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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***SCAG wins two Excellence Awards for Best Practices from the American Planning Association***

The American Planning Association's California Chapter has honored the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for its work in establishing an active transportation database and its climate adaptation communications strategies.

The two Excellence Awards were announced Wednesday during the 2020 APA California Virtual Conference: State of Change.

SCAG, the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, was honored with the Excellence Award in the category of Best Practices for its active transportation data collection tools. The agency developed its [active transportation database](#) to collect and store bicycle, pedestrian, wheelchair and scooter/skateboard volume counts from infrastructure and planning projects across Southern California.

SCAG earned its other Excellence Award in the category of Public Outreach for its climate adaptation communications strategies. Through a series of community outreach events, called "Climate Talks," the public was invited to walk through an immersive Climate Talks Pop-up Box which depicted different communication strategies to help residents understand the impact and potential real-life consequences of climate change. After walking through the exhibit, visitors were asked to complete a survey that gauged their feelings towards climate change and the communication strategies. The survey results informed the Outreach Toolkit component of SCAG's regionwide effort to support regional climate adaptation planning and engage with the 191 cities and six counties SCAG represents. The project is helping to connect local and regional land use and transportation planning with state policy goals, and includes an [extensive cross-sector public engagement process](#).

"Climate adaptation and active transportation are critical to improving the overall quality of life across Southern California, and we're proud of the role our team has played in creating the tools and awareness necessary to bring positive change forward," said SCAG President Rex Richardson, a Long Beach City Councilmember.

Active transportation and climate adaptation both feature prominently in Connect SoCal, SCAG's recently adopted 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The plan identifies \$638.6 billion in transportation investments that, among things, would enable the six-county region to achieve its targets for reducing greenhouse gases from autos and light-duty trucks by 19% per capita by 2035. The plan nearly doubles the investment in active transportation from the previous RTP/SCS, from \$12 billion to \$22 billion.

For more on Connect SoCal, visit [www.connectsocial.org](http://www.connectsocial.org).

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***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).