

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



May 7, 2020

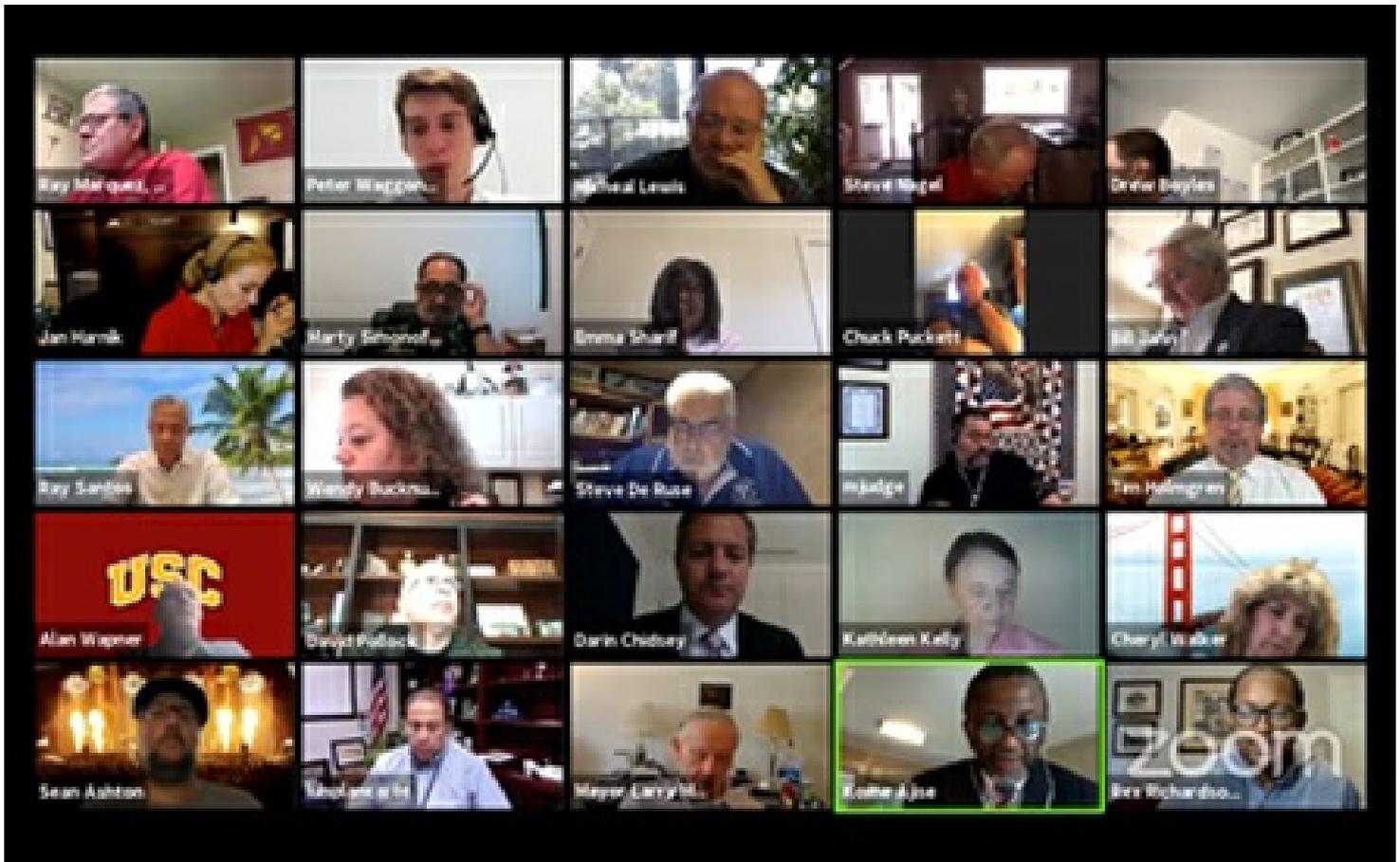
ABOUT

The Regional Council is the governing board of the Southern California Association of Governments and consists of 86 elected officials representing 191 cities, six counties, county transportation commissions, transportation corridor agencies, tribal governments and air districts in Southern California.

AGENDA

For current and archived Regional Council meeting agendas & videos, visit: bit.ly/SCAGagendas.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the May 7 Regional Council meeting was held entirely via video- and tele-conference for the first time in SCAG's history.

ACTION

RESOLUTION ADOPTED TO SUBMIT CONNECT SOCIAL FOR FEDERAL REVIEW



The Regional Council today adopted a resolution on the Proposed Final Connect SoCal plan (the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy).

The resolution approves a submittal of Connect SoCal as soon as possible to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) so they may complete their review of the plan for transportation conformity purposes by June 1. Connect SoCal outlines more than \$638 billion in transportation system investments through 2045. A transportation conformity lapse would have a number of impacts on the region, potentially jeopardizing any number of the over 4,000 projects in the plan, project funding, and the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity.

The resolution also calls for a 120-day delay in submitting Connect SoCal to the California Air Resources Board. SCAG staff sought more time to continue to address concerns raised by local stakeholders such as the restoration of entitlements as conveyed by local jurisdictions and examining the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the plan. Connect SoCal includes more than three years of development and extensive coordination with SCAG's local jurisdictions, the county transportation commissions, partner agencies, as well as significant public outreach. SCAG will continue outreach to stakeholders to better address new regional issues and build greater consensus on the region's vision for a brighter future.

Please visit connectsocial.org to read and learn about the Connect SoCal plan.

ACTION

6TH CYCLE RHNA APPEALS PROCEDURES APPROVED



As follow-up to the Regional Council's adoption of the final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Methodology for the 6th Cycle RHNA on March 5, the Regional Council today approved the 6th Cycle RHNA Appeals Procedures, which outline the appeals process and includes information on bases for appeals, the public hearings on appeals, and the reallocation of housing need from successful appeals.

Following today's action, SCAG will post the procedures on the [SCAG RHNA webpage](#). However, today's board resolution delaying the full adoption of Connect SoCal by up to 120 days will also result in a delay in distributing Draft RHNA Allocations and the subsequent beginning of the Appeals process. SCAG staff will provide more information as it becomes available.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTS 2020-2021 BOARD OFFICERS



The Regional Council today approved the nominations for the SCAG 2020-2021 Board Officers as submitted by the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to Hon. Rex Richardson (City of Long Beach), who will serve as the new SCAG President; Hon. Clint Lorimore (City of Eastvale), who will serve as First Vice President; and Hon. Jan Harnik (Riverside County Transportation Commission), who will serve as Second Vice President. The slate of new officers will be presented to the General Assembly for ratification at its meeting on June 4.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SAFETY MINI-GRANTS NOW OPEN TO FUND SAFETY STRATEGIES



On April 21, Go Human released the [Call for Projects for the Local Community Engagement and Safety Mini-Grants](#) a program that aims to build street-level community resiliency and increase the safety of vulnerable street users. SCAG will award up to \$10,000 for projects with an implementation period between May and July 2020. Eligible applicants are community-based organizations, non-profits, artists, students and creators. With support from the California Office of Traffic Safety, the Mini-Grants expand the concept of traffic safety amid the efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. In light of the pandemic, SCAG encourages submissions for creative and virtual engagement activities. Applications are due on May 14, by 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Andrés Carrasquillo at carrasquillo@scag.ca.gov.

31ST ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP POSTPONED



Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop, which was slated to be hosted by SCAG and the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy on June 11, will be postponed to a later date. A future announcement will be provided once a new date is selected. Please visit the [events calendar](#) for information about future SCAG- and partner-hosted events.

SCAG TO PROVIDE HOUSING ELEMENT DATA SUPPORT FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS



To help local jurisdictions save time and resources in updating their 6th Cycle housing elements, SCAG staff will be developing a package containing a range of data and information required by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). SCAG is working with HCD so that parts of the housing element review will be streamlined by HCD if it contains the pre-approved data package prepared by SCAG. More information about the data package will be distributed in the coming weeks so that jurisdictions will be able to assess their local resources and needs to update their housing elements.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May

- 12th Toolbox Training WEBINAR: How Data Science Research Can Serve the Region
- 18th Toolbox Training WEBINAR: California Healthy Places Index Tool
- 19th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 21st Technical Working Group, Transportation Safety and Active Transportation Working Groups and Go Human Steering Committee Meeting
- 25th Memorial Day Holiday (SCAG Offices Are Closed)
- 26th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 27th Modeling Task Force
- 28th Natural and Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

June

- 4th General Assembly, Regional Council and Policy Committees
- 16th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 18th Technical Working Group
- 23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group



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