

SCAG OPPOSES REPEAL OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILL SB1

As I wrote in an [op-ed for the Southern California News Group](#) on Sept. 28, SCAG strongly opposes efforts to repeal SB 1. The bipartisan transportation funding legislation will raise \$5 billion a year to make essential investments in road maintenance, bridge repair, and public transit. Repeal efforts, if successful, would undermine safety improvements and the economic prosperity in the state. California's transportation infrastructure is in dire condition and needs significant, immediate investment. Further deferring maintenance will only drive up repair costs as our infrastructure continues to fall apart. SB 1 provides crucial funding to keep road conditions from deteriorating further and congestion delays from increasing. Among the sources of the SB 1 revenues is a 12-cent-per-gallon increase to the state gas tax (raised for the first time in 23 years) and a fee on all electrical vehicles (who are currently not contributing anything). Repeal efforts would bring maintenance, repair and transit project to an utter halt – and California would stand to lose tens of thousands of jobs per year. Dismantling SB 1 would represent an enormous step backwards for the state's infrastructure and economy.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

SCAG staff has been working diligently to support the President's Strategic Plan (PSP) Committee in the update process for the agency's Strategic Plan (last adopted in 2009). We have made great progress in developing fresh organizational mission and vision statements and refining our core agency values. The staff committee is now working on revised and improved goals and objectives with input from the PSP, continuing a fully collaborative process. The Executive Administration Committee has been engaged on an ongoing basis, staying up-to-date on all progress. The final revised Strategic Plan will be unveiled in the coming months and will provide new and ambitious guidance for SCAG's work.

SCAG TO PREPARE CITIES FOR 2020 RTP/SCS LOCAL INPUT PROCESS

Southern California will be facing new challenges in the development of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020 RTP/SCS). Transformative transportation innovations, ambitious new greenhouse gas reduction targets, new Federal Highway Administration planning requirements and a concurrent Regional Housing Needs Assessment cycle will require a great deal of collaboration amongst regional stakeholders and local jurisdictions. To that end, SCAG is hosting a Toolbox Tuesday workshop on Oct. 31 at 10:00 a.m. to introduce the Bottom-Up Local Input and Envisioning Process, which lays the foundation for Southern California's 2020 RTP/SCS. This training is aimed at staff from local jurisdictions and will provide information on the process, resource support as well as other ways SCAG is collecting data that will influence plan development. Interested individuals can attend in person at SCAG's downtown office, at SCAG's video conferencing sites, or remotely via webinar. [Registration is now available](#). In addition, to streamline the upcoming data review and updating process, SCAG will be releasing a new Scenario Planning Model (SPM) Data Management Tool to all local jurisdictions this November. The tool will offer easy access to a variety of key planning datasets for cities to review and edit. SCAG will offer trainings on the SPM Data Management Tool during October and November; details on training opportunities coming soon.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO EXPLORE NEW HOUSING LEGISLATION

As a flurry of new housing legislation is passed in Sacramento, the policy landscape of the housing affordability crisis is poised for major change. The upcoming Southern California Economic Summit will discuss this legislative progress and its implications for improving the region's housing affordability crisis. The summit, hosted by SCAG and the Southern California Leadership Council, will convene to address "The Cost of Not Housing" on Nov. 9 at the L.A. Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. As housing costs continue to inflate, incomes are not managing to keep up. Just in the past year, the median home price in the SCAG region has risen by 7 percent and median gross rent has risen by 5 percent, while median household income has risen by less than 4 percent. The summit program will explore this discrepancy and focus on the package of legislative solutions signed into law by Gov. Brown. Tickets for the summit are available at www.scag.ca.gov/economicsummit.

100 HOURS CAMPAIGN SPARKS CONVERSATION ABOUT TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

SCAG's 100 Hours campaign, a media initiative designed to highlight the untenable state of Southern California's congestion problem and start a conversation about traffic solutions, has generated a lot of media interest over the past two months. Focusing on specific traffic hotspots, the campaign proposes that we consider a package of solutions for congestion reduction, including decongestion fees for the most crowded streets. SCAG also launched a partnership with ride-hailing company Lyft to highlight mobility strategies like reducing single-occupancy trips. Media outlets at the local and national level have weighed in on the campaign, the decongestion pricing component and the Lyft partnership. The Los Angeles Times Editorial Board endorsed 100 Hours' message [in an editorial piece](#) and the Lyft partnership was covered by [CNN Money](#) and [Los Angeles Magazine](#). The congestion pricing concept sparked responses from [KPCC](#), [NBC4](#), [abc7](#) and [Planetizen](#), among others. The 100 Hours campaign also hosted a booth at COAST, an open streets festival in the City of Santa Monica, on Oct. 1. Visitors to the booth played games, discussed strategies to improve local and regional transportation and shared their ideas about which locations could best use enhancement and encouragement for alternative transportation use. Find out more about 100 Hours at the campaign website: 100hoursla.com.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTINUES REGIONAL APPROACH TO FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY

SCAG is continuing collaborative work with regional partners to pursue competitive federal grant funding for Southern California's critical transportation projects. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, which replaces the pre-existing FASTLANE grant program, will make approximately \$1.5 billion available to transportation projects that support national and regional economic vitality. SCAG staff is currently working with county transportation and port staff to develop regionally bundled applications for critical freight initiatives, including a portfolio of rail-related projects and a package of highway initiatives.

SCAG GEARS UP FOR REGIONAL INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS UPDATE

Over a decade ago, SCAG developed a framework for planning, integrating and deploying Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This framework, the Regional ITS Architecture, guides all federally-funded ITS projects and influences data-sharing and interoperability practices for stakeholders at all levels of planning, security and emergency response. The architecture is now undergoing its first comprehensive update, which aims to improve coordination and communication across counties, increase accessibility and engage stakeholders to develop an effective regional approach to address Southern California's transportation challenges. The update effort will be guided by a stakeholder technical advisory committee composed of ITS professionals from partner transportation planning agencies at the local, state and federal levels. The updated Regional ITS Architecture is expected to be complete by April 2018.

'LAST MILE' STUDY TO EXAMINE IMPACT OF ONLINE DELIVERY

The prodigious growth of e-commerce sales over the past several years, combined with increased reliance on parcel delivery services, has resulted in increased congestion and demand for curbside access. On Sept. 11, SCAG held the inaugural meeting of our new Last Mile Delivery Project Advisory Committee. This study on Last Mile Delivery will identify the biggest challenges for both local delivery providers and shipment receivers and develop strategies to make deliveries safer and more efficient. The advisory committee is made up of representatives from public agencies, delivery companies, local businesses and communities and academics. Delivery operators throughout the region often compete with a wide variety of other users for constrained public streets and curb space. These challenges are especially important to address within the context of "complete streets" objectives set by SCAG and the state of California, which encourage balanced, multi-modal streets that are safe and accessible to all users. The Last Mile Delivery Study will produce strategic recommendations for reducing delays and costs for local freight operations while minimizing conflicts with other users of public streets and curbside space.

SCAG LAUNCHES STUDY TO IMPROVE TRANSIT PROVIDERS' CLIMATE RESILIENCE

SCAG recently initiated a capacity-building project designed to help local transit providers build resilience to the effects of global climate change. SCAG is conducting an assessment study to identify what risks sea level rise and extreme heat and precipitation pose to transit systems. The study will conclude with the production of a toolbox that will both assist transit providers in planning for climate adaptation and provide resources that will make them more competitive in applying for climate change adaptation grant funds. The toolbox will be informed in part by the findings from SCAG's recent information-gathering workshop, which assembled local transit providers to discuss their risks from climate change. The study is funded by a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant and is expected to conclude by June 2018.

SCAG STAFF AND BOARD PARTICIPATED IN MOBILITY 21 SUMMIT

On Sept. 29, more than 1,200 transportation, business and elected leaders convened for the Mobility 21 Summit, the largest one-day transportation event in California. The conference addressed the changing landscape of mobility in the state and explored regional strategies for improving the transportation system in Southern California. I spoke on a panel about smart-city technology to highlight the power of data-sharing to move cities forward and President Margaret Finlay and First Vice President Alan Wapner spoke at the Chairman's Roundtable. Many other SCAG staff and board members also were in attendance. For summit highlights, visit the Mobility 21 website: <http://mobility21.com/>.

SCAG PARTICIPATES ON STATE CLIMATE ADAPTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On Sept. 15, SCAG hosted the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for California's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) in downtown Los Angeles. The ICARP, which is administered by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), seeks to facilitate the development of holistic and complementary strategies to increase California's resilience to climate change and advance environmental justice. The TAC coordinates adaptation efforts by developing tools and guidance, coordinating state-level support for local and regional efforts and enlisting regional and local perspectives to inform state-led programs for optimum effectiveness. The TAC's 16 members, including SCAG COO Darin Chidsey, represent a range of state and regional agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations. Jason Greenspan, SCAG's Manager of Sustainability, is providing key staff support to the TAC as well as SCAG's overall adaptation work. The TAC is currently developing an Adaptation Financing Framework for local and regional government, as well as coordinating the SB 1 Adaptation Planning Grant Program, which has \$20 million available to fund adaptation planning efforts. The TAC will meet again in Sacramento in November.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

On Oct. 2, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) posted a notice of funding availability for the third round of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. The AHSC provides grants and affordable housing loans for compact transit-oriented development and related programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Following SCAG's year-long initiative to help the region's jurisdictions build local capacity for successful future projects, we are offering technical assistance to jurisdictions and affordable housing developers across Southern California. In order to make our region's applications more competitive in this round, we are planning to deploy online resource-sharing tools in October. AHSC program applications will be due in mid-January 2018, with an estimated \$255 million available. For further information about the AHSC program, please refer to the most recent guidelines adopted in July 2017 <http://www.sgc.ca.gov/Grant-Programs/AHSC-Guidelines.html>, or contact SCAG staff Sarah Dominguez at dominguezs@scag.ca.gov.

NATURAL LANDS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

On Sept. 28, SCAG hosted the Natural Lands Conservation Working Group, which convenes stakeholders and experts in habitat land conservation from throughout the region. The working group, which has been meeting since 2014, was instrumental in finalizing the policies and strategies for Natural & Farm Lands Appendix in the 2016 RTP/SCS and will continue to be involved as we prepare for the 2020 RTP/SCS. This most recent meeting featured guest speakers from The Nature Conservancy, who provided an update on the development of their UrbanFootprint Conservation Module; Greenbelt Alliance, who presented on their 2017 At-Risk Report; ICF, who gave an overview of statewide efforts to implement the Regional Conservation Investment Strategies program; and the San Bernardino County Transit Authority, who provided an update on their efforts to establish a similar conservation strategy program.

SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE WITH PLANNING COMMUNITY AT INDUSTRY EVENTS

At the California American Planning Association conference in late September, SCAG staff participated in a panel on community investment and the shifting nature of suburban life. The session, entitled "New Suburbanism: Changing the Way We Reinvest in California's Suburban Communities," featured SCAG Sustainability Manager Jason Greenspan discussing how our Sustainability Planning Grant program supports local efforts that nimbly respond to changing demographics and consumer demand in a new suburban paradigm. The panel also included speakers from the City of Rancho Cucamonga, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and the development community, who discussed how to develop a creative specific plan that broadens housing options, embraces a transit-oriented future and appeals to an increasingly diverse millennial population.

SCAG was also invited to make a presentation at the Planning Directors Meeting for the Gateway Cities Council of Governments on Sept. 13. Staff shared information on the local input process for the 2020 RTP/SCS, updates to the statewide guidelines for general plans and requirements for environmental justice components in planning. SCAG staff also introduced a draft General Plan Tool, developed to provide essential data and mapping for local jurisdictions.

SCAG CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM PARTICIPATES AT ALT CAR EXPO & CONFERENCE

SCAG was pleased to sponsor the 12th annual AltCar Expo and Conference, Southern California's premier car show dedicated to alternative fuel vehicles and transportation, on Sept. 15 in Santa Monica. The event featured test drives of electric, hybrid, natural gas and other vehicles from major automakers including General Motors, Honda, Kia, Nissan, Toyota and more. As leader of the Clean Cities Coalition, SCAG took an active role in the program. In addition to moderating a panel on "Challenges to Installing EV Charging Stations at Workplaces and Multi-Family Housing Sites," SCAG staff also had the honor of presenting the AltCar Achievement Award, which went to Los Angeles County fleet manager Richard Teebay. More information about the AltCar Expo and Conference is available at www.altcarexposocal.com/.

SCAG CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

On Sept. 27, SCAG hosted a delegation from the Chinese city of Shenzhen for the second time this year. The 15-member delegation, led by the city's Directors of Human Resources and Social Development, visited SCAG to learn more about our regional planning processes and how we collaborate with state and federal agencies. SCAG staff introduced our governance structure and key programs, including new initiatives around big/open data and smart-city technology. The delegation shared some of their experiences implementing policies for transportation innovations such as autonomous vehicles and fully-electric vehicles.