

DARIN CHIDSEY SELECTED AS NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

After a national competitive recruitment effort, I am pleased to announce the selection of Darin Chidsey to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) of SCAG. As COO, Darin will be responsible for driving the vision and strategies of the agency, as well as leading the implementation of new Regional Council initiatives. This includes updating SCAG's Strategic Plan to ensure that the agency continues to support its member cities and work collaboratively towards regional goals. Darin most recently served as the Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs for SCAG and has held a number of positions with increasing responsibility during his 11-year tenure at the agency. Under his leadership, SCAG developed a successful State and Federal Legislative Program and has hosted many successful and highly regarded General Assemblies, Southern California Economic Summits and the War on Poverty Summit. Throughout his time at SCAG, Darin has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the agency and passion for the work that we do here. His experience and outstanding track record with the agency make him a perfect fit for this job and I look forward to working with him in this new capacity to continue SCAG's mission to improve the quality of life in Southern California.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

On Thursday, Dec. 1, SCAG, in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Council, will be hosting the annual Southern California Economic Summit at the L.A. Hotel Downtown in Los Angeles. Now in its seventh year, the summit brings together local civic and business leaders to assess the state of the region's economy and discuss opportunities for job growth and prosperity. This year's program will also highlight the growing innovation economy in Southern California. Elected officials, public and private sector CEOs, business and labor representatives, non-profit leaders and city managers are invited to attend. Registration for the Economic Summit is complimentary, but capacity is limited. Please visit www.scag.ca.gov/economicsummit to register and for updates on the event.

HOUSING SUMMIT CONVENES OVER 400 TO ADDRESS HOUSING CRISIS, SOLUTIONS

More than 400 local leaders from throughout California gathered in downtown Los Angeles on Oct. 11 for SCAG's California Housing Summit, "The Cost of Not Housing." The event was a huge success, bringing together government, business and community leaders to address the affordability crisis happening across the region and the state. The summit opened with a panel of experts, who provided background on why California is experiencing a housing deficit and the extent of its economic, environmental and social costs. Breakout sessions explored different avenues for mitigating the housing shortage, such as funding strategies, integrating housing into planning at all levels and public engagement to demonstrate community benefits of housing projects. The summit concluded with a call to decision-makers across the state to build stakeholder partnerships to yield additional housing development. This is an important issue that is already impacting the region's economy and will do additional harm to future generations if nothing is done. SCAG has made available a new report, "Mission Impossible? Meeting California's Housing Challenge," on the Housing Summit website: <http://bit.ly/2dZCbrW>. Archived videos from the conference will be available online shortly.

STATEWIDE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

On Oct. 29, the California Transportation Commission released its recommendations for awardees of the statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP). The statewide component awards funding to the highest-scoring projects throughout the state, programming approximately \$131 million for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The SCAG region was awarded about 46 percent of the available funding receiving approximately \$61 million. I am pleased to share that SCAG was also one of the

grant recipients, earning a \$1.15 million award to fund the Southern California Disadvantaged Communities Planning Initiative. This initiative will develop six active transportation plans in disadvantaged communities and pilot an innovative planning methodology to deliver low-cost, local plans across the region by leveraging regional planning tools and the Go Human campaign's engagement resources. A complete list of awarded projects is available online at <http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/ATP.htm>. Over the coming months, SCAG will be developing the ATP Regional Program in collaboration with the county transportation commissions. Projects not recommended for funding in the statewide ATP will be considered for funding through the Regional Program. For additional information, contact Stephen Patchan at Patchan@scag.ca.gov.

SGC AWARDS \$75M FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SCAG REGION

In early October, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) announced its funding recommendations for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. The SCAG region received \$75 million, out of a total of \$289 million awarded, to support the construction of more than 600 affordable housing units and essential transportation infrastructure. The AHSC grants are funded through the state's cap-and-trade program and invests in projects that achieve greenhouse gas and vehicle miles travelled reductions. It is one of the few state sources that helps implement the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). A total of seven projects in the SCAG region received funding, out of 16 that were submitted for consideration. SCAG has previously expressed concern to the Strategic Growth Council that AHSC funding is not being equitably distributed to Southern California, considering the region's size, overall air quality and sheer number of disadvantaged communities. SCAG will continue to collaborate with the SGC and provide technical assistance to potential applicants to further increase the region's number and share of successful funding applications. It is expected that updated draft program guidelines for the next round of funding will be made available by the state for review and comment in early 2017.

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF CITIES PRIORITIZES TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

At their Oct. 6 meeting, the California League of Cities adopted a resolution which makes transportation safety a top priority, encouraging the adoption and implementation of programs such as Vision Zero, Towards Zero Deaths and other safety initiatives. SCAG has endorsed the resolution and offered to share materials and resources from our Go Human traffic safety and active transportation encouragement campaign to help the League enable local action. Go Human offers a number of resources for local jurisdictions to use, including media kits, toolkits and demonstration projects. These resources are available online at <http://gohumansocal.com/Pages/Home.aspx>. The need for improved transportation safety is clear: nearly 1,400 people were killed and 121,000 people were injured on our region's roadways in 2013. Pedestrians, our most vulnerable roadway users, accounted for 27% of the traffic fatalities in the SCAG region. SCAG's 2016 RTP/SCS includes over 80 recommendations for member jurisdictions to better integrate safety strategies. These recommendations can be found at <http://bit.ly/2ex2fa6>.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL AIR PLANS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

A number of local air districts are working with the California Air Resources Board to prepare air plans for nonattainment areas in the SCAG region. The adoption and ultimate approval of these air plans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will help the region comply with health-based national air quality standards set out by the Clean Air Act and allow SCAG to perform the required transportation conformity analysis. Below is a brief status update of these air plans:

- 2016 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) – As reported to the Regional Council by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) last month, the Revised Draft 2016 South Coast AQMP was released for a 30-day public review on October 7, 2016. In response to public comments and feedback, significant revisions have been made to strengthen the regulatory approach for many stationary source and facility-based measures in the plan. As part of the public review, four public hearings have been scheduled in mid-November, one per county within the SCAQMD jurisdiction. The 2016 South Coast AQMP is scheduled to be considered by the SCAQMD Governing Board in February 2017. For additional information, visit <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>.

- 2016 Ventura County AQMP – On October 7, 2016, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) released the Draft 2016 Ventura County AQMP for a 30-day public review and comment through November 9, 2016. The VCAPCD Governing Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the 2016 Ventura County AQMP on December 13, 2016. For additional information, visit <http://www.vcapcd.org/AQMP-2016.htm>.

Additional air plans are also under development by the Antelope Valley AQMD, the Western Mojave Desert AQMD and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS SCAG EXPERTISE

SCAG staff recently participated in numerous panel discussions at the 2016 California American Planning Association (APA) Conference held in Pasadena. On the panel “Visualizing Sustainability Planning in Southern California,” staff presented SCAG’s ‘REVISION’ application, which offers extensive analytical tools for evaluating sustainability performance and emerging demographic and socioeconomic trends at the neighborhood level. SCAG staff also participated in the panels “The Big 4 Sustainable Communities Strategies – Past, Present and Future,” and “Regional Planning through Local Community Outreach,” where they joined representatives from other metropolitan planning organizations to discuss challenges and strategies in the regional planning process.

SCAG PRESENTS AT METRANS RESEARCH SEMINAR

On Sept. 21, SCAG staff was invited to present at the METRANS Transportation Research Seminar at the University of Southern California. These seminars are held weekly and showcase transportation-related research on a variety of topics. Staff presented the report “Agglomerations in Los Angeles” with Peter Gordon, Emeritus Professor of the Sol Price School of Public Policy at USC. The featured research focused on the “agglomeration” effects in cities by utilizing business location data, especially at the levels below the metropolitan scale. Agglomeration and clustering are crucial for cities to further their economic growth, despite an age of advanced communication technologies. The report examines patterns in how large firms across industries decide where to locate their operations.

SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE AT 2016 SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

In October, SCAG staff was invited to participate and present at the 2016 Southern Demographic Association Conference in Athens, Georgia. The conference is a yearly gathering of the nation’s top academic and applied demographic research practitioners. Staff made a presentation on “Scenario-Based Local Demographic Projection: Combining Housing Growth Scenarios, Housing Unit Method and Cohort Component Model.” The presentation demonstrated a new modeling process under development, which has great potential for use in future Regional Transportation Plans and Sustainable Communities Strategies, and stands to become a valuable tool for local planners. The presentation was well-received by its audience of professional demographers.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TAKE SHAPE

In late October, a SCAG delegation was invited to participate at the International Conference on Urban Design for the Future City hosted by the Incheon National University (INU) College of Urban Sciences in South Korea. INU College of Urban Sciences is one of SCAG’s international partner institutions. At this conference, I gave a presentation on the future of transportation in Southern California. We also signed an MOU with Chung-Ang University’s Department of Urban Planning and Real Estate to promote joint research and exchange of technical information in the area of urban planning, real estate and public policy. My staff and I also visited our partners Korea Transport Institute and Myung-Ji University to discuss future collaboration opportunities, toured Korea’s high speed rail and other transit modes.

Another SCAG delegation made a trip to China in late October to share strategies and experiences on sustainable development and transportation. SCAG was invited by the Chinese Academy of Transportation Sciences' Institute of Policy and Management to participate in a workshop on regional planning and inter-agency collaboration. The delegation consisted of Regional Council members Rex Richardson and Lena Gonzalez of the City of Long Beach, Larry McCallon of the City of Highland, and Greg Pettis of the City of Cathedral City, along with SCAG staff. We signed an MOU with the Chinese Academy of Transportation Sciences to further collaborate on sustainable economic development and greenhouse gas reduction strategies. In addition to meeting with the research institutions, we also visited some of China's urban transit and high speed rail lines, which have seen heavy government investment.

SCAG STAFF AND BOARD PARTICIPATED IN MOBILITY 21 SUMMIT

On Oct. 21, more than 1,200 transportation, business and elected leaders convened for the Mobility 21 Summit in Anaheim, California. The annual one-day transportation conference addressed strategies for developing regionally connected transportation solutions, easing traffic congestion and increasing mobility opportunities for Southern California residents. I spoke on a panel about transportation policy to highlight upcoming transportation ballot measures and First Vice-President Margaret Finlay introduced a conference session on next-generation mobility. Many other SCAG staff and board members also were in attendance. For summit highlights, visit the Mobility 21 website: <http://mobility21.com/>.