



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES
(COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD);
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC); AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC))
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.ig2.com/Citizens/>

The Joint Policy Committees of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

CEHD Members Present:

Hon. Frank Yokoyama (Chair)	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Shapiro (Vice Chair)	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Cindy Allen	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Valerie Amezcua	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Don Caskey	<i>Laguna Hills</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Tanya Doby	<i>Los Alamitos</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada	<i>Ontario, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Ms. Lucy Dunn	Business Representative	Ex-Officio
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Bob Engler	<i>Thousand Oaks</i>	VCOG
Hon. Rose Espinoza	<i>La Habra</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Waymond Fermon	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Claudia M. Frometa	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Marshall Goodman	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Mark Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	<i>Brea</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Lynda Johnson	<i>Cerritos</i>	GCCOG



Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2
Hon. Lauren Kleiman	<i>Newport Beach</i>	District 15
Sup. Matt LaVere	<i>Ventura County</i>	CoC
Hon. Anni Marshall	<i>Avalon</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Rep.</i>	
Hon. Casey McKeon	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. John Mirisch	<i>Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Joseph Morabito	<i>Wildomar</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Zizette Mullins	<i>Burbank</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Joseph Murphy	<i>Pechanga Band of Indians</i>	
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Ariel Pe	<i>Lakewood</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Freddy Puza	<i>Culver City</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Gabriel Reyes	<i>San Bernardino County</i>	CoC
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	<i>Bellflower</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Becky Shevlin	<i>Monrovia</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Mary Solorio	<i>San Fernando</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Helen Tran	<i>San Bernardino</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	<i>Fontana</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Tony Wu	<i>West Covina</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Frank Zerunyan	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG

CEHD Members Not Present:

Hon. Al Austin, II	<i>Long Beach</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Bobby Duncan	<i>Yucaipa</i>	SBCTA
Hon. John Gabbard	<i>Dana Point</i>	District 12
Hon. Camilo Garcia	<i>Imperial County</i>	CoC
Hon. Tammy Kim	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. Jed Leano	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Carlos A. Leon	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Geneva Mojado	<i>Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians</i>	
Hon. George A. Nava	<i>Brawley</i>	ICTC
Hon. Misty Perez	<i>Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Andrew Sarega	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31



EEC Members Present:

Hon. Deborah Robertson (Chair)	Rialto	District 8
Sup. Luis Plancarte (Vice Chair)		Imperial County
Hon. Ana Beltran	<i>Westmoreland</i>	ICTC
Hon. Phil Brock	<i>Santa Monica</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Ned Davis	<i>Westlake Village</i>	LVMCOG
Hon. Rick Denison	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Carmen Hernandez	<i>Barstow</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Shari Horne	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Dan Kalmick	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Steven Leash	<i>Cahuilla Band of Indians</i>	
Hon. Elaine Litster	<i>Simi Valley</i>	VCOG
Hon. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	District 41
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	District 66
Hon. Daniel Ramos	<i>Adelanto</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Nicholas Schultz	<i>Burbank</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Jennifer Stark	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Taj	<i>Artesia, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Tamala Takahashi	<i>Burbank</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Connor Traut	<i>Buena Park</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Dale Welty	<i>Canyon Lake</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG

EEC Members Not Present:

Hon. Damon L. Alexander	<i>San Bernardino</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Art Bishop	<i>Apple Valley</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Robert Copeland	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Maria Davila	<i>South Gate</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios	<i>Ventura</i>	VCOG
Hon. Stephanie Virgen	<i>Coachella</i>	CVAG

TC Members Present:

Hon. Tim Sandoval (Chair)	Pomona	District 38
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Hon. Mike T. Judge (Vice Chair)

Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler *Alhambra*
 Hon. Liz Becerra *Victorville*
 Hon. Brian Berkson *Jurupa Valley, Pres. Appt.*
 Hon. Russel Betts *Desert Hot Springs*
 Hon. Art Brown *Buena Park*
 Hon. Ross Chun *Aliso Viejo*
 Hon. Denise Delgado *Coachella, Pres. Appt.*
 Hon. Jonathan Dumitru *Orange*
 Hon. John Dutrey *Montclair*
 Hon. James Gazeley *Lomita*
 Hon. Jason Gibbs *Santa Clarita*
 Hon. Curt Hagman
 Hon. Jan Harnik
 Hon. Laura Hernandez *Port Hueneme*
 Hon. Lauren Hughes-Leslie *Lancaster*
 Hon. Fred Jung *Fullerton*
 Hon. Trish Kelley
 Hon. Linda Krupa *Hemet*
 Hon. Malcolm Lilienthal *Hemet*
 Hon. Richard Loa *Palmdale*
 Hon. Clint Lorimore *Eastvale*
 Hon. Ken Mann *Lancaster*
 Hon. Steve Manos *Lake Elsinore*
 Hon. Ray Marquez *Chino Hills*
 Hon. Larry McCallon *Highland*
 Hon. Marsha McLean *Santa Clarita*
 Hon. L. Dennis Michael *Rancho Cucamonga*
 Hon. Linda Molina *Calimesa, Pres. Appt.*
 Hon. Carol Moore *Laguna Woods*
 Hon. Ara Najarian *Glendale*
 Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich
 Hon. Frank Navarro *Colton*
 Hon. Sharona Nazarian *Beverly Hills*
 Hon. Gil Rebolgar *Brawley*
 Hon. Celeste Rodriguez *San Fernando*
 Hon. Ed Reece *Claremont*
 Hon. Crystal Ruiz *San Jacinto*

VCTC

District 34
 District 65
 Member at Large
 CVAG
 District 21
 OCCOG
 Member at Large
 District 17
 SBCTA/SBCCOG
 District 39
 NCTC
 San Bernardino County
 RCTC
 District 45
 NCTCJPA
 OCCOG
 TCA
 District 3
 WRCOG
 NCTC
 District 4
 District 43
 District 63
 District 10
 District 7
 District 67
 District 9
 Member at Large
 OCCOG
 SFVCOG
 ICTC
 District 6
 WSCCOG
 District 1
 District 67
 SGVCOG
 WRCOG



Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Zak Schwank	<i>Temecula</i>	District 5
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Ward Smith	<i>Placentia</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Jose Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Hon. Cynthia Sternquist	<i>Temple City</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Michael Vargas	<i>CoC</i>	Riverside County
Hon. Don Wagner		Orange County
Hon. Wallace, Colleen	<i>Banning</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Alan Wapner		SBCTA/SBCOG
Hon. Thomas Wong	<i>Monterey Park</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Jeff Wood	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Mr. Marlon Regisford	<i>Caltrans District 7</i>	Ex-Officio Member

TC Members Not Present:

Hon. Ashleigh Aitken	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Konstantine Anthony	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Hon. Daniel Brotman	<i>Glendale</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Jeanette Burns	<i>Morongo Band of Mission Indians</i>	
Hon. Andrew Do	<i>CoC</i>	Orange County
Hon. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Paul Krekorian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49
Hon. Bridgett Lewis	<i>Torrance, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Tim McOsker	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Jeremy Smith	<i>Canyon Lake, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Wes Speake	<i>Corona</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Scott Voigts	<i>Lake Forest</i>	OCCOG

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer



Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Jefferey Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Art Brown called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. President Brown asked the Honorable Ray Marquez, Chino Hills, District 10, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Brown opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG’s jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

There were no public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there were no public comments received before the 5:00 p.m. deadline.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Brown closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no reprioritization of items.

ACTION ITEM

Action on Items No. 1, No. 2 and the Consent Calendar were acted upon together. The roll call vote is reflected below.

1. Connect SoCal 2024: Recommendation to Approve the Final 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

President Brown explained that SCAG leads the region, bridging state and federal priorities with their local plans and that this requires balancing various needs with the vision for the future. He noted that Connect SoCal 2024 was four years in the making, and they had many discussions and

presentations along the way. He indicated that as this plan moved forward, SCAG would support local government in implementing various elements of the plan through funding administration, research and resources.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, reported that last September, this body met to recommend that the Regional Council approve the draft Plan for release for public review and comment, which occurred on November 2nd. At this meeting, he indicated that staff would present the comments received during that draft release period and outline changes underway for the final proposed plan. He expressed that they were confident in moving forward with the final proposed plan, yet they also acknowledge and welcomed discussion on issues raised that could not be directly addressed in the plan itself. He noted that the anticipated adoption of this plan was a milestone, not a finish line and that this Plan would keep the region moving forward, but there was still more work to be done.

Sarah Dominguez, Planning Supervisor, shared that on November 2nd they released the draft plan for public review and comment which kicked off a 71-day comment period that closed on January 12th. She mentioned that staff read and responded to over 1,800 comments on the draft plan, and they were in the process of updating the proposed plan documents which would be available in advance of the April 4th Regional Council meeting. She also noted that there were some commenters and comments that raised issues or asked questions beyond what they could feasibly address in this plan and that those topics would be for future discussion. She also provided a brief overview of what Connect SoCal is and noted that the plan is expected to meet the state's requirement of a 19% per capita reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2035. She also noted that Connect SoCal looks 20 years into the future to outline their transportation investments, planned land use, and a suite of programs, policies and strategies to help them reach their goals. She shared that the plan development included many steps and explained that the plan benefited from the insights and direction of stakeholders, representatives of transportation agencies, local jurisdictions, and other organizations and individuals who participated in SCAG working groups or provided formal input to the plan's project list or development pattern, in addition to the three special subcommittees who were able to explore deeper policy issues that provided guidance on the Plan. She also shared that the Policy Committees and Regional Council saw over 100 staff reports on various aspects of the plan policy and development. She also noted that staff engaged the public and community-based organizations on key stages of the plan and that during the draft review and comment period from November to January they held 15 elected official briefings and 3 public hearings. She also presented a summary of the feedback received and changes being made to the Plan. She noted key themes included the confusion regarding the applicability of the CARB's 2022 scoping plan target and the questioning of SCAG's inclusion of roadway projects within the plan. She clarified that the plan included significant investments in active transportation and transit, and that the detail provided on roadway projects did not accurately represent the investments in non-auto projects. She emphasized that staff had prepared a written response to each of the comments which would be documented and included in the appendices of the final public participation and consultation

Technical Report. She also highlighted revisions to the mobility goal, project adjustments, and changes to the forecasted regional development pattern. She discussed the addition of SCS consistency language and minor edits to regional planning policies and implementation strategies. She also noted that they were applying modeling enhancements and improvements to the plan; however, two quantified GHG emission reduction strategies were being removed as per feedback from CARB. She also noted topics that will need further discussion and policy direction which were beyond this plan cycle, such as comprehensive sustainable freight planning, addressing VMT increases from roadway capacity-increasing projects, aligning growth and regional resilience, supporting the clean energy transition, ensuring equity and the transition to user fees, identifying the needs and strategies for housing infrastructure investments, and reforming Senate Bill 375.

Karen Calderon, Project Manager for the Program Environmental Impact Report, explained that preparation of the plan triggers the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and since 2012 SCAG had been meeting their CEQA requirements through a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). She provided an overview of the public outreach process to engage with various stakeholders and noted that Attachment 1 of the staff report summarized all their public outreach efforts to date. She also indicated that they took all the input and public comments into consideration when they released the draft back in November for a 65-day public comment period. She reported that there were three components to the proposed final PEIR and discussed the addition of two new chapters to the draft plan in response to comments received, which included revisions, responses to comments, and clarifications. She explained the first component was the draft comprised of the executive summary, Chapters 1 through 7, and 7 technical appendices, which was 14,000 pages. She further explained that the second component was the response to comments chapter and noted they had received 33 comment letters and 700 unique comments from a large range of commenters, including sovereign nations, state agencies, federal agencies, and other organizations. She indicated there were six reoccurring themes from the comments and noted that the most common CEQA topics raised were mitigation measures and alternatives. The last component was Chapter 9, Clarifications and Revisions which was organized into three categories: 1) revisions to the plan since publication of the 2024 draft PEIR, 2) response to comments on the 2024 draft PEIR, and 3) staff-initiated clarification and revisions. She clarified that after gathering all this information, they analyzed the changes to the draft to ensure that no recirculation was needed. She shared that there was additional CEQA required information which was the mitigation and monitoring report, the findings of fact, and the statement of overriding considerations that would be exhibits that live outside of the PEIR but were not used to support the Regional Council decision making related to the PEIR.

Sarah Dominguez indicated they were seeking two actions from the JPC, one that the Regional Council certify the PEIR and the other that the Regional Council approve the proposed final Connect SoCal 2024. She indicated that next steps after this meeting were to release the proposed final PEIR on March 25, 2024, which was 10 days prior to the intended certification date and two

steps above and beyond CEQA requirements. She indicated they anticipated posting the proposed final Connect SoCal 2024, and related technical reports in advance of the April 4th Regional Council. She explained that next steps would be to seek the certification of the final PEIR at the April 4th Regional Council meeting prior to approving adoption of Connect SoCal 2024 at the same meeting. She indicated that pending those Regional Council actions, SCAG would file the CEQA Notice of Determination and would submit the final plan to Federal and State regulatory agencies.

Executive Director Ajise expressed a sense of pride for what they had all accomplished as a region. He briefly touched upon the comments they had received and indicated it was a testament to the active participation by people around region, both public and private. He indicated that the plan balances various needs with a vision for the future. He addressed the need for a multi-modal plan that includes the maintenance and operation of existing systems, along with capacity enhancement projects. He emphasized the importance of balancing mobility options, including investment in transit and active transportation. He also highlighted a new focus on housing in the regional transportation plan, acknowledging the connection between transportation and housing. Lastly, he touched on the need to reform SB 375 and the challenges it presents.

The following public comment speakers expressed support for the plan and urged approval by the Regional Council: Amy Bodeck, Director of Regional Planning in Los Angeles County; Richard Lambros, Managing Director of the Southern California Leadership Council; Chris Wilson from the Los Angeles Business Federation (BizFed); Benjamin Lopez, Policy Director with the Inland Empire Economic Partnership; Nayiri Baghdassarian, Director of Public Policy for the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership; and Carlos Rodriguez from the Building Industry Association of Southern California.

Eli Lipman from Move LA touched on three items and the first one was population. He indicated that the report plans for more people in their region and in the last couple of years they had seen a decline in population in Southern California. He indicated that he believed that it was important in this plan, and especially in the next plan, that they consider alternative scenarios where they either have a population that levels off or a population that potentially declines. He also addressed the road pricing and indicated they were not seeing any movement in the region, or at the state level. He indicated he was concerned that there wasn't some urgency around this by local transportation commissions, SCAG, or the State which left a large hole in the plan in terms of mitigation. Lastly, he touched on the scoring system that SCAG established for projects and what gets funded and prioritized in terms of funding regionally for CMAQ and other Federal funding programs. He expressed this was a problem.

There were no additional comments on Item 1 and 2.

First Vice President Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County, congratulated everyone who was present at the Joint Policy Committee (JPC), the Regional Council, and staff. He expressed they were thankful that staff works to set the goal for Southern California and to set a vision for them to work together as counties and cities to really take care of their residents going forward. He moved the motion as amended by staff.

Policy Committee Member John Mirisch, Beverly Hills, expressed the importance of addressing ecological overshoot and not just climate change. He also agreed with Eli Lipman's point about population and believed they needed to be looking at a stable population or even a loss of population. He also touched upon the role of public transportation and stated there was a need to focus on practicality and making it competitive with driving. He also highlighted the importance of affordability, social equity, and the integration of autonomous vehicle technology into public transportation. He also expressed support for homeownership and noted that he thought the focus on allowing people who have been excluded from home ownership in the past needed to be a big focus. He also emphasized that as a group they needed to support anti-speculation housing bills. He expressed this was a milestone and thanked everybody for the hard work.

Policy Committee Member Tanya Doby, Los Alamitos, expressed her gratitude for the work they did on the plan. She also suggested that they consider inserting hyperlinks when referencing other parts of the plan for clarity.

Policy Committee Member Daniel Ramos, Adelanto, thanked staff and the entire team for the countless of hours and hard work that they put into the plan. He proceeded to second Regional Council Member Hagman's motion.

Policy Committee Member Ed Wilson, Signal Hill, thanked staff and all the partners in this process. He expressed he was happy to see that they were not only addressing sustainability but affordability and social equity in the plan. He also noted that the potential impact of emerging technologies like drones on airspace management should be considered in the future.

Regional Council Member Trish Kelley, TCA, thanked everyone and staff for the hard work that went into this process. She expressed she was troubled by the awkward position that they had been placed in because they were being asked to recommend approval to the Regional Council of a proposed final Connect SoCal plan and final EIR and they did not have those documents before them. She expressed appreciation that the staff report summarizes the general approach to responding to the public comments and identified some recommended changes, but it did not avoid the fact that they were being asked to approve documents that were not in their possession. She asked if they needed a recommendation from the JPC on this day, when did the transportation conformity for the current plan lapse, and how much time were they legally bound by to provide the adopted plan to the Federal agencies for review.

Executive Director Ajise clarified that the documents that they were recommending approval on had not changed and that was why they only heard about the changes that were addressed in the agenda package that they had. He further clarified that they only saw the changes that they noted in the document and that the main documents were still the same and there were no significant changes to that document. He indicated there was no need to recirculate the entire package. In terms of timing, he indicated that they needed approval to be able to get the plan to the State who usually takes about 60 days to review and provide approval. He also noted that the conformity timeline was in June. He also clarified that the plan and the EIR were circulated on November 2 and that there was a link in the packet to the documents.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, also noted that the documents were on SCAG's website.

Policy Committee Member Carol Moore, Laguna Woods, thanked staff for all the hard work that went into this. She expressed concern about the environment and indicated that they wanted good air quality and had to plan for it. She indicated that she noticed a variety of views by the commenters and that despite their being one plan they weren't forcing everyone into one plan. She expressed that she did not believe that people wanted to be forced into high density. She asked that they continue to listen to all people to make sure that all voices are heard.

Policy Committee Member Tamala Takahashi, Burbank, thanked staff for the hard work on this and expressed appreciation for all the outreach to the stakeholders and the various interests. She indicated it was really encouraging to hear so much positive support for the plan from different sectors that otherwise may have conflicting interest. She expressed she liked 1) the focus on looking at this plan as an investment in their future rather than a reaction to what they have to do; 2) the framework of looking at it as creating a backbone for public transit and a backbone for active transit versus trying to overlay; and 3) the framework of creating choice, it's not forcing anybody out of their cars and it's not making people do things they don't want do. She also emphasized the importance of choice for users in public transit and the need to measure success by meeting user needs, not just ridership numbers. She raised a question about the potential impact of the HLA law on future plans.

Policy Committee Member Masha McLean, Santa Clarita, echoed the comments and thanked staff for putting the plan together. She acknowledged comments by Council Member Mirisch regarding the time it takes to take public transportation and driving time. She expressed concern over the punitive nature of VMT and highlighted the need for advocacy for public transportation.

Policy Committee Member Phil Brock, Santa Monica, echoed comments by Council Member Mirisch about making sure that public transit competes with automobiles. He also expressed the importance of safety in public transportation.

Regional Council Member Karen Spiegel, Riverside County, also expressed concern on the importance of safety in public transportation. She also discussed cost efficiency, the need to allocate taxpayer dollars effectively, and enticing ridership. She also expressed concern about VMT.

Regional Council Member Lauren Meister, West Hollywood, District 41, stated that they needed to look at last mile and active transportation and the other modes of transportation like e-scooters and the delivery robots which were not necessarily safe. She indicated these were things they needed to look at in the future. She also agreed with comments made by Council Member Mirisch regarding climate resilience and noted that they needed to show their support for the environment in general.

Board Counsel Duran noted that there were two related items (Item 1: Connect SoCal and Item 2: EIR) and the minutes on the Consent Calendar. Given the size of this body, he alluded to taking one vote on all items.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

2. Recommendation to Certify the Connect SoCal 2024 Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337)

First Vice President Curt Hagman amended his motion to include Item 1, Item 2 and the minutes on the Consent Calendar. Policy Committee Member Ramos seconded the amended motion.

There were no public comments on the Item 2 and the Consent Calendar Item 3.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meetings – September 7, 2023

A MOTION was made (Hagman) to approve **Item 1:** to recommend that the Regional Council approve the proposed final 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, Connect SoCal 2024, the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Consistency Amendment #23-26 and the associated proposed final transportation conformity analysis; **Item 2:** to recommend that the Regional Council certify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report

(PEIR) for Connect SoCal 2024 and direct staff to carry out administrative tasks for the Final PEIR certification; and the **Consent Calendar**: Item 3. Motion was SECONDED (Ramos). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: (CEHD) Allen, Amezcua, Boyer, Boyles, Bucknum, Doby, Dorst-Porada, Eich, Engler, Fermon, Finlay, Goodman, Henderson, Hupp, Johnson, Kelly, LaVere, Marshall, Masiel, McKeon, Mirisch, Morabito, Mullins, Murphy, Pe, Puza, Reyes, Rhodes, Santa Ines, Shapiro, Shevlin, Solorio, Tran, Waronek, Warren, Yokoyama; Zerunyan (EEC) Beltran, Brock, Clark, Crosswhite, Davis, Denison, C. Hernandez, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Leash, Litster, Lopez, Meister, Ortiz, Plancarte, Ramos, Stark, Taj, Takahashi, Traut, Welty, Wilson; (TC) Andrade-Stadler, Becerra, Berkson, Betts, Brown, Chun, Delgado, Dumitru, Dutrey, Gazeley, Gibbs, Hagman, Harnik, L. Hernandez, Hughes-Leslie, Judge, Krupa, Lilienthal, Loa, Lorimore, Mann, Manos, Marquez, McCallon, McLean, Michael, Molina, Moore, Najarian, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Nazarian, Rebollar, Reece, C. Rodriguez, Ruiz, Saleh, Sandoval, Schwank, Simonoff, W. Smith, Solache, Spiegel, Sternquist, Vargas, Wagner, Wallace, Wapner, Wong, and Wood (111)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Kelley (1)

ADJOURNMENT

President Brown indicated they would conclude the meeting with a special tribute to SCAG Senior Regional Planner John Asuncion who passed away after a long and heroic battle with cancer. He shared that John served the agency for more than 17 years and was a beloved member of the SCAG family. He took a moment of silence to remember John and sent regards to those who knew and loved John.

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the Joint Policy Committee meeting in memory of John Asuncion at 11:09 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES]

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