliability assessments, the plan includes an evaluation of frequent and severe periods of droughts, as described in the Drought Risk Assessment, and the preparation and adoption of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP).

In reviewing the draft Resilience & Conservation Subcommittee White Paper, members requested that additional recommended implementation actions be included to:

- Support equitable distribution of efforts in economic development to help vulnerable communities have greater resources to respond to resilience shocks and stressors; and,
- Foster engagements across industry sectors and areas of expertise to support research and solutions development.

As such, these revisions were included in the final draft White Paper.

## SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, feedback from members of the Subcommittee can be grouped into four broad recommendations. These recommendations will inform the Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework and on-going development and policy discussions related to Connect SoCal 2024, and will be taken to the Regional Council for further deliberation:

- **Define Resilience:** The capacity of the SCAG region's built, social, economic and natural systems to anticipate and effectively respond to changing conditions, acute shocks, and chronic stressors by creating multiple opportunities for a sustainable, thriving and equitable future;
- **Prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards:** Help the people, places, and infrastructure that are most at risk for climate change impacts, recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened;
- **Build strong partnerships:** Coordinate across multiple sectors, scales, and stakeholders to ensure all people have access to the fundamental physical, health, and social benefits of our natural and built systems;
- **Apply ecosystem-based approaches:** Incorporate ecosystem resilience, protection of ecosystem services, and sustainable resource management; and,
- **Maximize mutual benefits:** Support resilience and conservation initiatives across built, social, economic, and natural systems, such as disaster preparedness, to ensure synergies across systems and reduce/avoid impacts of maladaptation.

## NEXT STEPS

The scope of the subcommittee discussions also illuminated opportunities for broader recommendations to inform SCAG’s work both in Connect SoCal implementation and other program areas. To realize these recommendations, potential actions to support integration into Connect SoCal 2024 and its implementation are summarized below:

- **Prioritize the most vulnerable populations, communities, and infrastructure subject to climate hazards:** Help the people, places, and infrastructure that are most at risk for climate change impacts, recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened

  - Incorporate climate change considerations into Connect SoCal 2024;
  - Map disadvantaged communities with critical infrastructure and assets, and assess vulnerability to hazards in the Equity Analysis for Connect SoCal 2024;
  - Identify and support local agencies to protect communities vulnerable to climate effects;
  - Support implementing agencies in incorporating equity considerations in climate risk management and/or emergency management plans and preparedness procedures;
  - Support equitable distribution of efforts in economic development to help vulnerable communities have greater resources to respond to resilience shocks and stressors;
  
- **Build strong partnerships:** Coordinate across multiple sectors, scales, and stakeholders to ensure all people have access to the fundamental physical, health, and social benefits of our natural and built systems

  - Support expansion of public outreach activities for Connect SoCal 2024 to align implementation of strategies with community needs;
  - Collaborate with local and regional partners to support building resiliency through preparedness education, trainings, and resources;
  - Foster engagements across industry sectors and areas of expertise to support research and solutions development;
  - Expand public outreach and education to policymakers, businesses, and the general public;
  - Develop templates to support jurisdictions in preparing a community-wide outreach program to educate a diverse population on how to prepare and recover from climate change effects;
  
- **Apply ecosystem-based approaches:** Incorporate ecosystem resilience, protection of ecosystem services, and sustainable resource management

  - Support use of systems-based risk-management methods and tools for implementation agencies, and help prioritize options that take into account nature-based solutions and considerations for reducing vulnerabilities;
  - Support preservation, enhancements, and protection of open space, as well as natural and working lands, that have climate adaptation and resilience benefits – including carbon sequestration, as well as groundwater capture and storage;
  
- **Maximize mutual benefits:** Support resilience and conservation initiatives across built, social, economic, and natural systems, such as disaster preparedness, to ensure synergies across systems and reduce/avoid impacts of maladaptation.

  - Incorporate climate change adaptation for natural lands into Connect SoCal 2024;
  - Support implementing agencies' efforts to include climate-ready home hardening strategies in housing construction to minimize the potential loss of housing units stemming from climate-related hazards, including sea level rise, wildfires, landslides, and extreme flooding, among others;
  - Support development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans to help jurisdictions prepare for disasters and access federal disaster relief resources; and,

- Support integration of climate vulnerability assessments into infrastructure planning and delivery for implementing agencies.

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# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittee Draft White Paper

NEXT GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE



# Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittee Draft White Paper

## NEXT GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### INTRODUCTION

SCAG is currently developing Connect SoCal 2024. Three special Regional Council subcommittees have been created around Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning. The Resilience and Conservation Subcommittee and Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee each met four times between September 2022 and January 2023 and the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee met five times between September 2022 and February 2023, to identify recommendations that will inform how these emerging issues are addressed in Connect SoCal 2024.

The goal of the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee was to build on Connect SoCal 2020 and provide guidance on the priorities and strategies for Connect SoCal 2024, reflecting the rapidly evolving developments across the region specific to the future of mobility and associated implications for public policy. The need for a more comprehensive understanding of these developments and consensus building on key regional strategies and policies is even more evident today in preparation for Connect SoCal 2024 as we continue to grapple with the pandemic, a more challenging economic environment, and shifting state and federal priorities with increasing uncertainties across the planning horizon.

The Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee convened five times between September 2022 and February 2023. To facilitate greater policy discussion of key areas anticipated to be critical for the development of Connect SoCal 2024, the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee discussed and responded to the following policy questions:

- How has travel changed with COVID and what will this mean for long-range transportation planning?
- (How) should our objectives for highway investment evolve?
- How do we ensure transit recovery?
- (How) should we better align the way we pay for and fund transportation with equity and resiliency goals?

### SUBCOMMITTEE FOUNDATIONS

SCAG prepares a long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years, which provides a vision for integrating land use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable growth. SCAG's next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020. The pillars of Connect SoCal 2020 are anticipated to continue into Connect SoCal 2024, including a focus on maintaining and better managing the transportation network we have for moving people and goods, while expanding mobility choices by locating housing, jobs, and transit closer together and increasing investment in transit and complete streets.

The adoption of Connect SoCal 2020 illustrated the complexity of long-range planning with rapidly evolving developments across the region ranging from broader sustainability and air quality issues to the future of mobility and associated implications for public policy. The need for more comprehensive understanding of these developments and consensus building on key regional strategies and policies is even more evident today in preparation for Connect SoCal 2024 as we continue to grapple with the pandemic, a more challenging economic environment, and increasing uncertainties across the planning horizon. The emerging landscape will be complex, likely exacerbating many of our existing core challenges.

Over the course of the next fiscal year, SCAG staff will be seeking direction from our policy makers, through the relevant Policy Committees, on the priorities and strategies for Connect SoCal 2024 to better align investments across the region.

## SUBCOMMITTEE: DISCUSSION & KEY FINDINGS

On September 21, 2022, the first meeting of the Subcommittee focused on how travel behavior is evolving. The meeting explored telecommuting/hybrid work, including implications of on job centers and future commute patterns. Despite higher levels of telecommuting/hybrid work, travel volumes have rebounded from pandemic lows. The meeting also explored the contribution of non-commute travel to increasing traffic and investment strategy alignment with the non-commute geospatial patterns and modal choices. Professor Giovanni Circella, the Director of the 3 Revolutions Future Mobility Program at the University of California, Davis and Professor Brian Taylor, the Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles provided presentations exploring emerging trends and engaged Subcommittee members with implications for investment strategies.

The second Subcommittee meeting was held on October 19, 2022, and focused on evolving objectives for highway investment. A panel discussion comprised the bulk of the meeting. The panelists were:

- Fran Inman, Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty
- Benito Pérez, Policy Director, Transportation for America
- Jeanie Ward-Waller, Deputy Director, Planning & Modal Programs, Caltrans
- Raymond Wolfe, Executive Director, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

The panelists explored how highway investment policies have evolved in recent years, including shifting away from highway capacity investments. The discussion also explored the implications of changing highway objectives for goods movement and the supply chain. The panelist addressed how we might reimagine use of our public rights-of-way, including for Complete Streets, safety improvements, and curb space management.

On November 16, 2022, the third Subcommittee meeting focused on how the region can work together to ensure transit recovery. A panel discussion comprised the bulk of the meeting. The panelists were:

- Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, City of Culver City, Culver CityBus
- Roderick Diaz, Director of Planning and Development, Metrolink
- Krista Glotzbach, Partnerships Lead, Via
- Lauren McCarthy, Director and Strategic Lead, Shared-Use Mobility Center

The panelists explored how transit has changed in recent years and in light of the pandemic, and the ways in which public and private organizations can work together to motivate increased transit ridership.

The final Subcommittee meeting was held on January 18, 2023. Seleta Reynolds, Chief Innovation Officer at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, addressed universal basic mobility and Professor Michael Manville, UCLA Department of Urban Planning Vice Chair, highlighted his research on how we should better align the way we pay for, fund, and manage our transportation system with equity and resiliency goals.

Each of the Subcommittee meetings included facilitated discussions led by the Subcommittee Chair. The Subcommittee presentations and subsequent discussions highlighted the following key findings:

- Increases in telework are changing the dynamics of travel both in time and in location.
- Post-pandemic, the region is experiencing more short trips throughout the day, especially across the afternoon period.
- Transportation system preservation remains a universal priority, and with greater needs associated with transition to zero emissions vehicles.
- The deployment of new technology should focus on people and addressing larger shared goals (e.g., advancing equitable access).
- Expanding highway capacity may be warranted but should be aligned with efforts to mitigate potential increases in vehicle miles traveled, especially single-occupant vehicle travel.
- Transportation solutions should involve increasing choices beyond driving, including connecting communities with pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and prioritizing transit to make it competitive with driving.
- Center solutions on people and their evolving travel needs, for example supporting more local short trips versus long commutes.
- Focus on understanding and meeting the needs of existing transit riders because this will also help attract new riders.
- Leverage technology and data to better understand people's needs, communicate information and invite feedback, attract riders that might otherwise never consider transit, and facilitate unified planning and payment for multimodal trips.
- Public agencies should partner across agencies and sectors to develop projects and in doing so, minimize risk, build trust, and recognize/leverage unique strengths that each party brings.
- Cities should encourage the shift of the mobility paradigm by enhancing and supporting services across all modes including transit, micromobility, and automobiles.
- Public agencies need to engage and assert a role in management of the transportation digital realm.
- Re-envision the transportation system more like a utility.
- Rethink the role of the automobile in our daily lives, but in a sophisticated manner that goes beyond just focusing on the need to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Place greater importance on valuing accessibility.
- Recognize that we can achieve many environmental goals with modest changes in travel behavior.
- Plan and manage the transportation system like an investor.
- Road pricing can be revenue source, mechanism to improve driving and system performance, and tool for addressing equity concerns.

## SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, feedback from members of the Subcommittee can be grouped into four broad recommendations. These recommendations will inform the Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework and on-going policy discussions related to Connect SoCal 2024, and will be taken to the Regional Council for further deliberation:

- **Maintain a people-centric transportation investment strategy:** Ensure that deployment of new technologies support people’s needs and address larger shared goals like advancing equitable access and reducing traffic fatalities and series injuries. Prioritize use of our public rights-of-way for all roadway users, especially focusing on the needs of non-single occupant vehicle users.
- **Continue to invest in system preservation and efficiency investments:** Fix-it-first remains a key strategy for Connect SoCal, especially recognizing greater needs associated with the transition to zero emission vehicles and ensuring system resilience. Within this context, operational improvements and targeted strategic highway capacity expansion are warranted when coupled with complementary efforts to offset any potential increases in vehicle miles traveled and especially single-occupant vehicle travel.
- **Expand and enhance mobility choices:** Focus on understanding and meeting the needs of existing transit riders, which will also attract new riders. Increase choices beyond driving by enhancing and supporting services across all modes of travel including transit, active transportation, micromobility, and automobiles. Reconsider the role of the automobile in our daily lives and how mobility options can increase reliable accessibility.
- **Re-envision how we plan, fund, and manage the transportation system:** Plan and manage the transportation system more like an investor, including asserting a role in the management of the transportation digital realm. Appropriately pricing the transportation system ensures that the system functions for all users (even during peak demand periods), generates reliable revenue, and established resources for addressing equity concerns.

## NEXT STEPS

These recommendations are intended to inform the on-going development of the Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework to provide direction for addressing emerging and cross-cutting issues in Connect SoCal 2024. They will be considered by the Joint Policy Committee alongside recommendations from the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee and the Resilience and Conservation Subcommittee in March. The scope of the Subcommittee discussions also illuminated opportunities for broader recommendations to inform SCAG’s work both in Connect SoCal implementation and other program areas. To realize these recommendations, potential actions to support integration into Connect SoCal 2024 and its implementation are summarized below:

- Incorporate and analyze data from surveys, other location-based services data as available to incorporate emerging travel patterns and behaviors.
- Evaluate options to assess transit priority treatments and on-demand shared mobility services, including directly within regional models.
- Explore mitigation strategies to combine with efforts to build out the express lane system and improve the flow of goods.

- Conduct research and engagement with disadvantaged communities and communities of color to better understand and plan for mobility needs.
- Conduct research, engagement, and pilot projects for advancing funding strategies that transition the region to a user fee-based system that better reflects the true costs of transportation and ensures an equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

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#### SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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#### VENTURA COUNTY

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