



**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, MARCH 2, 2023**

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.igm2.com/Citizens/>

The Joint Policy Committees of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

CEHD Members Present:

Hon. Frank Yokoyama (Chair)	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Shapiro (Vice Chair)	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Ashleigh Aitken	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Don Caskey	<i>Laguna Hills</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Steve De Ruse	<i>La Mirada</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada	<i>Ontario, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Ex-Officio
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Rose Espinoza	<i>La Habra</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Waymond Fermon	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG
Hon. Mark Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	<i>Brea</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2
Hon. Tammy Kim	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Sup. Matt LaVere	<i>Ventura County</i>	CoC
Hon. Jed Leano	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68



Hon. Anni Marshall	<i>Avalon</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Rep.</i>	
Hon. Casey McKeon	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	WCCOG
Hon. Bill Miranda	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. John Mirisch	<i>Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Joseph Morabito	<i>Wildomar</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Ariel Pe	<i>Lakewood</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Sylvia Robles	<i>Grand Terrace</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	<i>Bellflower</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Becky Shevlin	<i>Monrovia</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Helen Tran	<i>San Bernardino</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	<i>Fontana</i>	SBCTA
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. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Ramon Castro	<i>Imperial County</i>	CoC
Hon. Letitia Clark	<i>Tustin</i>	District 17
Hon. Lauren Kleiman	<i>Newport Beach</i>	District 15
Hon. George A. Nava	<i>Brawley</i>	ICTC
Hon. Kim Nguyen	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Misty Perez	<i>Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Sandy Rains	<i>Laguna Niguel</i>	District 12
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Gabriel Reyes	<i>San Bernardino County</i>	CoC
Hon. Rex Richardson	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Nicholas Schultz	<i>Burbank</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Andy Sobel	<i>Santa Paula</i>	VCOG
Hon. Benjamin Vasquez	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	SBCCOG

EEC Members Present:

Hon. Cindy Allen	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Phil Brock	<i>Santa Monica</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	SGVCOG



Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Ned Davis	<i>Westlake Village</i>	LVMCOG
Hon. Rick Denison	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Julian Gold	<i>Beverly Hills</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster	<i>Simi Valley</i>	VCOG
Hon. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG
Hon. Jennifer Stark	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Tamala Takahashi	<i>Burbank</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Connor Traut	<i>Buena Park</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Dale Welty	<i>Canyon Lake</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG

EEC Members Not Present:

Hon. Deborah Robertson (Chair)	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Sup. Luis Plancarte (Vice Chair)		Imperial County
Hon. Damon L. Alexander	<i>San Bernardino</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Ana Beltran	<i>Westmoreland</i>	ICTC
Hon. Daniel Brotman	<i>Glendale</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Robert Copeland	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Maria Davila	<i>South Gate</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Dan Kalmick	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran	<i>Chino Hills</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Randall Putz	<i>Big Bear Lake</i>	District 11

TC Members Present:

Hon. Ray Marquez (Chair)	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Tim Sandoval (Vice Chair)	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Konstantine Anthony	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. Liz Becerra	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Russel Betts	<i>Desert Hot Springs</i>	CVAG
Hon. Art Brown	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Ross Chun	<i>Aliso Viejo</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Andrew Do	<i>CoC</i>	Orange County
Hon. Darrell Dorris	<i>Lancaster</i>	NCTC
Hon. John Dutre	<i>Montclair</i>	SBCTA/SBCCOG
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39



Hon. Jason Gibbs	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	NCTC
Hon. Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Hon. Jan Harnik		RCTC
Hon. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Trish Kelley	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Linda Krupa	<i>Hemet</i>	District 3
Hon. Richard Loa	<i>Palmdale</i>	NCTC
Hon. Clint Lorimore	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4
Hon. Ken Mann	<i>Lancaster</i>	District 43
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Marsha McLean	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	District 67
Hon. Carol Moore	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Ara Najarian	<i>Glendale</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich		ICTC
Hon. Frank Navarro	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
Hon. Ed Reece	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Zak Schwank	<i>Temecula</i>	District 5
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Jeremy Smith	<i>Pres. Appt.</i>	Canyon Lake
Hon. Jose Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Michael Vargas	<i>CoC</i>	Riverside County
Hon. Scott Voigts	<i>Lake Forest</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Don Wagner		Orange County
Hon. Wallace, Colleen	<i>Banning</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Alan Wapner		SBCTA/SBCOG
Mr. Paul Marquez	<i>Caltrans District 7</i>	Ex-Officio Member

TC Members Not Present:

Hon. Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Hon. Brian Goodell		OCTA
Hon. Ray Hamada	<i>Bellflower</i>	District 24
Hon. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Fred Jung	<i>Fullerton</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Paul Krekorian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	District 9



Hon. Jon Primuth	<i>South Pasadena</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Gil Rebolgar	<i>Brawley</i>	District 1
Hon. Crystal Ruiz	<i>San Jacinto</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Hon. Wes Speake	<i>Corona</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Cynthia Sternquist	<i>Temple City</i>	SGVCOG

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
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 Jan Harnik called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. President Harnik asked the Honorable Jose Luis Solache, TC Policy Committee Member, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

Mike Houston, Chief Counsel, reported 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 Harnik closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

President Harnik reported that they would address the information item first before acting on the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR***The Consent Calendar was acted upon after Information Item 2.***

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meetings – February 3, 2022

A MOTION was made (Hagman) to approve Consent Calendar Item 1. Motion was SECONDED (McCallon). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: (CEHD) Andrade-Stadler, Boyer, Bucknum, Caskey, De Ruse, Dosrt-Porada, Eich, Espinoza, Fermon, Finlay, Henderson, Hupp, Kelly, Miranda, Morabito, M. Nava, Pe, Rhodes, Robles, Santa Ines, Shapiro, Shevlin, Tran, Warren, Wu, Yokoyama; (EEC) Allen, Brock, M. Clark, Crosswhite, Davis, Denison, Horne, Huff, J. Kalmick, Litster, Lopez, Meister, Ortiz, Stark, Takahashi, Welty; (TC) Becerra, Betts, A. Brown, Dorris, Dutrey, Gazeley, Gibbs, Hagman, Harnik, L. Hernandez, Judge, Kelley, Krupa, Loa, Lorimore, Mann, Manos, R. Marquez, McCallon, McLean, Moore, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Nazarian, Reece, Saleh, Sandoval, Schwank, Simonoff, Solache, Spiegel, Sternquist, Tye, Vargas, Wagner, Wallace, and Wapner (79)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEM

2. Connect SoCal 2024 Update

There were no public comments on Item 2.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, reported that SCAG's primary responsibility was to put forth a plan every four years which outlines the vision that they have for the work ahead and for the entire region. He explained that SCAG being the largest Metropolitan Planning Organization in the country has a responsibility to do this right as they serve 19 million people across the 6 counties that cover the SCAG region. He noted that they face challenges in transportation and needed to move people and goods safely and efficiently in ways that sustain their economy, environment, and quality of life that they strive for in Southern California. He also noted that they face challenges in housing the

region, with affordability currently out of reach for many in Southern California, which was pertinent to the discussion they would be having. He indicated that as they work to prepare a regional plan to serve the diverse needs and goals of each community, they want to make sure that it's represented in their Long-Range plan (also known as the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy or Connect SoCal). He also reported that over the past year, they had been working with local jurisdictions, every single one of their cities and counties, as well as with transportation agencies to understand their planning work and bring together all of their input for the regional plan. He explained that the work of SCAG's Policy Committees and Regional Council was to steer this plan through policy conversations and decisions. Lastly, he asked the members to consider the following questions during their discussion: 1) where are we heading as a region; 2) which issues most need regional collaboration; and 3) how can we make policy decisions to direct our research and planning resources to have an impact.

Sarah Dominguez, Planning Supervisor, reported that over the past two, each Policy Committee and at times the Regional Council had received updates relating to Connect SoCal development. Her presentation included an update on how they are developing the plan, what needs to get done, what they have done to date, and the trends they have been tracking since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also briefly discussed what was required for the RTP/SCS, what the federal requirements directed SCAG to do, the importance of meeting those requirements, and the development phase which follows four broad phases aligned by year. She explained that in developing the plan what they were trying to do is answer a set of questions about the region as follows: 1) Who are we planning for; 2) How has the region changed; 3) How might we create a better region by 2050; 4) Where will we grow; and 5) How will we move.

With respect to who they were planning for, she indicated that the preliminary growth projection called for slower growth, steady improvement, which reflected their anticipation of far less population growth than in their last plan, though they expected housing and employment growth to remain strong. She explained that this was a starting point for their conversations last year with the local jurisdictions through the Local Data Exchange process and based on optimism from their local jurisdictions and integrating new projects at the local level, the regional projection actually increased. With respect to how has the region changed, she explained that VMT had rebounded, streets had become less safe due to notably increased speeds since the pandemic, transit recovery was still needed, the goods movement had seen increase instability due to several factors, teleworking was here to stay for some, and housing production continued to increase. With respect to how might we create a better region in 2050, she explained that the draft vision was for a healthy, accessible, and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future. She further clarified that they had four goal areas specific to mobility, communities, the environment, and economy. With respect to where will we grow, she explained that last year they conducted a 10-month long Local Data Exchange process by which they met with most local jurisdictions to seek their input on land use and growth data. She indicated that the data shapes their required Regional

Forecasted Development Pattern (RFDP) which details where jobs and housing will be anticipated to be located in the future. She indicated that the RFDP helps them analyze the travel behavior of people in the region, when paired with transportation investments and policies, as well as understand where jurisdictions anticipate new jobs and housing but does not constrain local decision making. With respect to how will we move, she indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic changed travel behavior throughout the region, nonetheless, it provided an opportunity to leverage innovative, shared mobility options that best fit varying contexts across the SCAG region. She indicated one key input was the County Transportation Commission projects lists that were submitted. Lastly, she reported that the next steps for Connect SoCal 2024 was to conduct public outreach, continue policy discussions through mid-year, and then in the summer, staff would be doing their analysis, modeling, and writing in order to release a draft of the plan this Fall, followed by a public comment process and final adoption in April 2024.

SCAG staff responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers, including comments on traffic safety in relation to the weight of electrical vehicles versus gas vehicles, addressing the housing deficit from prior years, balancing the spending on transit if the goal is to keep people near to housing, how rates have affected housing, and consideration for traffic patterns. Members also suggested that staff update the Metrolink numbers with respect to transit ridership since ridership was up in North Los Angeles County.

Ms. Dominguez also provided an update on Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittees. She reported that in September SCAG launched 3 subcommittees to dive deeper into key areas of Connect SoCal which were the Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning, which concluded in January and February. She explained that during the meetings, the subcommittees benefited from the presentations and panel discussions from a broad range of speakers representing the public sector, private sector, community organizations and educational institutions. She noted that attached to the agenda packet were the draft White Papers from each subcommittee that included the foundations for each subcommittees work, the discussions, and key findings from their meetings as well as a full list of recommendations. She explained that the recommendations required on-going development and refinement, so they were not being recommended for approval. She indicated that going forward staff would be elevating these recommendations as they move forward Connect SoCal development items. Additionally, these recommendations will inform development of their Regional Planning Policies. She informed the JPC Members that the subcommittees were driven by one or more questions. For the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee, the key questions were: 1) what are the opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies and Connect SoCal; and 2) how can connect SoCal guide how planning investments over the next 30 years address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region. She introduced Chair Mark Henderson, Gardena, to share the subcommittee's recommendations.

Hon. Henderson thanked staff for their diligence in working through this really important issue. In the interest of time, he briefly outlined their goals over the course of four months. He indicated that they had to: identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal to guide their planning and investments over the next 30 years, do their best to rectify racial discrimination and the impact over the next 30 years, and then as a body work on coaching strategies to make sure they can start addressing these issues. He noted that they had to take some time to understand past practice in the United States regarding housing and racial equity. He indicated that they also looked at data, had presentations from speakers, and learned about issues they are trying to tackle in their region. He explained that over the course of their meetings staff noted a lot of their comments and they worked to create a white paper that has their major themes and recommendations. He explained that racial equity broadly touched upon every facet of their lives, so their recommendations went a little beyond the specific topic, but they tried to look at the Connect SoCal planning process holistically. As a result, he indicated that they produced eight recommendations, but highlighted the following three: 1) Connect So Cal being a vehicle to promote racial equity; 2) calls for us to break down silos at the local, State and Federal levels; and 3) incorporate equity-centered economic activities in our Plan. With respect to Connect So Cal being a vehicle to promote racial equity, he indicated that this was a broad topic, but they had an opportunity to really think about how they approach racial equity in regard to land use, the environment, economic development, and mobility. He stated that this specific recommendation was about looking at the Connect SoCal process as a whole to identify opportunities for improving racial equity throughout. He indicated that one of his major points as the Chair of the Subcommittee was to make sure that they didn't place blame on anyone as to how they got here but rather as a group start looking at how they can start correcting some of these wrongs. With respect to calls for us to break down silos at the local, State and Federal levels, he indicated they had broad discussions and had come to an understanding that everybody was trying to address the same issue in various ways. However, he indicated that if they had a little more discussion and communication with other agencies on how they are approaching this issue it would be helpful. Lastly, with respect to incorporate equity-centered economic activities in our Plan, he indicated that they needed to incorporate some sort of economic activity so they can increase the economic engine.

Hon. Henderson responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers, including comments on increasing black homeownership, addressing fair housing laws and issues of displacement during a housing crisis, providing education and training, and partnering with non-profits, community groups, and the private sector that are at the forefront of social justice work.

Ms. Dominguez introduced Chair Kathleen Kelly, Palm Desert, to share the Resilience and Conservation Subcommittee's recommendations.

Hon. Kelly reported that their committee built upon the work of the Regional Council's Resolution on Climate Change Action and that their overarching mission was to come up with recommendations to make sure that the best laid plans for infrastructure under Connect SoCal do not fall prey to climate hazards or stressors. She indicated that the four sessions were informed by presentations from staff and subject matter experts. She stated that because these stressors have been identified by stakeholders as paramount, they had considerable emphasis on the twin hazards of drought and flood. She expressed that they were heartened to hear about work currently underway to achieve progress in groundwater management and retention. She noted that the committee produced five recommendations which were to: 1) refine the definition of resilience to make sure they were amenable to effectively responding to change in conditions; 2) prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards; 3) build strong partnerships; 4) apply ecosystem-based approaches; and 5) maximize mutual benefits.

Hon. Kelly responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers. Comments were focused on rethinking how turf programs are handled, improving urban green with native plants and the importance of tree canopies to ensure there is adequate greenspace, and including economic and health stressors in the plan.

Ms. Dominguez introduced Chair Keith Eich, La Cañada Flintridge, to share the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee's recommendations.

Hon. Eich reported that at the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee they considered how the pandemic changed their travel behavior and patterns. He indicated that they focused on the evolving role of their highways and explored how to ensure transit recovery. Additionally, he indicated that they looked at how they can better align how they pay for and fund transportation with goals for equity and resilience. He noted that feedback from members of the Subcommittee was grouped into four broad recommendations. He noted that the first recommendation was to maintain a people-centric transportation investment strategy. This ensures that deployment of new technologies support people's needs and addresses larger shared goals like advancing equitable access. He indicated that this also meant prioritizing our public rights-of-way for all roadway users, especially focusing on the needs of non-single occupant vehicle users. He indicated that the second recommendation was to continue to invest in system preservation and efficiency. He explained that the 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. He noted that with this context, operational improvements and targeted strategic highway capacity expansion are warranted when coupled with complementary efforts to offset potential increases in vehicle miles traveled and especially single-occupant vehicle travel. He noted the third recommendation was to expand and enhance mobility choices. He explained that this meant understanding and meeting the needs of existing transit riders, which will also attract new riders. He indicated this could also increase choices beyond driving by enhancing and supporting services

across all modes of travel including transit, active transportation, micromobility, and automobiles. He clarified that this recommendation meant reconsidering the role of the automobile in our daily lives and how having more travel can increase reliable access. He stated that the fourth and final recommendation was to re-envision how we plan, fund, and manage the transportation system. Under this recommendation, he stated that they encouraged planning and managing the transportation system more like an investor, including asserting a role in the digital realm of transportation. He stated that they also encouraged appropriately pricing the transportation system to ensure that the system functions for all users (even during peak demand periods), generates reliable revenue, and establishes resources for addressing equity concerns. Lastly, he thanked Alex Fisch who previously chaired the meeting before him.

Hon. Eich responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers, including comments on VMT in relation to gas powered, hydrogen and electric vehicles and whether conversations have changed from considering for the environment with greenhouse gas pollution versus it just being a revenue source. Other comments were focused on the accessibility and safety of public transit, pressing the issue of equity with respect to providing accessibility to electric vehicles in lower income communities, and how they would be moving forward with the strategies in the white papers.

Ms. Dominguez reported that last June the Regional Council approved their Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal, which documented their draft vision and goals and outlined the policy priorities for Connect SoCal. She indicated this [Framework] was carrying forward many of the priorities from Connect SoCal 2020 as well as some recent Regional Council actions and emerging issues. She noted that as they had heard in the discussions of this meeting, the need for direction was broader than their statutory requirements. She explained that what they wanted to do was to better reflect this need for additional areas of leadership and to document and carry forward some of the ideas that were discussed at the Subcommittees which was to prepare a set of regional planning policies. She clarified that the purpose of the Regional Planning Policies was to better document and organize the broad policies of Connect SoCal so that regional partners or stakeholders can more easily identify alignment with their regional plan- either to support their local planning efforts or in applying for grant resources. She reiterated that the Framework carries forward many of the same policy areas from Connect SoCal 2020, like system preservation and sustainable development but also reflects some of the broader topics around workforce development and supporting priority equity areas. Lastly, she noted that over the next couple of months, they will be drafting and circulating draft policies with their stakeholders and then plan to bring a draft back to each Policy Committee in June. She explained that they would have several opportunities for input and hopefully this would provide more transparency for the decision makers.

Executive Director Ajise thanked the members for their questions and comments and stated this was not the end of the conversation. He noted that one of the beauties of the JPC was the ability to be able to focus on one subject area like Connect SoCal. He indicated that they would see many of the elements from this discussion in their Policy Committees and ultimately before the Regional Council. He expressed that he loved the work of the subcommittees and thought it expanded the conversations they wanted to have on policy, consistent with the direction they had received from the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) a couple of years ago to increase opportunities for policy discussion. Lastly, he stated that it was not enough to discuss policy and build a plan, but they also had to talk about an implementation plan because that was one of the things the state had been asking them to do.

Honorable Russell Betts thanked staff for putting this together and indicated they were really fortunate to have an excellent clear presentation.

President Harnik thanked the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all three subcommittees for their work.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Harnik adjourned the Joint Policy Committee meeting at 11:27 a.m.

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

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