

CONNECT SOCAL PLAN UPDATE

SCAG will be hosting a meeting of the Joint Policy Committees on Thursday, Nov. 7, to consider the release of the Draft Connect SoCal plan for public comment and review. Connect SoCal is the region's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, a long-range vision that balances future mobility and housing needs with goals to improve public health, the environment, the economy and jobs accessibility.

In the coming weeks, SCAG will also share with local jurisdictions the Connect SoCal Growth Vision, to review and ensure that entitled projects and local plans are properly considered in growth projected through 2045. The Growth Vision identifies areas sufficient to house our region's population, including all economic segments of the population, taking into account net migration to the region, population growth, household formation, and employment growth. It will also identify areas sufficient to house an eight-year projection of housing need for the region. Neighborhood level growth projections will also feature strategies and local best practices that help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles and light trucks to achieve Southern California's GHG reduction targets, as determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in accordance with Senate Bill 375. The deadline to provide feedback to SCAG on the Growth Vision is Dec. 11, 2019. For questions, please contact SCAG staff at RTPLocalInput@scag.ca.gov.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS UPDATE

On Oct. 15, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) transmitted their final Regional Housing Need determination for the six-county SCAG region: 1,341,827 units. This final figure takes into account a minor update to the cost burden data, which adjusted the original determination of 1,344,740 units slightly lower. The final Regional Housing Need determination of 1,341,827 units is the amount of housing that cities and counties in Southern California will need to zone for through the period of October 2021 – October 2029. The regional determination also specified the housing needs according to different income levels.

In the next stage of the RHNA process, SCAG is working with member cities to develop a draft RHNA Allocation Methodology, which determines how the regional determination figure will be allocated or distributed to local jurisdictions across the region. A staff-recommended draft RHNA Allocation Methodology will be presented to the Regional Council at its Thursday, Nov. 7 meeting, in addition to an alternate methodology. After review by HCD, it is expected that the Final RHNA Allocation Methodology will be approved in February 2020. For more information, please visit SCAG's RHNA webpage. For questions or comments about RHNA, please e-mail housing@scag.ca.gov.

REGISTER FOR SCAG'S SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

On Thursday, Dec. 5, SCAG and the Southern California Leadership Council will host the 10th Annual Southern California Economic Summit at The L.A. Grand Hotel Downtown in Los Angeles. The program will dig into the major economic levers of the Connect SoCal plan. From generating new jobs to creating efficiency gains for commuters, shipping and travel, realizing the goal of a strong regional transportation system has economic benefits for all of the region's 19 million residents. The event will also tackle the question of how our region is going to address the growing challenge of housing affordability. The keynote speaker this year is Noel Perry, businessman, philanthropist, and the founder of Next 10, who will address the nexus between the economy, the environment and quality of life, identifying the tools we need to implement comprehensive, effective solutions to our biggest challenges. Hear from leading voices in business, industry, planning and academia as well as they assess the status of the region's economy and define strategies for keeping Southern California an economic powerhouse. Early bird registration at the rate of \$150 per person is available until Nov. 7. Elected officials and city managers may attend for free. Stay tuned for additional program details. 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](#).

SCAG RECEIVES \$1M GRANT FOR *GO HUMAN* SAFETY PROGRAM

Southern California has some of the highest levels of injuries and fatalities involving people walking and biking in the country, and SCAG's *Go Human* program has achieved tremendous success in bringing active transportation and safety awareness to communities throughout Southern California. Due to these efforts, the agency was recently awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety. The new grant will continue to fund *Go Human* activities through September 2020, which include:

- Local Community Engagement and Technical Assistance to help local communities integrate safety efforts across the region and through open streets events. *Go Human* will offer a mini grant program intended for non-profits to implement creative safety strategies.
- Social Media and Digital Campaigns with new, creative content targeting people who live in High Injury Network cities, encouraging stakeholders to share the messaging and content with their friends and family.
- Co-Branding and Printing of Materials for partners who take the *Go Human* Safety Pledge.
- The *Go Human* Kit of Parts, or lending library of resources that partners can use to temporarily demonstrate innovative street design treatments that enhance safety. The Kit includes materials to showcase infrastructure including parklets, curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, artistic high visibility crosswalks, and protected bike lanes, as well as a community feedback tool and educational signage.
- Website Refresh to better serve stakeholders by housing resources in an accessible and user-friendly way.

For more information about the *Go Human* campaign, please visit gohumansocal.org.

SCAG RECOGNIZED FOR 'SCHOOL OF DATA' PROGRAM

In Jan. 2019, SCAG partnered with the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and Compiler LA to host a two day "School of Data" that welcomed more than 250 attendees from local jurisdictions and provided trainings for staff on data topics ranging from identifying and defining the term "data" to documenting metadata, navigating systems, and managing predictive analytics projects. The School of Data event was recently selected for a 2019 Innovation Award for Collaboration by the California County Information Services Directors Association (CCISDA). The School of Data event was organized by various private and public sector professionals and attendees included elected officials, private sector data scientists, local jurisdiction employees, and information technology specialists. The event's vision was driven by the belief that building a community of data literacy leads to better service in government. SCAG and its partners also offer a monthly Data + Donuts speaker series focusing on improving civic analytical skills and data related work. The Innovation award was accepted by SCAG at the CCISDA 2019 Fall Conference, which took place from Nov. 3–6 in Lake Tahoe.

MAJOR SOUTH COAST OZONE AIR PLANS RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL BY U.S. EPA

On Oct. 1, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published in the Federal Register a final rule approving several ozone air quality implementation plans in the 2016 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), a portion of which was prepared by SCAG. With the final approval effective Oct. 31, the applicable federal air quality planning requirements have been fulfilled to maintain regional transportation conformity in the SCAG region. In addition, the new and more stringent ozone transportation conformity budgets in these ozone plans now apply to SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan, Federal Transportation Improvement Program, and their amendments. At present, the Draft Connect SoCal plan and the Draft 2019 FTIP Consistency Amendment have been able to demonstrate meeting these much tighter new conformity budgets. For additional information about the final rule, see the Federal Register Notice at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-10-01/pdf/2019-21325.pdf>.

IMPERIAL COUNTY OZONE AIR PLANS RECEIVE PROPOSED APPROVAL BY U.S. EPA

On Nov. 1, the U.S. EPA published in the Federal Register a proposed rule to approve Imperial County's 2017 ozone state implementation plan (SIP) and subsequent 2018 SIP update to address the federal 2008 8-hour ozone ambient air quality standards. SCAG staff had previously worked with the staff of the Imperial County Air District and CARB in developing the air plans, especially the new ozone transportation conformity budgets in the air plans. If the rule is finalized as proposed, Imperial County would no longer be subject to the Clean Air Act requirements pertaining to reclassification upon failure to attain the federal 2008 ozone standards. Failure to attain the ozone standards could lead to serious consequences that impact regional transportation plan, program, and projects. Upon final approval of the rule, the new ozone transportation conformity budgets in the ozone plans will apply to SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan, Federal Transportation Improvement Program, and their amendments. For additional information about the proposed rule, see the Federal Register Notice at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-01/pdf/2019-23134.pdf>.

SCAG MEETS WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS

SCAG continued its outreach efforts to state and federal legislators throughout the region. A meeting was held with U.S. Congressman Mike Levin (D-Dana Point) to familiarize him with SCAG's transportation and infrastructure priorities such as the reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which provides stable and long-term investments into the national transportation system. A meeting was also held with California State Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach). Staff also had the opportunity to attend a legislative briefing hosted by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, which was attended by several legislators including U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles), California State Senator Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood), California State Senator Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), and California State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance).

SCAG PARTICIPATES IN STATE ZERO TRAFFIC FATALITIES TASK FORCE

SCAG, represented by Regional Council Member and Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells, remains engaged as a member of the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force, which was established by AB 2363 to develop policies to reduce traffic fatalities to zero. The Task Force, which is comprised of State agency representatives and other relevant stakeholder and public agencies, met in October to review and provide feedback on new approaches for setting speed limits to improve vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. Current California state law requires jurisdictions to set speed limits on most streets by using a speed survey that justifies a speed at which 85 percent of drivers are traveling at or below. The Task Force anticipates reviewing revised recommendations for setting speed limits by early December with the goal of having the California State Transportation Agency release a final report by January 2020. More information regarding the Task Force and meeting materials is available online at <https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/enforcement-and-safety/zero-traffic-fatalities>.

SCAG AND KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HOLD JOINT MEETING

SCAG and the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) together held their annual joint meeting on Oct. 30 in Tejon Ranch as part of an ongoing partnership to discuss areas of cooperation and planning activities that impact both regions. SCAG President Bill Jahn and Regional Councilmember Steve Hofbauer were in attendance, along with agency staff, and met with executives and board members from Kern COG. SCAG provided updates on the development of the Connect SoCal plan and the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment allocation plan. Other discussion items included the development of California's high-speed rail system, the importance of freight and ports in the region, energy efficient vehicles, legislative matters such as the FAST Act and Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Rule, and the exchange of information on development patterns.

GO HUMAN CELEBRATES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY ACROSS THE REGION

This year's Walk to School Day was a hit! Walk to School Day encourages children to join hundreds of thousands of pupils across the globe celebrating their choice to walk to school. Here are some highlights from the over 220 Walk to School events held across the SCAG region.

- Imperial County: Walk to School Day at Heber Elementary School in Heber promoted not only physical activity, but also traffic safety and climate change awareness.
- Los Angeles County: Leo Politi Elementary School's Walk to School Day in Los Angeles was a full-day affair. The school, in partnership with LADOT, showcased temporary Pop-Up traffic calming elements—roundabout, curb extensions and crosswalks—as part of the Leo Politi's Safe Routes to School Plan.
- Orange County: Two walking "school buses" with two routes and over 200 participants were held at Orangethorpe Elementary School in Fullerton.
- Riverside County: At Cabazon Elementary School, over 85 participants walked to school and the school's principal led the walk dressed as the school's mascot (a dinosaur). Also, one of the staff dressed up as an ear of corn to promote healthy eating.
- San Bernardino County: For the Walk to School Day at Vermont Elementary School in San Bernardino, organizers held a rally and conducted a survey on infrastructure improvements and pledged to support safe routes to school.
- Ventura County: Over seven events were held with hundreds of participants.

SCAG's *Go Human* program supports children walking to school on Walk to School Day and every day with active transportation safety and encouragement resources available throughout the year.

If you weren't able to celebrate or participate in Walk to School Day this year, you can check out the resources on the [Walk & Bike to School website](#) to start planning for next year.

SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE AT URBAN FREIGHT CONFERENCE

SCAG staff presented on work conducted by the agency at the International Urban Freight Conference, which was hosted by the METRANS Transportation Center in Long Beach, CA from Oct. 15–18. The conference is a biennial meeting of academics and practitioners working to better understand and solve freight transportation challenges. Alison Linder, Senior Regional Planner, presented on the recently-completed SCAG Last Mile Delivery Study, with a focus on recommendations and the tool box of strategies that was created as part of this effort. Scott Strelecki, Senior Regional Planner, also presented on this study, with a focus on study methodology and data collection. Stephen Yoon, Senior Regional Planner, presented on procedures to enhance a model framework and methodology for SCAG's External Heavy Duty Truck (HDT) Model. An overview of the conference is available at the [METRANS website](#).

SCAG STAFF PRESENTS ECONOMIC AND JOB CREATION ANALYSIS

In mid-October, SCAG staff attended the 2019 Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) Annual User's Conference in Santa Fe, NM and presented the Economic and Job Creation Analysis of the Draft Connect SoCal plan. REMI is a regional economic modeling and policy analysis firm that provides economic modeling software and technical analysis to regional government agencies. This year's meeting convened more than 50 professionals with about 30 papers from regional planning agencies and universities. SCAG has been using REMI software since the first inclusion of the Economic and Job Creation Analysis in the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.