

# SPOTLIGHT

## SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



October 4, 2018

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### 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 and videos, visit: [bit.ly/AgendaRC](http://bit.ly/AgendaRC).

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



*Kimberly Yu, Chief Operating Officer of Metrolink, presented updates on the regional rail authority's upcoming initiatives*

### ACTION

RC APPOINTS DARIN CHIDSEY INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Regional Council voted today to accept Hasan Ikhata's resignation as Executive Director of SCAG and appointed Darin Chidsey as Interim Executive Director of SCAG effective Monday, Oct. 8. Ikhata, who recently accepted an offer to lead the San Diego Association of Governments, will serve in a new capacity as Special Advisor to the Interim Executive Director until Nov. 30. The Regional Council also today authorized an ad hoc committee to initiate a formal search process.

Darin Chidsey has been with SCAG for 13 years, most recently serving as the agency's second-in-command in the role of Chief Operating Officer. As COO, Chidsey has worked closely with the Executive Director and has been responsible for driving SCAG's vision and strategy, as well as implementing the actions of the agency's Regional Council. Prior to his appointment as COO in 2016, he served as SCAG's Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs.

## INFO

### METROLINK SERVICE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Kimberly Yu, Chief Operating Officer of Metrolink, joined today's meeting of the Regional Council to share updates on the regional rail authority's recent successes and long-term initiatives to add capacity and improve performance. Ms. Yu emphasized that Metrolink is a good investment for counties, and among transportation alternatives is the least expensive way to take cars off of Southern California freeways. She also highlighted the challenges Metrolink is currently addressing under its new strategic plan, including bottlenecks caused by the largely single-track system and the complexity of coordinating with freight partners. Thanks in part to new federal funding, the agency is working on adding capacity across the system, including more service on some lines. She had an engaged discussion with the Regional Council, who congratulated Metrolink on their implementation of cutting-edge safety measures, and raised concerns about service limitations in parts of the region. Regional Council members also posed the possibility of collaboration, noting that SCAG is uniquely positioned to help Metrolink coordinate on sensitive local issues (like grade separations) in improving service.

## ACTION

### TC VOTES TO FINALIZE REPORT ON TRANSIT OPTIONS BETWEEN LA AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

The Transportation Policy Committee today voted to finalize the Los Angeles and San Bernardino Inter-County Transit and Rail Connectivity Study, authorizing staff to forward the final report to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA). This technical study explores a variety of transportation options designed to improve travel between the two counties, as well as connections into and out of Ontario International Airport. The study evaluated modes including express bus/bus rapid transit, light rail, hybrid rail and commuter rail, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each alternative, from potential ridership to commute times to overall cost. The connectivity study will be forwarded to Metro and SBCTA to decide whether to pursue these projects – either with further analysis or implementation.

EVENT AD

9th  
annual  
southern  
california  
economic  
summit

06DEC2018  
LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

REGISTER  
ONLINE  
TODAY

SCAG  
SCLG

The advertisement features a vertical layout with a background image of a modern building facade. It includes a yellow banner at the top with the text 'EVENT AD'. The main text is in a bold, sans-serif font, with '9th' in a larger size. The date and location are listed below the title. A yellow banner at the bottom contains the text 'REGISTER ONLINE TODAY'. The logos for SCAG and SCLG are positioned at the bottom of the ad.

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SAVE THE DATE: SCAG'S 9TH ANNUAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

SCAG, in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Council, is co-hosting its Ninth Annual Southern California Economic Summit at The L.A. Hotel Downtown in the heart of Los Angeles on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018. Central to this year's summit is the rapid changes underway in the regional economy. New, cutting-edge technologies have sparked the region's keystone industries like aerospace and manufacturing, as well as introduced several new economy services that are primarily driven by technology. Transportation services, for example, is seeing rapid growth and is revolutionizing how we think about our transportation system. Technology is changing the face of business in Southern California and the prospects of exponential growth in our region's industries can lead our economy towards an exponential future. Registration will be open this week at [scag.ca.gov/EconomicSummit](http://scag.ca.gov/EconomicSummit).

## GO HUMAN EVENTS BRING ACTIVE STREETS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

This fall, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign has been visiting cities throughout the region to host pop-up active transportation events that celebrate human-powered transportation and share potential new street improvements with communities. This busy fall season features five active-streets in a diverse group of cities throughout Southern California. In September, pop-up street improvements and community festivals came to the cities of Culver City, Chino and San Jacinto.

**Coming soon:** On Oct. 6 in La Cañada Flintridge, safety for students will be the leading theme at Feet First, part of La Cañada Flintridge's "Step Safe to School" campaign. Safety demonstrations will help parents and families locate, practice and walk the safest route to school, and street activations will help the community rediscover the benefits of biking and walking to school. On Oct. 29 in Lake Elsinore, Active LE will add a pop-up protected bike lane, creative crosswalks and more to the area around City Park, kicking off the planning process for the city's new Active Transportation Plan. For more details on these events, visit the *Go Human* website. More events will be coming to even more communities in the winter of 2018-2019 – stay tuned!

## UPDATE ON CONNECT SOCAL (2020 RTP/SCS)

In the development process for Connect SoCal, SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, SCAG has been working closely with city and county governments in a Bottom-Up Local Input and Envisioning Process. Although the deadline for providing input at this stage of development was Oct. 1, staff will continue ongoing outreach to keep city and county staff informed of the planning process. For more information, please contact Kimberly Clark at [RTPLocalInput@scag.ca.gov](mailto:RTPLocalInput@scag.ca.gov).

Topic-specific working groups, which bring together regional stakeholders to discuss the development of Connect SoCal and provide technical expertise, are meeting on a regular basis. The second meeting of the Environmental Justice Working Group, held recently, drew over 40 attendees between SCAG headquarters, the regional offices and webinar participants. Meeting agenda included presentations on the outreach process and on performance indicators such as climate vulnerability, emissions impacts and gentrification and displacement. Representatives from the region's shared updates on state legislation that requires community-level air quality monitoring. More information about this and other Regional Planning Working Groups can be found [here](#).

## SCAG RELEASES NEW MAPPING TOOL

Last month, SCAG released the first ever Intergovernmental Review Mapping Tool for public use, which allows users to search, locate and view diverse projects going on at local and regional levels. This map, which operates on Geographic Information System (GIS) software, can be used to keep track of development activity in any city or county across the SCAG region. A searchable database allows you to find projects by name, location and type, and the application is enhanced by special features like a drawing tool, which allows users to make markings on the map for their own use or for presentations. For further details on the application's features and capabilities, view the Intergovernmental Review Mapping Tool FAQ on the [SCAG website](#).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### October

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

### November

- 1st Regional Council & Policy Committees
- 15th Technical Working Group
- 20th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 27th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 28th Modeling Task Force



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 236-1800 | [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)

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