

CONNECT SOCAL PLAN TO GO TO POLICY COMMITTEES, REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION ON MAY 7

After more than three years of work, and extensive coordination with SCAG's local jurisdictions, the county transportation commissions (CTCs) and other partner agencies, and significant public outreach, the Proposed Final Connect SoCal plan (the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) will be submitted to the Policy Committees and the Regional Council for their consideration for adoption at its next meeting on May 7. The Proposed Final Connect SoCal outlines more than \$638 billion in transportation system investments through 2045.

Staff is seeking Regional Council adoption of Connect SoCal for transportation conformity purposes. To avoid a transportation conformity lapse, SCAG must submit the plan as soon as possible to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) if they are to complete their review of the plan by June 1. A transportation conformity lapse would have a number of impacts on the region, potentially jeopardizing any number of the over 4,000 projects in the plan, project funding, and the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity. Prior to submitting Connect SoCal to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), SCAG will continue to address concerns raised by local stakeholders such as the restoration of entitlements as conveyed by local jurisdictions and examining the impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the plan. SCAG will continue outreach to stakeholders during this process to better address these concerns and build greater consensus on the region's vision for a brighter future.

The Regional Council will review staff's recommendation Thursday, May 7, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., via videoconference and teleconference for the first time. The agenda packet for the meeting is available [on the SCAG website](#). Please visit connectsocial.org to read and learn about the Proposed Final Connect SoCal plan.

SCAG TO PROVIDE HOUSING ELEMENT DATA SUPPORT FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

The 6th cycle housing elements will be due to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in October 2021. To help local jurisdictions prepare for the updates and save on time and resources, SCAG staff will be developing a package containing a range of data and information required by HCD as part of the housing element update. SCAG is working with HCD so that parts of the housing element review will be streamlined by HCD if it contains the pre-approved data package prepared by SCAG. More information about the data package will be distributed in the coming weeks so that jurisdictions will be able to assess their local resources and needs to update their housing elements.

LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SAFETY MINI-GRANTS NOW OPEN TO FUND SAFETY STRATEGIES

On April 21, *Go Human* released the [Call for Projects for the Local Community Engagement and Safety Mini-Grants](#), a program that aims to build street-level community resiliency and increase the safety of vulnerable street users. SCAG will award up to \$10,000 for projects with an implementation period between May and July 2020. Eligible applicants are community-based organizations, non-profits, artists, students and creators. With support from the California Office of Traffic Safety, the Mini-Grants expand the concept of traffic safety amid the efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. In light of the pandemic, SCAG encourages submissions for creative and virtual engagement activities. Staff will hold two optional Q&A sessions—Tuesday, May 5, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 6, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.—for interested groups to ask questions and explore potential strategies. Applications are due on May 14, 2020, by 5:00 p.m. Submit applications and register for a Q&A session with Andrés Carrasquillo at carrasquillo@scag.ca.gov.

31ST ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP POSTPONED

Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop, which was slated to be hosted by SCAG and the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy on June 11, will be postponed to a later date. A future announcement will be provided once a new date is selected. Please visit the [events calendar](#) for information about future SCAG- and partner-hosted events.

GO HUMAN CO-BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE

Go Human is now accepting requests for co-branded *Go Human* safety advertisements. Advertisements are available at no cost in print (as lawn signs, bus shelters ads, billboards, etc.) or digital, and can support the safety efforts of local stakeholders in light of reports of increased speeds despite reduced auto vehicle traffic. Messaging reminds drivers to slow down and watch for pedestrians and can be tailored to each community's needs. Materials are available in English and Spanish. SCAG will resize, co-brand, print, and ship all material starting in May. Please submit requests using the [Go Human Material Request Form](#) or email Andrés Carrasquillo at carrasquillo@scag.ca.gov for more information.

CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

On March 27, President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law, the largest economic stimulus package in U.S. history. Apart from \$500 billion in direct payments to Americans and over \$500 billion available for major industry and small business loans, the legislation made available \$25 billion to transit operators across the nation via urbanized and rural area formula funds. The six-county SCAG region's share of these funds is almost \$1.5 billion. The funds allocated to the urbanized areas within the SCAG region were distributed through the FTA 5307 and 5337 formula funds. SCAG plays an important role in the distribution and administration of these FTA formula funds to the CTCs. As an initial step for the multi-county urbanized areas (UZA), including Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim and Riverside-San Bernardino UZAs, SCAG staff apportioned these funds to each of the CTCs. The CTCs will subsequently further allocate these funds to eligible transit operators within their respective counties. SCAG is currently working with the CTCs to compile the allocations to the transit operators and provide the sub-allocation support letters or "split letters" to the FTA, which establishes the allocation of these funds in the urbanized areas. Some of the CTCs are still awaiting their board approval for their allocations to the transit operators in order for SCAG to move forward with the split letters.