

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2014

California Active Transportation Program-Grant Opportunity

On March 4, SCAG hosted a special Toolbox Tuesday to review the new Active Transportation Program (ATP) set up under SB 99 (Steinberg). Over 200 people attended at SCAG's Los Angeles office and via video-conferencing at the regional offices, recognizing the importance of active transportation to our local jurisdictions. This was the largest turnout for a Toolbox Tuesday in SCAG's history of the program. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved the guidelines at their March 20 meeting for application for these new funds. The new ATP program will award approximately \$125 million in grants per year for active transportation projects. The first three-years of funding, approximately \$360 million statewide, will be awarded through a competitive grant process, which is underway March 21 through May 21. Sixty-percent of the funds awarded will be directed to projects selected by Caltrans; the remaining 40% will be awarded to projects selected by MPOs. SCAG has collaborated with each County Transportation Commission in the region and reached consensus on regional guidelines for the regional funding process. The ATP Guidelines will be considered for approval by the Regional Council on April 3. SCAG staff is committed to help ensure that local jurisdictions are fully aware of the grant process and requirements, and to maximize the amount of grant funding coming into the SCAG region. Notices have been sent to all cities regarding the availability of these funds and the grant process. Staff will continue to keep the Board updated on the progress of this new active transportation funding program and its benefits for the region. Please go to <http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Pages/ActiveTransportationFunding.aspx?opentab=8> for more detail on criteria, schedule and process.

49th Annual Regional Conference & General Assembly

SCAG staff is busy preparing an exciting and meaningful program for the 2014 Regional Conference & General Assembly, slated for May 1 – 2, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells Resort & Spa. In addition to the great networking opportunities with colleagues and sponsors, SCAG's conference promises relevant and thought-provoking content with this year's technology-based theme: Partnering for Prosperity: Technology's Impact on Mobility and Opportunity. On Day 1, we'll explore the use of technology in transportation, identify opportunities to bring education, technology and business together to improve economic opportunity, and hear how local jurisdictions are using public health and active transportation to meet critical needs in their communities. On Day 2, we'll connect the dots, drawing on lessons learned throughout the conference and determine key strategies to be incorporated into SCAG's 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Register now at www.scag.ca.gov/ga2014. Please join me in Indian Wells beginning April 30th for the SCAG Presidents Reception beginning 5 PM.

SCAG Annual Sustainability Awards May 1 – 2

We are pleased to report that SCAG received 37 submittals for the SCAG Annual Sustainability Awards. Our review panelists of esteemed experts will review these worthy projects for recognition and will be announced at the Regional Conference & General Assembly, May 1 and May 2. We are very excited to showcase these projects and know they reflect the great planning that is occurring by our member agencies throughout the region.

One-on-One Meetings with Local Jurisdictions for the 2016 – 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

As previously reported, a significant amount of SCAG staff resources are being expended to ensure all jurisdictions are fully informed of the local input planning process that will feed into the 2016 RTP/SCS and have clear and adequate opportunities to provide input, thereby emphasizing a bottom-up process and enabling regional collaboration. From December 2013 through March 2014, SCAG staff met with 77% of the region's 197 local jurisdictions. Meetings with the remaining 23% of jurisdictions are being arranged with the help of our subregional partners. Second meetings will be available, as requested, during the months of April and May. We look forward to continued collaboration with all local jurisdictions and stakeholders to ensure the success of the bottom-up input and review process for the development of 2016 RTP/SCS. For more information, please contact Frank Wen at (213) 236-1854 or at wen@scag.ca.gov.

Annual SCAG Sacramento Legislative Trip

On March 19, SCAG President Greg Pettis, 1st Vice-President Carl Morehouse, 2nd Vice President Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Immediate Past President Glen Becerra, Past President Pam O'Connor and Regional Councilmembers Margaret Clark and Steve Neal joined regional business leaders from the Southern California Leadership Council at SCAG's annual legislative reception at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento.

Over 50 Legislators, Administration and Agency officials and senior staff attended the reception, including Assembly Speaker John Perez, California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly, numerous legislators and other high-level Administration and legislative senior staff.

In addition to the reception, members met with key legislative leaders and staff including Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar), President pro temp Darrell Steinberg and future President pro temp and Senator Kevin DeLeon (D-Los Angeles), Senate Education Committee Chair Carol Liu (D-Glendale), Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles), Assembly, Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee Chair Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), and Assembly Member and former Regional Council member Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton) to discuss SCAG's adopted 2014 Legislative priorities.

Also on March 19, Past President Pam O'Connor testified before the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3, Chaired by Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) on the Governor's Proposed Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan. Past President Pam O'Connor testified in support the Governor's proposed expenditures for Freight Technology, Commuter Rail, and High Speed Rail but requested the Committee increase the \$100 million FY 15 allocation to \$500 million for the Sustainable Communities Implementation Program and ask that regional and local institutions responsible for sustainable communities be given the flexibility to utilize these resources in the most efficient manner possible for already vetted SCS projects to implement SB 375.

National Freight Advisory Committee

The National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC) reconvened on March 25 and 26 in Washington, DC to review and discuss each of the subcommittee recommendations for submittal to the U.S. Department of Transportation in developing the National Freight Strategic Plan. In total, about 91 recommendations were submitted by the subcommittees for consideration and discussion at the full NFAC meeting.

Further, Federal Highway Administration announced that they are on target to get a draft of the National Strategic Freight Plan out by September. The Plan is currently being drafted and they want to ensure that the NFAC as a group will have an opportunity to provide input.

SCAG Staff Research and Participation in Professional Meetings

In February, the Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) held its 2014 Annual Meeting in San Diego. Founded in 1961, WRSA is an international multidisciplinary group of university scholars and government and private-sector practitioners dedicated to the scientific analysis of regions. SCAG staff (Frank Wen, Simon Choi, and Hsi-Hwa Hu), presented research on various topics, including: housing type, tenure, and location choices of older households in the Southern California region; land use and travel behavior of elderly population; population aging and public and transportation finance; and balancing mobility and CO² reduction by an optimal mode share scheme.

In March, SCAG staff Hsi-Hwa Hu, along with Guoxiong Huang, Frank Wen, Simon Choi, and John Cho, and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health staff Margaret Shih and Amy Lightstone, published a peer reviewed paper on "Neighborhood environment and health behavior in Los Angeles area" in the international journal Transport Policy. The objective of this research is to analyze the relationship between neighborhood characteristics and obesity among adults. The results show that living in a neighborhood with higher household density, closeness to rail stations, and better bus services are associated with a lesser likelihood to be obese. See <http://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/attach18.pdf>.

SCAG Member Agencies GIS Services Program Update

Through SCAG's GIS Services Program, SCAG staff provided the City of Ojai with an information-rich radius map for assisting the City in distance-based location analysis on a proposed Cell tower project. For the City of Indio, SCAG GIS staff produced a web-based Street Sweeping Map Schedule, and created a Map Book that identifies all city properties, with information on parcel square footage, zoning designation, general plan designation, addresses, book value, and other useful items.

SCAG staff held a meeting for local jurisdictions and other government partners for input on an upcoming project, the Imperial County Aerial Acquisition Project. It was well attended, with representatives from Imperial County, City of Calexico, City of El Centro, City of Imperial, Caltrans, Imperial Irrigation District, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Navy, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. SCAG will incorporate feedback into the Request of Proposal expected to be released the last week of March.

I am also pleased to announce that SCAG GIS Services Program will be accepting the cities of Aliso Viejo, Norwalk and Upland into the program, which brings the total participants to 92 local jurisdictions.

International Collaboration with the Korea Housing Managers Association (KHMA), and Korea Research Institute of Housing Management (KRIHM) of South Korea

On March 20, SCAG hosted a delegation from the KHMA, and Korea KRIHM of South Korea. Chan-Kil Kim, Chairman of KHMA, and Seong-Kyu Ha, President of KRIHM, attended the meeting with five staff members. SCAG staff briefed the delegation on regional issues and initiatives, including SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS as well as SCAG's demographic trends and housing programs.