

## CHANGES TO SCAG'S REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICER LINEUP

Please join us in thanking and congratulating SCAG's First Vice President, Randon Lane, who has resigned as Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Murrieta along with his role at SCAG to accept a role within the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. Rex Richardson, a Long Beach City Councilmember, has replaced Lane as SCAG's First Vice President. The Regional Council Nominating Committee met on Aug. 22 to review candidates for succeeding Richardson as Second Vice President, and have nominated Eastvale City Councilmember Clint Lorimore to the position. The nomination will go before the Regional Council for approval at their September meeting.

## SCAG REGION RECEIVES REGIONAL DETERMINATION OF 1.3 MILLION HOUSING UNITS

In late August the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) shared the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) determination for the six-county SCAG region: A total of 1,344,740 units that Southern California will need to accommodate in the planning period of October 2021 – October 2029.

As part of the RHNA process, SCAG must determine how the regional determination figure will be allocated or distributed to local jurisdictions across the region – referred to as the RHNA Allocation Methodology. Local jurisdictions are then required to plan for the inclusion of these new housing units in their local Housing Elements. SCAG is currently seeking public comments on several options for a Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology through Sept. 13. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, SCAG staff will present a Final Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology recommendation to the Regional Council for approval at its Nov. 7 meeting. For more information about the public hearing and information session, please visit SCAG's RHNA webpage. For questions or comments about RHNA, please e-mail [housing@scag.ca.gov](mailto:housing@scag.ca.gov).

## NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS EARLY PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR CONNECT SOCAL

Outreach has been one of SCAG's key priorities in the development of Connect SoCal, the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. In spring and early summer 2019, SCAG conducted dozens of outreach activities to provide the general public an opportunity to prioritize concerns, discuss the challenges our region is facing in the next 25 years and provide solutions to address them. [A new report](#) offers a summary of what we heard, and how that input will be used in the final plan.

By utilizing new methods of engagement and investing in modern communication tools, SCAG saw significant gains in the volume and variety of public input. SCAG held a series of 29 public outreach events across the region (28 open-house workshops and one telephone town hall meeting) to share information and get input on how residents travel and their preferences. We also solicited input online via a Connect SoCal survey. In total, SCAG received over 4,000 surveys and over 12,000 comments either at the workshops or through the open-ended survey responses. This feedback has given us a substantial pool of data to consider as we make progress towards the draft Connect SoCal plan, anticipated to be released in November.

## MEETINGS WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

As part of SCAG's outreach efforts to the region's Congressional Delegation during the summer recess, Executive Director, Kome Ajise, and members of the policy and public affairs team met with Congressman Ted Lieu on Aug. 12. They discussed important issues on transportation and air quality, including the federal surface transportation reauthorization. Congressman Lieu sits on the Judiciary Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee. His district encompasses several neighborhoods in the City of Los Angeles and the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates and part of Torrance. In a separate meeting on Aug. 21, Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey and members of the policy and public affairs team met with Congressman Harley Rouda. Congressman Rouda is a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and represents the cities of Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Newport Beach, Seal Beach and Westminster.

## SCAG COLLABORATES WITH THE CITY OF PLACENTIA AND COUNTY OF ORANGE TO SUPPORT TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Over the past several months, the City of Placentia, County of Orange and SCAG have been working on a comprehensive plan for the establishment of an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) in Placentia. At a July 30 meeting, the project was formally approved. In establishing the EIFD, the City of Placentia, County of Orange, and SCAG are leading the way to generate new local tax increment funding to build transit-supportive infrastructure and additional housing capacity near hubs like the upcoming Placentia Metrolink Station.

Tax increment financing such as this is a means to fund sustainable infrastructure without increasing local taxes. A relatively new financial tool, EIFDs enable infrastructure projects to improve communities while promoting continued economic development. This is only the fourth EIFD in the state of California, and the first that represents a city-county partnership. Read more background on the project here.

## REGION-WIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKSHOPS

SCAG held four traffic safety workshops across the region in August. More than 170 government agency staff attended, including city planners, law enforcement, traffic engineers, public works and public health staff. These workshops intended to educate member agencies about traffic safety issues and resources available to support safety improvements in their communities. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from traffic safety experts and learn proven tactics for reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. Speakers included SCAG's Past President Michele Martinez, Past President Cheryl Viegas-Walker and Regional Council member Meghan Sahli-Wells.

SCAG will also be hosting four webinars in September 2019 following the workshop series. Anyone interested in the webinar series should contact Hina Chanchlani, Assistant Regional Planner, at [chanchlani@scag.ca.gov](mailto:chanchlani@scag.ca.gov). SCAG also developed a safety pledge tool kit to motivate action to improve safety at the jurisdictional level. Local agencies that take the pledge will also be eligible to attend the webinar series free of cost. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Special thanks to AAA and Verizon for their continued partnership and support.

## GO HUMAN POPS UP AT CICLAVIA'S "MEET THE HOLLYWOODS"

SCAG and *Go Human* were proud participants in the Aug. 18 CicLAvia event "Meet the Hollywoods". Using the newly unveiled *Go Human* Kit of Parts, CicLAvia attendees were able to rest at the temporary parklet and test out some curb extensions. Passers-by also played games, learned and won some prizes, with SCAG's [Go Human Challenge modules](#) – colorful, hands-on games that enhance engagement around public spaces, climate resiliency, environmental responsibility, traffic safety and new mobility. Another CicLAvia, this time in the heart of Los Angeles, is coming up Oct. 6. For more information, or to borrow these education and engagement materials, contact Dorothy Le Suchkova at [suchkova@scag.ca.gov](mailto:suchkova@scag.ca.gov).

## SCAG HOSTED WTS ACADEMY

On Aug. 8, SCAG staff hosted about 20 students from the WTS-Orange County Transportation Academy, who came to learn more about SCAG and what the agency does. The WTS-Orange County Transportation Academy is an annual two-week immersion into different facets of the transportation industry for undergraduate and graduate students. SCAG staff gave presentations to them on major agency initiatives around transit, aviation, goods movement, regional affairs and more. A group of planners also held a Q&A session, where the students were able to get answers about a professional future in transportation planning.

## SCAG STAFF TRAINS ON BEST PRACTICES FOR CLEAN CITIES

Sustainability staff attended a weeklong, intensive Clean Cities training in Salt Lake City, Utah in August. The training was hosted by the national Clean Cities program, a network of coalitions supporting the nation's energy and economic security by building partnerships to advance affordable domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. The training featured seminars and skill-building programming provided by the Department of Energy national laboratories and Clean Cities coordinators from across the country. Skills taught at the training included supporting electric vehicle charging infrastructure, leveraging federal and state funding, alternative fuel corridor planning, and forming strategic partnerships to deploy clean fuels projects.

The SCAG Clean Cities Coalition is administered in partnership with the Department of Energy and helps support SCAG's electric vehicle infrastructure planning and other alternative fuel initiatives. Since 1996, the Coalition has been supporting local and regional solutions to energy and clean air challenges. In recent years the coalition has focused on supporting electric vehicle charging infrastructure, recognizing the work of local public and private actors through the Sustainability Awards Program, and working with stakeholders to advance the 2016 RTP/SCS and Connect SoCal goal of decarbonizing the transportation sector.

### **SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE AT FREIGHT CONFERENCE**

On July 31, SCAG Senior Regional Planner Mike Jones presented at the annual "Strong Ports = Strong California" conference hosted by FuturePorts. The event theme, "Making Waves: California's Role in Innovation and the Global Economy", focused on the drivers of port development in Southern California and explored the challenges facing goods movement in the region. Topics included upcoming freight-related capital projects throughout Southern California, the impacts of new regulations, how tariffs are impacting port operations and the future of seaport.

Mr. Jones presented SCAG's proposed goods movement strategies as included in the Connect SoCal plan, giving an overview of goods movement planning for the region. The presentation highlighted a number of critical areas in the plan, including ongoing commodity flow analyses, last-mile freight delivery and curb space utilization, the use of big data, mapping regional truck routes, e-commerce and more.

### **SCAG CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

On Aug. 15, SCAG established a new partnership with the University of Seoul for future collaboration. A six-member delegation including the university president, Dr. Soon-Tak Suh, visited SCAG to learn more about our planning process and sign a memorandum of understanding. SCAG President Bill Jahn participated the ceremony and signed the document. After the ceremony, SCAG staff gave an overview of the agency and various programs including data and GIS initiatives, modeling programs, and the *Go Human* campaign. The Korean delegation in turn shared highlights from their work at the university and their experiences in regional planning.