

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



April 4, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- ACTION – RC APPOINTS KOME AJISE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- INFO – CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE – “HOW WILL WE CONNECT?”
- ACTION – REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTS 2019-2020 BOARD OFFICERS

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2019 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE
- 2019 DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP COMING SOON

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



New SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise.

ACTION

RC APPOINTS KOME AJISE AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Regional Council voted today to appoint Kome Ajise as Executive Director. Ajise will assume his new role April 5 on an interim basis pending the formal approval of a contract.

Kome Ajise has three decades of experience in regional planning and transportation, most recently as the Director of Planning at SCAG. Prior to SCAG, Ajise was the Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) where he was responsible for the internal operations of the Department, overseeing more than 18,000 employees and a budget in excess of \$1.1 billion. Previously, he was Caltrans' Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs and was responsible for overseeing the Aeronautics, Mass Transportation, Rail, Transportation Planning, Local Assistance, and Research Innovation and System Information Divisions.

The Regional Council thanked Darin Chidsey for his leadership and service to the agency and region while serving as Interim Executive Director.

INFO

CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE – “HOW WILL WE CONNECT?”

Today SCAG held the third in a series of Joint Policy Committee meetings designed to provide members with a greater understanding of Connect SoCal – the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The theme of today's meeting—“How Will We Connect?”—focused on challenges and opportunities for maintaining and managing the regional transportation system. Anticipating mobility needs of all transportation system users is critical to aligning future investments with emerging technologies, changing demography and communities, and assuring sustainability and livability.

Staff introduced the theme of the day by highlighting challenges and opportunities for maintaining and adapting the regional transportation system, emphasizing growing importance of systems management. This was followed by a presentation from Brian Taylor, Professor of Urban Planning and Director of the UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies. His presentation focused on the impact of emerging technologies on regional mobility and the role of the public sector in harnessing innovation for the public good. The meeting closed with a presentation from Austin Heyworth, California Public Affairs Manager for Uber Technologies. Heyworth discussed the company's mobility platform and multi-modality use cases, including first-mile/last-mile partnerships, trip planning, and the role of convenience in driving behavior.

Feedback from these meetings will inform the policies, strategies and investments included in the draft Connect SoCal plan, anticipated for release in fall 2019. For the latest details on the plan's development, visit connectsocial.org.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTS 2019-2020 BOARD OFFICERS



The Regional Council today unanimously approved the nominations for the SCAG 2019-2020 Board Officers as submitted by the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to Hon. William “Bill” Jahn (City of Big Bear Lake), who will serve as the new SCAG President; Hon. Randon Lane (City of Murrieta), who will serve as First Vice President; and Hon. Rex Richardson (City of Long beach), 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 May 2.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2019 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The deadline for early bird registration is quickly approaching for this year's Regional Conference and General Assembly, which will be held May 1-3 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, CA. This year's theme, "Beyond Boundaries," is about transcending the jurisdictional boundaries of individual cities and counties to plan for the whole region. The event's panel topics will lay the foundation for Connect SoCal – the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and will explore what it means to truly connect a region of 191 cities, identify paths to strengthening leadership and community-building around traffic safety, and provide tangible strategies for harnessing new technologies to benefit everyone. Panel descriptions and an updated agenda are available on the event website. The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the region. Discounted early bird registration ends on April 5, so visit the [conference webpage to register today](#).

SCAG is also hosting a special pre-conference Traffic Safety Leadership Symposium on Wednesday, May 1. Traffic safety is a serious issue in Southern California. On average, more than 1,500 people die and 136,000 people are injured in collisions every year, and most collisions happen on local streets – not freeways. SCAG's Traffic Safety Leadership Symposium will explore regional traffic safety issues and the policy and implementation tools available to local governments. Expert panelists will highlight local strategies to improve safety, including balancing enforcement and equity, education and outreach strategies, and safe street design. This session is open to elected officials and city managers. For more information, please email Lindsey Hansen at hansen@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, SCAG offers financial support and professional development to a select number of the region's high school and community college students. This year, seven scholarships of \$4,000 will be awarded to eligible students across the six-county SCAG region. The program is designed to help students develop long-term career goals and winners will be provided a two-week internship with a local planning agency or council of governments, getting the opportunity to meet with elected officials and practicing planners to learn more about careers in public service. Community college students or high school juniors and seniors who live in the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino or Ventura are eligible to apply. Please visit www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship for application materials and additional details about the program.

CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE

On March 25, SCAG hosted a freight-focused workshop to gather industry perspectives for the goods movement element of Connect SoCal. The event brought together executive-level industry professionals from Amazon and Prologis, experts in economics and internationally-recognized academics to address key goods movement challenges to the region. Discussions covered supply chain strategies and the impacts on the SCAG region, frank conversations about the region's competitive position and domestic threats, future and existing industrial land use patterns, and planning for the future freight workforce. SCAG intends to hold future workshops to collect input from other stakeholders on subject-specific issues in the near future. More information about our regional planning working groups, including details on upcoming meetings, is available on the SCAG website. For the latest details on the plan's development, visit connectsocial.org.

30TH ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP AT USC

On June 11, SCAG and the USC Price School of Public Policy will co-host the 30th annual Demographic Workshop, "Make it Count – The Impact of Census 2020 & Connect SoCal on Our Future," at the University of Southern California. With an eye toward the future, this year's program provides the most recent update on demographic trends and their implications as we undertake both Census 2020 and Connect SoCal, SCAG's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Following a check-up on recent migration, fertility, and aging statistics, speakers will discuss the challenges and anticipated outcomes of Census 2020. Additional panels will focus on implications of demographic changes on housing and a reflection on the close linkage between demographics and long-range regional planning. Registration will open soon. Please visit www.scag.ca.gov/demographics for more details.