

SCAG HOSTS FIRST HOUSING POLICY FORUM AND LAUNCHES APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE HOUSING POLICY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

On Nov. 1, SCAG hosted its first Housing Policy Forum, which was the first in a planned four-part series that will culminate in the fall of 2022. Funded in part by the state's Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant program, the forum offered a comprehensive overview on recent federal and state housing policy, legislation, and funding. Nearly 300 people participated, including SCAG President Clint Lorimore, members of the Regional Council and Policy Committees, and other elected officials from throughout the six-county SCAG region. At the close of the Forum, SCAG announced the launch of the application for the Housing Policy Leadership Academy (HPLA), which will be a 10-month intensive training – for eight subregional cohorts of up to 40 participants each – on housing policy and development. Applications are due Jan. 10, 2022 and the first training session will follow in February 2022. Please visit the [Housing Policy Forum webpage](#) for materials from the event and the [HPLA webpage](#) for more information about the academy and the application.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Assembly Housing Working Group hosted a series of regional meetings across the state to examine barriers and explore solutions to the state's housing production and affordability crisis. Three separate roundtables were held around Southern California. SCAG was invited to all the roundtables and presented at two of them. Each of the roundtables was attended by representatives from local government, labor, affordable housing developers, and business and each roundtable offered a forum for attendees to share their perspectives on how to solve the state's housing crisis.

- On Oct. 11, Assemblymember Laura Friedman (D-Burbank) hosted a roundtable in Los Angeles County, which was attended by President Clint Lorimore and Second Vice President Carmen Ramirez. As part of the panel of experts that opened the program, SCAG staff provided remarks that described the region's housing need and housing development trends.
- Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) hosted another roundtable in San Bernardino County on Oct. 12, and First Vice President Jan Harnik participated in the event.
- On Oct. 13, Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton) hosted a housing roundtable in Orange County. President Clint Lorimore and SCAG staff had the opportunity to present for a second time. Policy ideas gathered from the listening sessions may be introduced as legislation in the next legislative session beginning in January 2022.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOP ON CONNECTING PUBLICLY SUBSIDIZED HOUSING COMPLEXES TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

On Oct. 21, SCAG, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) hosted the Southern California Workshop on Connecting Publicly Subsidized Housing Complexes to High-Speed Internet. The goal of the workshop was to explore the needs and opportunities to: A) Connect all residents in publicly subsidized housing complexes to high-speed internet service; B) Help residents acquire affordable computing devices; and C) Provide digital literacy training to ensure that residents can utilize the internet to improve their lives. Panelists included affordable housing developers, internet service providers, and staff from various state agencies. Each panelist presented opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions to bring broadband to affordable housing developments. A video recording of the workshop is available at <https://youtu.be/Zkalhg-UhCO>.

SCAG PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL BROADBAND WORKSHOP

On Oct. 8, I participated in the BizFed Institute and Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Broadband Consortia's Regional Broadband Workshop as the moderator of the "Municipal Success Stories" panel, which included a dynamic panel of municipal leaders, including Immediate Past President Rex Richardson (Long Beach), Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (Los Angeles), and Councilmember Dan Kalmick (Huntington Beach). The discussion focused on the innovative and creative ways these regional leaders are working to address the many challenges constituents and businesses face in closing the digital divide. The program included opening remarks from Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, as well as Andrew Do, Chair of both the Orange County Board of Supervisors and Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).

GO HUMAN UPDATES

SCAG RECEIVES GRANT FOR GO HUMAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN

SCAG was recently awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund continued work on *Go Human*, the agency's regional active transportation safety and encouragement campaign. SCAG launched the *Go Human* campaign in 2015 in an effort to reduce collisions, improve safety for people walking and biking and raise awareness of the importance of traffic safety. The new OTS grant will fund continued *Go Human* activities through Sept. 30, 2022, which include:

- Local and regional communication campaigns and storytelling strategies, centering community narratives.
- Safe and Resilient Streets Strategies to implement street activations and demonstrations utilizing *Go Human's* Kit of Parts Lending Library of resources.
- Community Streets Mini-Grants to fund local engagement projects led by community-based organizations.
- Co-Branded Safety Advertisements, print and digital graphics provided at no cost to jurisdictions who have committed to the *Go Human* Safety Pledge.

SCAG will continue to focus engagement efforts in collaboration with local elected officials, city staff, and community-based organizations that serve communities disproportionately impacted by collisions. With this funding from OTS, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign continues to play a role in recovery and resiliency efforts amid the pandemic. Since the pandemic began in 2020, SCAG has distributed more than \$490,000 directly to community-based organizations to implement safety projects and distributed thousands of co-branded safety advertisements to local jurisdictions. Through the programs supported by this funding, SCAG will continue to build partnerships to implement projects across the region, guided by a holistic, equity-centered approach to safety.

Funding for the *Go Human* campaign is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please visit the [Go Human webpage](#) for more information about the campaign.

FROM DEMONSTRATION TO IMPLEMENTATION: GO HUMAN PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD

In 2019, *Go Human* collaborated with the City of Palm Desert to host "Vision San Pablo," a large temporary demonstration project to create opportunities for community feedback on proposed improvements to San Pablo Avenue. The vision of this project was to create a city center that invites people to bike, walk, or use their golf carts to shop and dine at locally owned businesses, attend classes at College of the Desert, or connect with CV Link. Last month, the City celebrated the completed improvements at the [San Pablo Avenue Grand Opening & Street Party](#). The event drew hundreds of attendees and included music, food trucks, vendors, games, and a kids' zone. The event also featured the unveiling of a *Go Human* bus wrap ad with custom messaging, which was created in collaboration with the SunLine Transit Marketing team.

GO HUMAN SUPPORTS LADOT SCHOOL STREETS SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON WALK TO SCHOOL DAY/CLEAN AIR DAY

With support from SCAG's *Go Human* campaign, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), in partnership with Magnolia Avenue Elementary School, demonstrated temporary street improvements alongside Walk to School Day and Clean Air Day on Wednesday, Oct. 6. The demonstration included "School Streets," creating a student plaza adjacent to the school that was closed to vehicle traffic and open to students and families with opportunities to play in the street, provide feedback, and more. The street was reconfigured as a one-way school pick-up and drop-off zone with safety improvements like bulb-outs and wave delineators to improve safety and streamline access. Air quality monitors were placed to assess impacts. SCAG was thrilled to partner with LADOT to showcase and test out these temporary improvements to improve the safety of students and families traveling to school on Walk to School Day, Clean Air Day, and every day.

SCAG'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (SCP) – FY 2022 Q1 PROGRESS & PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2005, SCAG's various sustainability planning grant programs (i.e., Compass Blueprint, Sustainability Planning Grants, and Sustainable Communities Program) have provided resources and technical assistance to jurisdictions to complete important local planning efforts and enable implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), now known as "Connect SoCal." Of the 241 projects funded since 2013 through SCAG's Local Implementation efforts, 138 projects have been completed as of fiscal year (FY) 2021, totaling approximately \$19.8 million in funding. Additionally, by the end of FY 2023, it is estimated that an additional 58 projects will be completed, totaling an additional \$10.3 million in funding. To date, the 2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program has added an additional 45 projects, totaling approximately \$12.2 million in funding with projects anticipated to be completed in FY 2024. Two projects completed as of the first quarter of FY 2022 are highlighted below, reflecting innovative and creative approaches and outcomes:

- **City of San Fernando – Parking Management Plan:** The City of San Fernando launched a [Citywide Parking Management Master Plan](#) study in fall 2020 and completed the study in summer 2021. A parking management plan helps jurisdictions comprehensively address both the location and amount of parking in specified locations, providing a road map to maximize the efficiency of existing parking and support future parking needs. The plan will allow the City of San Fernando to: 1) Make parking more convenient for community members, visitors, and local businesses by engaging community members in identifying parking solutions; 2) Promote more efficient use of existing parking; 3) Support future parking needs; 4) Explore options to stimulate the local economy by making commercial districts more inviting for people who walk, bike, and use public transportation; 5) Position the city to capture the full benefit of potential transit-oriented development; and 6) Support the San Fernando Corridors Specific Plan.
- **Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena – Urban Heat Island Study:** This project studied impacts of extreme heat from climate change on [Long Beach's Washington Neighborhood](#) and [Pasadena's Lincoln and Holly/Ramona Neighborhoods](#). The studies also included toolkits on mitigation strategies for extreme heat, identifying sustainable design strategies to cool temperatures; improve walking, biking, connections to transit, and key community destinations; and increase the climate resiliency and well-being of the communities surrounding the project areas. These toolkits will serve as resources for both the respective neighborhoods and cities. Outreach was conducted in partnership with community-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Washington Neighborhood Association, Day One, and Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition.

TOOLBOX TUESDAY: EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT

On Oct. 19, staff hosted a SCAG Toolbox Tuesday training on Equitable Engagement in which a dynamic set of speakers discussed effective strategies through case studies in the SCAG region and beyond. This training was a thought-provoking and practical discussion on effective strategies involving inland, rural, and underserved communities, relationship building, supporting trust, and building a personal story that aligns with equitable community engagement. The panel included Christine Corrales from the San Joaquin Council of Governments, Jenny Yu from KOA Corp, Yoliviviana Sanchez from Imperial County Public Health, and Brenda Buzane from the Imperial County Office of Education. Presentation materials and recordings of this Toolbox Training, as well as past trainings, can be found on the [SCAG website](#).

AIA LA DISCUSSION SERIES: REINVENTING LOS ANGELES' BOULEVARDS

On Oct. 26, SCAG staff served on a panel for the American Institute of Architects Los Angeles chapter's Government Outreach Committee webinar on Reinventing Los Angeles' Boulevards. Staff was joined by former SCAG President and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, architects Angela Brooks and John Kaliski, and Max Podemsky, Planning and Transportation Director for Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez to discuss mixed-use zoning, affordable housing, transit, and pedestrian-friendly streets. A recording of the panel can be found [here](#).

CALIFORNIA ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM

On Oct. 26-27, staff presented at the [California Active Transportation Symposium](#), a virtual event hosted by the Active Transportation Resource Center. The goals of the symposium were to bring together active transportation stakeholders, share information on relevant active transportation topics, and provide attendees with implementable solutions. Staff shared information and case studies on SCAG's *Go Human* efforts to support demonstration projects that allow communities to envision future roadway improvements. Staff also presented highlights from the "[Recommendations for Statewide Guidance on High Injury Networks](#)" and explained that the work is especially impactful in light of the recent signature of [Assembly Bill 43 \(2021\)](#), which would allow local jurisdictions to have more flexibility in establishing traffic speeds.