

## 6TH CYCLE RHNA APPEALS PROCESS UPDATE

The window for cities to appeal their draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation closed on Oct. 26. A total of over 50 appeals were filed by local jurisdictions. Following the Regional Council's adoption of Connect SoCal in its entirety on Sept. 3, SCAG distributed the draft allocations to local jurisdictions on Sept. 4. The appeals process follows steps laid out in the adopted RHNA Appeals Procedures. All appeals received by SCAG have been posted on SCAG's [RHNA webpage](#). Local jurisdictions and the State Department of Housing and Community Development may now provide comments on the appeals submitted to SCAG. Comments should be sent to [housing@scag.ca.gov](mailto:housing@scag.ca.gov) before 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

SCAG staff will contact the jurisdictions that filed or are subject to appeals to share the date of their RHNA Appeals Hearings. The hearings are scheduled to take place between Dec. 11, 2020, and Jan. 10, 2021, but may also be extended until Feb. 9, 2021 if necessary. For questions or comments about RHNA, please contact [housing@scag.ca.gov](mailto:housing@scag.ca.gov).

## RELEASE OF DRAFT 2021 FTIP FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

SCAG is preparing to release the Draft 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) for a 30-day public review and comments. Every two years, SCAG is required by federal law to update the FTIP, a list of capital improvement projects to be implemented over a six-year period. The FTIP implements the transportation investments identified in Connect SoCal. Over the past year, staff has worked in consultation and close coordination with Caltrans, our county transportation commissions, and other transit operators to develop the Draft 2021 FTIP, which is expected to be released for public review in early November pending approval by the Regional Council. Staff will review and respond to comments received during the comment period and return to the Transportation Committee in February 2021 and the Regional Council in March 2021 for adoption of the 2021 FTIP. Please visit the [FTIP webpage](#) for more details.

## REGISTER FOR SCAG'S SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, SCAG will host the Southern California Economic Summit virtually for the first time in its 11-year history. Join civic and business leaders from across Southern California for this vital conversation centered around "Charting an Inclusive Regional Recovery." In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Southern California's cities, families and cornerstone industries have all been seismically impacted and face enormous challenges on the road to recovery. Hear from leading voices in business, industry, planning and academia as they define strategies for building back a strong, inclusive Southern California economy. General admission tickets are \$50. The ticket fee may be waived for elected officials and city managers of SCAG's member jurisdictions – [reserve your seat today](#).

## GO HUMAN UPDATES

### GO HUMAN OTS GRANT KICK-OFF

Earlier this year, SCAG was awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund continued work through *Go Human*, SCAG's regional active transportation safety and encouragement program. The new OTS grant kicked off on Oct. 1 and funds will allow *Go Human* activities through Sept. 30, 2021, including:

- *Go Human's* Community Safety Ambassador Cohort Program, a participatory and experiential planning and leadership series.
- Resilient Streets Strategies to implement street activations that address safety and resiliency in response to the pandemic.
- Safety Mini-Grants, which fund local projects led by community-based organizations.
- Sub-Regional Safety Peer Exchange Program, a series of community-informed virtual sessions for stakeholders and practitioners addressing traffic safety.

- Co-Branded Safety Advertisements, print and digital graphics provided at no cost to jurisdictions who have committed to the *Go Human* Safety Pledge.

To strategically shape these programs in alignment with local community needs, and in response to the impacts of the pandemic, *Go Human* held a Community Listening session on Oct. 19 to provide the public with an opportunity to give their input. More than 27 representatives from across the region provided feedback, which has directly informed upcoming strategies. *Go Human* will continue to facilitate similar listening sessions in the future. Please visit the [Go Human webpage](#) for details on future activities and events.

#### SCAG SAFETY PLEDGES CONTINUE TO GROW!

Jurisdictions continue to sign the [SCAG Safety Pledge](#), committing to strategies and policies that improve traffic safety in local communities. The months of September and October 2020 saw more than 10 jurisdictions sign on, reaching 52 safety pledges across the region. Cities can choose to participate in a variety of ways, from hosting a pop-up safety demonstration to implementing a safety outreach campaign or adopting a Vision Zero policy. Many thanks to recent pledges from the cities of Claremont, Culver City, Downey, Glendora, Ojai, Ontario, Palm Desert, Riverside, Temecula, and Wildomar. *Go Human* will continue to collect pledges throughout the year.

#### SCAG SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY (AT&S) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS WEBINARS AND APPLICATION COACHING

After the Regional Council approved the Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Guidelines and released the Active Transportation & Safety Call for Applications in September, SCAG hosted two Application Webinars in October, engaging more than 200 participants. Staff have also offered one-on-one application coaching with applicants as part of the program's targeted outreach strategy and have engaged more than 15 local agencies with this approach. SCAG will continue to release subsequent SCP Calls for Applications, including the Housing and Sustainable Development Call that is expected to launch at the November Regional Council meeting. Other calls will focus on smart cities, mobility innovation and transportation demand management, and green regions throughout FY 2020-21. More details about the Active Transportation & Safety project types and the overall program can be found on the [SCP webpage](#), including links to the online applications, program guidelines and fact sheet, a toolkit for local champions, and other resources for applicants.

### SCAG HOSTS HOUSING PRODUCTION ROUNDTABLE

On Oct. 29, SCAG hosted the first of three virtual roundtable meetings to discuss ways the region can accelerate housing production for households of all income levels. This first meeting involved 36 local government practitioners, including seven representing our subregional partners. After SCAG kicked off the event, the facilitated discussion by Richard France of Estolano Associates explored how subregional partnerships can help meet our region's diverse housing needs. The meeting featured several speakers from across the state who are exploring cross-jurisdictional partnerships to meet shared housing goals. SCAG invited representatives from five jurisdictions to share best practices, gather feedback, and discuss housing priorities for their communities. A primary goal of these meetings is to equip local governments and subregional entities with the tools they need to ensure that Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) and Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) dollars are deployed in a manner that addresses local needs, advances regional priorities, and fosters innovation and collaboration. In addition to identifying useful housing production strategies, SCAG is also looking for opportunities to support the related goals of preserving existing affordable housing and protecting households facing displacement pressures.

### SCAG PRESENTS THE SOCAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK ACROSS THE REGION AND PUBLISHES THE SOCAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING GUIDE

Over the month of October, SCAG continued to share tools and resources from the Southern California (SoCal) Climate Adaptation Framework through presentations to partner agencies across the region such as the Orange County Council of Governments, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, Ventura County-Cities Planning Association, and Imperial County Transportation Commission. SCAG will continue to present on the SoCal Climate Adaptation Framework through the end of the year, culminating with a launch of the framework by the end of December 2020. In advance of this, the subregional presentations provide an opportunity for SCAG to share some of the tools ready for use by jurisdictions. These include general plan model policies to assist jurisdictions with updates to safety elements, [communication and outreach strategies and templates](#) to help with climate messaging, and the recently published SoCal

[Climate Adaptation Planning Guide](#) to help guide jurisdictions through the adaptation planning process from beginning to end. More information on the framework can be [found here](#).

## SCAG PARTICIPATES IN MIT POLICY HACKATHON

SCAG staff recently participated in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Policy Hackathon, an event held by the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society in MIT's Technology and Policy Program. The Hackathon aims to address relevant societal challenges through data and policy analysis, and students work in teams to develop creative policy solutions and compete for cash prizes. Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds and topics this year included COVID-19, internet policy, environmental justice, planning, and transportation. SCAG participated as the Transportation Challenge Sponsor, crafting a challenge to better understand the potential impact of new bicycle infrastructure on neighborhood change and displacement in the SCAG region. SCAG's Mobility Planning and Management department staff assisted students and judged each team's presentations and policy memorandums. The student teams presented thoughtful research, analysis, and policy strategies, ultimately providing SCAG with meaningful guidance on this important issue. The closing ceremony and final presentations have been posted on the [MIT Policy Hackathon YouTube page](#).

## LEONARD TRANSPORTATION CENTER REGIONAL DIALOGUE MOBILITY SERIES – ACHIEVING EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN TRANSPORTATION

On Oct. 20, I, along with Matt Click, the National Congestion Pricing Practice Leader at HNTB, spoke on equity in transportation for the California State University San Bernardino's Leonard Transportation Center (LTC) Regional Dialogue Mobility Series. As part of the event, we also provided responses and feedback for numerous presentations on transportation equity from the LTC research challenge group.

The LTC Research Group Challenge Project seeks to find creative solutions to difficult questions surrounding the Inland Empire transportation system. More information about the program and the research challenge group can be found on the [LTC website](#).

## NATURAL & FARM LANDS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP MEETS

On Oct. 15, SCAG hosted the Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group. Since 2014, this group has provided a forum for stakeholders to share best practices and develop recommendations for natural and agricultural land conservation throughout the region and has been instrumental in the formation and implementation of Connect SoCal's conservation policies and strategies. This most recent meeting featured presentations on Connect SoCal's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) conservation-related mitigation measures, an update on the SoCal Greenprint, an overview of the South Coast Wildlands Project, and an update on the San Bernardino and Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Investment Strategies. For more information about the group and to attend future meetings, please contact India Brookover at [brookover@scag.ca.gov](mailto:brookover@scag.ca.gov).

## IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR PLAN RECEIVED APPROVAL BY U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

On Sept. 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published in the Federal Register a final rule to approve the state implementation plan for Imperial County to address the federal coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) ambient air quality standards. SCAG staff had previously worked with the staff of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board in developing the air plan including the associated new transportation conformity budgets. Effective Oct. 19, Imperial County has achieved attainment and fulfilled all air quality planning requirements for the federal health-based PM<sub>10</sub> standards. Failure to meet the required federal air quality planning requirements could lead to serious consequences that impact the regional transportation plan, program, and projects. In addition, the new PM<sub>10</sub> transportation conformity budgets in the air plan will apply to Connect SoCal, FTIP, and their respective amendments. For additional information, please view the [Federal Register notice for this final rulemaking](#).