

SCAG HOSTS SECOND CONVENING OF REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PLANNING ADVISORY TASK GROUP

SCAG convened the second meeting of the Regional Advance Mitigation Planning Advisory Task Group (RAMP-ATG) on Friday, Jan. 28. The meeting covered research and a draft outline of the RAMP white paper, presentations on existing regional advance mitigation programs such as the Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan from the Riverside Conservation Authority (RCA), and a summary of feedback shared from interviews with county transportation commissions on SCAG's RAMP program.

The third meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 18, from 3 – 5 p.m. via Zoom with additional information on existing regional advance mitigation programs and initial recommendations on establishing a policy framework for advance mitigation. All meetings are open to the public and stakeholders are encouraged to submit public comment. Please visit <https://scag.ca.gov/ramp-atg> for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! 57TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For the first time in three years, we will be convening in person for the [57th Regional Conference & General Assembly](#) on May 5–6 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, Calif. Mark your calendars to join Southern California's most influential leaders, innovators and policymakers for collaborative, solution-oriented discussions on fostering change and addressing challenges in our communities.

Registration, which will be free for elected officials and city managers in the region, will be opening soon — stay tuned! You can find the latest details on the event webpage at scag.ca.gov/ga2022. To learn more about opportunities for sponsorship of the event, contact Houston Laney at laney@scag.ca.gov.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN THE SCAG REGION

2022 STUDENT SHOWCASE

The [2022 Student Showcase](#) is a storymapping competition that challenges students to think innovatively and compete for cash prizes in two award categories: "Best in Show" and "Audience Awards." Student participants are invited to conceptualize, create, and submit planning themed ArcGIS StoryMaps using SCAG's open data. This is a meaningful way to tell a story or provide insight, showcase plans and projects, engage supporters and stakeholders, illustrate the possibilities of data, and highlight the usefulness of open data at the regional level.

Students are instructed to [submit abstracts of their projects](#) by Tuesday, Feb. 22, and if selected, SCAG will request an ArcGIS StoryMap to be submitted. In all, there will be a total of \$6,000 awarded.

2022 SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications are now available for the [2022 SCAG Scholarship Program](#)! The SCAG Scholarship Program offers a \$4,000 scholarship award for seven high school seniors or community college students from the SCAG region (and potentially two additional scholarship awards that are not tied to a specific county but may be awarded at the Regional Council's discretion) and the opportunity to meet with elected officials and practicing planners to learn more about careers in public service.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be a resident within the SCAG region, enrolled as a high school senior or

community college student, have at least a 3.0 GPA and be eligible to work in the United States. Applicants must [complete an application form](#) and submit an essay, two letters of recommendation, and a current transcript. All materials must be submitted by Friday, April 1.

For more information on both opportunities, please visit scag.ca.gov/students.

LAST MILE FREIGHT PROGRAM UPDATE

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee approved \$6.75 million in [Last Mile Freight Program](#) Phase 1 contingency projects at their meeting on Jan. 20. These projects will be considered for approval at the SCAG Regional Council meeting on Feb. 4. With these actions, SCAG will now be implementing a total of \$16.75 million in near-zero and zero emissions medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and supporting infrastructure projects over the next few years throughout the six-county region. SCAG remains committed to working with key public and private partners to improve air quality benefits for local communities through the advancement of innovative technologies.

SUBREGIONAL PARTNERS LISTENING SESSIONS

SCAG hosted two listening sessions with subregional executive directors that allowed SCAG to learn more about subregional priorities and begin identifying potential opportunities for partnership, including those that would fall under the Regional Early Action Planning Grant of 2021 (REAP 2.0). The sessions also provided an opportunity for the subregions to learn from each other and to share best practices and ideas for new initiatives to implement Connect SoCal. SCAG is currently compiling feedback from the discussions to share during the February Subregional Executive Directors meeting.

JOINT MEETING WITH KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SCAG elected and staff leadership joined members of the Kern Council of Governments for a meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest, areas of cooperation, transportation planning efforts, legislative advocacy, and other activities that impact both sides of their shared county lines. This meeting is part of SCAG's ongoing commitment to collaboration with neighboring regions.

GO HUMAN UPDATE

SCAG'S GO HUMAN CAMPAIGN RECEIVES CALTRANS EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION AWARD

SCAG's *Go Human* campaign was recognized by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) with an Excellence in Transportation award for the project "From Pop Up to Permanent: A Model for Community-Centered Public Engagement." The award recognizes SCAG's *Go Human* efforts across the region to foster champions for active transportation safety at the local level through a variety of strategies. One key strategy is the [Kit of Parts](#), an engagement tool to temporarily demonstrate potential and planned street design treatments and safety infrastructure that encourage the use of streets as public space. A full list of winning projects, summaries, and photos can be accessed here: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/public-affairs/eit-awards>.

SCAG'S GO HUMAN CAMPAIGN TEAMED UP WITH SUNLINE TRANSIT TO SHOWCASE SAFETY MESSAGING ACROSS COACHELLA VALLEY

Recognizing that every commuter is a pedestrian first, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign teamed up with SunLine Transit to showcase safety messaging in the Coachella Valley, running through May 2022. Displayed on three buses that are part of the [hydrogen fuel cell fleet](#), the "SunLine x *Go Human*" bus wraps represent a collaboration between years-long efforts to promote zero-emission transportation and traffic safety messaging. Co-branded safety messaging materials are one of *Go Human*'s no-cost resources. Learn more about the collaboration in this [news article](#) and request safety advertisements on the [SCAG website](#).

LADOT DEMONSTRATION AT MAGNOLIA AVENUE ELEMENTARY SECURES FUNDING, INSTALLATION PLANNED

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), with support from SCAG's *Go Human* campaign, hosted a Safe Routes to School pop-up demonstration event on Walk to School Day/Clean Air Day on Oct. 6, 2021, at Magnolia Avenue Elementary School. The demonstration included temporary safety design improvements, including "School Streets" (closing the street adjacent to the school to vehicle traffic, creating a pedestrian plaza), improved safety valet, bulb outs, and other features alongside engaging programming activities, feedback opportunities, and air quality monitoring. The goal of the event was to serve as a trial and to solicit community input on street improvements. The Office of Council District 1 has directed CRA/LA bond proceeds to the implementation of this project, scheduled for installation in June 2022. A video of the project can be accessed [here](#).

WTS-IE NAMES MUSCOY MOTHER & DAUGHTER DUO AND GO HUMAN CHAMPIONS RECIPIENTS OF THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

For the first time, a mother and daughter duo were awarded the Woman of the Year Award by the WTS–Inland Empire Chapter. Rosa and Angela Loera were recognized for their tremendous commitment to advancing transportation in the region. Their leadership was integral in securing a \$1.88 million infrastructure grant through the state's Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 5 for the Muscoy Area Safe Routes to School Pedestrian Improvements Project. In partnership with Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes, the Sidewalks for Muscoy Coalition, Safe Routes Partnership, community members and numerous other partners, Rosa and Angela led essential community engagement efforts, rallying their community as they built temporary crosswalks, bus shelters, and curb extensions (in part with mini-grant funding from SCAG's *Go Human* campaign). Their efforts to conduct engagement and secure funding have and will continue to be transformative for the Inland Empire. As alumni of *Go Human*'s Community Safety Ambassador Program, SCAG congratulates these champions.

SCAG HOSTS 'TOOLBOX TUESDAY' TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON EQUITY TOOL DEVELOPMENT

SCAG's [Toolbox Tuesday](#) trainings provide a range of practical skills and knowledge for local planners, including training in the use of computer-based tools and education in practical approaches to timely planning issues. On Jan. 25, more than 100 participants joined SCAG for a session on the process of how to use and develop equity tools for local jurisdictions. Speakers from SCAG and Metro discussed how equity tools are designed to integrate the explicit consideration of equity in decisions, including policies, practices, programs, and budgets. For more information, please access the recording of the training session and presentation materials on the [SCAG website](#). Please [register here](#) for the next Toolbox Tuesday training on "SB 379 Compliance: Resources for Local Jurisdictions," which will take place on Feb. 15.

SUNLINE TRANSIT HYDROGEN FUEL CELL BUS WORKSHOP

On Jan. 20, I participated in a fuel cell bus workshop hosted by Sunline Transit, which highlighted their hydrogen fuel cell transit fleet and fueling facilities to elected officials, regional and state decision makers, and transit agency board members. The facilities tour and afternoon workshop will educate participants about the benefits of fuel cell electric buses as California and the region continues to collaborate on meeting the state's mandated greenhouse gas reduction targets through clean fleet deployment strategies. Sunline Transit took the opportunity to highlight the SCAG *Go Human*-wrapped "zero-emission" hydrogen fuel cell bus at their satellite liquid hydrogen fueling station in Indio as a part of the morning Tour. As part of the workshop, I provided opening remarks to kick off the workshop portion of the program and highlighted the partnership and ongoing efforts the region is making to meet the California Air Resources Board's clean fleet requirements.