

## 2020 REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY CANCELLED; APRIL 2020 REGIONAL COUNCIL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS POSTPONED

After careful consideration over the growing public health concerns regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in California, SCAG's leadership decided to cancel the 55th Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly, which was scheduled for May 6-8, 2020 in Palm Desert, CA. The decision to cancel the event was not considered lightly and was made primarily to help safeguard the hundreds upon hundreds of individuals that attend the conference every year. With continued uncertainty, holding the conference as scheduled would have unnecessarily put our staff, members, stakeholders, partners, and sponsors at risk. The health, safety, and well-being of our attendees and their families is of paramount importance. With the cancellation, the agency is still evaluating alternative options for holding a General Assembly meeting. The SCAG General Assembly is required to convene annually to adopt the agency's budget and consider changes to the bylaws. They are also responsible for the approval of the agency's slate of executive officers for the coming year.

In addition, the April 2 Regional Council and Policy Committee meetings have been postponed, but the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) is still expected to convene remotely on April 2 to consider time-sensitive business items. This meeting will not include consideration of Connect SoCal, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and its associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Please check the [SCAG website calendar](#) for updates on future meeting dates.

## SCAG STAFF REMAIN SAFER AT HOME, MAINTAINING OPERATIONS

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, and following guidance from the Governor's office, public health agencies, and the Centers for Disease Control, the entire SCAG workforce is currently under a mandatory teleworking order to ensure the safety of our workforce, protect public health, and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19. SCAG's regular business activities are continuing as normal; however, SCAG offices, including headquarters and regional offices, are closed at this time until further notice. SCAG has the necessary IT infrastructure in place for the entire agency to work remotely and is continuing to meet agency obligations. An internal planning team also solicited feedback from staff about the teleworking experience to assist the agency with improving operational capacity. SCAG's entire workforce can be reached by phone and email.

## GO HUMAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADAPTS TO STAY AT HOME GUIDANCE

To protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, *Go Human* has adapted its public programming to follow the agency's actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Events scheduled through Saturday, April 25 will be postponed or canceled, and outreach efforts will be moved online where possible. In an effort to continue *Go Human* engagement efforts while the Governor's order to stay at home is in effect, the Active Transportation and Special Programs department is surveying peer agencies, non-profits and community-based organizations for community engagement and community planning alternatives. These alternatives may inform future *Go Human* events and funding opportunities, as well as community engagement deliverables across agency contracts and jurisdictions. For additional information regarding alternatives to in-person community engagement, please contact Andrés Carrasquillo at [carrasquillo@scag.ca.gov](mailto:carrasquillo@scag.ca.gov).

## SAVE-THE-DATE: 31ST ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP

SCAG and the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy are scheduled to jointly host the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop at USC's Trojan Grand Ballroom on Thursday, June 11, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The theme of the workshop is "Accelerating Planning to Catch Up to 21st Century Demographics." The workshop will provide an update on the latest in demographic trends including migration, fertility and aging and their implications on our regional planning as we begin a new decade. In addition, as the decennial Census of 2020 is currently in the field, we will hear updates on progress and challenges. Online registration will be available soon. For more information, please contact John Cho at [choj@scag.ca.gov](mailto:choj@scag.ca.gov). Please note that due to ongoing concerns over the COVID-19 outbreak, a web-based workshop is currently being considered as an alternative.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE 5 OUTREACH

To ensure local agencies and partners can prepare for the upcoming fifth cycle of funding for the Active Transportation Program (ATP), SCAG and each of the six county transportation commissions are providing virtual workshops and one-on-one assistance. Workshops kicked off on March 16 with a Riverside County-focused webinar and will continue across the region throughout April 2020. The competitive grant program runs every two years and has previously programmed more than \$1 billion across four funding cycles statewide. ATP Cycle 5 will award approximately \$445 million in funding for active transportation strategies, with an estimated \$94 million to be awarded in the SCAG region. For additional information regarding ATP Cycle 5 outreach, please contact Cory Wilkerson at [wilkerson@scag.ca.gov](mailto:wilkerson@scag.ca.gov).

## DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR THE 2020 SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the deadline for the 2020 SCAG Scholarship Program has been pushed back to Friday, May 8. The scholarship program offers financial support and professional development to the region's high school and community college students. Scholarships of \$4,000 will be awarded to at least seven eligible students across the six-county SCAG region. Winners will also complete a two-week internship with a local planning agency or council of governments, getting the opportunity to meet with elected officials and practicing planners to learn more about careers in public service. Community college students or high school juniors and seniors who live in the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino or Ventura are eligible to apply. Application materials and additional details are available at: [scag.ca.gov/scholarship](http://scag.ca.gov/scholarship). If you have questions, please contact Scholarship Program Coordinator Jonathan Hughes at [hughesj@scag.ca.gov](mailto:hughesj@scag.ca.gov).

## UP TO CODE: PERMIT STREAMLINING AND FUNDING FOR ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

In partnership with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), SCAG hosted a workshop on March 10 to inform jurisdictions about how they can promote zero-emission infrastructure for passenger vehicles. The workshop covered funding, regulations, local examples, as well as permit streamlining. Although the State of California requires (under AB 1236) all jurisdictions to streamline permitting for public electric vehicle chargers, a recent analysis by SCAG and GO-Biz found that only 12 percent of SCAG jurisdictions have achieved consistency with statewide permitting requirements three years after they were established. Permitting has proven to be a costly barrier to building public electric vehicle charging stations. In California, permitting often takes significantly longer and costs more than the national average, meaning less supportive infrastructure for battery electric vehicles in our region. To help overcome this barrier and others, SCAG is working with its partners to create electric vehicle readiness plans, providing tools such as the PEV Atlas ([https://maps.scag.ca.gov/electric\\_vehicle/](https://maps.scag.ca.gov/electric_vehicle/)), and hosting educational workshops. Recordings and materials from the workshop can be found online at <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Online-Training-Materials.aspx>. For more information, please contact Joseph Cryer at [cryer@scag.ca.gov](mailto:cryer@scag.ca.gov).

## SCAG DATA/MAP BOOK TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THE ESRI MAP BOOK

The SCAG Data/Map Book project will be recognized in the upcoming Esri Map Book, Volume 35, which will be available to all attendees at the 2020 Esri User Conference in July. The Esri Map Book is a small sampling of work from geographic information systems (GIS) professionals all over the world that also illustrates how spatial thinking is aiding professionals across a variety of fields to make better decisions. In preparation for Connect SoCal and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), SCAG staff have been collecting local inputs from 197 local jurisdictions on the forecast of socio-economic indicators, as well as land use, transportation, environmental factors, and sustainability plans and programs, and presenting them in a jurisdiction-specific Data Map/Book that helps assess policy implementation at the local level and has become a useful resource to planners and other professionals throughout the region. To view the most recent SCAG Data/Map Books, please visit the Connect SoCal [Local Input Process page](#).