

Southern California Association of Governments

SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

April 7, 2016

RC Report

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**



ACTION – RC VOTES TO ADOPT PROPOSED FINAL 2016 RTP/SCS AND PROPOSED FINAL PEIR

The Regional Council voted today to approve and adopt the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). The Regional Council also voted to certify the Plan's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

Today's meeting concludes more than three years of policy discussions at the board and Policy Committee level, extensive coordination with SCAG's local jurisdictions, County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) and other partner agencies, as well as significant public outreach.

The approved plan identifies \$556.5 billion in regional investments that will advance mobility, sustainability, and economic competitiveness for Southern California's future. The plan's transportation projects will boost the local economy through hundreds of thousands of new jobs annually and the plan's land use strategies would also provide residents with more mobility options by encouraging growth near high quality transit.

"This plan provides the framework for how we as a region are going to accommodate 4 million additional people over the next 25 years," said SCAG President Cheryl Viegas-Walker.

Viegas-Walker called the approval of the 2016 RTP/SCS "a historic step forward for our region." She thanked the many stakeholders who provided public comments and the elected leadership for their commitment to the region and to the Plan development process.

"This is an important update we do every four years," said Hasan Ikhata, SCAG's Executive Director. "It's so critical to pass to future generations a blueprint for future development - one that will help ensure that the most basic yet vital needs will be met, while also thinking about how we can continue to grow sustainably with respect to our environment and air quality as well as our infrastructure investments."

What's Next

SCAG thanks the many stakeholders and partners that helped contribute to the Final 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG will submit the Final 2016 RTP/SCS and associated Final 2016 RTP/SCS PEIR to the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, California Air Resources Board and other reviewing agencies, with the expectation of receiving certification by early June.

2016 RTP/SCS Where are we now



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GUEST SPEAKERS ADDED FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Register today for SCAG's upcoming Regional Conference and General Assembly, happening May 5-6 at the La Quinta Resort & Club. Guest speakers just announced include Dan Walters, prolific political journalist and mainstay at the Sacramento Bee, and Steve Swatt, veteran political analyst and author of the award-winning book *Game Changers: Twelve Elections that Transformed California*. This year's conference sessions include panels "Monetizing Waste," "Beyond the Sharing Economy—What's Mine is Yours...For Hire," "What is Driving the Future," and "Southern California: Affordable & Livable—Can Gentrification Help?" The conference is free for elected officials and city managers in the SCAG region. The early bird registration rate of \$250 has been extended to April 13—take advantage of the discount while it lasts and register today. April 13 is also the last day to secure a room at the La Quinta Resort & Club at the special conference rate. Stay tuned for announcements about panelists, the Sustainability Awards and more, coming soon. For more information about the program, you can view a [PDF of the full conference agenda](#).

SCAG-SCLC DELEGATION VISITS SACRAMENTO TO ELEVATE REGIONAL ISSUES

On March 16 and 17, SCAG and the Southern California Leadership Council led a delegation of local leaders to meet with state legislators on regional priorities most impactful to Southern California. Nearly 20 elected officials from the Regional Council met with over a dozen members of the legislature to discuss issues including fixing California's structural funding deficit; efforts to modernize CEQA; and support of AB 2170, SCAG's bill to allocate new federal freight funds into the successful Trade Corridor Improvement Fund to accelerate project delivery in California's most congested trade corridors. SCAG also hosted an evening reception attended by newly elected Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and other legislative leaders to address these priorities and encourage state lawmakers to consider the region's funding needs for developing local projects necessary to prepare for the State High-Speed Rail's Southern California segments. For more information on what was shared with state legislators, [download the information packet here](#).

SCAG PRESIDENT TESTIFIES BEFORE CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

On Monday, April 4, President Cheryl Viegas-Walker testified before the Assembly Transportation Committee in support of Assembly Bill 2170, which would deposit new money from the federal government into a successful program that invests in freight infrastructure. "California must continue to invest in its trade corridor infrastructure," Viegas-Walker told the committee. "More than \$70 billion in significant projects have been identified in six counties in Southern California alone. Freight infrastructure is the lifeblood of our state's economy, and we have underfunded it for too long." Goods movement is particularly significant for Southern California, which is home to the largest container port complex in the United States – the San Pedro Bay Ports – and several international ports of entry along the Mexico border. Directly or indirectly, goods movement represents one-third of all jobs and economic activity in the six-county SCAG region.

UPDATE ON STATE HIGH-SPEED RAIL DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

On Friday, March 25, the region's county transportation CEOs and SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhata met with California High Speed Rail Authority Board Chairman Dan Richard, Authority CEO Jeff Morales and Secretary Brian Kelly of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to express Southern California's collective disappointment and concern about the lack of progress in delivering the commitments identified in the Southern California Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). On Monday, March 28, Ikhata testified at the Assembly Transportation Committee hearing to emphasize that the MOU commitments must be funded by Prop. 1A and dedicated high-speed rail Cap-and-Trade funds. Moving forward, SCAG will continue to work with the County Transportation Commissions, the Authority and CalSTA to identify an immediate action plan to advance the MOU projects. SCAG will further request, through comments on the Draft 2016 Business Plan, that this action plan be incorporated into the Final 2016 Business Plan.



2016 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**POWER OF THE PAST,
FORCE OF THE FUTURE**

MAY 5-6
scag.ca.gov/ga2016



UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

- 19th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 21st** Technical Working Group
- 26th** Transportation Conformity Working Group

May

- 5th-6th** SCAG 2016 Regional Conference & General Assembly
- 10th** Audit Committee
- 17th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 19th** Technical Working Group
- 24th** Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 25th** Modeling Task Force
- 30th** Memorial Day Holiday-SCAG Offices Are Closed

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