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SPECIAL MEETING

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Monday, November 16, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

To Watch or View Only:

<http://scag.ca.gov/LiveStream>

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<https://scag.zoom.us/j/95001689639>

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Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 950 0168 9639

***Please see next page for detailed
instructions on how to participate in the meeting.***

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Given recent public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Rachel Wagner at (213) 236-1960 or via email at wagner@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 236-1960. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



Instructions for Public Comments

You may submit public comments in two (2) ways:

1. Submit written comments via email to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 9am on Monday, November 16, 2020.

All written comments received after 9am on Monday, November 16, 2020 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

2. If participating via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period, use the “raise hand” function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

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In accordance with SCAG’s Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is “willfully interrupted” and the “orderly conduct of the meeting” becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

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3. Select “Join Audio via Computer.”
4. The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, “Please wait for the host to start this meeting,” simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
5. During the Public Comment Period, use the “raise hand” function located in the participants’ window and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

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1. Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue calling until you connect successfully.
2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 950 0168 9639**, followed by #.
3. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing # to continue.
4. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
5. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
6. During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments

Remote Participation Only

Monday, November 16

3:00PM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Honorable Rex Richardson, Chair)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments by sending an email to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 9am on Monday, November 16, 2020. Such comments will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Written comments received after 9am on Monday, November 16, 2020 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to verbally address the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice will be allowed up to 3 minutes to speak, with the presiding officer retaining discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting. The presiding officer has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of comments received and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Defining Regional Equity 60 Mins.
(Charles T. Brown, Founder and Managing Principal of Equitable Cities, LLC)
2. Update on Defining Equity 15 Mins.
(Dorothy Le Suchkova, Senior Regional Planner)
3. Equity Inventory and Framework Update 15 Mins.
(Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager, and Anita Au, Associate Planner)
4. SCAG's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Plan Update 15 Mins.
(Renee Lutz, Human Resources Analyst)
5. SCAG Public Participation Plan Update 10 Mins.
(Rachel Wagner, Regional Affairs Officer)

ADJOURNMENT



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
November 16, 2020

To: Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Dorothy Suchkova, Senior Regional Planner,
(213) 236-1932, suchkova@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Update on Defining Equity

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SCAG staff has updated a draft working agency-wide definition of “equity” based on Committee feedback, as follows: As central to SCAG’s work, equity describes the actions, policies and practices that eliminate bias and barriers to create opportunities for all people, and especially historically and systemically marginalized people, to be healthy and prosperous and to participate fully in civic life.

Per SCAG Resolution No. 20-623-2, the Regional Council is seeking guidance from the committee on an agency-wide definition of equity to build a shared understanding as part of a broader set of recommended policies to advance equity within the agency and region.

BACKGROUND:

On July 2, 2020, SCAG’s Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-623-2, affirming its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and declaring its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve the region’s communities of color. The resolution called for the formation of an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to further develop SCAG’s response to advancing social justice throughout the agency’s activities and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. The staff report accompanying the resolution outlined work for the Special Committee, including:

- Establishing an agency-wide definition of “equity” to build a shared understanding;

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-
- Developing an Equity Inventory Report, which would catalogue the existing equity-related activities throughout SCAG's departments; and
 - Establishing an Equity Framework containing quantitative and qualitative indicators of existing inequities and disparities that exist in the region, and how communities and people in the region experience SCAG's desired outcomes.

Feedback on Working Definition

After presenting the working definition of equity at the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice meeting on September 24, 2020, staff worked to include feedback from Committee members including:

- Using more humane language i.e., pointing to actual people being affected and less on using aggregate terms and demographic numbers.
- Showing the intersectionality and connectedness of the issues.
- Stating that policies and practices should change.
- Building out the core concepts and glossary of further definitions.

In addition, SCAG staff participated in an agency-wide survey and provided feedback regarding the working definition, which included clarifying and defining terminology such as "historically and systemically marginalized"^{1,2} and "expansion of power."

Updated Draft Working Definition of Equity

After incorporating feedback from the Special Committee and agency-wide survey, staff drafted an updated working definition of equity: As central to SCAG's work, equity describes the actions, policies and practices that eliminate bias and barriers to create opportunities for all people, and especially historically and systemically marginalized people, to be healthy and prosperous and to participate fully in civic life.

Core Concepts and Lexicon

As a part of building out the definition for an equitable region, staff is drafting related terms to provide a core concepts glossary of definitions to establish a lexicon for shared understanding, which will include but not be limited to:

Core Concepts

¹ Historically marginalized: Being denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States. (Oregon Metro)

² Systemically marginalized: Socioeconomic condition of disadvantage created by socially constructed inequitable forces of bias. (Human Geography, 2000)

-
- Racism
 - Racial justice
 - Social justice
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Discrimination
 - Prejudice
 - Privilege
 - White Supremacy
 - Historically marginalized
 - Systemically marginalized
 - Power (institutional)
 - Intersectionality
 - Distributional, procedural, and structural equity
 - Explicit and implicit bias

Equity Dimensions/Aspects/Lenses/Fields

Specific aspects to equity include housing, infrastructure, economic, environmental, health and food. Staff plans to draft and describe key dimensions of equity in order to further understand how to build an equitable region.

Next Steps

SCAG staff plans to share the final agency-wide working definition of equity and related terms to internal and external stakeholders, including Departments and Technical Working Groups. Staff will bring back its findings to the Committee for further feedback and refinement as part of its recommendations to the Regional Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Overall Work Program for fiscal year 2020-21.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation: Updates on Defining Equity
-

Update on Defining Equity

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

Monday, November 16, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

www.scag.ca.gov



Feedback from Special Committee and All-Staff Survey



Feedback from Special Committee

- Using more humane language i.e, pointing to actual people being affected and less on using aggregate terms and demographic numbers.
- Showing the intersectionality and connectedness of the issues.
- Stating that policies and practices should change.
- Building out the core concepts and glossary of further definitions.

Feedback from All-Staff Survey

- Clarifying and defining terminology such as “historically and systemically marginalized” and "expansion of power.”
- Review for conciseness

Updated Equity Definition Working Draft

Draft Presented on 9/24/20

At SCAG, equity is the identification, acknowledgement, mitigation and ultimately, the elimination of barriers that historically and systemically marginalized groups face in achieving socio-economic success, and the commitment to the expanding of power, prosperity, and wealth toward those groups as central to SCAG's work and influence in Southern California.

Updated Draft

As central to SCAG's work, equity describes the actions, policies and practices that eliminate bias and barriers to create opportunities for all people, and especially historically and systemically marginalized people, to be healthy and prosperous and to participate fully in civic life.

**Historically marginalized: Being denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States. (Oregon Metro)*

**Systemically marginalized: Socioeconomic condition of disadvantage created by socially constructed inequitable forces of bias. (Human Geography, 2000)*

Equity Core Concepts

- Core Concepts (equity-related terms- establishing a SCAG lexicon)
 - Racism
 - Racial justice
 - Social justice
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Discrimination
 - Prejudice
 - Privilege
 - White Supremacy
 - Historically marginalized
 - Systemically marginalized
 - Power (institutional)
 - Intersectionality
 - Distributional, procedural, and structural equity
 - Explicit and implicit bias

Additional dimensions include and are not limited to housing, infrastructure, economic, environmental, health and food.



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
November 16, 2020

To: Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager,
(213) 236-1990, Aguirre@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Equity Inventory and Framework Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Equity Inventory Report will document how SCAG's Planning Division currently incorporates equity considerations into its activities or where equity considerations can be incorporated into existing or future activities. The Equity Inventory Report is functioning as a first step towards conducting an organizational self-assessment. The completed inventory will be provided to the Committee in advance of the next meeting to inform a discussion on recommendations to guide and sustain SCAG's regional leadership in service of equity and social justice.

BACKGROUND:

In July, SCAG's Regional Council made a commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California. SCAG recognizes that for the region to become healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient, it needs to dramatically improve outcomes for low income families and communities of color. To that end, SCAG's core function, its planning work, must directly address the long-standing systemic and institutional barriers that have fostered inequities in health, wealth, and opportunities. Over the course of the next year, SCAG staff will develop an Equity Framework to help facilitate the consistent integration of equity into its planning work. The Equity Framework will provide the structure and guidance for Planning Division staff to be well equipped to work towards ending the legacy of inequity that exists within the region. However, before developing the Equity Framework, SCAG leadership and staff need to have a better understanding of current agency practices around equity.

As a first step towards developing the larger strategic approach, SCAG staff have initiated work on an Equity Inventory, which will catalogue existing Planning Division work that considers equity and

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identify additional areas where equity could be integrated. The Equity Inventory will provide a holistic snapshot of how the entire Planning Division currently integrates equity considerations into its work. The Equity Inventory objectives include:

- Helping SCAG gather baseline data and information in order to self-identify areas for change and improvement;
- Spurring dialogue within SCAG's Planning Division that leads to greater understanding and commitment to address issues of equity;
- Facilitating the sharing of information, resources, mutual support, and improvement tools;
- Building shared accountability across the Planning Division; and
- Developing a baseline assessment that can be used to evaluate where SCAG is in its progress towards integrating and advancing equity.

All Planning Division staff will be engaged in this effort, including those working on active transportation, goods movement, housing, performance monitoring, programming, public health, public participation, sustainability, transit/rail, transportation finance, and transportation safety. The Equity Inventory will include input from each major program area, including information on what is being done or could be done to advance equity, whether coordination or collaboration with others is occurring, why the work is being done (e.g., federal or state requirements), and how equity is being considered within the context of each unique program or project. As staff assess their current work, they are being asked to consider:

- **Place:** Is the policy, initiative, program, or budget benefitting low income and/or communities of color as defined by Environmental Justice Area, Communities of Concern, and SB 535 Disadvantaged Areas included in the Connect SoCal Environmental Justice Technical Report?
- **People:** Which vulnerable populations are impacted by or are benefitting from the policy, initiative, program or budget? Have we identified these populations based on population characteristics, location, or both?
- **Process:** Does the work involve intentional collaboration with vulnerable populations? Which best practices for meaningful engagement have we been implementing? Are we already or have we considered sharing as much decision-making power as feasible? Are there formal agreements to define collaboration?
- **Impact:** How may the policy, initiative, program or budget increase equity? How may the policy, initiative, program or budget decrease inequality in income or wealth? How may the policy, initiative, program or budget ensure safety and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities?

In reviewing the compiled information from all teams, SCAG staff anticipates assessing:

-
- What are the existing definitions of equity being used throughout the Planning Division? How are they similar or different?
 - What are the existing equity goals, objectives, outputs, or outcomes?
 - Which program areas are monitoring equity indicators?
 - Where is coordination or collaboration occurring? Where is it not?
 - Are there current limitations or barriers (e.g., need for tools or resources)?
 - Where are there opportunities for improvement or areas for future implementation considerations?
 - Are the types of activities we are pursuing addressing key areas to move us toward greater equity?

SCAG staff understand that this Equity Inventory may become a part of a phased approach, with later efforts incorporating surveys, interviews, or focus groups with policymakers, partners, and community stakeholders. This Equity Inventory is functioning as a first step towards conducting an organizational self-assessment. Once the Equity Inventory is completed, an Equity Framework will be developed, and specific actions will be identified to advance equity across the region. The work is significant and will require organizations across the region to undertake similar work, which SCAG can help facilitate through support for activities such as: 1) adoption of public statements and commitments to equity and social justice; 2) self-assessments of current work as it relates to equity; and 3) building a plan to strengthen and improve in areas that they self-identify, with support from those who are also engaged in equity work.

As a next step, SCAG staff will return with a draft Equity Inventory Report at the Committee's January meeting. The Equity Inventory Report is intended to inform a discussion on recommendations to guide and sustain SCAG's regional leadership in service of equity and social justice.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Project 21-050.0169.08.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation: Equity Inventory & Framework Development
-

Equity Inventory & Framework Development

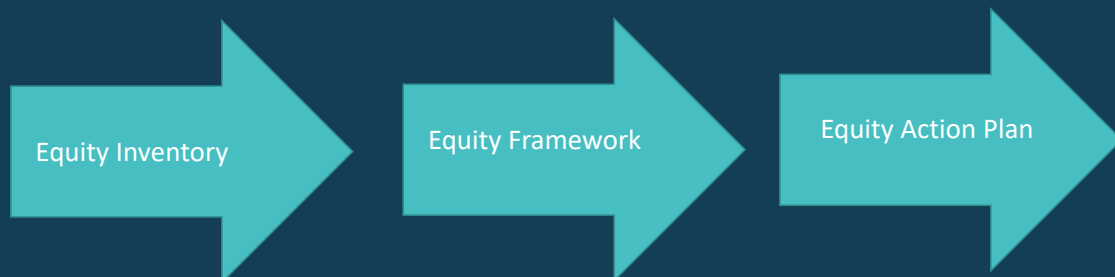
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Equity Inventory - What is it?



- First step towards developing larger strategic approach to integrating equity in SCAG's work
- Catalogues existing planning work that takes equity into account and identifies additional areas where equity could be integrated
- Provides holistic snapshot of how equity is currently taken into account



Equity Inventory - Objectives

- Helps gather **baseline data and information** in order to identify areas for change and improvement
- **Spurs dialogue** within SCAG's Planning Division that leads to greater understanding and commitment to address issues of equity
- Facilitates **sharing of information**, resources, mutual support, and tools
- Builds **shared accountability** across the Planning Division
- Develops a **baseline assessment** that can be used to **evaluate** where SCAG is in its progress towards integrating and advancing equity

Equity Inventory – Considerations

- **Place:** Is the policy, initiative, program, or budget benefitting low income and/or communities of color?
- **People:** Which vulnerable populations are impacted by or are benefitting from the policy, initiative, program or budget?
- **Process:** Does the work involve intentional collaboration with vulnerable populations?
- **Impact:** How may the policy, initiative, program or budget increase equity? Decrease inequality in income or wealth? Ensure safety and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities?



Next Steps

- **November:** Share an update on the Equity Inventory Report. Discuss SCAG's Internal Equity Initiatives.
- **January:** Return with a draft Equity Inventory Report.
- **March:** Return with recommendations for next steps on a larger strategic approach.





Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
November 16, 2020

To: Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Renee Lutz, HR Analyst,
(213) 236-1877, lutz@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Plan Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 5: Recruit, support, and develop a world-class workforce and be the workplace of choice.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SCAG's internal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work plan is an ongoing effort that will be developed by a cross-functional team of diverse individuals. The purpose of this work plan is to develop long-term, sustainable strategies to advance and foster diversity, equity, and inclusion by developing measurable and achievable goals and objectives. Human Resources drafted a preliminary work plan to guide the agency while SCAG establishes a cross-functional team and procures a DEI consultant to support this effort. In July 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-632-2, which requested "guidance on the development of SCAG's internal Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." The resolution affirmed DEI as an agency-wide priority. This report will provide the committee with an overview of the preliminary work plan and an update on the progress that has been made thus far.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG strives to be the workplace of choice and to achieve that goal, it is crucial that SCAG's workforce is not only comprised of staff with diverse backgrounds, but also cultivates an environment where they feel valued, are encouraged to share their ideas, and feel free to be their authentic selves. Since 2019, SCAG has been identifying opportunities to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) into the agency's strategy and work plan to achieve long-term, sustainable solutions, but no formal work plan was developed. In Spring 2019, SCAG's Executive Director conducted listening sessions with all employees to gather feedback about the culture at SCAG. Based on this feedback, SCAG identified that staff development, candidate experience, and total rewards could be improved to support this goal. Human Resources began making the following improvements:

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- Created a cross-functional Employee Engagement Committee whose mission is to promote and cultivate a positive SCAG culture that creates a sense of belongingness and pride in our work and workplace;
- Conducted a comprehensive salary and benefits survey to ensure SCAG was market competitive and identify areas of opportunity;
- Developed a work plan for a staff development initiative to improve leadership skills and offer employees professional development opportunities;
- Expanded advertising sources for recruitments to increase the diversity of applicant pool; and
- Partnered with a variety of universities to promote open positions particularly in planning, including California State Universities, University of California's, local policy and planning universities, and universities specializing in economics and policy.

In May 2020, Human Resources drafted a work plan and preliminary goals to advance DEI throughout SCAG's culture and practices. The preliminary work plan was informed by analyses conducted on SCAG's recruitments, workforce data, turnover, and performance management. The preliminary work plan is meant to be a guide and will be evolving as Human Resources conducts a comprehensive needs assessment. The preliminary work plan focuses on improving recruitment and retention practices to support diverse individuals and eliminate barriers to employment, improving SCAG's culture to ensure all employees feel a sense of belonging, and integrating equity into all of SCAG's practices. The preliminary goals include:

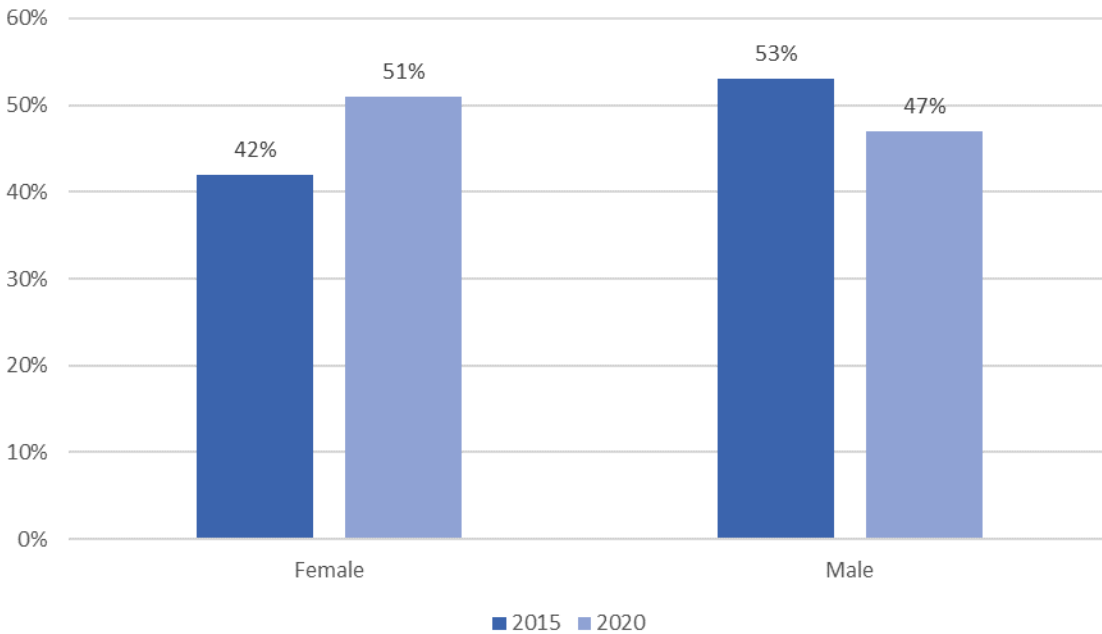
1. Recruit and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce at all levels by removing barriers in the hiring process, mitigating implicit bias, and ensuring an equitable, accessible, and transparent hiring process;
2. Foster an organizational culture around equity, diversity, and inclusion where employees of diverse backgrounds can be their authentic selves, feel a sense of belonging, and have their unique talents, skills, and perspectives valued and supported; and
3. Integrate and align equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with organizational strategies, objectives, and culture and ensure accountability through measurable outcomes.

Where We Are

Since July, SCAG has made headway on advancing DEI efforts, by aligning strategies and work plans agency-wide, procuring funding and resources to best support this effort, conducting preliminary analyses and research, and establishing an agency-wide understanding of DEI. To gain an understanding of SCAG's workforce demographics and improvements that have already occurred throughout the years, Human Resources analyzed the breakdown of gender and ethnicity between 2015 and 2020. Data was gathered from SCAG's payroll reporting system, Great Plains (GP), and was self-reported by employees on their initial job applications. The options on the initial job application for gender identity are male, female, non-binary, and choose not to respond. In 2015,

the majority (53%) of our workforce was male, with only 42% being female. Since then, female representation has increased by 5%, reducing the disparity between male and female in SCAG’s workforce. While SCAG has improved in this area, more work can still be done to increase the representation of non-binary individuals. Please refer to *Figure 1* for a visual comparison.

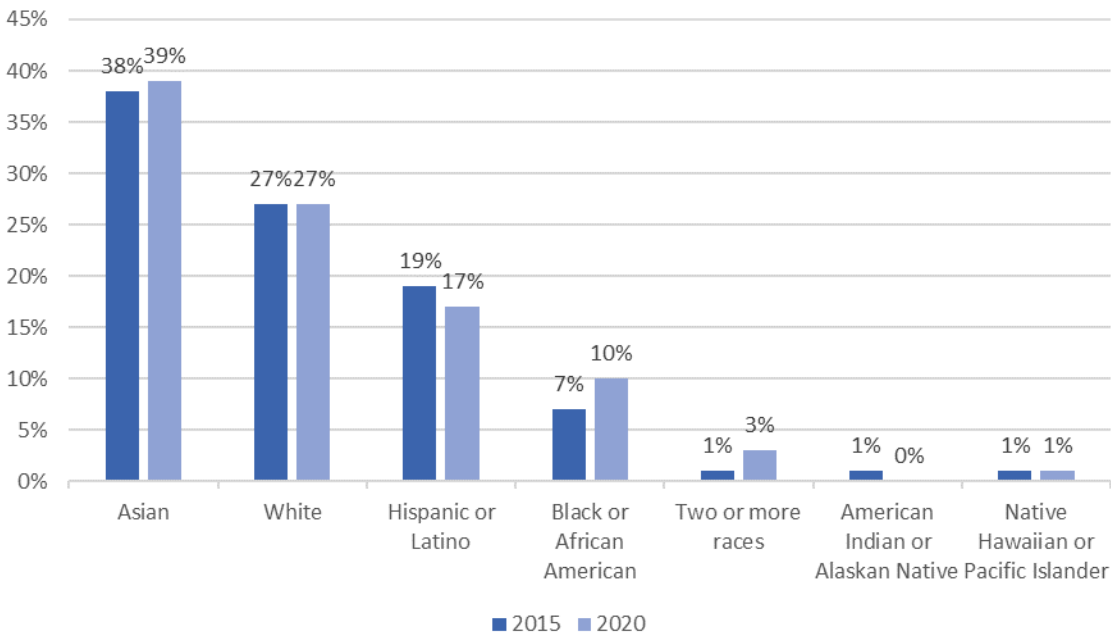
Figure 1. Gender of SCAG’s workforce in 2015 and 2020.



Note. Percentages do not equal 100% as some employees did not report their gender identity.

Another demographic variable assessed was ethnicity. The options to choose from when self-reporting were American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, Two or More Races, or choose not to provide. When comparing the ethnicity breakdown of SCAG’s workforce between 2015 and 2020, SCAG made slight improvements in racial diversity. Most notably, Black or African American representation increased by 3% and Two or More Race representation increased by 2% since 2015. However, the representation of Hispanic or Latino employees decreased by 2% since 2015. Please refer to *Figure 2* for a visual comparison.

Figure 2. Ethnicity of SCAG’s workforce in 2015 and 2020.



Note. Percentages do not equal 100% as some employees did not report their ethnic background.

While the representation of underrepresented groups slightly improved, SCAG is aware that significant progress still needs to be made for SCAG’s demographics to mirror the region it serves.

Progress

Thus far, work efforts have focused on strategy and work planning, gathering data, conducting preliminary evaluations of SCAG practices, and providing training opportunities to all staff. In the past, SCAG had no formal strategy or procedures in place to advance the representation of these groups and ensure inclusion once they were employed. The purpose of the proposed work plan is to address these issues by prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion agency-wide. Below is a summary of the progress completed that supports each preliminary goal.

Goal 1: Recruit and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce at all levels by removing barriers in the hiring process, mitigating implicit bias, and ensuring an equitable, accessible, and transparent hiring process.

- Partnered with diverse Subject Matter Experts (SME’s) who assisted with application review, assessment development and scoring, and interview question development;
- Developed rubrics and rating sheets for SME’s to refer to when reviewing candidates, scoring assessments, and conducting interviews; and

-
- Reviewed minimum qualifications for entry-level positions to expand the talent pool and provide opportunities to candidates who have diverse/unique backgrounds.

Human Resources evaluated the demographics of employees hired since January 2020 and found that representation of underrepresented groups increased. Specifically, SCAG hired 13 full-time employees since January 2020 and, of those new employees, 46% are Black or African American, 31% are Asian, 15% are Hispanic or Latino, and 8% are White. Further analyses will be conducted to determine the full impact of these piloted hiring practices.

Goal 2: Foster an organizational culture around equity, diversity, and inclusion where employees of diverse backgrounds can be their authentic selves, feel a sense of belonging, and have their unique talents, skills, and perspectives valued and supported.

- Implemented a Paid Parental Leave policy that offers 12-week paid leave to new parents;
- Updated SCAG's Bereavement Leave policy to offer 10 days of leave for immediate family and 5 days of leave for extended family;
- Initiated a classification and compensation study to ensure that employees are appropriately classified, are being paid equitably, have opportunities for skill development and career advancement, and that SCAG's total compensation is market competitive;
- Continuing to provide educational opportunities for staff to advance their understanding of DEI related concepts through an Unconscious Bias Workshop and Learning Styles Workshop; and
- Developing a comprehensive needs assessment to assess engagement and the current climate within SCAG as well as identify learning opportunities that are needed agency-wide.

Goal 3: Integrate and align equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with organizational strategies, objectives, and culture and ensure accountability through measurable outcomes.

- Executive Team members incorporated DEI into their division work plans and goals for Fiscal Year 2021;
 - Conducted preliminary data analysis to better understand trends in SCAG data such as demographics, promotions, recruitments, and merit increases, and presented findings to the Executive Team to assist with priority planning;
 - Initiated a recruitment to establish a cross-functional DEI team, comprised of diverse staff from across the agency, who will assist in refining the DEI Workplan and developing deliverables that will support SCAG's DEI strategy;
 - Developed a Scope of Work and collaborated with Contracts Staff to procure a consultant who will initially assess SCAG's culture and climate surrounding DEI by holding focus groups and refine the agency's work plan and goals to address the findings; and
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- Partnered with the Engagement Committee to incorporate DEI into their work plan in line with their priority to build community, which entails fostering inclusion and social connections, especially in a remote work environment.

Next Steps

Human Resources plan to procure a DEI consultant, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment, and launch a cross-functional DEI team to establish shared definitions and support this work. Progress on these efforts will be shared at the Special Committee's January meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Indirect Cost Budget and in the Overall Work Program for fiscal year 2021-22.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation: SCAG's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Workplan Update
-

SCAG's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Workplan Update

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

Monday, November 16, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

www.scag.ca.gov



Preliminary Goals



Support Strategic Plan Goal 5: Recruit, support, and develop a world-class workforce and be the workplace of choice

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recruit | Recruit and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce at all levels through removing barriers in the hiring process, mitigating implicit bias, and ensuring an equitable, accessible, and transparent hiring process |
| Foster | Foster an organizational culture around equity, diversity, and inclusion where employees of diverse backgrounds can be their authentic selves, feel a sense of belonging, and have their unique talents, skills, and perspectives valued and supported |
| Integrate and align | Integrate and align equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with organizational strategies, objectives, and culture and ensure accountability through measurable outcomes |

Goal 1: Recruit and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce at all levels



- Expanded advertising sources to reach a broad applicant pool
- Partnered with a variety of universities to promote our open positions including California State Universities, UC's, local policy and planning Universities, and Universities specializing in economics and policy
- Piloted new recruitment practices including partnering with teams of Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to review candidates, develop and score assessments, and develop interview questions
- Developed rubrics for SME's to reference while reviewing applications to ensure standardization
- Required diverse SME's and interview panels

3

Goal 2: Foster an organizational culture around equity, diversity, and inclusion



- Conducting classification and compensation study to ensure pay equity across staff and create career advancement opportunities
- Established Engagement Committee in October 2019 to build community and a more inclusive work environment
- Coordinated an Unconscious Bias Training for all staff offered on 10/8/2020
- Coordinated a Learning Style Training for all staff which will be offered in November
- Developing a comprehensive needs assessment which will include information on SCAG's DEI culture and trainings needed

4

Goal 3: Integrate and align equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with organizational strategies



- Gathered and analyzed data on recruitments, promotions, SCAG demographics, turnover, and merit increases to identify trends and areas of improvement related to DEI; presented information to Executive Team with recommended next steps
- Executive Team members have incorporated DEI into their divisions workplan
- Developed DEI workplan draft and communicated it with all staff
- Developed a recruitment strategy and initiated recruitment for an inclusive, cross-functional team to support DEI efforts
- Developed Scope of Work to begin procurement process for a DEI consultant
- Incorporated DEI into the Engagement Committee's workplan

5

Next Steps



Initiate procurement process for DEI consultant



Launch DEI team and provide educational workshops to provide the team with foundational knowledge



Administer needs assessment



Analyze results of piloted hiring practices



Audit HR policies and procedures to support DEI efforts

6



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
November 16, 2020

To: Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Rachel Wagner, Regional Affairs,
(213) 236-1960, wagner@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG Public Participation Plan Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On July 2, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-623-2, affirming its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and declaring its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency; strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power; and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve the region's communities of color. The resolution calls for the formation of the ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice throughout the agency's activities and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. As part of the Committee's work plan, SCAG seeks to further provide recommendations for updates to its Public Participation Plan prior to the next Connect SoCal adoption.

BACKGROUND:

Public participation is essential to the bottoms-up and integrated approach to regional transportation, land use and environmental planning conducted by SCAG. The people who live, work and play in the six-county SCAG region have varying transportation needs and priorities, and their voices must be heard if we are to develop planning policies that truly meet the needs of the region. SCAG outlined that commitment on September 6, 2018, in its most recently adopted Public Participation Plan. The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is designed to be accessible to a general audience and adaptable in anticipation of evolving technologies and practices. As one example, COVID-19 has significantly changed, perhaps for the long-term, best practices around public meetings and engagement. The document underscored the importance of ensuring a wide range of perspectives are heard, including traditionally underrepresented and/or underserved populations,

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

OUR CORE VALUES

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous

as well as the need to reduce geographic barriers by providing online and remote participation opportunities. SCAG's public participation process is guided by several goals established to ensure the process is successfully executed and prescribed by SCAG's PPP as listed below:

- Ensure that a wide range of perspectives are heard for planning outcomes to reflect the interests and values of the region's diverse communities. To that end, SCAG will engage and consider the needs of traditionally underrepresented and/or underserved populations, such as low-income, minority, the disabled, and limited English proficient populations or individuals for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English.
- Provide opportunities for the public and stakeholders across the region to engage in meaningful dialogue during the decision-making process.
- Clearly define the purpose of each outreach method at each stage and how feedback will be used to shape the plan and/or program.
- Motivate more feedback from stakeholders, partners, and the public by making commenting on plans and programs easy, convenient, and accessible.
- Reduce geographic barriers by providing public participation opportunities online and via teleconference.
- Show how public and stakeholder viewpoints and preferences were incorporated, communicate the final decisions made, and identify how the received input affected those decisions.
- Encourage stakeholders and members of the public to remain engaged through the decision-making process, the implementation phase and beyond.

Updating the Public Participation Plan is a critical step for SCAG to reflect and analyze the agency's approach and reimagine and retool communication techniques to better engage the public. SCAG is reviewing its Public Participation Plan to find ways to lift-up voices of communities of color and other historically and systemically underrepresented communities, ensuring meaningful engagement and capacity building opportunities for communities most impacted by racial and social injustice. As a public agency focused on regional planning, there is a unique opportunity to study and address inequities.

DISCUSSION:

Given the changing social climate and systemic racism and social inequities visible today, SCAG is examining how the 2018 Public Participation Plan can be updated to better meet the needs of the most disadvantaged communities and ensure all voices are heard. Some examples for increased

engagement and participation include implementing innovative ways that move away from traditional, town hall or in-person methods towards more tactical urbanism techniques, pop-ups, webinars, tele-townhalls, CBO deployment, intentional multilingual outreach, timeline restructuring, street teams, education of the public on when they can make changes, strong social media strategies, and more. Evolving strategies include expanding opportunities to engage the public online, in-person, and through other technological platforms such as social media, website, tele-townhalls, and surveys. Moreover, video conferencing platforms have seen significant increased usage during the pandemic and software such as Zoom, Skype, Google, and Microsoft, which offer options for face-to-face interactions, are examples of future recommended updates.

Promoting Inclusive Public Participation

During the development of Connect SoCal, SCAG adopted new outreach tools inclusive of strategic messaging, fact sheets, and increased CBO engagement, to name a few. Public outreach was modified by utilizing new methods of engagement and investing in modern communications tools to garner more diverse participation with Connect SoCal, the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). As a result, SCAG significantly increased feedback and input from a variety of stakeholders, including multiple community-based organizations, partnering agencies, and members of the public for the consideration of SCAG Board and staff in the development of the plan.

In preparation for the development of Connect SoCal, SCAG implemented an intentional, grassroots process to engage diverse constituencies across Southern California and seek diverse public input to help refine Connect SoCal plan's goals and strategies.

Community Based Organizations (CBO) Engagement Efforts

A key component to SCAG's public participation activities is partnering with CBOs. During Connect SoCal outreach and development, a group of 18 CBOs across the region partnered with SCAG, which garnered feedback from populations traditionally underrepresented in formal planning processes. The agency pursued this outreach strategy with the intention of reaching the following groups: (1) children and youth, (2) individuals with access and functional needs, (3) low-income communities of color, (4) older adults or retired persons, (5) populations with limited English proficiency, and (6) women and female-headed households.

The collaborative outreach strategy with CBOs engage a broad range of stakeholder groups to evaluate potential region-wide integrated land use and transportation planning strategies. The tailored approach acknowledged target populations represent historically underrepresented communities. It also focused on groups that are disproportionately burdened by the negative outcomes associated with existing land use patterns and transportation policies.

SCAG's CBO partners garnered feedback from their constituencies through a variety of mechanisms, including but not limited to integrating Connect SoCal material into training curriculum at community meetings, setting up information booths and distributing comment cards at community functions, and conducting silent surveys during community bike rides.

The feedback received from each CBO partner was used to identify areas of the Connect SoCal Plan that could be refined to meaningfully represent and address the viewpoints, priorities, and concerns of individuals that have traditionally been left out of formal planning processes. Through its PPP, SCAG will continue to engage CBOs in a meaningful way and promote increased and sustained communications to better identify needs and priorities at earlier stages of Connect SoCal's development.

Innovative Strategies and Technology

One new strategy implemented during Connect SoCal outreach was the use of tele-town halls. A tele-town hall allows agencies to communicate with thousands of people instantly in a live, interactive format. Databases, either land line or text (cell phone) can be geo-targeted to specific neighborhoods or regions. This technology allows constituents to participate from their homes or work, by phone, from anywhere in the region. Tele-town hall and online engagement strategies where attendees can join remotely are especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During Connect SoCal outreach, tele-town halls gave voice to more people in one hour than can normally be reached through days of traditional public meetings. The tele-town hall technology allowed SCAG to reach out to more than 30,000 residents at a time, with about 600 staying on the phone through SCAG's presentation and no fewer than 100 callers remaining on the line throughout the duration of the events.

Bringing Traditionally Underrepresented and Underserved Communities to the Table

The SCAG Public Participation Plan outlines goals and strategies to engage the general public, with particular consideration to the accessibility needs of underserved groups such as minority and low-income populations, elderly and retired persons, children, limited English proficiency populations, and people with disabilities. To expand reach to include these constituents, the Connect SoCal outreach plan encompassed meetings specifically focused on underserved populations and those with special needs, disabilities and seniors. This type of outreach will continue to be a main priority for SCAG.

Street-Teams and Survey Intercepts

Many Southern California residents do not have the time or ability to participate in in-person town halls or may not be familiar with the importance of regional planning processes. To proactively reach a broader cross-section of residents throughout the region, SCAG invested in a street team strategy to engage communities where they already congregate. The strategy served multiple

purposes: supporting communities through employment opportunities for street team workers, increasing inclusivity and gathering valuable input. To carry out the strategy, SCAG reached out to disadvantaged youth, students and workforce development organizations to offer resume-building paid job experience while educating a fresh group of constituents about active community-based urban planning and public policy.

Environmental Justice

A key component of the Connect SoCal development process is seeking public participation. Public input from our Environmental Justice (EJ) stakeholders helped SCAG prioritize and address needs in the region. As part of the EJ outreach effort, SCAG compiled a list of key stakeholders to be contacted regarding the Connect SoCal programs and policies. This list is comprised of more than 600 individuals and organizations that were involved with Connect SoCal, as well as additional stakeholders such as advocacy groups concerning environment, poverty, public health, and housing; public agencies; and other involved groups. SCAG maintains this list regularly and allows interested stakeholders to sign up online for the distribution list. The overall environmental justice outreach process encourages SCAG stakeholders and the public, with many opportunities to be involved, to discuss and address environmental justice issues and shape SCAG's environmental justice program.

Transportation Safety

SCAG is interested in working more closely with transportation safety stakeholders on developing a Regional Transportation Safety Strategy that can be incorporated into the region's Connect SoCal. The Safety Working Group provided a forum for stakeholders to convene and develop recommendations for promoting transportation safety throughout the region. The resulting Regional Transportation Safety Strategy includes regional strategies and recommendations on actions local governments can take to motivate reductions in serious injuries. During Connect SoCal development, stakeholders were directly involved in SCAG's planning processes and two Regional Planning Groups were formed: one focused on issues of safety and another on mobility innovation. Convening transportation safety stakeholders, including all jurisdictions within the SCAG region and providing more engagement opportunities and forums to present SCAG safety programs are a focus for future PPP updates.

Sustainable Communities

One of SCAG's most efficient and impactful ways to help disadvantaged communities is through its Sustainable Communities Program (SCP). The SCP provides resources to local jurisdictions and agencies for local planning and serves as the primary implementation tool of Connect SoCal. The SCP strengthens local partnerships and implements strategies outlined in Connect SoCal to promote healthy, connected, and equitable communities. In the months ahead, there will be multiple funding calls to support local jurisdictions and agencies across three program areas: Active Transportation, Housing, and Sustainability. The primary goals for the program include:

-
- Encourage planning strategies to reduce motorized vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly in areas with the highest need for air quality improvements;
 - Address health and equity in land use and transportation and invest in historically disinvested communities;
 - Support resiliency that looks to climate adaptation and public health preparedness as key strategies to address community prosperity, safety and economic recovery; and
 - Increase competitiveness for federal and state funds, including the California Active Transportation Program and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.

The Sustainable Communities strategies meetings will help SCAG and regional stakeholders balance conservation and development strategies, reduce GHG emissions, adapt to a changing climate, cultivate livable communities, and ease pressures on natural systems. The Sustainable Communities Working Group (SCWG) will provide a candid and collaborative forum to develop and discuss policies that can yield new and valuable regional benefits with positive and sustained outcomes. The PPP will serve as a mechanism to promote outreach and more engagement from jurisdictions in SCP activities.

Equity and the Digital Divide

Access to technology and reliable broadband is particularly challenging in disadvantaged communities. This challenge is even more prominent during the COVID-19 pandemic. SCAG is working with partners to bring more equitable access to broadband and create a broadband infrastructure with the goal of covering 100% of the SCAG region. One study SCAG is conducting looks at Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) reduction since fewer auto trips across the state result in reduced congestion. A main outreach focus will be with the Regional Broadband Consortia (the Inland Empire, Southern Border and Pacific Coast Regional Broadband Consortia will be doing this work across all SCAG counties). A strategic outreach plan is in development and will include surveys and focus groups to understand the broadband needs in the communities. In addition, SCAG will continue efforts in other areas to streamline permitting, increase access, and subsidize adoption. The PPP will continue assessing and providing analysis in order to identify accessibility issues through surveys, focus groups, and feasibility studies. As the broadband outreach plan takes shapes, these recommendations will be incorporated into the PPP.

Climate Adaptation Framework

SCAG has also developed the “SoCal Regional Climate Adaptation Framework,” a collection of resources to support climate adaptation planning efforts across the region. The Framework consists of tools supporting both local and subregional planning, such as workshop materials and strategies for communicating climate change, planning guidance and model policy language, vulnerability mapping and assessment tools, and a collection of case studies. Climate Adaptation

Communications Strategies utilizes a live interactive [Story Map](#) showcasing ClimateTalks pop-up booth outreach efforts and survey responses.

Looking Ahead

SCAG's work serves a large and diverse region, and public participation is an essential component of the agency's many activities. During the racial and social justice inequities facing the region today, SCAG will continue to reflect on our approach and identify the ever-changing ways communication and information-sharing have evolved. Updates to the Public Participation Plan will help ensure that SCAG effectively seeks early and ongoing input from people and organizations throughout the region, and effectively addresses the evolving transportation, land-use, and environmental needs of Southern Californians now and for generations to come. The plan is key to ensuring SCAG's approach to public engagement remains effective and inclusive and SCAG will continue to strengthen the way it communicates and engages with all. As part of this Committee's Work Plan, the review of the attached document and improvements carried out in the 2020 outreach development of Connect SoCal, further recommendations will be presented during SCAG's Executive Administration Committee (EAC) in the coming months.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with SCAG's Public Participation Plan is contained in Regional Transportation Plan Outreach Task 095-1533.01

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. SCAG Public Participation Plan (Adopted September 2018)
 2. PowerPoint Presentation: SCAG Public Participation Plan Update
-



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2018



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The SCAG Region

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Adelanto | Cathedral City | Grand Terrace | Lake Forest | Palmdale | Santa Paula |
| Agoura Hills | Cerritos | Hawaiian Gardens | Lakewood | Palos Verdes Estates | Seal Beach |
| Alhambra | Chino | Hawthorne | Lancaster | Paramount | Sierra Madre |
| Aliso Viejo | Chino Hills | Hemet | Lawndale | Pasadena | Signal Hill |
| Anaheim | Claremont | Hermosa Beach | Loma Linda | Perris | Simi Valley |
| Apple Valley | Coachella | Hesperia | Lomita | Pico Rivera | South El Monte |
| Arcadia | Colton | Hidden Hills | Long Beach | Placentia | South Gate |
| Artesia | Commerce | Highland | Los Alamitos | Pomona | South Pasadena |
| Avalon | Compton | Holtville | Los Angeles | Port Hueneme | Stanton |
| Azusa | Corona | Huntington Beach | Lynwood | Rancho Cucamonga | Temecula |
| Baldwin Park | Costa Mesa | Huntington Park | Malibu | Rancho Mirage | Temple City |
| Banning | Covina | Imperial | Manhattan Beach | Rancho Palos Verdes | Thousand Oaks |
| Barstow | Cudahy | Indian Wells | Maywood | Redlands | Torrance |
| Beaumont | Culver City | Indio | Menifee | Redondo Beach | Tustin |
| Bell | Cypress | Industry | Mission Viejo | Rialto | Twentynine Palms |
| Bell Gardens | Dana Point | Inglewood | Monrovia | Riverside | Upland |
| Bellflower | Desert Hot Springs | Irvine | Montclair | Rolling Hills | Vernon |
| Beverly Hills | Diamond Bar | Irwindale | Montebello | Rolling Hills Estates | Victorville |
| Big Bear Lake | Downey | Jurupa Valley | Monterey Park | Rosemead | Villa Park |
| Blythe | Duarte | La Cañada Flintridge | Moorpark | San Bernardino | Walnut |
| Bradbury | Eastvale | La Habra | Moreno Valley | San Buenaventura | West Covina |
| Brawley | El Centro | La Habra Heights | Murrieta | San Clemente | West Hollywood |
| Brea | El Monte | La Mirada | Needles | San Dimas | Westlake Village |
| Buena Park | El Segundo | La Palma | Newport Beach | San Fernando | Westminster |
| Burbank | Fillmore | La Puente | Norco | San Gabriel | Westmorland |
| Calabasas | Fontana | La Quinta | Norwalk | San Jacinto | Whittier |
| Calxico | Fountain Valley | La Verne | Ojai | San Juan Capistrano | Wildomar |
| Calimesa | Fullerton | Laguna Beach | Ontario | San Marino | Yorba Linda |
| Calipatria | Garden Grove | Laguna Hills | Orange | Santa Ana | Yucaipa |
| Camarillo | Gardena | Laguna Niguel | Oxnard | Santa Clarita | Yucca Valley |
| Canyon Lake | Glendale | Laguna Woods | Palm Desert | Santa Fe Springs | |
| Carson | Glendora | Lake Elsinore | Palm Springs | Santa Monica | |



WHAT IS SCAG?

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the six-county Southern California region, including the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Ventura. From the beaches to the high desert, the six-county region in Southern California spans 38,000 square miles, 191 cities and a population of over 19 million. The SCAG region is among the largest and most diverse in the world, with a unique combination of languages, ethnicities and cultures.

SCAG is responsible for developing long range transportation plans and programs for the region. An example is the [Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy \(RTP/SCS\)](#), the agency's primary responsibility, which details how the region will address its transportation and growth challenges and opportunities over the next 20+ years in order to achieve its regional emissions standards and greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In addition, SCAG serves as the foremost data clearinghouse and information hub for the region, conducting research and analysis in pursuit of regional planning goals.

WHY DOES SCAG HAVE A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN?

Input and engagement from the across the region is critical in planning for such a large and diverse region. SCAG relies on public participation as the essential element to the ground-up and integrated approach to SCAG's planning. The people who live, work and play here have varying, and sometimes conflicting, needs and priorities. Their voices must be heard if we are to develop planning policies that truly meet the needs of the region. To that end, SCAG is committed to conducting robust public outreach and engagement, as outlined in this Public Participation Plan.

Updating our Public Participation Plan has given SCAG the chance to reflect on our approach, and take into consideration the ways communication and information-sharing have changed since the last update in 2014. The changes in this update were designed to make the plan more accessible to a general audience, and more adaptable in anticipation of evolving technologies and practices. The organization of the document is a little different: To make it less formal and easier to navigate, we've structured the content as answers to a series of questions. We have also separated out the dense technical and legal language— if you are looking for details about statutory requirements and particulars about processes, you can find them in the appendices. The updated plan includes more context, explaining SCAG's key operations and guiding principles for public participation. We also include and adapt to public feedback on our current strategies and methods for public engagement.

This plan details SCAG's goals, strategies, and processes for providing the public and stakeholders with opportunities to understand, follow, and actively participate in the regional planning process. When we discuss "the public," we are referring to any person who lives, works or plays in the region. When we use the word "stakeholder," we are describing someone affiliated with an entity that has an official role in the regional transportation planning process.

SCAG will use this plan as a guideline for developing outreach strategies for various programs that have a public outreach component.

SCAG's Public Participation Plan will help ensure that SCAG effectively seeks early and ongoing input from people and organizations throughout the region, and effectively addresses the evolving transportation, land-use, and environmental needs of Southern Californians now and for generations to come.

WHAT DOES SCAG HOPE TO ACHIEVE FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?

SCAG's public participation efforts aim to:

- » Ensure that a wide range of perspectives are heard so that planning outcomes reflect the interests and values of the region's diverse communities. To that end, SCAG will engage and consider the needs of traditionally underrepresented and/or underserved populations, such as low-income, minority, the disabled, and limited English proficient (LEP) populations or individuals (for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English).
- » Provide opportunities for the public and stakeholders across the region to engage in meaningful dialogue during the decision-making process.
- » Clearly define the purpose of each outreach method at each stage and how feedback will be used to shape the plan and/or program.
- » Motivate more feedback from stakeholders, partners, and the public by making it easy, convenient, and accessible to comment on plans and programs.
- » Reduce geographic barriers by providing public participation opportunities online and via teleconference and videoconference.
- » Show how public and stakeholder viewpoints and preferences were incorporated, communicate the final decisions made, and identify how the received input affected those decisions.
- » Encourage stakeholders and members of the public to remain engaged through the decision-making process, the implementation phase and beyond.
- » Coordinate effectively on public participation processes with other agencies, both locally and statewide, to support integrated and complementary planning activities at all levels.

WHAT PRINCIPLES GUIDE SCAG'S OUTREACH?

Meaningful public participation is a cornerstone of regional planning and one of SCAG's key priorities. In all outreach work, the agency holds itself to high standards according to SCAG's core values of transparency, leading by example and creating positive impacts in the region. Regardless of how communication technologies and specific tools for engagement continue to evolve, SCAG is committed to following these outreach principles:

- » Administer a transparent and clearly communicated process for public participation.
- » Ensure that opportunities for public involvement are accessible to all communities.
- » Provide information that is clear, concise, and current, making use of visualization and other techniques to enhance understanding.
- » Respect and consider all feedback received from members of the public, partners and stakeholders.
- » Adapt new communications strategies and technologies for public outreach.
- » Provide engagement opportunities that meet and exceed statutory requirements to ensure broad participation in SCAG's planning activities.
- » Demonstrate how public input is addressed in SCAG plans, programs and policies.

WHAT LAWS GUIDE SCAG'S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?

SCAG, as a public agency and metropolitan planning organization, is subject to federal and state requirements which emphasize providing continuous and equitable opportunities for public involvement. Below is an overview of the major requirements for SCAG's public outreach; a detailed description of each is available in Appendix A (page 18)

Federal Requirements

- » **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**, signed into law in 2005 as Public Law 109-59, authorized funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, transit program and other purposes and established federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements, 23 USC 134 et seq.
- » **Federal Metropolitan Planning Regulations**, 23 CFR Part 450 et seq.
- » **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, 42 USC 126 and 49 CFR 27.19.
- » **Executive Order 12372** — Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. Signed July 14, 1982 by President Ronald Reagan.
- » **Executive Order 12898** — Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. Signed February 11, 1994 by President William J. Clinton.
- » **Executive Order 13166** — Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency. Signed August 11, 2000 by President William J. Clinton.
- » **Federal Clean Air Act of 1970**, 42 USC 85 and 40 CFR Parts 50-99.
- » **Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)**, Public Law as passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama on December 4, 2015.
- » **Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)** signed into law in 2012, requires metropolitan planning organizations to provide opportunities for public involvement.
- » **Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965**, 42 USC 38 and 13 CFR 305.
- » **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in carrying out planning and programming activities

State Requirements

- » California Public Records Act, California Government Code Section 6250 et seq., requires disclosure of records to the public upon request.
- » Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq., governs the public's right to attend and participate in meetings.
- » State Transportation Planning Law, California Government Code Section 65080 et seq. which incorporates the requirements of California Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg 2008) enacted in 2008 that requires SCAG to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy as part of the Regional Transportation Plan, as well as requires SCAG as a council of governments to undertake the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process.
- » California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code 21000-2118, and CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000- 15387, generally require lead agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN SCAG'S PLANNING PROCESS?

SCAG represents the whole six-county region in all its geographic and demographic diversity. SCAG is committed to engaging, and utilizing input from, a range of constituents and stakeholders.

This commitment includes tailoring communications and information-sharing to a range of different levels of experience with, and understanding of, the principles of metropolitan planning.

(Note: When we discuss “the public,” we are referring to any person who lives, works or plays in the region. When we use the word “stakeholder,” we are describing someone affiliated with an entity that has an official role in the regional transportation planning process.)

Public

General Public — SCAG plans for all those who live, work and play in the region, with particular consideration to the accessibility needs of underserved groups such as minority and low-income populations, elderly and retired persons, children, limited English proficiency populations, and people with disabilities.

Stakeholders

Community Organizations — SCAG seeks to engage community groups such as environmental advocates, special interest nonprofit agencies, neighborhood groups, homeowner associations, and charitable organizations.

Public Agencies — SCAG solicits input from, and often collaborates closely with, public organizations like local transportation providers, air quality management districts, public health agencies, water districts, county transportation commissions, the region’s ports, educational institutions, federal land management agencies, and other agencies at the state and federal level.

Business Community — SCAG actively engages many private-sector entities whose work intersects with transportation and land use planning, including private transportation providers, freight shippers, consulting firms, technology developers, and business and professional associations.

Elected Officials — SCAG seeks engagement with elected representatives at all levels, such as neighborhood councils, mayoral offices and city councils, county supervisor boards and state and federal legislators.

Tribal Governments or Nations

Tribal Governments or Nations — SCAG engages in consultation with the region’s tribal governments and nations, sustaining effective government-to-government collaboration on transportation planning and ensuring that tribal sovereignty is observed and protected.

(A full list of our stakeholders and interested parties is included in Appendix A.)

HOW DO WE ENGAGE THE PUBLIC?

SCAG is committed to providing access to accurate, understandable, pertinent, and timely policy, program, and technical information to facilitate effective public participation in the agency's decision-making process. SCAG aims to increase early and meaningful participation through targeted outreach strategies. There are numerous opportunities for continuing involvement in the work of SCAG through the following methods.

General Public Participation Approach

Programs that have a public outreach component will use these methods as a guide in developing individual, project-specific public participation plans tailored according to scope and audience.

PUBLIC MEETINGS & EVENTS

- » Customized presentations offered to existing groups and organizations
- » Workshops co-hosted with community groups, business associations and other partners
- » Engagement with community-based organizations in low-income and minority communities for targeted outreach
- » Sponsorship of topical forums or summits with partner agencies or universities, with the media or other community organizations (e.g. Demographic Workshop, Economic Summit)
- » Opportunities for public input directly to policy board members
- » Outreach at locations, destinations, or events where people are already congregating (e.g. transit hubs, farmers markets, community festivals, universities)

PUBLIC MEETINGS & EVENTS - METHODS

- » Open houses
- » Themed workshops (to help avoid information overload)
- » Question-and-answer sessions with planners and/or policy committee members
- » Break-out sessions for smaller group discussions on multiple topics
- » Interactive exercises
- » Customized presentations with designated opportunities for feedback
- » Vary time of day (day/evening) and days of week (weekday, weekend) for workshops
- » Conduct meeting entirely in alternative language
- » Provide videoconferencing or virtual meeting options such as webcasting
- » Demonstration events to showcase project components

VISUALIZATION METHODS

- » Maps
- » Charts, illustrations, photographs, photograph simulations
- » Artist renderings and drawings
- » Table-top interactive displays and models
- » Website content and interactive tools and/or games
- » PowerPoint slideshows

PUBLIC SURVEY METHODS

- » Electronic surveys via web (accessed remotely or at public workshops via tablets or laptops)
- » Intercept interviews where people congregate, such as at transit hubs (e.g., Orange County’s ARTIC, Los Angeles Union Station, etc.) or farmers markets
- » Printed surveys distributed at meetings, transit hubs, on-board transit vehicles, etc.

COMMENTING METHODS

- » Polls/surveys (electronic or paper)
- » Paper comment cards
- » Online comment cards
- » Post it notes or stickers
- » Marking up maps or document text
- » Phone calls or voicemails directly to staff or to a dedicated hotline
- » Email sent to SCAG staff or [via our online contact form](#)
- » Physically mailed letters
- » Public comments can be given anonymously

METHODS FOR COMMUNICATING THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

- » Summarize key themes of public comments in staff reports to SCAG’s standing policy committees, working groups and to SCAG’s main governing board, the Regional Council
- » Newsletters and other emails to participants to report final outcomes
- » Updated and interactive web content

Public Participation Opportunities

SCAG regularly holds meetings and events, open to the public, where people are welcome to make comments. A comprehensive calendar of upcoming opportunities for public involvement is available on SCAG’s website, www.scag.ca.gov.

To provide opportunities for people to participate or comment from locations throughout the region, SCAG’s main office in Los Angeles and each regional office are equipped with state-of-the-art videoconferencing systems. SCAG provides multiple videoconferencing sites in Coachella Valley, Palmdale and South Bay to provide additional opportunities for participation in SCAG meetings and workshops. SCAG also utilizes web and audio conferencing and often connects to videoconferencing locations throughout the state.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SCAG’s Regional Council — All of SCAG’s plans and programs are adopted by its Regional Council, an 88-member governing board of elected officials, including city representatives from throughout the region, at least one representative from each county Board of Supervisors, and a representative of the Southern California Native American Tribal Governments. The region is divided into districts of roughly equal population in order to provide diverse, broad-based representation. The Regional Council meets once a month and meetings are open to the public. Regional Council meetings are typically held on the first Thursday of the month on or about 12:15 p.m. Specific meeting dates and times can be found on SCAG’s website, as well as agenda materials which are posted 72 hours in advance. Members of the public are welcome to attend and provide input, either by submitting a comment on an individual agenda item or making general comments by submitting a comment card at the start of the meeting.

SCAG’s Policy Committees — SCAG’s policy-making process is guided by the work of three Policy Committees: Transportation Committee (TC); Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee; and Energy and Environment Committee (EEC). Members of the Regional Council are appointed to one of the policy committees for two-year terms. Most of the discussion and debate on the “nuts and bolts” of a policy issue occurs in the committees. Issues to be considered by the Regional Council must come through one or more of the committees. As opposed to Regional Councilmembers, members of policy committees do not have to be elected officials. The policy committee meetings typically occur in the morning on the same day of the Regional Council meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and provide input, either by submitting a comment on an individual agenda item or making general comments by submitting a comment card at the start of the meeting.

Various other Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces and Working Groups — These are board committees and focus groups convened to work on specific topic areas and vet highly technical matters. For example, the Technical Working Group (TWG) is an advisory peer group formed to provide SCAG staff with a venue to vet technical matters as they relate to SCAG’s development of its regional plans, including the RTP/SCS. For the 2016 RTP/SCS, multiple working groups were convened including: Active Transportation Working Group, Public Health Working Group, and Natural/Farm Lands Working Group. The Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee, which is made up of Regional Council members, provides guidance and recommendations to the Regional Council regarding legislative matters impacting the region and policy direction on SCAG’s communications and outreach strategies.

Special Public Meetings, Conferences, and Forums — Public meetings on specific issues are held as needed. If statutorily required, formal public hearings are conducted, and publicly noticed. SCAG typically provides public notice through posting information on SCAG’s website, and, if appropriate, through e-mail notices and news releases to local media outlets. Materials to be considered at SCAG public hearings are posted on SCAG’s website, and are made available to interested persons upon request.

Workshops, Community Forums, and Other Events — SCAG conducts workshops, community forums, and other events to keep the public informed and involved in various high-profile transportation projects and plans, and to elicit feedback from the public, partners, and stakeholders. SCAG holds meetings throughout the six-county region to solicit comments on major plans and programs, such as the RTP/SCS. Meetings are located and scheduled to maximize public participation (including evening meetings). For major initiatives and events, SCAG typically provides notice through posting information on SCAG’s website, and, if appropriate, through e-mail notices and news releases to local media outlets. At least once every year, SCAG convenes its General Assembly to bring together the official representatives of SCAG’s member agencies and help set SCAG’s course for the coming year.

Targeted Mailings — SCAG maintains a database of local government officials and staff, and other public agency staff and interested persons. The database allows SCAG to send targeted mailings (largely via email) to ensure the public, partners, and stakeholders are kept up to date on specific issues of interest.

HOW DO WE REACH OUT TO THE PUBLIC?

Public Outreach Channels

DIGITAL CHANNELS

Website — SCAG’s maintains its website, www.scag.ca.gov, to ensure that the public, partners, and stakeholders are kept informed about SCAG’s plans and programs and upcoming meetings. SCAG aims to ensure that its website is user-friendly and provides clear information. The website offers the public the opportunity to sign up for further information and updates via email. It also provides SCAG staff contact information.

Email — SCAG SPOTLIGHT, the official newsletter of the Regional Council, and SCAG UPDATE, the agency’s regular newsletter offering details on current agency programs and events. (Newsletters are archived online at www.scag.ca.gov.)

Social media — SCAG maintains an active social media presence on Twitter (@SCAGnews) and Facebook (@scagmpo). These accounts are regularly updated to share agency announcements, upcoming event details and new developments in SCAG’s plans and programs.

TARGETED MAILINGS/FLYERS

- » Work with community-based organizations to distribute flyers
- » Email to targeted database lists
- » Place notices on-board transit vehicles and at transit hubs

LOCAL MEDIA

- » Press releases
- » Invite reporters to news briefings
- » Meet with editorial staff
- » Opinion pieces/commentaries
- » Explore advertising opportunities in local newspapers
- » Visit minority media outlets to encourage use of SCAG press releases
- » Place speakers on radio/TV talk shows
- » Public Service Announcements on radio and TV
- » Written notices published in local newspapers

INTERNET/ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- » Dynamic websites with updated content
- » Videos explaining plans, programs, or concepts
- » Maintain regular presence on social media outlets
- » Podcast interviews
- » Live broadcasts and archived recordings of public events
- » Electronic duplication of open house/workshop materials
- » Interactive website with surveys, commenting areas
- » Access to planning data (such as maps, charts, background on travel models, forecasts, census data, research reports)
- » Provide information in advance of public meetings

TARGETED NOTIFICATIONS

- » Blast e-mails
- » Notices widely disseminated through partnerships with local government and community-based organizations
- » Electronic newsletters
- » Social media such as Twitter and Facebook
- » Local media
- » Notices placed on-board transit vehicles and at transit hubs
- » Submit articles for publication in community/professional/corporate newsletters

METHODS FOR INVOLVING TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED/UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

- » Engagement with community-based organizations to co-host meetings and remove barriers to participation by offering such assistance as child care or translation services
- » Flyers on transit vehicles and at transit hubs
- » Outreach in the community (e.g., at churches, health centers, schools etc.)
- » Use of community and minority media outlets to announce participation opportunities

METHODS FOR INVOLVING LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENT POPULATIONS

- » Translate select documents into the four largest Limited English Proficiency (LEP) languages – Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese, making these documents available for download on the agency's website.
- » Survey LEP participants at public hearings to assess the effectiveness of the agency's language services and whether alternate services may need to be employed
- » Have translators, including bilingual staff members, available for public meetings and workshops as needed, with 72-hour advance notice
- » Disseminating notices of availability and press releases to print, radio and broadcast media serving minority communities
- » Research and engage online LEP communities and groups

METHODS FOR ENGAGING TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

SCAG is currently in the process of documenting our formal procedures for how we engage with tribal governments and federal land management agencies.

WHICH PROGRAMS HAVE ESTABLISHED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES?

Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) represents the vision for Southern California's future, including policies, strategies, and projects for advancing the region's mobility, economy, and sustainability. The RTP/SCS details how the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and opportunities in order to achieve its air quality emissions standards and greenhouse gas reduction targets. An update of an existing RTP/SCS is required every four years, and SCAG is currently undertaking the development of the 2020 RTP/SCS to provide Southern California with a comprehensive vision for its transportation future to the year 2045.

Developing the long-range plan for the SCAG region takes between two and three years to complete and involves working with six county transportation commissions, 15 sub-regional organizations, 191 cities, and numerous other stakeholder organizations and the public. The 2020 RTP/SCS involves goal setting, target setting, growth forecasting, financial projections, scenario development and analysis, and significant issues exploration.

Throughout the 2020 RTP/SCS development, SCAG's Regional Council; Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee; Energy and Environment Committee; and Transportation Committee will consider the challenges and opportunities facing our region and how to best address them, while considering public input.

The process will need to be flexible and is subject to change as needed to reflect and respond to the input received as SCAG moves through the steps of updating the plan. SCAG will update its details regularly to help direct interested SCAG residents and organizations to participate in key actions or decisions being made. Details will be on the plan website at www.scagrtppscs.org.

(For additional information on the RTP/SCS public participation procedures, see Appendix B.)

Program Environmental Impact Report for the RTP/SCS

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SCAG will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the 2020 RTP/SCS. The PEIR will focus on a region-wide assessment of existing conditions and potential impacts as result of the 2020 RTP/SCS, as well as broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures.

The PEIR will serve as an informational document to inform decision-makers and the public of the potential environmental consequences of approving the proposed plan by analyzing the projects and programs on a broad regional scale, not at a site-specific level of analysis. Site specific analysis by the lead agency will occur as each project is defined and goes through individual project-level environmental review.

SCAG will hold various scoping meetings and workshops throughout the PEIR development process to solicit input from SCAG stakeholders and the public. SCAG will ensure the PEIR is accessible to the public for review and comment.

(For additional information on the PEIR public participation procedures, see Appendix B.)

Environmental Justice Program

Pursuant to regulatory compliance, SCAG has developed a policy to ensure that environmental justice principles are an integral part of its transportation and land use planning process, including the RTP/SCS. SCAG's environmental justice program has two main elements: technical analysis and public outreach. The two major elements of the program contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Appendix of SCAG's RTP/SCSs (SCAG staff is currently working on the 2020 RTP/SCS), which conducts a technical analysis of EJ issues of the region and discusses outreach strategies, and SCAG's role as a resource for local jurisdictions to help address EJ issues in their respective communities (i.e. SCAG can be a data resource and provide guidance on EJ technical analysis processes for local jurisdictions that develop an EJ General Plan Element or incorporate EJ-related policies, goals, and objectives into their General Plans per SB 1000 requirements).

The overall environmental justice outreach process encourages SCAG stakeholders and the public, with many opportunities to be involved, to discuss and address environmental justice issues and shape SCAG's environmental justice program.

To further strengthen public outreach with SCAG stakeholders on EJ-related issues, SCAG staff proposed an Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG) and held the first meeting in May 2018. The purpose of the EJWG is to kick-start SCAG's ongoing EJ Program and develop a platform for SCAG stakeholders to discuss EJ topic on a continuous basis, not just during the development of the most current RTP/SCS.

(For additional information on the Environmental Justice public participation procedures, see Appendix B.)

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

SCAG is required to make updates to the eight-year Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), as mandated by state housing law. The RHNA quantifies the need for housing within each jurisdiction. Communities use the RHNA in land use planning, prioritizing local resource allocation, and in deciding how to address identified existing and future housing needs resulting from population, employment and household growth.

Both the RTP/SCS and RHNA use the local input survey, which collects information from each local jurisdiction, as the basis for future demographic projections, including household growth. The next RHNA cycle, also known as the 6th cycle, will cover the planning period of October 2021 through October 2029. The latest that SCAG can adopt the 6th RHNA allocation is October 2020, but SCAG is looking at alternative schedules for an earlier adoption date, possibly to coordinate with the adoption of the 2020 RTP/SCS.

As part of its public outreach for the RHNA process, SCAG will hold public meetings, workshops and public hearings at different points in the RHNA process to receive verbal and written input. SCAG staff will also coordinate with sub-regional COGs and other groups to update local jurisdictions and other stakeholders on the RHNA process and allocation.

Federal Transportation Improvement Program

SCAG's Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is the short-term capital listing of all transportation projects proposed over a six-year period. The listing, which is prepared every two years, identifies specific funding sources and funding amounts for each project. The proposed transportation projects are funded through a variety of federal, state and local sources. Projects consist of improvements such as, highway improvements, transit, high occupancy vehicle lanes, signal synchronization, intersection improvements, bikeways, and freeway ramps to name a few. The FTIP must include all transportation projects that are federally funded, and/or regionally significant regardless of funding source or whether subject to any federal action.

Projects in the FTIP are submitted to SCAG by the six County Transportation Commissions. SCAG analyzes the projects to ensure that they are consistent with state and federal requirements. Federal law requires the FTIP be consistent with the RTP.

SCAG works with transit operators and county transportation commissions on developing the FTIP. The public participation process and coordination is a tiered process within the SCAG region, beginning at the county level with each transportation commission developing their own transportation improvement program (TIP). There are several opportunities for the public to review and comment on projects and programs during the development of each county TIP and approval of the SCAG FTIP.

(For additional information on the FTIP public participation procedures, see Appendix B.)

Overall Work Program

Funding for SCAG's metropolitan planning activities are documented in an annual Overall Work Program, or OWP, pursuant to federal requirements. The OWP is developed each fiscal year, and details the agency's planning and budgetary priorities for the following fiscal year. SCAG's federal and state funding partners (FHWA, FTA and Caltrans) must approve SCAG's OWP each year before it takes effect.

(For additional information on the OWP public participation procedures, see Appendix B.)

WHY DOES SCAG EVALUATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES?

SCAG regularly monitors its communication and outreach activities in order to ensure that public and stakeholder concerns and input are directly addressed in its policies and programs, as well as to find areas for improvement. Additionally, these measurements are used to ensure public outreach outcomes are in compliance with state and federal requirements.

In developing this updated Public Participation Plan, we sought feedback from stakeholders and the public on our current outreach and engagement practices. In a survey distributed digitally during the development of this plan, we asked respondents to let us know which of our public participation activities are most effective, and how we can improve our efforts.

Major survey takeaways include:

- » Respondents ranked email as their most frequently used SCAG communication channel by a clear margin. Local media announcements were reported as the most infrequently used.
- » When asked about the most effective ways for SCAG to keep them engaged, those surveyed overwhelmingly supported email communications: 62% expressed a preference for “Regular, monthly e-mail newsletters with brief snippets of information” and 23% chose “Infrequent direct email on a singular issue” over alternative choices like social media and online video content.
- » 81% of respondents reported feeling that they have adequate access and opportunity to comment on SCAG’s plans and publications.
- » 94% of respondents reported being either “somewhat satisfied” or “very satisfied” by SCAG’s responsiveness to inquiries and comments.
- » More than 75% of respondents indicated support for SCAG collecting demographic data (such as age, race, or primary language) in public engagement efforts to support more inclusive outreach.
- » Additional comments requested more frequent and up-to-date information sharing on digital channels, and multiple respondents expressed a desire for more frequent, or better publicized, opportunities to provide input (beyond board meetings and on the Regional Transportation Plan).

This plan moves to address this feedback by placing a greater emphasis on online engagement efforts, particularly via email, and more clearly outlining SCAG’s regular public comment opportunities. The survey input will also inform some of our future evaluation methods, incorporating demographic data as a metric because of the expressed stakeholder support.

SCAG will continue to periodically survey the public and stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the Public Participation Plan, to ensure a full and open participation process.

WHAT DOES SCAG MEASURE?

- » SCAG measures the outcomes of a diverse array of public participation activities with context-sensitive evaluation methods that tailor goals to each project.
- » Benchmarks used to gauge success in public outreach include but are not limited to:
 - » Number of meetings or events held
 - » Number of meeting/event attendees
 - » Amount spent on outreach elements
 - » Media coverage
 - » Type and quantity of materials presented
- » Email distribution numbers, including open and click-through rates
- » Digital metrics including web traffic and social media engagement
- » Impressions (estimates of digital and print exposure)
- » Demographic data, shared voluntarily, such as race/ethnicity, gender and age
- » The following chart shows the measurements activities that correspond with previously stated public participation goals.

| Goal | Example Metrics |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Ensure that a wide range of perspectives are heard so that planning outcomes reflect the interests and values of the region’s diverse communities. To that end, SCAG will engage and consider the needs of traditionally underrepresented and/or underserved populations, such as low-income, minority, the disabled, and Limited English Proficiency populations.</p> | <p>Number of meetings held in traditionally under-represented communities; availability of translation services and materials; availability of accommodations for seeing and hearing impaired; location accessibility.</p> |
| <p>Provide opportunities for the public and stakeholders across the region to engage in meaningful dialogue during the decision-making process, and clearly define the purpose of each type of outreach at each stage and how feedback will be used to shape the plan and/or program.</p> | <p>Number of meetings held in each county; how outreach methods are tailored to meet the needs of specific projects and/or communities; type and quality of materials presented; recurring surveys and opportunities for public evaluation of SCAG’s outreach efforts.</p> |
| <p>Motivate more feedback from stakeholders, partners, and the public by making commenting on plan and programs convenient and accessible.</p> | <p>Number and scope of media advertisements for public comment opportunities; response rate to email blasts and other digital communication methods; SCAG website hits; and number of comments collected at meetings, online and through mail.</p> |
| <p>Evaluate and incorporate public and stakeholder viewpoints and preferences into final decisions where appropriate and possible, communicate the decisions made and how the received input affected those decisions.</p> | <p>Documentation of how public and stakeholder comments were addressed in final decisions, policies and plans; communication with commenting stakeholders informing them of how their input was addressed.</p> |
| <p>Encourage stakeholders and members of the public to remain engaged through the decision-making process, the implementation phase and beyond.</p> | <p>Recurring surveys and opportunities for public comment on public participation plans, and publish annual public outreach report measuring success and ways of improvement for the next year.</p> |

HOW DOES SCAG DEFINE SUCCESS?

- » SCAG uses qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate the success of its public participation strategies. Depending on the scope and location of the project or activity, SCAG measures feedback through:
 - » Setting clear, measurable outcomes.
 - » Establishing benchmarks to gauge success (i.e. 75% of respondents rated a workshop at 4 or higher on a six-point scale).
 - » Reviewing past processes, activities, and evaluations to see what actions the agency took as a result, noting lessons learned.
 - » Identifying and simplifying public involvement techniques that produce more cost-effective decisions.
 - » Evaluating public participation plans with surveys and opportunity for public comment.
 - » Highlight yearly public outreach successes and areas for improvement in annual accomplishments report.
 - » Measuring impact of digital outreach strategies by documenting number of hits on website, social media (Twitter and Facebook), and number of followers, shares, retweets, tweets, direct tweets, mentions etc.
 - » Measuring growth of distribution lists size, and number of requests to join distribution lists.
 - » Counting number of attendees, comments received and press mentions for project specific open houses, meetings & workshops.
 - » Counting number of registrations compared to actual attendance at events.
 - » Counting registrations and log-ins for webinars.
 - » Documenting the distribution, press mentions, number of calls, and comments for physical outreach materials such as direct mailings and flyers.
 - » Documenting press mentions, number of calls, and comments related to press releases.
 - » Tracking how often SCAG is mentioned in media such as news articles, blog posts, TV news etc. Other aspects to document are: circulation/popularity of news outlet; whether reference is positive or negative; content and number of comments on article/blogpost; number of times article/blog post has been shared; and what projects/programs are being mentioned.
 - » Scientific polling to obtain metrics regarding the effectiveness of its outreach.
 - » Reporting to agency leadership on level of success with respect to public participation using these methods.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

Find Information

Web & Video — SCAG’s website, www.scag.ca.gov, serves as the comprehensive resource for SCAG’s programs and policy initiatives, agendas for Regional Council and Policy Committee meetings, fact sheets and calendar of SCAG events. Live and archived video of Regional Council meetings and other SCAG-related video productions are available in the SCAG-TV section.

Data Library — SCAG has a wide range of data and web tools to help you access regional planning data, statistics and research information. We also have an extensive GIS library, which provides free access to a diverse collection of geographic and spatial data. SCAG’s data have been used by interested parties for a variety of purposes including: data and communication resources for elected officials; businesses and residents; community planning and outreach; economic development; visioning initiatives; and grant application support.

Group Presentations — SCAG’s planning staff are available to conduct presentations to community and stakeholder groups. Presentations can be tailored to address a specific topic, area of concern, or provide a general overview of how SCAG works on many different issues. Request a SCAG presentation to your organization or community through our online contact form at www.scag.ca.gov/about/Pages/ContactUs.aspx.

STAY CONNECTED

E-Newsletters — SCAG SPOTLIGHT is the official newsletter of the Regional Council. It includes information on recent Regional Council actions, an update from SCAG’s Executive Director and news on upcoming events. SCAG UPDATE is the agency’s regular newsletter, which offers updates on agency programs and events. To view or subscribe to SCAG’s e-newsletters, visit www.scag.ca.gov.

Social Media — SCAG is active on several social networking sites to help expand awareness of SCAG and broaden interest in its regional planning work. Engage with SCAG and stay current with news and events by following the agency on Facebook at @scagmpo or on Twitter at @SCAGnews.

Multilingual Access — SCAG seeks to ensure that diverse populations are involved in the regional planning process. With a minimum advance notice of 72 hours, SCAG makes available translation assistance at its workshop and public meetings. SCAG translates key outreach materials into Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese, and makes them available on the SCAG website: www.scag.ca.gov.

Share Input

SCAG welcomes the public to address the Regional Council and Policy Committees at every monthly meeting. Meetings for special subcommittees also include time for public comments. Visit the Public Participation Form on the SCAG website at www.scag.ca.gov to weigh in on important issues in Southern California. Locations for SCAG’s main office and regional offices are listed below:

- » **Main Office:** 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017
- » **Imperial County Office:** 1503 N. Imperial Avenue, Suite 104, El Centro, CA 92243
- » **Orange County Office:** 600 S. Main Street, Suite 906, Orange, CA 92863
- » **Riverside County Office:** 3403 10th Street, Suite 805, Riverside, CA 92501
- » **San Bernardino County Office:** 1170 W. 3rd Street, Suite 140, San Bernardino, CA 92410
- » **Ventura County Office:** 950 County Square Drive, Suite 101, Ventura, CA 93003

If you have general comments or questions please feel free to email us at: contactus@scag.ca.gov.

Regional Affairs Staff and Offices

To address the challenges of coordinating participation activities and events across 38,000 square miles of the region, SCAG established regional offices in the counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. Each office is staffed by a Regional Affairs Officer who coordinates SCAG activities for each county.

LEGAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Federal Planning Requirements

As the MPO designated for the six-county metropolitan planning area (MPA), SCAG is responsible under federal and state transportation planning law, to develop a metropolitan transportation plan, referred to by SCAG as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a transportation improvement program (TIP), referred to as the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

The 2005 “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” (SAFETEA-LU) set forth public participation requirements for MPOs in developing these transportation plans. Specifically, SAFETEA-LU required MPOs to develop, in collaboration with interested parties, a Public Participation Plan that would provide reasonable opportunities for all parties to participate and comment on regional transportation plans. The transportation reauthorization bill “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” (MAP-21) continues an emphasis on providing early and continuous opportunities for public involvement.

In carrying out its planning work, SCAG must comply with federal metropolitan planning law and regulations (23 U.S.C. Section 134 et seq. and 23 CFR Part 450 et seq.) and state transportation planning law (Cal Gov. Code Section 65080 et seq.) which incorporates the requirements of California Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg 2008). SCAG is further committed to developing and updating its regional transportation plans in accordance with the following requirements, including but not limited to: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Guidelines; Federal Clean Air Act; American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; Executive Order 13166 regarding Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency; Executive Order 13175 regarding Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes.

SCAG’s Public Participation Plan procedures will follow and must comply with the following federal planning regulations set forth under 23 C.F.R. Section 450.316:

1. The MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, business and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.
2. The participation plan shall be developed by the MPO in consultation with all interested parties and shall, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes for:
 - » (i) Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including but not limited to a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;
 - » (ii) Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;
 - » (iii) Employing visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs;
 - » (iv) Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web;

- » (v) Holding any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;
 - » (vi) Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;
 - » (vii) Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;
 - » (viii) Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by SCAG and raises new material issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;
 - » (ix) Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes under subpart (ii) of this part [regarding Consultation]; and
 - » (x) Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.
3. When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft metropolitan transportation plan and TIP (including the financial plans) as a result of the participation process in this section or the interagency consultation process required under the EPA transportation conformity regulations (40 CFR part 93), a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made as part of the final metropolitan transportation plan and TIP.
 4. A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before the initial or revised participation plan is adopted by SCAG. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted on the World Wide Web, to the maximum extent practicable.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS & ACTIVITIES

SCAG must consult, as appropriate, with State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation concerning the development of the RTP. The consultation shall involve, as appropriate:

1. Comparison of transportation plans with State conservation plans or maps, if available; or
2. Comparison of transportation plans to inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.

SCAG's consultation requirements under federal planning regulations are set forth under 23 C.F.R. Section 450.316(b)–(e) as follows:

1. In developing metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs, the MPO should consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPA that are affected by transportation (including State and local planned growth, economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements) or coordinate its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities. In addition, metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs shall be developed with due consideration of other related planning activities within the metropolitan area, and the process shall provide for the design and delivery of transportation services within the areas that are provided by:
 - » Recipients of assistance under title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53;
 - » Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations (including representatives of the agencies and organizations) that receive Federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide non-emergency transportation services; and
 - » Recipients of assistance under 23 U.S.C. 204.
2. When the MPA includes Indian Tribal lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve Indian Tribal government(s) in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.
3. When the MPA includes Federal public lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Federal land management agencies in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and TIP.
4. MPOs shall, to the extent practicable, develop a documented process(es) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies, as defined in paragraphs 1– 3 of this section, which may be included in the agreement(s) developed under Section 450.314 [metropolitan planning agreements].

Consultation activities are accomplished primarily through SCAG Policy Committees, other committees, subcommittees, task forces, and working groups. SCAG's Policy Committees (Transportation Committee, Energy and Environment Committee and Community, Economic and Human Development Committee) are primarily made up of local elected officials. There are several issue-specific, as well as mode-specific, committees, subcommittees, task forces and working groups that are on-going as well as some that are created for a specific purpose and specific timeframe. All of these groups provide input to SCAG who thereafter forwards their recommendations to the policy committees. Examples include the Aviation Technical Advisory Committee, Technical Working Group, Transit Technical Advisory Committee, Modeling Task Force, Transportation Conformity Working Group and several Regional Planning Working Groups (on subjects including active transportation, environmental justice, public health and sustainable communities). Subsequent to the adoption of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, SCAG convened six subcommittees: Active Transportation, Goods Movement, High-Speed Rail and Transit, Public Health, Sustainability, and Transportation Finance. Membership on these groups includes elected officials as well as stakeholder agency representatives. The stakeholders had a direct pipeline to SCAG's planning processes through these groups. In anticipation of the development for the 2020 RTP/SCS, SCAG formed two additional Regional Planning Working Groups, one focused on issues of safety and another on mobility innovation.

SCAG conducts meetings with planning staff from all 197 member jurisdictions and provides individual city council briefings when requested. Also, SCAG conducts several workshops prior to releasing the Draft RTP/SCS involving stakeholders to ensure that their input on major issues is addressed in the plan. In addition, SCAG meets with State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection and others.

SCAG also utilizes the sub-regional council of governments (COG) structure to distribute information and solicit input on the content as well as the planning and programming process from local stakeholders.

SCAG mails out a notice of the Draft RTP and FTIP availability to the stakeholders at the local, state and federal level to solicit their comment and input to the final RTP and FTIP. Comments and responses are fully documented and reflected in the final RTP.

SCAG reviews and considers all public comments in the regional transportation planning process, and provides additional opportunity for public comment on the revised plan if the final plan differs significantly from the draft plan that was previously made public.

SCAG engages Tribal Governments in the RTP and FTIP processes through Tribal Government representation on SCAG's governing board and policy committees. SCAG also engages with the various Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs) during the RTP and PEIR processes. SCAG is currently in the process of documenting its outreach procedures with Tribal Governments and FLMAs.

TITLE VI AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Consideration of Environmental Justice in the transportation planning process originates from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). Title VI establishes the need for transportation agencies to disclose to the public the benefits and burdens of proposed projects on minority populations. Title VI states that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Additionally, Title VI not only bars intentional discrimination, but also unjustified disparate impact discrimination. Disparate impacts result from policies and practices that are neutral on their face (i.e., there is no evidence of intentional discrimination), but have the effect of discrimination on protected groups. The understanding of civil rights has expanded to include low-income communities, as further described below.

In the 1990's, the federal executive branch issued orders on Environmental Justice that amplified Title VI, in part by providing protections on the basis of income as well as race. These directives, which included President Clinton's Executive Order 12898 (1994) and subsequent U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) orders (1997 and 1998, respectively), along with a 1999 DOT guidance memorandum, ordered every federal agency to make Environmental Justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing the effects of all programs, policies and activities on underrepresented groups and low-income populations. Reinforcing Title VI, these measures ensure that every federally funded project nationwide consider the human environment when undertaking the planning and decision-making process.

On August 4, 2011, 17 federal agencies signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898." The signatories, including the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), agreed to develop Environmental Justice strategies to protect the health of people living in communities overburdened by pollution and to provide the public with annual progress reports on their efforts. The MOU advances agency responsibilities outlined in the 1994 Executive Order 12898 and directs

each of the Federal agencies to make Environmental Justice part of its mission and to work with other agencies on Environmental Justice issues as members of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

In response to this MOU, DOT revised its Environmental Justice Strategy. The revisions reinforce the DOT's programs and policies related to Environmental Justice and strengthen its efforts to outreach to minority and low-income populations. In addition, in July 2012, the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) issued two Circulars on Title VI and Environmental Justice to clarify the requirements and offer guidance. FTA Circular 4702.1A, Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients provides information required in the Title VI Program, changes the reporting requirement from every four years to every three years, and adds a requirement for mapping and charts to analyze the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal public transportation funds. The FTA Circular 4703.1, Environmental Justice Policy Guidance for Federal Transit Administration Recipients (Docket number FTA-2011-0055) provides recommendations to MPOs (and other recipients of FTA funds) on how to fully engage Environmental Justice populations in the public transportation decision-making process; how to determine whether Environmental Justice populations would be subjected to disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects as a result of a transportation plan, project, or activity; and how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these effects. The Circular does not contain any new requirements, policies or directives. Nonetheless, SCAG complies with the framework provided to integrate the principles of Environmental Justice into its decision-making processes.

Under federal policy, all federally funded agencies must make Environmental Justice part of their mission and adhere to three fundamental Title VI/Environmental Justice principles:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

In addition to Federal requirements, SCAG must comply with California Government Code Section 11135, which states that, "no person in the State of California shall, on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, or sexual orientation, be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency that is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state."

The State of California also provides guidance for those involved in transportation decision-making to address Environmental Justice. In 2003, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) published the Desk Guide on Environmental Justice in Transportation Planning and Investments to provide information and examples of ways to promote Environmental Justice. The Desk Guide identified requirements for public agencies, guidance on impact analyses, recommendations for public involvement, and mitigation.

Finally, SCAG has in place a Title VI Program which was adopted in September 2017. The Title VI Program includes a process for investigating Title VI complaints as well as a copy of the agency's Language Assistance Plan for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations. The key elements of the LEP Plan include: (1) Oral translators versed in Spanish, Chinese and Korean available upon request for meeting and workshops; (2) selected RTP materials available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese languages; and (3) utilization of a specialty outreach consultant to engage with the LEP and minority communities. SCAG will continue these efforts for the 2020 RTP/SCS cycle. More information about the agency's Title VI Program and LEP Plan is available on the SCAG website at: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/participate/Pages/CivilRights.aspx>.

State Planning Requirements

Under California law, each metropolitan planning organization is required to adopt a public participation plan, for development of the sustainable communities strategy and an alternative planning strategy (if one is developed), that includes all of the following:

1. Outreach efforts to encourage the active participation of a broad range of stakeholder groups in the planning process, consistent with SCAG's adopted Public Participation Plan;

2. Consultation with congestion management agencies, transportation agencies, and transportation commissions;
3. Workshops throughout the region (a minimum of three public workshops in each county with a population of 500,000 or more) to provide the public with the information and tools necessary to provide a clear understanding of the issues and policy choices;
4. Preparation and circulation of a draft SCS, and APS if one is prepared, not less than 55 days before adoption of a final RTP;
5. At least three public hearings on the draft SCS in the RTP, and APS if one is prepared, held in different parts of the region, if feasible;
6. A process for enabling members of the public to provide a single request to receive notices, information and updates.

Further, SCAG must conduct at least two informational meetings in each county within the region for members of the board of supervisors and city councils on the SCS and APS, if any. The purpose of the meeting shall be to present a draft of the SCS to the members of the board of supervisors and city council members in that county and to solicit and consider their input and recommendations.

INTERESTED PARTIES

SCAG intends to encourage involvement of a broad range of people and organizations in the RTP/SCS planning process by reaching out to a wide variety of potential participants.

Per state law, SCAG has expanded its list of Interested Parties which includes the public, stakeholders and tribal governments, to whom we conduct outreach.

The following list of Interested Parties are target audiences SCAG aims to reach in the region:

- » affordable housing advocates
- » business organizations
- » city managers
- » community development representatives
- » commercial property interests
- » community-based organizations
- » educational community and institutions
- » elderly and retired persons
- » elected officials
- » environmental advocates
- » federal land management agencies
- » freight shippers
- » general public
- » governmental agencies and non-profit organizations that receive Federal assistance from a source other than the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide non-emergency transportation services and recipients of assistance under section 204 of Title 23 U.S.C.
- » health and wellness representatives
- » home builder representatives
- » homeowner associations
- » landowners
- » Limited English Proficiency populations
- » minority and low-income populations
- » neighborhood and community groups
- » neighborhood councils
- » organizations serving rural area residents
- » planners
- » private providers of transportation
- » private sector
- » providers of freight transportation services
- » public agencies
- » public health and wellness representatives
- » public sector
- » representatives of the disabled
- » representatives of transportation agency employees
- » representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
- » representatives of users of public transit
- » special interest non-profit agencies
- » subregional organizations such as Councils of Governments
- » transit operators
- » transportation advocates
- » Tribal Governments
- » women's organizations
- » schools and school-based groups

BOTTOM-UP PLANNING AND INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION

SCAG's three Policy Committees (Transportation Committee, Energy & Environment Committee and Community, Economic & Human Development Committee) include members appointed to represent the 15 subregional organizations in the SCAG region. Further, the numerous subcommittees, technical advisory committees, working groups, and the AB 1246 process (Cal. Pub. Util. Code §130059) facilitate SCAG's ability to provide a framework for ground-up planning and more frequent and ongoing participation by interested parties at all stages of the process.

Within the AB 1246 process, the multi-county designated transportation planning agency (i.e. SCAG) shall convene at least two meetings annually of representatives from each of the county transportation commissions, the agency, and the Department of Transportation for the purposes below.

1. To review and discuss the near-term transportation improvement programs prior to adoption by the county transportation commissions.
2. To review and discuss the Regional Transportation Plan prior to adoption by SCAG pursuant to Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 65080) of Title 7 of the Government Code.
3. To consider progress in the development of a region wide and unified public transit system.
4. To review and discuss any other matter of mutual concern.

The region-wide Transportation Agencies CEOs Group is currently fulfilling the function of the AB 1246 process.

SCAG has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on transportation and air quality conformity consultation procedures for the South Coast Air Basin and for the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the Mojave Desert Air Basin. Parties to the MOU include: SCAQMD, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Air Resource Board, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Likewise, SCAG has an MOU for transportation and air quality conformity consultation procedures with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) for the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB). Parties to the MOU include: VCAPCD, Ventura County Transportation Commission, Caltrans, California Air Resources Board, Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

To support interagency coordination and fulfill the interagency consultation requirements of the Federal Transportation Conformity Rule, SCAG hosts and participates in the Southern California Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG). The group meets on a regular basis to address and resolve regional issues pertaining to transportation conformity for the RTP and FTIP; RTP and TIP amendments; and the region's air quality management plans. The TCWG also is the forum for interagency consultation on project-level particulate matter (PM) hot-spot analysis. SCAG serves as the regional PM hot spot analysis clearinghouse and maintains records on all projects on the TCWG page on SCAG's website:

<http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Pages/TCWG.aspx>

Participants in the Southern California TCWG include representatives from federal, state, regional and sub-regional agencies such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (both national and regional representatives), Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, California Air Resources Board, California Department of Transportation, Air Quality Management Districts, County Transportation Commissions, Transportation Corridor Agencies, and SCAG.

PROGRAMS WITH ESTABLISHED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) represents the vision for Southern California's future, including policies, strategies, and projects for advancing the region's mobility, economy, and sustainability. The RTP/SCS details how the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and opportunities in order to achieve its air quality emissions standards and greenhouse gas reduction targets. SCAG updates the RTP/SCS every four years, as required by law, and SCAG is currently undertaking the development of the 2020 RTP/SCS to provide Southern California with a comprehensive vision for its transportation future to the year 2045.

California Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, 2008 Statutes) requires SCAG and other MPOs to engage the region in the development process of the SCS or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) through outreach efforts and a series of workshops and public hearings. For the SCAG region, these workshops and public hearings include workshops for local elected officials and workshops in each county in the region (at least 16 public workshops). SCAG will also conduct public hearings on the Draft 2020 RTP/SCS in different parts of the region.

SCAG prepares several technical companion documents for RTP/SCS updates. These include a Program Environmental Impact Report on the RTP/SCS per CEQA guidelines and transportation air quality conformity analyses (to ensure clean air mandates are met) per federal Clean Air Act requirements. Certain revisions to the RTP/SCS may warrant a revision or update to these technical documents.

SCAG also prepares an equity analysis of RTP/SCS updates to determine whether minority and low-income communities in the region share equitably in the benefits of the regional transportation plan without bearing a disproportionate share of the burdens. As an assessment of the region's long-range transportation investment strategy, this analysis is conducted at a regional, program-level scale. This assessment of the long-range plan is intended to satisfy federal requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and federal policies and guidance on environmental justice. For each update of the RTP/SCS, SCAG prepares a public participation plan that provides more information on how the equity analysis will be conducted throughout that update of the RTP/SCS. For additional information on the Environmental Justice public participation procedures, see pages 32-33 of this Appendix B.)

UPDATING AND REVISING THE RTP/SCS

A complete update of an existing RTP/SCS is required at least once every four years. The RTP/SCS also may be revised in between major updates under certain circumstances, as described below.

RTP/SCS Update

This is a complete update of the most current RTP/SCS, which is prepared pursuant to state and federal requirements. RTP/SCS updates include extensive public consultation and participation involving hundreds of SCAG residents, public agency officials, and stakeholder groups over many months. SCAG's Regional Council and policy committees and other members of the public play key roles in providing feedback on the policy and investment strategies identified in the plan. Local and Tribal governments, transit operators and other federal, state and regional agencies also actively participate in the development of an RTP/SCS update via existing working groups and ad hoc forums.

RTP/SCS Amendment

An amendment is a major revision to the RTP/SCS, including adding or deleting a project and major changes in project costs, completion year dates, and/or design concept and scope (e.g., changing project locations or the number of through traffic lanes). An amendment requires public review and comment and is ultimately presented to SCAG’s Regional Council for final approval. An amendment must demonstrate financial constraint and a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation conformity mandates.

RTP/SCS Administrative Modification

This is a minor revision to the RTP/SCS for minor changes to project phase costs, funding sources, and/or initiation dates. An administrative modification does not require public review and comment, demonstration that the project can be completed based on expected funding, nor a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation conformity requirements. As with an RTP/SCS amendment, changes to projects that are included in the RTP/SCS’s financially unconstrained strategic plan may be changed without going through this process.

2020 RTP/SCS Update Process and Schedule

Developing the long-range plan for the SCAG region takes between two and three years to complete and involves working with six county transportation commissions (from the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), nine sub-regional councils of governments, 191 cities, and countless other stakeholder organizations and the public. The 2020 RTP/SCS involves goal setting, target setting, growth forecasting, financial projections, scenario development and analysis, and significant issues exploration. Considered at a high level, the 2020 RTP/SCS update will be completed in four phases: 1) Technical Bases & Data Collection; 2) Focus on Major Policy Directions; 3) Establish the Plan & Engage the Public; 4) Adopt 2020 RTP/SCS & PEIR (timeline illustrated in the graphic below.) Throughout the process, SCAG staff will engage the public and local, regional, and state partners to develop the 2020 RTP/SCS to meet current and future transportation needs over the next 25 years. Development of the 2020 RTP/SCS will be guided by an existing federal, state, and regional policy framework consisting of FAST Act/MAP-21, the California Transportation Plan and other relevant statewide plans, and the existing 2016 RTP/SCS.

In addition to the overall RTP/SCS development, SCAG also develops alternative scenarios for the



Sustainable Communities Strategies to illustrate the outcomes of different policy and investment choices and identify pathways to meeting GHG reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board. In preparation of the 2020 SCS Scenarios, SCAG will be engaging directly with community-based organizations and offering participation support to other organizations that are interested in informing scenario development. SCAG will also be developing a robust engagement tool to be used by the general public and promoted through SCAG’s regular outreach methods mentioned above on page 10 in order to collect nuanced input on investment and policy priorities.

Throughout the 2020 RTP/SCS development, SCAG’s Regional Council; Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee; Energy and Environment Committee; and Transportation Committee will consider the challenges and opportunities facing the SCAG region and how to best address them, while considering public input.

The process for the 2020 RTP/SCS development will need to be flexible and is subject to change, as needed, to reflect and respond to the input received as SCAG moves through the steps of updating the plan. To help direct interested SCAG residents and organizations to participate in key actions or decisions being taken, any changes as well as additional detail will be posted on the www.scagrtpscs.org website.

SUMMARY OF KEY TASKS AND MILESTONES

| Step | Tasks | Details | Completion |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Update Planning Assumptions | » Review and update regional vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures. | Spring 2018 – Summer 2019 |
| 2 | Update Data (through the new horizon year) | » Update future population, household, and employment growth forecasts. » Update land use assumptions. » Assess projected land uses and identify major growth corridors. » County Transportation Commissions review and update project lists. | Spring 2017 – Winter 2019 |
| 3 | Transportation Financial Analysis | » Update revenue forecast. » Define cost of multimodal transportation system needs, including operating and maintenance of the existing and future system, plus new and improved facilities and services. » Discuss funding tradeoffs. » Identify potential funding gap (i.e. limits so that revenues = expenditures). | Winter 2018 – Fall 2019 |
| 4 | Land Use/ Transportation Scenarios Development | » Define land use scenarios. Also, assess land use options and compare options to existing local policies. » Define transportation network scenarios. » Assess scenarios against performance targets. » Obtain stakeholder and public feedback on the scenarios and incorporate input. | Spring 2018 – Spring 2019 |
| 5 | Issues Exploration | » Work with stakeholders to explore issues such as public health, active transportation, and natural/farm lands. » Incorporate recommendations into the plan (e.g. policies). | Winter 2017 – Summer 2019 |
| 6 | Preferred Scenario | » Based on stakeholder and public input, identify preferred land use and transportation investment strategy. » Assess preferred scenario against GHG targets. » Preferred scenario approved by Regional Council. | Spring 2019 |
| 7 | Program Environmental Impact Report | » Estimate the impact of transportation and land uses on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions within the region. | Fall 2018 – Summer 2019 |
| 8 | Release Draft 2020 RTP/SCS and Program Environmental Impact Report | » Regional Council approves the release of the draft 2020 RTP/SCS and associated PEIR. | September 2019 |
| 9 | Public Outreach and Comment Period | » Acquire public input on the draft 2020 RTP/SCS and PEIR and respond to public comments. | September 2019 – November 2019 |
| 10 | Approve Draft 2020 RTP/SCS and Program Environmental Impact Report | » Regional Council reviews for certification PEIR for the 2020 RTP/SCS and review for approval the final 2020 RTP/SCS. | April 2020 |

It should be noted that while the dates outlined in the above summary are specific to SCAG's development of the 2020 RTP/SCS, the tasks and milestones are applicable to SCAG's general process for developing a RTP/SCS.

PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SCAG will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) beginning in the fall of 2018 through summer 2019. The PEIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the 2020 RTP/SCS.

The 2020 PEIR will focus on a region-wide assessment of existing conditions and potential impacts, as well as broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures. Potential or probable environmental effects of individual projects included in the 2020 RTP/SCS Project List will not be specifically analyzed in the PEIR. The PEIR will serve as a first-tier document for later CEQA review of individual projects included in the program. For large scale planning approvals (such as the RTP/SCS), where project-level environmental analyses will subsequently be prepared for specific projects broadly identified within a PEIR, the site-specific analysis can be deferred until the project-level environmental document is prepared, provided deferral does not prevent adequate identification of significant effects of the planning approval at hand.

SCAG, as the lead agency of the 2020 RTP/SCS, is required to file all CEQA notices related to the PEIR (i.e. Notice of Preparation (NOP), Notice of Availability (NOA), Notice of Determination (NOD)) to the Office of Planning and Research and with the county clerk in each county within the project boundaries (which includes Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties) for public review for 30-60 days. All CEQA notices are also e-mailed out to SCAG stakeholders through SCAG's e-mailing list and posted at SCAG's main office in Los Angeles and regional satellite offices in each of the other five counties for the full comment period to solicit public comments. Public comments received during the NOP stage, the first stage in developing an environmental document of the CEQA process, will be incorporated into the Draft PEIR and public comments received during the NOA stage, the second stage, will be responded to in the Final PEIR. This process ensures public comments are collected and addressed per CEQA requirements.

In summary, the PEIR will serve as an informational document to inform decision-makers and the public of the potential environmental consequences of approving the proposed plan by analyzing the projects and programs on a broad regional scale, not at a site-specific level of analysis. Site-specific analysis will occur as each project is defined and goes through individual project-level environmental review.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In addition to the tasks outlined above to develop the 2020 RTP/SCS, SCAG is required to update the eight-year Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RTP/SCS must demonstrate on a regional level, areas sufficient to house all the population of the region, including the eight-year projection of the RHNA.

Both the RTP/SCS and RHNA use the local input survey, which collects information from each local jurisdiction, as the basis for future demographic projections, including household growth. The next RHNA cycle, also known as the 6th cycle, will cover the planning period October 2021 through October 2029. The latest SCAG can adopt the 6th RHNA allocation is October 2020, but SCAG is looking at alternative schedules for an earlier adoption date, possibly to coordinate with the adoption of the 2020 RTP/SCS. As with the SCAG's development of the 2020 RTP/SCS, there will be several opportunities for the public to be involved in the RHNA process including through public meetings and hearings.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Federal Transportation Improvement Plan

SCAG's Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is a capital listing of all transportation projects proposed over a six-year period. The listing, adopted every two years, identifies specific funding sources and funding amounts for each project. The FTIP must include all transportation projects that are federally funded, and/or regionally significant, regardless of funding source or whether subject to any federal action.

The FTIP includes improvements to projects on the state highway, local arterial, bridge, public transit, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, safety, maintenance, operational and planning projects to name a few. The projects are submitted to SCAG by the six County Transportation Commissions. SCAG analyzes the projects to ensure that they are consistent with state and federal requirements. Federal law requires the FTIP be consistent with the RTP.

The following outlines SCAG’s strategies, procedures and techniques for public participation on the FTIP. SCAG intends to update this section of the Appendix as needed prior to commencing each FTIP cycle to reflect appropriate changes.

1. FTIP Public Participation Process in the SCAG Region

SCAG has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with transit operators and each of the County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) within the SCAG Region. These MOUs specify the role of the transit operators and CTCs with respect to approval of transportation projects utilizing federal, state highway, and transit funds within their respective jurisdiction. The County Transportation Commissions are also responsible for transportation programming and short-range planning in their respective counties. The County Transportation Commissions transmit their approved County TIP to SCAG. The public participation process and coordination is a tiered process within the SCAG region. This tiered process initiates the public participation process at the CTC’s county TIP development stage, which occurs long before the development of the SCAG FTIP.

There are several opportunities for the public to review and comment on projects and programs during the development of each county TIP and approval of the SCAG FTIP. These public participation opportunities are described below.

A. Project Identification

Public participation begins at the local agency level by identifying projects and associated work scopes based on local and regional transportation needs. Newly identified projects are commonly placed on funding needs lists, funding plans or capital improvement program plans and programs that identify projects to be funded. These lists, plans and programs are adopted by local agency boards (mostly elected officials) in meetings open to the general public. Stakeholders, interest groups and the general public have the opportunity to review and comment on these projects and local plans prior to local agency board approvals.

B. Project Funding

The general public, interested parties and stakeholders have an opportunity to review and comment on projects and programs during the allocation of funds by local agencies including cities, counties, special districts, and county transportation commissions (CTCs).

The process of assigning specific funding sources to projects normally occurs in meetings open to the general public by public policy boards. For example, the CTCs in the SCAG region conduct a “call for projects” when funding under their control (federal, state and/or local) is available for programming. Local agencies apply and compete for available funding based on adopted eligibility guidelines consistent with federal, state and local county requirements. Candidate projects usually have gone through an initial public review process and are included in local agency capital improvement needs programs or plans. The CTCs work through their respective committee review process to develop a list of projects recommended for funding and adoption by each respective policy board. CTCs review committees are comprised of local agency staff (stakeholders and interested parties), and in some cases include public elected officials. Review committee meetings are publicly noticed. The recommended project lists approved by the committees are forwarded to the respective policy boards for approval. Projects proposed for funding are made available for review by the general public, stakeholders and interested parties in advance of adoption by the CTCs policy boards. All allocation of funds by the policy boards occur in publicly-noticed meetings open to the general public.

The allocation of public funds to projects by other entities meet the public review requirements that are consistent with the federal, state and/or local laws that govern the allocation of the funds.

C. County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

The CTCs develop their respective TIPs based on FTIP Guidelines prepared by SCAG in consultation with the CTCs, SCAG's TCWG and federal and state agencies staff, with approval by SCAG's Regional Council. The CTCs' submittal of their county TIP to SCAG is their county implementation plan, which is incorporated in its entirety into the SCAG FTIP. All projects programmed in County TIPs have been previously approved for funding by the entity responsible for allocating the project funds. When submitting County TIPs to SCAG, each CTC is required to adopt a financial resolution which certifies that it has the resources to fund the projects in the TIP and affirms its commitment to implement all projects. The financial resolution is approved by each policy board in publicly noticed meetings open to the general public.

D. SCAG FTIP Development

SCAG develops the FTIP for the six-county region based on the County TIPs prepared and submitted by the CTCs described above in Section C. The Draft SCAG FTIP is noticed for a minimum 30-day public review, and public hearings are held at the SCAG office and, where possible, these public hearings will be available via videoconference, teleconference, or via the web. SCAG also conducts public outreach efforts through social media outlets. The Draft SCAG FTIP documents are made available for review and comment by stakeholders, interested parties and the general public through the SCAG website at <http://ftip.scag.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx> and at public libraries throughout the six-county region prior to the public hearing. The list of libraries are posted on SCAG's FTIP web page.

In addition to the public hearings, SCAG committees and working groups also review and discuss the draft FTIP. These SCAG groups include the Executive Administration Committee, the Transportation Committee (TC), the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG), and the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC). The SCAG Regional Council takes final action when they adopt the FTIP.

E. FTA Program of Projects

The designated recipient of FTA Section 5307 funds must develop a Program of Projects (POP). The POP is a list of proposed FTA funded projects that must undergo a public review process. Guidance provided by FTA allows the FTIP to function as the POP as long as the public is notified through SCAG's public notice that the FTIP public review process satisfies the public participation requirements of the POP. Once the FTIP is approved, the document will function as the POP for recipients of FTA funds in the SCAG region. SCAG's public participation process for the FTIP is intended to satisfy FTA Section 5307 funding recipients' public participation process for the POP.

F. SCAG FTIP Updates

The FTIP can be amended throughout its term. This process is similar to developing the formal FTIP. Proposed amendments to the adopted FTIP are submitted by the CTCs to SCAG. After SCAG has completed its analysis of the proposed change(s) to the FTIP ensuring consistency with the various programming rules and regulations, SCAG electronically posts the proposed change(s) for a 10-day public review and comment period on the SCAG website at <http://ftip.scag.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

In addition to posting the amendment information on the web, a notice is sent to the TCWG as part of the FTIP amendment public review process.

2. Other FTIP Public Participation strategies, procedures and techniques

A. Enhance Website Capabilities:

- I. Utilize SCAG's website to provide information, announce draft and final program releases encourage feedback and comments from the public, make draft and final programs and corresponding documents available, provide contact information, inform of upcoming events and meetings, post meeting agendas and minutes.
- II. Ensure that the information available is timely, easy-to-understand and accessible and that the website is compliant with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

B. Update Contact Databases and Advisory Groups:

- I. Review and update mailing lists for outreach efforts.
- II. Expand contact databases to include all Interested Parties identified in the Plan.

C. Coordinate Outreach Efforts with other Stakeholder Organizations:

- I. Support interagency coordination by continuing to host and participate in the monthly TCWG meetings.
- II. Mail Notice of Draft FTIP availability to the stakeholders at the local, state and federal level to solicit their comment and input to the final FTIP. Ensure that the public comment period for the program is at least 30 days.
- III. Participate in regular meetings with the county transportation commissions in the coordination of the draft and final FTIP.

D. Conduct Public Hearings:

- I. Announce public hearings in printed materials, on SCAG's website.
- II. Hold public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.
- III. Conduct at least two public hearings on the draft FTIP.
- IV. Explore new opportunities using state-of-the-art communications and information technology for reaching remote audiences.

E. Maintain a Log of Outreach Efforts:

- I. Maintain a log of all agency-wide outreach presentations.
- II. Review and consider all public comments in the regional transportation planning process.
- III. Record, track and maintain a log of comments and SCAG's response to the comments
- IV. Respond to all comments received in a timely manner.

3. Annual Listing of Projects

Federal regulations require SCAG to develop an annual listing of projects (including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities) for which federal funds were obligated in the preceding program year. SCAG, in consultation and coordination with the State, county transportation commissions, and public transportation operators throughout the SCAG region, compiles the information and produces the annual listing of projects. The annual listing of obligated projects may be found on the SCAG website at: <http://ftip.scag.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

4. FTIP Amendments

For the FTIP, the following summarizes the categories of amendments identified by FHWA for the FTIP. The public participation requirements for each amendment type are illustrated in Figure 1.

A. Category 1. Administrative Modification

An administrative modification includes minor changes to project cost, schedule, and project description changes without affecting the scope, and/or funding sources. Please see the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) and Federal Transportation Improvement program (FTIP) Amendment and Administrative Modification Procedures for a complete definition of an administrative modification and eligibility.

B. Category 2. Amendment – Changes that do not impact the existing conformity determination.

The Amendment category may include changes that are not eligible under an administrative modification.

C. Category 3. Amendment – Relying on the existing Conformity Determination.

This amendment may include adding a project or a project phase to the program. This amendment category consists of projects that are modeled and are included in the regional emissions analysis.

D. Category 4. Formal Amendment – New Conformity Determination.

This amendment may include adding or deleting projects that are not currently included in the regional emissions analysis or part of the existing conformity determination. This amendment may involve adding or deleting projects that must be modeled for their air quality impacts: significantly changing the design concept, scope; or schedule of an existing project.

E. Category 5. Technical Amendment

Changes to project information not required to be included in the FTIP per federal requirements. Changes are not subject to an administrative modification or an amendment such as changes to project codes, and changes to correct typographical errors. These technical corrections do not impact project scope or cost.

| Amendment Category | Public Hearing Requirements | Public Review Period (# of days) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Administrative | N/A | N/A |
| 2 Amendment Changes that do not impact the existing conformity determination | No | 1 |
| 3 Amendment relying on existing conformity determination | No | 10 |
| 4 Formal — Requires a new conformity determination | Yes | 30 |

FTIP AMENDMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION APPROVAL PROCEDURES

SCAG Executive Director Authority

FTIP AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

As part of the TIP approval process, the SCAG Regional Council granted authority to SCAG's Executive Director or designee to approve Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) amendments and associated conformity determination and to transmit to the state and federal agencies amendments to the most currently approved FTIP. These amendments must meet the following criteria:

- » Changes that do not affect the regional emissions analysis.
- » Changes that do not affect the timely implementation of the Transportation Control Measures.
- » Changes that do not adversely impact financial constraint.
- » Changes consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan.

FTIP amendments triggered by an RTP amendment must be approved by the Regional Council.

FTIP ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION PROCEDURE

The SCAG Regional Council has the discretion to delegate authority to SCAG's Executive Director to approve FTIP Administrative Modifications to the Federal State Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) consistent with approved FSTIP/FTIP Administrative Modification and Amendment Procedures and as may be amended. Administrative Modifications are minor project changes that qualify under the FSTIP/FTIP Administrative Modification and Amendment Procedures. Because FTIP Administrative Modifications are considered minor changes, public review is not required.

The following procedures apply to this delegation of authority:

- » SCAG will send copies of the approved administrative modification to Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA.
- » Once the administrative modification is approved by SCAG, the administrative modification will be deemed part of the Federal State Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).
- » SCAG will demonstrate in a subsequent amendment that the net financial change from each administrative modification has been accounted for.
- » Caltrans will conduct periodic reviews of SCAG's administrative modification process to confirm adherence to the procedures. Noncompliance with the procedures will result in revocation of the MPO's delegation.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

In 1994, Executive Order 12898 directed every federal agency to make environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing the effects of all programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Reinforcing Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which addresses minority populations, this executive order ensures that every federally-funded project nationwide consider the human environment when undertaking the planning and decision-making process.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six Southern California counties, SCAG developed a policy to ensure that environmental justice principles are an integral part of the transportation planning process, including the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Additionally, as a government agency that receives federal funding, SCAG is required to conduct an environmental justice analysis for its RTP/SCS. SCAG's environmental justice program has two main elements: technical analysis and public outreach. As part of SCAG's environmental justice program, the agency also:

- » Provides early and meaningful public access to decision-making processes for all interested parties, including minority and low-income populations;
- » Seeks out and considers the input of traditionally underrepresented groups, such as minority and low-income populations, in the regional transportation planning process;
- » Takes steps to propose mitigation measures or consider alternative approaches for the SCAG region when disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations are identified; and
- » Continues to evaluate and respond to environmental justice issues that arise during and after the implementation of SCAG's regional plans.

SCAG also prepares additional companion documents, or appendices, to help support or add to the RTP/SCS. The environmental justice technical analysis and public outreach methodology are included in the RTP/SCS Environmental Justice (EJ) Appendix.

Early and continuous public outreach and input from SCAG’s environmental justice stakeholders help SCAG prioritize and address needs in the region. Public outreach for environmental justice issues will be conducted concurrently with the RTP/SCS public outreach and development process. SCAG will hold various kick-off meetings, outreach workshops, focus group meetings and interviews throughout the RTP/SCS development process. Specifically, SCAG will hold:

- » At least one (1) kick-off meeting at the beginning of the RTP/SCS development at the SCAG Headquarters located at Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA);
- » At least four (4) outreach workshops during the RTP/SCS development and EJ Appendix development process. At least two (2) of the meetings will be held at SCAG’s DTLA Headquarters while at least two (2) will be held in other geographical areas based on needs expressed by stakeholders;
- » Several focus group discussions with various SCAG stakeholders to discuss EJ topics and concerns and the development of the EJ Appendix; and
- » Interviews for SCAG stakeholders that cannot attending focus group meetings to discuss EJ topics and concerns and the development of the EJ Appendix.

In addition to public workshops held during the RTP/SCS EJ Appendix development process, Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG) meetings will also be held on an ongoing basis every two to three months to help facilitate continuous discuss opportunities on EJ-related topics. Membership of the EJWG represents a cross-section of stakeholders in the EJ community, including advocacy groups (i.e. affordable housing, public health, transit riders, environmental conservation, etc.), regional/sub-regional agencies (i.e. County Transportation Commissions, Tribal Governments, AQMDs, etc.), local jurisdictions (i.e. City/County staff throughout SCAG region who are interested or are taking steps to address EJ topics in their local jurisdiction), and other stakeholders (i.e. non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, goods movement related groups like rail, airports, seaports, and logistic centers, and academic representatives from local universities/colleges who’ve done research on EJ topics). Some discussion topics include, but are not limited to introduction and implementation of relevant and recently passed legislation (i.e. SB 1000, AB 617), public health impacts like air quality, access to parks and open space, mortality rates and noise impacts on EJ communities, impacts of gentrification on low income communities and local businesses, and lack of transit access and impacts on EJ communities.

All public meetings and workshops aim to be accessible to all groups and individuals interested or concerned with environmental justice. In efforts to make these meetings and workshops more accessible, meeting and workshop materials can be provided in different languages to engage individuals who are not proficient in English. Preliminary meeting details like date, time, and location of meetings will be available to the public approximately 30 days before the meeting date to allow for adequate planning and meeting agendas will be provided at least 72 hours in advance of the meetings online and at all meeting locations. Videoconferencing at SCAG’s regional offices (in Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties) will be made available to ensure all populations within the SCAG region can be reached. Some meetings will also include webinar capabilities to be able to allow more SCAG stakeholders to participate.

Comments and input gathered during the public outreach process will be documented and incorporated into relevant and appropriate documents, like the current RTP/SCS Environmental Justice Appendix. In the case of the RTP/SCS Environmental Justice Appendix, there will be additional opportunities to provide input like during public outreach workshops and the draft release of the RTP/SCS EJ Appendix for public review.

The overall environmental justice outreach process encourages the public, with many opportunities to share their input and be involved, to discuss and address environmental justice issues and shape SCAG’s environmental justice program.

OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

Funding for SCAG's metropolitan planning activities are documented in an annual Overall Work Program (OWP) (also known as a Unified Planning Work Program), pursuant to federal requirements, 23 CFR 450.308(b)-(c), and Caltrans guidance.

The OWP is developed each fiscal year, and details the agency's planning and budgetary priorities for the following fiscal year. SCAG's federal and state funding partners (FHWA, FTA and Caltrans) must approve SCAG's OWP each year before it takes effect.

The following describes SCAG's strategies, procedures and techniques with respect to public participation on the OWP.

1. Adopt OWP Preparation Schedule and Work Programs Outcomes: **(September-October)**
 - » Regional Council adopts the OWP preparation schedule and work program outcomes for the coming fiscal year.
2. Conduct a Budget Workshop: **(February)**
 - » SCAG staff conducts a Budget Workshop for the Regional Council and members of the public.
3. Distribute Draft OWP: **(March)**
 - » The Regional Council approves the Comprehensive Budget which includes the draft OWP. The draft OWP is distributed to all Regional Council members and the Regional Council approves the release of the document for a minimum 45-day public comment and review period. The draft OWP is also placed on SCAG's website.
4. Distribute the Draft OWP for Public Comments: **(March)**
 - » Staff reaches out to over 300 City Planners, Planning Directors and other Planning representatives within the SCAG region, including subregional coordinators, CTCs and transit operators, encourages their feedback on the draft OWP, and notifies them of the availability of the draft document on SCAG's website.
5. Review and Consider Comments Received in the Final OWP Deliberations: **(April)**
 - » Staff reviews and considers all public comments in the OWP planning process.
 - » Staff records, tracks and maintains a log of comments and SCAG's response to the comments.
6. Adopt the Final Comprehensive Budget and Resolution Authorizing the Submittal to Funding Partners: **(April)**
 - » The Regional Council adopts the Final Comprehensive Budget and Resolution authorizing the submittal of the Final OWP to Caltrans and other funding agencies as necessary for approval. Caltrans must submit the recommended Final OWP to FHWA/FTA by June 1 of each year.



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SCAG Public Participation Plan

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

Monday, November 16, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

www.scag.ca.gov



SCAG PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN ADOPTED 2018



Principles:

- Administer a transparent and clearly communicated process for public participation.
- Ensure that opportunities for public involvement are accessible to all communities.
- Provide information that is clear, concise, and current.
- Respect and consider all feedback received from members of the public, partners and stakeholders.
- Adapt new communications strategies and technologies for public outreach.
- Provide engagement opportunities that ensure broad participation in SCAG's planning activities and reduce geographical barriers.
- Demonstrate how public input is addressed in SCAG plans, programs and policies.



Outreach Activities



PROMOTION
AND
MESSAGING

MAKING
PRESENTATIONS



HOSTING CONVENINGS



GATHER FEEDBACK VIA SURVEYS

Future Plan Recommendations with Emphasis on Equity

- Reflect on our approach and take into consideration ways communication and information-sharing have changed since 2018
- In preparation for the development of the next Connect SoCal, implement intentional, grassroots process to engage diverse constituencies without geographic barriers
- Engage CBO's and foster partnerships for a more equitable, sustainable, accessible, and affordable region through organizing
- Acknowledge digital divide and promote efforts for broadband across the region
- Continue to bringing traditionally underrepresented and underserved communities to the Table
- Support resiliency that looks to climate adaptation and public health preparedness as key strategies to address community prosperity, safety and economic recovery