



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2021–2022

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## ABOUT SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO), representing six counties, 191 cities, and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to encourage a more sustainable Southern California now and in the future.

## VISION STATEMENT

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

## MISSION STATEMENT

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.

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*Cover Photo: The Desi House and the Eastvale STEM Academy, Eastvale - Riverside County*

On behalf of the Regional Council, I am pleased to share this report of SCAG's annual accomplishments for 2021–2022. One of my goals from the onset was to find ways for our leadership to work collaboratively to set the strategic direction for the agency. In June 2021, the Executive/Administration Committee was convened for a strategic planning session to further relationship building and to establish high-level work goals and priorities for integration into SCAG's Strategic Plan update and work planning for the year. The featured accomplishments in this report, which fall under categories that encompass the priority areas identified through the strategic planning session, highlight our agency's efforts to identify and address the needs of the region and promote sustainability, prosperity, and quality of life improvements.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a region is housing. Affordability has been an ongoing issue for years, but the situation was only made worse with the pandemic. The housing market is now seeing conditions that are truly unprecedented, and with drastic reductions in new construction and a limited supply of existing housing on the market, prices have continued to skyrocket. With a mandate to plan for 1.3 million homes through 2029, we need our leaders to support policies that encourage housing developments instead of punitive rules that discourage construction. This is the reason why my trips to Sacramento have routinely included calls for less rules and more tools for our local jurisdictions so they can plan for, and build, the housing our region needs.

Despite our challenges, including those related to the pandemic, SCAG has had many successes and new developments this past year. We began development of the next iteration of our long-range regional transportation plan. The update, which is known as Connect SoCal 2024, will build on the strategies and policies established in Connect SoCal 2020, such as the Core Vision and Key Connections. As an example of how the pandemic has influenced how we plan for the region's future, SCAG will monitor and reexamine trends and emerging issues through the development process in order to put forth a plan that addresses the region's evolving needs, challenges, and opportunities. We launched the Regional Data Platform, a revolutionary system for collaborative data sharing and planning that provides modern tools and best practices to facilitate better planning for local jurisdictions.

We are a resilient region, and although we have faced numerous challenges over the last two years, we see our communities and businesses emerging stronger and adapting to the post-pandemic environment. One of the hallmarks of SCAG is the collaborative spirit that is engrained into the work we do. Whether through Connect SoCal, the development of tools and trainings to help our member jurisdictions, or advocacy efforts in Sacramento and Washington, SCAG remains committed to working with our stakeholders and partners to build a stronger and more resilient region for future generations to come.


On behalf of the Regional Council and agency staff, I would like to thank you for partnering with us to make the 191 cities and six counties of the SCAG region a great place to live, work, and play for the 19 million residents that call Southern California home.



**Clint Lorimore**

President, 2021-2022  
Southern California Association of Governments

# CONNECT SOCAL IMPLEMENTATION & DEVELOPMENT



Connect SoCal, SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy, provides a regional vision for Southern California's future and establishes the overarching policies and strategies that guide SCAG's regional plans and programs.

## CONNECT SOCAL 2024 POLICY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

In July 2021, the Executive/Administration Committee convened a strategic planning session. One action identified during that session was to create a Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024, the 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. In developing Connect SoCal 2024 over the next two years, SCAG will build from the strategies and policies established in Connect SoCal 2020, such as the Core Vision and Key Connections. Through the development process, SCAG will monitor and reexamine trends and emerging issues in order to put forth a plan that addresses the region's evolving needs, challenges, and opportunities. The Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 outlines the approach for policy development that will better engage the Policy Committees through the development phase of the plan.

## CONNECT SOCAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Connect SoCal Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) provides local jurisdictions with multiple opportunities to seek funding and resources to meet the needs of their communities, address recovery and resiliency strategies considering COVID-19, and support regional goals. The Connect SoCal SCP hosted three calls for applications, which approved 45 projects, totaling approximately \$12.2 million in funding. The three calls included the following policy areas:

- **Active Transportation and Safety** – The Regional Council approved 11 projects that promote active transportation and safety planning strategies. This call for projects included categories for three project types: Community or Area Wide Plans (Active Transportation or Safety Focused), Quick Build Projects, and Network Visioning and Implementation.
- **Housing and Sustainable Development** – The Regional Council approved 26 projects that seek to increase and accelerate housing production for all household types at all income levels, as well as integrate and align housing goals with the region's adopted Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- **Smart Cities and Mobility Innovations** – The Regional Council approved eight local proposals that promote innovative approaches to addressing and solving regional mobility issues. This call for projects supports the implementation of three Connect SoCal Key Connections, focusing on Smart Cities and Job Centers, Go Zones, and Shared Mobility/Mobility as a Service, to expand upon our mobility ecosystems and advance the region's vision. The eight selected proposals will develop new solutions to curb space and parking management by utilizing mobility technology, which ultimately support healthy and equitable communities through the equitable allocation of public resources and air quality improvements.

## CONNECT SOCAL AND FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

SCAG's programming efforts in support of Connect SoCal, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and the Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) are crucial to the ability of our six county transportation commissions to successfully deliver transportation programs and projects. SCAG prepared and secured approval for 17 FTIP Amendments. Additionally, SCAG prepared Connect SoCal Amendment #1, along with an associated FTIP consistency amendment. These joint efforts represent major agency-wide actions that involved significant coordination with our partner agencies. SCAG received approval of the transportation conformity determination for the combined Connect SoCal and FTIP amendments on Jan. 4, 2022. In addition, the Regional Council approved the 2023 FTIP Guidelines in September 2021.

## LAST MILE FREIGHT PROGRAM

SCAG's Last Mile Freight Program (LMFP) supports Connect SoCal's goods movement strategy, accelerated electrification and clean transportation efforts, and the region's clean air goals through a partnership with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) to procure and commercially deploy zero/near-zero emission medium and heavy-duty trucks. On Nov. 4, 2021, the Regional Council approved \$10 million in awards under LMFP Phase 1, along with a contingency list of projects if additional funding from the MSRC was made available. Subsequently, the MSRC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District approved both the \$10 million award plus an additional \$6.75 million for the list of contingency projects, supporting 32 total projects across the South Coast Air Basin.

## **RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN**

In May 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan, and since then, SCAG has made significant progress on implementing actions included within the plan. For example, SCAG awarded \$1.25 million in funding to 15 non-profits and community-based organizations that are focused on advancing the region's housing goals. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Susan Rubio (D-West Covina), SCAG secured \$3.5 million in state funding to implement the core recommendations of the agency's Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS). SCAG also started convening an Equity Working Group of local practitioners to discuss equity-related plans, programs, projects, and tools, and began offering quarterly equity-oriented Toolbox Tuesday trainings on a variety of topics such as equitable community engagement, equity tools, and equity action plans. SCAG is in the process of seeking feedback from stakeholders on integrating equity into Connect SoCal 2024 through the goals, performance measures, and an equity analysis.

# LEADERSHIP THROUGH RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT

Whether through the framework established in the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy, REAP 2.0, or other programs and campaigns, SCAG helps provide local cities and counties with the resources they need to build a sustainable future for their communities.

# REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

## REAP 2019 Implementation

Activities and programs established with funding received through the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program (REAP 2019), increased over the past year, with most programs and projects either kicked off or well underway.

- Memorandums of understanding for all 15 subregional partners participating in the Subregional Partnership Program were executed and work is underway.
- Many projects under the Call for Collaboration program have been completed while some are still in the implementation phase.
- The Housing Policy Leadership Academy received over 400 applications, of which 235 (organized into eight cohorts) were selected to participate. All cohorts held their first kickoff session in February 2022.
- SCAG has held the first two out of four Housing Policy Forums, in which 400 participants attended.
- Numerous projects that focus on housing policy solutions, such as the conversion of non-residential properties to residential and development streamlining, have also kicked off in the past year.

SCAG will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to ensure that these projects help to accelerate local housing production and are completed by the REAP 2019 deadline of June 30, 2023.

## REAP 2.0 Advocacy & Early Application

The Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program of 2021 (REAP 2.0) will allocate \$246 million in funding to SCAG to support investments in a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future. To better engage SCAG's Policy Committees and our subregional partners as the agency waited to receive full funding guidelines from the state, SCAG developed an early draft framework to guide discussion on core objectives and to support the outreach and stakeholder engagement effort. In January 2022, the state released the REAP 2.0 Advance Application that will allow metropolitan planning organizations to hire staff and other support in order to engage stakeholders and develop their full REAP 2.0 applications. The Executive/Administrative Committee (EAC) and Regional Council (RC) approved a budget and staffing plan for this advance application, and in April 2022 staff presented to the EAC and RC a robust outreach and engagement plan along with a timeline for the development of the full REAP 2.0 application. The timeline includes key touchpoints with SCAG's Policy Committees to ensure that members are provided with feedback and direction. On March 24, 2022, the state released a draft of the full REAP 2.0 program guidelines. SCAG provided feedback and will use the draft guidelines to support the agency's early outreach efforts.

## GO HUMAN CAMPAIGN

Through the *Go Human* campaign, SCAG implemented several strategies to bring greater focus to community needs, engage communities, and improve traffic safety across the region. Highlights this past year include:

- SCAG's *Go Human* Community Streets Mini-Grants Program awarded more than \$275,000 in funding to 31 community-led traffic safety projects, and through those projects, reached more than 570,000 people.
- Hosted the Community Safety Ambassadors Pilot Program in three counties, supporting 48 community champions with leadership development to complete 40 local safety activations, hosted 21 robust temporary safety demonstration projects, hosted a 12-part Traffic Safety Peer Exchange series that brought together 300 partners and practitioners across the region to address safety, and hosted more than five targeted advertising campaigns, achieving more than 16 million impressions and co-branded over 7,000 safety advertisements for over 30 partners.
- Funded the implementation and construction of three demonstration projects in the cities of Costa Mesa, Culver City, and Palm Desert. Additionally, funding was secured for construction in the community of Muscoy in unincorporated Ventura County.



## **2021 SCAG REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

In May 2021, the Regional Council approved the 2021 Regional Active Transportation Program project list, providing \$93.4 million in funding for 23 projects that promote walking and biking, traffic safety, and expand opportunities for multimodal transportation options. Program guidelines established a selection process for two categories of projects: Implementation, and Planning and Capacity Building projects. The approved program allocated 87 percent of available funds to disadvantaged communities, which greatly exceeded the statewide minimum requirement of 25 percent.

## **REGIONAL BRIEFING BOOK**

Released in conjunction with the 12th Annual Southern California Economic Summit, the Regional Briefing Book provides not only a comprehensive understanding of the economic landscape and environment within the SCAG region, but also highlights strategies on how to best leverage regional competitive advantages to further accelerate inclusive economic growth and recovery. One chapter evaluates how SCAG uses equity indicators in Connect SoCal and proposes ways in which SCAG can improve its long-term planning through more effective use of equity indicators. Another chapter presents an exploratory model of “good jobs” and the factors that contribute to their growth in metropolitan regions across the country to inform SCAG’s work on a subregional jobs quality index. In addition, there is an overview of the SCAG region economy and an analysis on the economic performance and forecast for each respective county in the region.

## **HOUSING ELEMENT SUPPORT**

Over the past year, SCAG has dramatically increased its engagement with state and local partners on the development of housing element updates. Through the REAP 2019 program, SCAG has provided funding to subregional partners for data, programs, and other studies that directly support development of 6th cycle housing elements. In addition, SCAG released updates to the new Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) tool, which provides data and data layers pre-certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development that help local jurisdictions and stakeholders understand local land use and site opportunities for aligning housing planning with 6th cycle housing elements.

An aerial photograph of a winding, multi-lane highway that curves through a dense, green forest. The road is dark asphalt with white lane markings. Several cars are visible on the road. The surrounding area is lush with trees and vegetation. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road as it snakes through the landscape.

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION

SCAG maintains a state and federal legislative program, which consists of the Regional Council's positions on policies and legislative initiatives related to SCAG's core planning and policy areas. The agency advocates for policy initiatives to improve the quality of life for all throughout the six-county SCAG region.

## **STATE MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS FOCUS PRIMARILY ON HOUSING CRISIS**

A meeting with Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares (R-Santa Clarita) in May 2021 focused on a number of priorities she shares with SCAG, including seeking ways to increase housing affordability in California while finding the right balance between local control and streamlining the approval process. Another issue of importance for her office is the expansion of high-speed broadband access, especially for rural constituents.

In June 2021, SCAG's leadership met with State Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa) to discuss housing affordability and protecting local control.

SCAG's leadership met with Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Baldwin Hills) in August 2021, focusing primarily on the state's housing crisis, as well as other priorities he shares with SCAG including environmental stewardship and increased broadband access.

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 in October 2021. The roundtables, hosted by Assemblymember Laura Friedman (D-Burbank), Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-San Bernardino), and Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton), were attended by representatives from local government, labor, affordable housing developers, and business. Each roundtable offered a forum for attendees to share their perspectives on how to solve the state's housing crisis.

As a follow-up to the roundtable meetings, SCAG met with Assemblymembers Robert Rivas (D-Salinas), Timothy Grayson (D-Concord), and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), the newly appointed Chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

In mid-December 2021, SCAG's leadership met with Assemblymember Rivas who expressed his support for more local tools to address the housing affordability gap given the wide range of housing production challenges, including tax increment financing and revisiting redevelopment agencies. He also indicated that the Assembly would focus its attention on housing production and the projected budget surplus in 2022.

Later that month, a meeting was held with Assemblymember Grayson and Chair Wicks. Assemblymember Grayson expressed his support for regional solutions to the housing crisis instead of one-size-fits-all policies. As the former Chair of the City of Concord's Redevelopment Agency, Assemblymember Grayson appreciated SCAG's continued support for tax increment financing to fund housing development and the infrastructure to support it. Chair Wicks said she recognized that the state's diverse regions face different challenges to address the housing crisis and that the Housing Roundtables helped to convey that. She expressed the need for ongoing funding to incentivize the creation of affordable housing and support for housing for the "missing middle." While her ultimate goal was to focus on housing production, she stated that there would be an ongoing conversation surrounding balancing local control and meeting the state's housing production goals.

## **FEDERAL ADVOCACY CENTERED ON CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND GOODS MOVEMENT**

In November 2021, SCAG hosted meet-and-greets with two freshmen members of the Southern California Congressional Delegation. Representatives Jay Obernolte (R-Hesperia) and Young Kim (R-Fullerton), both of which assumed office in January 2021. On Nov. 16, 2021, SCAG's elected leadership and staff met with Congressman Obernolte, who expressed his long-standing support for core infrastructure, such as roads, highways, and bridges, and even expressed support for member-directed spending. On Nov. 22, 2021, SCAG's elected leadership and staff met with Congresswoman Kim, focusing on ongoing issues in the goods movement sector and a brief for our members on the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (H.R. 4996), which Congresswoman Kim co-sponsored.

## **SCAG RECEIVES STATE BUDGET EARMARK FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

The Regional Council adopted the IERS at its meeting in July 2021. Through the May budget revise, and Senate Bill 129 (2021), SCAG was awarded \$3.5 million in one-time grant funding to implement several core recommendations in the IERS that are centered around work products in five areas:

1. Supporting expansion of the number of, and access to, middle wage jobs.
2. Strengthening supply chains and access to contracting opportunities.
3. Construction apprenticeships and training.
4. Providing regional data.
5. Addressing human capital needs.

The grant funding is being implemented through an agreement with the California Workforce Development Board and work began in early 2022.

## **OTHER LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Throughout the year, SCAG's leadership and staff participated in numerous meetings with legislators at both the state and federal levels to discuss issues of importance to Southern California, as well as work to secure additional resources for the region:

- Conducted a campaign to boost the Infill Infrastructure Grant program in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 State Budget.
- Convened regional partners to pursue state budget surplus funding for SCAG region infrastructure priorities.
- Seized multiple opportunities to advance SCAG legislative priorities, with an emphasis on the State Assembly's Housing Working Group.
- Successfully eliminated proposals for problematic legislation, including bills that would have complicated the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Secured a \$480,000 federal earmark sponsored by Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla to support a regional "Highways to Boulevards" planning study.
- Developed and conveyed regional priorities for the deployment of federal infrastructure and broadband resources from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Arranged relevant and engaging Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee meetings featuring influential state and federal elected officials and opinion leaders.
- Supported SCAG members and regional partners with 167 letters of support, elevating important local projects that implement Connect SoCal.

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely San Clemente, showing a mix of residential buildings, palm trees, and a beach area. The ocean is visible in the foreground. The image is framed by a blue border.

# ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN PLANNING

SCAG works with its members and partners to advance work in local and regional planning to address the pressing issues facing the region. By providing a forum for innovation sharing, SCAG leads the region in advancing the adoption of effective and efficient technologies for improving mobility, sustainability, and equity.

## REGIONAL DATA PLATFORM LAUNCHED

In February 2022, SCAG launched the Regional Data Platform (RDP), a revolutionary system for collaborative data sharing and planning that provides modern tools and best practices to facilitate better planning for local jurisdictions. Since July 2021, SCAG and Esri worked closely with eight pilot jurisdictions to design a system that potentially enhances their planning activities and allows for greater collaboration.

One of the notable components of the RDP is the local data exchange (LDX) system, which streamlines the exchange of data with jurisdictions and partners across the region while establishing procedures and standards for geospatial data consistency. In preparing Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG is using the LDX to gather the latest information available from local jurisdictions covering land use and growth to help better understand how the region is developing and the extent to which we are meeting our climate goals. Starting in March 2022, SCAG began meeting with the subregional councils of governments and local jurisdictions to discuss the LDX process, regionally significant datasets in the SCAG Data/Map Book, and tools and resources in the RDP to facilitate a two-way data exchange. These one-on-one LDX meetings with all 197 jurisdictions will continue through September 2022.

Another key feature is the Planner's Corner, which establishes a community of planners, geographic information system (GIS) professionals, and practitioners to foster collaboration and collective learning, as well as guide the long-term growth and evolution of the RDP. As one of SCAG's largest and most transformative initiatives to date, the RDP places data and technology in the hands of local jurisdictions to support more robust, transparent, and collaborative community planning.

The RDP is now publicly available and provides access to the LDX system, web-based tools and applications to support planning, analysis, and public engagement, standardized local and regional planning datasets, an extensive library of learning resources and training materials, and simple form-based system to request technical assistance from SCAG's Local Information Services Team (LIST). Apart from the wide selection of tools that are available through the RDP, SCAG is providing technical assistance to jurisdictions through complementary Esri software licenses.

## BROADBAND ACTION PLAN

In February 2021, the Regional Council adopted a resolution that pledges SCAG to assist in bridging the digital divide in underserved communities. The resolution recognizes the digital divide and directs staff to develop a broadband program. Since the adoption of the resolution, SCAG has accomplished the following:

- Collected and invested in broadband data and develop detailed broadband maps and broadband opportunity zones.
- Assisted in securing funding for local jurisdictions and internet service providers to invest in broadband infrastructure in underserved communities.
- Conducted studies that evaluate the benefits of broadband (e.g., reduction in vehicle miles traveled).
- Developed solutions and strategies to assist in rapid deployment of broadband technology.

## SOCAL GREENPRINT AND THE REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PLANNING – ADVISORY TASK GROUP

The Regional Advance Mitigation Planning – Advisory Task Group (RAMP-ATG) was established to aid in the development of a policy framework for advance mitigation in the SCAG region, and to ensure the SoCal Greenprint is aligned with related policy objectives. The implementation of the SoCal Greenprint was paused to allow the RAMP-ATG to meet and for associated activities to take place. In addition to establishing a policy framework, the group will advise on a white paper on Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP), as well as identify the final data layers to be included in the SoCal Greenprint tool. The group will disband upon reporting to the Regional Council and Energy & Environment Committee meetings, which is expected to occur in summer or fall of 2022.



# COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

One of SCAG's roles is to facilitate discussion, develop solutions, and bring together stakeholders and partners.

SCAG helps bring many regionally significant projects and programs to fruition while serving as a place to introduce, test, and nurture new ideas for the long term benefit of the region.

## **12TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT**

The 12th Annual Southern California Economic Summit brought together leaders in business, public policy, housing, and education from across the region. Held virtually for the second year in a row, this year's program took a serious look at the ongoing recovery from the global pandemic and featured forecasts from the region's top economists. The event featured a SCAG Region Economic Update and Regional Briefing Book from SCAG's Chief Economic Advisor Wallace Walrod which showed that while Southern California has reclaimed 70 percent of the jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, the recovery ahead will be an uneven one as labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, equity gaps and inflation continue to impact the region's economy.

The panel session – moderated by Micah Weinberg, Chief Executive Officer and President, California Forward, and featuring Daryl Fairweather, Chief Economist, Redfin, David Hickey, Vice President West Business Markets, Verizon, Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor and Director, Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development, and Estelle Reyes, Senior Vice President, Enhancing Community, LA Cleantech Incubator – led to a lively discussion about the core issues threatening Southern California's ability to stay competitive and highlighted innovative approaches to kickstarting inclusive economic growth.

Keynote speaker and Global Business Columnist at The Financial Times and Global Economic Analyst at CNN, Rana Foroohar spoke to the ways the pandemic has supercharged preexisting economic issues, including economic inequality. Her address laid out a vision for true sustainable recovery and an economic future that relies less on the global and more on the local. SCAG was also thrilled to name California State Senator Susan Rubio a Legislative Champion of Economic Empowerment thanks to her outstanding work on behalf of the region's needs.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP ADDRESSES THE FUTURE FOR POST-PANDEMIC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Co-hosted by SCAG and the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy, the 32nd Annual Demographic Workshop brought together more than 400 people over the two-part event held on Tuesday, June 8, and Tuesday, June 15. This year's theme, "The Post-Pandemic City," focused on demographic changes across the region and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A demographic check-up panel covered the latest trends in migration, fertility, and vaccination, as well as the new 2020 census counts due for release. Additional panels focused on myths and realities of California's mass exodus and declining mobility, and the new trends in workplace, travel, and residential locations. Apart from a keynote address from Tiffany Chu, Senior Vice President, Remix at Via, the workshop also featured a number of expert-led roundtable discussions, focusing on the impacts of COVID-19 on education, the fiscal impacts of COVID-19, and the impacts of COVID-19 on equity.

## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETINGS**

As part of the agency's efforts to collaborate with neighboring metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), SCAG's elected and staff leadership meets periodically with their respective counterparts at neighboring MPOs to discuss topics of mutual interest, areas of cooperation, transportation planning efforts, legislative advocacy, and other activities that impact both sides of shared county lines. Over the past year, SCAG met with the Kern County Council of Governments, San Diego Association of Governments, and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to discuss a number of issues, including those pertaining to long-range transportation planning challenges, broadband and the digital divide, zero emission vehicles, equity, housing, and legislative priorities.

## **SCAG LEADERSHIP JOINS THE GOVERNOR'S SUPPLY CHAIN BUDGET PROPOSAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LISTENING SESSION**

In April 2022, SCAG joined the leadership from the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), along with partners from across the region, for a listening session to talk about future supply chain improvements. Participants included Toks Omishakin, Secretary of CalSTA; Carlos Monjeo, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation; Amit Bose, Administrator at the Federal Railroad Administration; Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor and Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development



(GO-Biz); Mitch Weiss, Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission; Jeanie Ward-Waller, Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The session included presentations from CalSTA on funding availability, port, freight and goods movement infrastructure and zero-emission infrastructure. SCAG and our regional partners also had an opportunity to share examples of projects from across Southern California and discuss the future of goods movement in the region.

## **BIZFED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET AND GREET**

SCAG leadership attended the BizFed pre-meeting Meet and Greet for its August 2021 Board of Directors meeting to meet with key stakeholders from the region and discuss SCAG and agency priorities. The pre-meeting Meet and Greet included a brief introduction to SCAG, which was followed by a brief question-and-answer period for attendees. BizFed hosts Meet and Greets with key stakeholders in the Los Angeles region before their board meetings so that many of their members can learn from and meet important guests.

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY WATER TASK FORCE PRESENTATION**

SCAG leadership presented at the Riverside County Water Task Force on the impacts of growth on the Riverside region and water resources. Much of the discussion focused on changes in technology and building practices that could assist in reaching regional housing goals.

## **TOURS AROUND THE REGION**

### **Omnitrans and San Bernardino Transit Center**

In September 2021, SCAG leadership and a number of Regional Council members visited the Omnitrans San Bernardino facility and the San Bernardino Transit Center. The visit began with a briefing from the Omnitrans executive team and continued to a tour of the Omnitrans West Valley Facility and a bus ride in a new Omnitrans electric bus. The tour concluded at the San Bernardino Transit Center, a transit center with public services and the site for a potential transit-oriented development project.

### **City of Anaheim**

SCAG elected and staff leadership joined City Councilmember Trevor O'Neill and senior city officials for an informative presentation and tour of some of the exciting happenings in the City of Anaheim. Topics covered included the city's housing element and recent affordable housing developments, Smart Center City Anaheim parking guidance and mobile application (which received SCAG grant funding), and the income-qualified electric vehicle rideshare program developed by Anaheim's municipal public utility. Participants also learned about the proposed pedestrian-friendly ocV!be project that will bring many benefits for Anaheim residents and visitors, which is one of many recent projects in the city that have placed a strong emphasis on walkability and overall quality of life.

### **County of Imperial**

SCAG leadership joined local Regional Council members for a tour of several regionally significant projects underway in the County of Imperial. The tour began with an up-close look at the Calexico, U.S./Mexico land Ports of Entry border improvement projects that will improve the flow of goods and people, further supporting the region's ongoing economic recovery. The tour also allowed for an opportunity to see the county's vast agricultural area by highlighting the area's vital role as an agricultural leader in the state and nation. The tour concluded with a visit to the Salton Sea area's Geothermal Fields where investments in lithium extraction and further geothermal energy development will help the state continue to meet the future needs for clean, reliable energy.

### **Regional Goods Movement Hubs**

In February 2022, SCAG leadership joined Congresswoman Young Kim for a tour of the Port of Los Angeles to learn about the challenges facing our supply chain, and how SCAG can support this vital industry through convenings of all the critical stakeholders. The same month, SCAG leadership took a tour of Ontario International Airport, which focused on the new FedEx distribution center and how air cargo and the airport are integrating into the expanding goods movement industry in the Inland Empire.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## **SCAG WINS 2021 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR *GO HUMAN* CAMPAIGN**

In June 2021, SCAG was honored with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for the agency's *Go Human* active transportation and public safety campaign. The NARC Achievement Award is designed to recognize excellence in programs and services of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations, thereby contributing to better and more efficient government.

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK WINS 2021 APA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY**

In June 2021, the American Planning Association (APA) selected the Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework as the winner in the Policy, Law or Tool category of the 2021 APA Sustainable Communities Division Awards for Excellence in Sustainability. The award honors projects, plans, policies, individuals, and organizations whose work is dedicated to supporting sustainable communities.

## **SCAG'S *GO HUMAN* CAMPAIGN WINS 2021 PETER K. O'ROURKE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE GOVERNORS HIGHWAY SAFETY ASSOCIATION**

At the Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting in September 2021, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign was recognized with the Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Award, which recognizes notable achievements in the field of highway safety by individuals, coalitions, organizations, nonprofit groups, businesses, media, government agencies, universities, or programs.

## **SCAG'S *GO HUMAN* CAMPAIGN RECEIVES CALTRANS EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION AWARD**

In January 2022, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign was recognized by Caltrans with an Excellence in Transportation award for the project, "From Pop Up to Permanent: A Model for Community-Centered Public Engagement." The award recognizes SCAG's efforts across the region through the *Go Human* campaign to foster champions for active transportation safety at the local level through a variety of strategies such as the Kit of Parts, an engagement tool to temporarily demonstrate potential and planned street design treatments and safety infrastructure that encourage the use of streets as public space.



*Joshua Tree National Park - Riverside County*



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## REGIONAL OFFICES

### IMPERIAL COUNTY

1503 North Imperial Ave., Ste. 104  
El Centro, CA 92243  
Tel: (213) 236-1967

### ORANGE COUNTY

OCTA Building  
600 South Main St., Ste. 741  
Orange, CA 92868  
Tel: (213) 236-1997

### RIVERSIDE COUNTY

3403 10th St., Ste. 805  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Tel: (951) 784-1513

### SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

1170 West 3rd St., Ste. 140  
San Bernardino, CA 92410  
Tel: (213) 236-1925

### VENTURA COUNTY

4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Ste. L  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
Tel: (213) 236-1960

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