

RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT 2018 REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On May 3-4 in Indian Wells, SCAG held its 53rd Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly, which was attended by more than 950 civic leaders from throughout Southern California. The two-day conference, which explored the theme "Southern California at a Crossroads," brought together a record number of elected officials and other high-level attendees for an engaged, informative event. On Wednesday, a special pre-conference session on "The Power of Shared Data" brought together an international group of experts and thought leaders to showcase how technology and open data can be used to improve the efficiency of city services, manage traffic congestion as well as future planning needs. Thursday's keynote speech from Dr. Talithia Williams, host of "Nova Wonders" on PBS and Professor of Statistics and Math at Harvey Mudd College, illuminated ways cities can tap into data resources already at their fingertips, and utilize it to make transformative decisions. Panel sessions on both Thursday and Friday addressed major opportunities and challenges for the region, including harnessing new transportation technologies, planning for the retail revolution, building resilience for natural disasters and finding long-term transportation funding solutions. A distinguished roster of state transportation leaders spoke on Friday, including Brian Annis, California Secretary of Transportation, Laurie Berman, Director of Caltrans and Susan Bransen, Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission. For highlights of the conference, visit the [event website](#) to view a photo gallery and our year-in-review video for 2017-2018.

REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON FOR 2018 DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP

On June 11, SCAG and the USC Price School of Public Policy will co-host the 29th annual Demographic Workshop, "Lasting Demographic Impacts After the Recovery," at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. This year's program brings together industry-leading experts to share new research on the region's population and economic trends, shedding light on the future of our region's housing needs, transportation demands and economic revitalization in the wake of the Great Recession. A session of interactive roundtable discussions will bring together academics, policymakers and business leaders for substantive conversations on topics including the 2020 Census, population estimates, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment and homelessness. For more on the panels, speakers and other program details, check out the [full conference agenda](#). Online registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, and on-site registration will also be available at the event. To RSVP, visit scag.ca.gov/demographics.

UPDATE ON RHNA AND 2020 RTP/SCS

In preparation for the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the upcoming Regional Housing Needs Assessment, SCAG staff has been meeting one-on-one with local jurisdictions to solicit input on the draft forecast of population, households and employment, as well as data on local land use, transportation, environmental factors and sustainability plans and programs. As of this week, staff have met with 184 jurisdictions - 93 percent of the jurisdictions in the region. On May 17, we hosted the kickoff meeting for two of our topic-specific working groups, which bring together regional stakeholders to discuss the development of the RTP/SCS and provide technical expertise. The Sustainable Communities Working Group focuses on balancing ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, cultivate livable communities and ease pressures on natural systems. The Environmental Justice Working Group is engaged on strategies to conduct equitable environmental justice outreach and ensuring that the RTP/SCS reflects environmental justice goals and policies. More information about these and other Regional Planning Working Groups can be found at bit.ly/2JlpNOx.

NEW SCAG REPORT SHOWS REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ORANGE COUNTY RETAIL CENTERS

A white paper released by the SCAG and Orange County Business Council (OCBC) in early May points to promising opportunities for redevelopment in Orange County. As more consumers shop via mouse click instead of their feet and embrace the convenience of on-demand delivery, cities that are home to commercial retail centers are looking to address declining sales tax revenues. This white paper, titled "Retail Land Use in Orange County: An Examination of Future Potential," investigates potential opportunities in Orange County for repurposing aging commercial spaces for new land uses, identifies several thousand acres of Orange County commercial-retail property with strong potential for infill development. The report is available in [SCAG's online document library](#) and will be included in a larger, more comprehensive OCBC study of the changing retail industry to be published later this year.

GO HUMAN AWARDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS, CELEBRATES BIKE MONTH

To help extend the reach of SCAG's successful Go Human campaign, SCAG is awarding funding to 21 non-profit organizations and local agencies throughout the region for small local community engagement projects. Funded projects include walk audits, events co-hosted with local Safe Routes to School programs, pop-up demonstration projects, artistic treatments to crosswalks, and more. A complete list of funded projects is available on the [Go Human website](#). The Go Human advertising campaign also re-launched in May to celebrate National Bike Month. Radio, digital and outdoor advertising was placed in all six counties, targeting areas with high rates of traffic collisions. The Go Human team also celebrated Bike Month by hosting a pit stop in downtown Los Angeles on Bike to Work Day (May 17), offering refreshments and bike-related giveaways to people biking to work. A second phase of Go Human advertising is planned for July and August, to coincide with back to school and an annual rise in collisions involving pedestrians. To learn how to get involved and improve traffic safety in your area, visit [GoHumanSoCal.org](#).

SCAG AWARDED CALTRANS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT FOR FREIGHT STUDY

In early May, Caltrans awarded a \$4.3 million transportation planning grant to SCAG, for the Wilmington Freight Mitigation Study. Wilmington is a Los Angeles neighborhood situated just north of the Port of Los Angeles, the national leader in containerized freight and the largest port in the nation. Although the port has been making major strides in pollution reduction while still promoting growth, due to its close proximity the Wilmington community still bears many environmental and traffic burdens related to the port's activity. Conducting this transportation planning study will illuminate the impacts of increased truck travel on the disadvantaged community of Wilmington, and produce strategic recommendations for mitigations that would improve mobility, safety, environmental health and quality of life for residents. The study is expected to begin later this summer.

CALTRANS RELEASES STATEWIDE HIGHWAY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

On May 20, Caltrans submitted a set of statewide highway performance targets to the Federal Highway Administration. These metrics, known specifically as Performance Management (PM) groups 2 and 3, assess highway pavement and bridge condition, as well as travel time reliability, freight management and congestion. SCAG had been coordinating closely with Caltrans throughout the statewide target development process, and our regional input was included in their final decision-making process. SCAG will have until Nov. 16 to determine whether to adopt Caltrans' targets for implementation within our region, or to establish any regional targets of our own. For more information performance measures and the target-setting process, visit the Caltrans websites for PM 2 at bit.ly/2JjPP9e and PM 3 at bit.ly/2sLsjXw.

NEW AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT RULES IN DEVELOPMENT

Early last month, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) governing board took action to direct further development of measures to reduce emissions from ports, warehouses, airports, rail yards and new development and redevelopment projects. At their May 4 meeting, the SCAQMD board formally directed its staff to develop a proposed "indirect source" rule for warehouses and rail yards in the South Coast region. Different from traditional regulations to control air pollution, indirect source rules focus on reducing emissions from the vehicles associated with a facility rather than emissions from the facility itself. The SCAQMD board also directed staff to continue to work on implementation of the Clean Air Action Plans for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and to develop voluntary agreements with each regional airport to develop its own Clean Air Action Plan. The goal of these measures is to speed up the deployment of zero- and near-zero emission vehicles in all sectors through a combination of incentives, regulation and technology development and help the region meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals. More information is available on the [SCAQMD website](#).

SCAG PROVIDES KEY INPUT FOR 2019 FREIGHT MOBILITY PLAN

SCAG has been actively engaged with Caltrans and other partners in the development of an update to the California Freight Mobility Plan, which features long-range strategies to enhance the efficiency and economic competitiveness of California's logistics system, expand system capacity and improve safety and mobility and respond to new and emerging federal guidelines. Per federal requirements, the revised plan is due to be adopted by December 2019. Caltrans conducted a regional freight industry focus group on May 18 to discuss Southern California perspectives on current and emerging opportunities and challenges. SCAG staff opened the session with a presentation on the importance of region's goods movement system and highlighting Southern California freight priorities. The meeting brought together motor carriers, warehouse operators, manufacturers, agricultural producers and other industry participants for a series of topical breakout sessions. SCAG staff will continue to contribute input on development of the 2019 California Freight Mobility Plan as Caltrans holds more workshops, and we expect to become increasingly involved throughout 2018 and 2019.

SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE WITH KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

As part of an ongoing partnership, SCAG's leadership met with executives last week from the Kern Council of Governments (COG) in Santa Clarita to discuss areas of cooperation, potential joint projects and planning activities that impact both sides of our shared county line. The meeting was primarily focused on our respective Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS). Kern COG has developed a full draft of their plan, which is expected to be adopted later this year. Both Kern COG's Draft 2018 RTP/SCS and its Program Environmental Impact Report are available for [public review and comment](#) until July 12. SCAG's next plan is scheduled for 2020, and the agency is currently conducting local input surveys with all 197 member jurisdictions. We also discussed the development of California's high-speed rail system, exchanged information on the development patterns that most affect us, and covered how we will approach the upcoming Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

SCAG HOSTS WEBINAR ON PREPARING FOR INFLUX OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

On May 21st, SCAG hosted a Toolbox Training webinar titled **Plug-in Electric Vehicle Planning Tools - Supporting 5 Million ZEVs in California by 2030**. The webinar highlighted SCAG's [Southern California Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Atlas](#), created in partnership with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, as well as an [interactive online mapping tool](#) created using data from the Atlas. The Atlas and online mapping tool can help planners, utilities and others with electric vehicle charging choose locations to site charging stations. These are valuable resources that can help the region meet statewide and local goals to increase zero emission vehicles. The online mapping tool can be accessed online at maps.scag.ca.gov/electric_vehicle and a recording of the webinar can be viewed here: bit.ly/2sCz9PD.

SCAG PARTICIPATES IN AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE POLICY FORUM

On May 24, SCAG joined the first of a series of Southern California Autonomous Vehicle Policy Conferences held by TranspoGroup to explore the impact self-driving technology is poised to have on cities and counties. The all-day forum, held in Anaheim, featured speakers representing all areas of the field of transportation to share information and insight for the changes ahead, including Past SCAG President and Santa Ana Mayor Pro Tem Michele Martinez and SCAG Program Manager Marco Anderson. Two additional events in the region, on June 11 in Riverside and September 12 in Los Angeles, will continue this discussion on how to ensure smart policies for autonomous vehicles. AICP continuing education credits will be available. For more information or to register please visit transpogroup.com/avconference.html.

SCAG INITIATES REGIONAL DATA GROUP, JOINS LOS ANGELES DATA SCIENCE FEDERATION

As a part of a new Future Communities Initiative, SCAG is working to make it easier to create and share data and conduct data-oriented projects, to benefit local cities and county agencies. On May 31, SCAG initiated a regional data collaborative that convened representatives from federal government, councils of governments, local water districts and tribes. This group met to discuss the acquisition and creation of data sets that can help local jurisdictions address current operational needs, emergency occurrences such as natural disasters and meet new and upcoming mandates from the state or federal level. As a collaborative, the group plans to leverage economies of scale to acquire more and better data for less expense. The regional data collaborative will meet in July to further discuss the project and scope its details.

SCAG has also joined the City of Los Angeles' Data Science Federation, along with many colleges and universities in the region, to tackle pressing policy issues using data-driven decision-making. Founded by the City of Los Angeles Office of Innovation and Technology, the federation pairs city departments with local universities to conduct in-depth research on policy topics and prototype new technological approaches to challenges in communities across the region. Over the 2018-2019 academic year we will pilot the process with up to five local jurisdictions, with the goal of expanding the program to all our member agencies in 2019.