
News Release

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SCAG appoints Sarah Jepson as Planning Director

Los Angeles – Sarah Jepson has been appointed Planning Director for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents.

Prior to her appointment as Acting Planning Director in April, Jepson has been a key contributor in the Planning Division as Manager of Active Transportation and Special Programs Department, a group she was hired to form in November 2013 to advance the region’s sustainability plan. In that role, she was responsible for overseeing long-range planning and policy development in the areas of active transportation, public health, energy and water.

“For our planning work to remain innovative and relevant, we must focus on translating our work into tangible strategies that can be implemented at the local level. Sarah shares this vision and through programs like our *Go Human* active transportation campaign has created a model for successfully implementing this new approach,” said Kome Ajise, SCAG’s Executive Director. “I have no doubt that under her leadership, SCAG’s Planning Department will continue to thrive and develop innovative strategies, tools, and resources that will increase SCAG’s value to the region.”

Started in 2014, the Go Human Campaign encourages walking, biking and roadway safety across Southern California through public education and “complete streets” demonstration projects. It is the foundation of a comprehensive planning program aimed at building local interest and securing funding to re-design streets for livability and safety in a region that is defined by “car culture”. More than 80% of cities region-wide now having adopted active transportation plans in place and nearly 500 miles of bikeways have been constructed since 2016.

Prior to joining SCAG, Sarah was the first Sustainability Policy Manager for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), where she led the development of the agency’s First-Last Mile Strategic Plan and Countywide Sustainability Planning Policies. She also worked on growth management planning for the King County Executive in Seattle, Washington.

Jepson holds a Master’s degree in Public Policy from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Miami University in Oxford, OH.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and approximately 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, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov.