

DARIN CHIDSEY APPOINTED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCAG

In early October, the Regional Council appointed Darin Chidsey as Interim Executive Director of SCAG. Former director Hasan Ikhata, who recently accepted an offer to lead the San Diego Association of Governments, will serve in a new capacity as Special Advisor to the Interim Executive Director until Nov. 30. The Regional Council also authorized an ad hoc committee to initiate a formal search process. Darin Chidsey has been with SCAG for 13 years, most recently serving as the agency's second-in-command in the role of Chief Operating Officer. As COO, Chidsey has worked closely with the Executive Director and has been responsible for driving SCAG's vision and strategy, as well as implementing the actions of the agency's Regional Council. Prior to his appointment as COO in 2016, he served as SCAG's Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs.

JOIN US FOR SCAG'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT ON EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN KEY INDUSTRIES

On Thursday, Dec. 6, SCAG and the Southern California Leadership Council will host the ninth edition of our celebrated annual Southern California Economic Summit series focusing on next generation jobs and industry. This year's summit will be held at the L.A. Hotel in downtown Los Angeles focusing on the theme, "Exponential Growth, Exponential Future." A distinguished roster of industry leaders and economic experts will assess the current state of the region's economy, discuss the role of technology and innovation in our region's future, and look at ways in which the region can maintain leadership and support growth in new transportation technology. Panel sessions include "What's Next for the Southern California Economy?" and "The Future of Transportation: Exponential Growth in California's Hottest Sector." Join us, along with Southern California's civic and business leaders, for this vital conversation on the region's economic future – [reserve your seat today](#). Early bird registration is \$100 per person until Nov. 12. Elected officials and city managers may attend for free. Additional program details coming soon.

SCAG BRINGS GO HUMAN AND FUTURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMS TO LA COMOTION

SCAG is proud to sponsor the upcoming [LA CoMotion](#) Leadership Conference and Mobility Festival, Nov. 15 - 17. LA CoMotion provides an opportunity for mobility innovators, local leaders and industry experts from around the world to come together and discuss the future of urban mobility. At a lunchtime breakout session on Thursday, Nov. 15, SCAG will generate excitement about our new funding opportunity, the Future Communities Pilot Program (see below), and connect potential applicants to experts in the field. Cities and counties developing pilot proposals for the grant program are welcome to attend and gain feedback from innovation leaders from a variety of industries. Interested city or county teams should contact Deanna Dupuy by Nov. 9. And during the Mobility Festival on Saturday, Nov. 17, SCAG will display elements of its new *Go Human* Kit-of-Parts. The [Go Human](#) Kit-of-Parts will allow cities to borrow materials such as spray chalk, bollards, street furniture and more to host open streets and temporary safety demonstrations. Learn more about LA CoMotion and get tickets to join us at www.LACoMotion.com.

SCAG'S FEDERAL CERTIFICATION RENEWED FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed a review and evaluation of SCAG's regional transportation planning process for its 2018 certification. Every four years, these federal agencies complete this process for all urbanized areas with a population of over 200,000. In early 2018, FHWA and FTA started out by assessing detailed information about SCAG's planning processes, policies and practices. Reviewers then visited the SCAG offices, conducting roundtable review meetings with key SCAG staff and interviewing select elected leaders, Native American Tribal Government officials and representatives of transit providers around the region. The federal agencies have now concluded their review, issuing a final report confirming that SCAG's transportation planning process substantially meets the requirements of federal code. The next certification review will take place in 2022.

UPDATE ON CONNECT SOCAL (2020 RTP/SCS)

This past month, SCAG staff has been ramping up the development for Connect SoCal, SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The agency is beginning the process for developing scenarios that will compare alternative pathways for the region to reach greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and other plan goals. SCAG will be reaching out to key stakeholders and planning directors over the next few weeks, with broader outreach to follow in early 2019 on scenario development.

Given the number of subject areas covered by Connect SoCal, topic-specific working groups are continuing to meet with regional stakeholders to dig in on specific issues. There are seven Regional Planning Working Groups, including: Active Transportation, Environmental Justice, Mobility Innovations, Natural and Lands Conservation, Public Health, Safety and Sustainable Communities. A joint meeting of the Regional Planning Working Groups is scheduled for Nov. 15. More information about our regional planning working groups, including details on upcoming meetings, is available on the [SCAG website](#).

Related to this, we are happy to report that SCAG's region-wide Metropolitan Planning Agreements have now been fully executed. The region's six county transportation commissions and 38 transit providers have all signed on to the updated agreements, which are designed to ensure they are fully incorporated into the regional transportation planning process.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

On Oct. 29, the development process for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) kicked into full gear with the first meeting of the board's RHNA and Housing Element Reform Subcommittee. Representing a wide range of stakeholders, the committee is made up of one elected official representing each county and three ex officio members representing the building industry, the nonprofit sector and academia. State housing law requires that each city and county plans for existing and future housing need as represented by its RHNA allocation. The next cycle of RHNA development, also known as the 6th cycle, will apply to the period between 2021 and 2029, and will be adopted at the latest by October 2020. The role of this board subcommittee is to review and make recommendations on possible reform to the RHNA and housing element processes.

The October meeting featured a presentation from special guest Ben Metcalf, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development, who shared details on the policy and process as well as listened to feedback from those in attendance. The meeting was exceptionally well-attended, with nearly 200 participants total across the main office, regional teleconference sites and webinar.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR FUTURE COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

Pending approval from the Regional Council, SCAG is expected to release its Future Communities Pilot Program Call for Projects on Nov. 1. This new grant program will provide cities and counties with resources to reduce emissions-producing vehicle miles traveled through the application of innovative technology and data solutions. Potential project types could include fleet telematics, internet-of-things applications, route optimization and mobility-as-a-service pilots. Funding for pilot program totals \$2.7 million and requires a 25% match from applicants, with a maximum project size of \$500,000. Applications are due by Dec. 13, and city and county applicants from within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's jurisdiction are eligible to apply. SCAG will host two application workshops on Nov. 13 and Dec. 4 and a conceptual project development workshop at LA CoMotion on Nov. 15. The Future Communities Pilot Program is a partnership between SCAG and the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Committee. For more information about the program, contact Deanna Dupuy at dupuy@scag.ca.gov.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE NOV. 15

As a reminder, the deadline for the 2018 Sustainable Communities Program is Nov. 15. The program is a multi-year commitment that will provide about \$6 million in funding and technical assistance to local cities and counties for integrated land use, green region and active transportation projects that support the policies and initiatives of the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. All SCAG-member jurisdictions, including cities, counties and councils of governments are encouraged to apply. This program is designed not just to provide much-needed resources directly to cities and counties, but also to increase the region's competitiveness for federal and state funds. Applicants can apply for support for any of nine project types in the broader categories of active transportation, integrated land use and green region initiative. Program guidelines and application materials are available online here: sustain.scag.ca.gov. Applications should be submitted to scp@scag.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15. Final funding recommendations are expected to be approved by the Regional Council in March 2019.

SCAG WELCOMES NEW CIVICSPARK FELLOWS

SCAG is a regional partner of the CivicSpark program, a statewide Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program administered by California's Office of Planning and Research and the Local Government Commission. The program places 70 fellows in agencies and local governments around the state to build capacity for climate mitigation and adaptation, and SCAG has hosted CivicSpark fellows in our Sustainability Department since the program's launch in 2014. For 2018-2019, SCAG welcomes three new fellows: Elisa Barrios, Lupe Franco and April Crain. They will continue work on the Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators project, which collects sustainability data and maps progress in every city and county in the SCAG region. The fellows are conducting a comprehensive data update and preparing to pilot the tool with cities in the region.

FINDINGS OF SCAG'S INTERCOUNTY TRANSIT AND RAIL STUDY SHARED AT ASSEMBLY HEARING

On Oct. 11, SCAG's Transit/Rail department presented to the California State Assembly Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions on the recently completed Los Angeles-San Bernardino Inter-County Transit and Rail Study. Assemblymember Chris Holden, committee chair, convened the hearing to address significant topics such as interconnectivity between transportation modes, securing funding for transportation infrastructure. SCAG President Alan Wapner discussed connectivity to the Ontario Airport, Special Advisor Hasan Ikhata offered remarks on the necessity of first/last mile planning to maximize accessibility to our region's transit stations, and Senior Regional Planner Stephen Fox discussed the findings of the newly released Intercounty Study. The study sought to develop a coordinated transit and rail strategy that best serves the transportation needs of the residents, workers and businesses that rely on this corridor. Findings pointed to several mobility options (including light rail, commuter rail, hybrid rail and bus rapid transit) that warrant further consideration and study by the transportation authorities in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The final report can be found at: scag.ca.gov/InterCountyTransitRail.

SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND RECEIVES AWARD AT AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION EVENT

SCAG's *Go Human* program was honored with the Public Outreach Award of Excellence by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association at their statewide conference in early October. The award recognized five *Go Human* temporary safety demonstration events in Orange County held last year, which promoted walking and biking and gave community members a chance to weigh in on planned improvements. SCAG was not the only Southern California agency recognized with an American Planning Association 2018 Award this year. Congratulations to SCAG member agencies: City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, LA Metro, Temple City and City of Rancho Cucamonga.

SCAG staff also participated in a panel discussion, "Coming Together Around Livable Communities: Regional Programs that Support Local Sustainability Efforts," which brought together program managers from different metropolitan planning organizations to discuss how their respective agencies are funding grant programs to implement their policies.

SCAG CO-HOSTS FORUM ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION

On Oct. 18, SCAG hosted the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative's forum "Electrifying Transportation in SoCal: Opportunities and Challenges for 2030." Esteemed guests from the clean fuels and energy industry, as well as California Assemblymember Chris Holden and former California Senator Fran Pavley, held panel discussions about the future of transportation electrification in Southern California. SCAG's Planning Director, Kome Ajise, was featured on the first panel of the day and spoke about our work to support cleaner fuels. Specifically, he highlighted SCAG's Plug-in Electric Vehicle Atlas and how it has been used to help identify opportunities in the region for increasing and improving charging infrastructure. The second panel, moderated by SCAG staff, discussed challenges and successes transit operators and other fleets are experiencing in transitioning to all electric vehicles. Another important panel presented case studies of how public agencies and community-based organizations are partnering to bring electric vehicles to disadvantaged communities.

SCAG JOINED REGION'S LEADERS TO STRATEGIZE FOR CALIFORNIA'S TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

The 17th annual Mobility 21 Southern California Transportation Summit was on Friday, October 19 at the J.W. Marriott in downtown Los Angeles. This year's theme—California: Transportation Center of Excellence—spoke to the innovations that have propelled our state to the forefront in the transportation sector. Included in the Summit's discussions were elected officials and transportation industry leaders, which demonstrates the importance of advocating for regional solutions in transportation and mobility. SCAG President Alan Wapner participated on the Chairmen's Roundtable and spoke to the many ways SCAG engages our numerous stakeholders in the development of our regional plans. I (Darin) was pleased to participate in a breakout panel discussing the big deal with big data and how that data is changing the way we do business at SCAG. Special Advisor Hasan Ikhata was on the closing panel, which related to air quality and how California can both meet our state's aggressive air quality mandates and spur economic opportunity. Once again, the Summit was an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, network with peers, and plan for the future.

SCAG SHARES DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS

On Oct. 12, staff from SCAG's Research and Analysis team presented in-progress research to the Southern Demographic Association in Durham, North Carolina. Preliminary results from the project, which studies drivers of domestic migration, indicate that in regions across the country, people are consistently moving to areas with higher, not lower, housing cost. At an economic conference in San Diego later that month, staff made a presentation on the economic impacts of the Federal Transportation Improvement Plan's investment priorities, including growth potential and job creation. The results emphasize that investing in transportation is becoming more important for job creation, showing an annual average of more than 91,000 jobs added in the six-county SCAG region. SCAG's ongoing economic and demographic research provide key support to our long-term growth forecasts and regional plans.