



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

March 3, 2016

**RC Report**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

## 2016 RTP/SCS Where are we now



**INFORMATION – STAFF HIGHLIGHTS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT 2016 RTP/SCS AND REVISION APPROACH**

At today's Joint Meeting of the RC and Policy Committees, SCAG staff and Policy Committee chairs presented a summary of public comments received on the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS), the long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental and public health goals. SCAG released the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS and its associated Draft

Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for a 60-day public comment period that began on Dec. 4, 2015, and ended on Feb. 1, 2016.

The public review and comment period caps off more than three years of dialogue and consultation on this planning effort. During the comment period, SCAG conducted a large scale outreach campaign throughout the six-county region to educate local elected officials and the public, as well as solicit feedback on the Draft Plan. In total, SCAG received 158 separate communications (both oral and written) containing approximately 1,000 comments on the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG also received 81 comment submissions on the Draft PEIR.

The chairs of the three Policy Committees each presented summaries of the major categories of public comments on the plan, detailing the areas seeking clarification and the proposed staff approach to each. Transportation Committee Chair Alan Wapner presented on the comments related to active transportation, aviation, congestion management, goods movement, passenger rail, transit and financing. Community, Economic & Human Development Committee Chair Bill Jahn presented on comments related to housing, natural/farm lands and the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Energy and Environment Committee Chair Deborah Robertson gave a presentation on the comments related to the environmental justice and public health implications of the Plan.

The presentations were followed by public comment and discussion by RC and Policy Committee members on the approaches for responding to comments and preparing revisions to the Draft Plan. Next steps include:

- **March 14:** Staff will post to the SCAG website the 2016 RTP/SCS Comment Matrix including all comments received and staff responses.
- **March 24:** Joint Policy Committee Meeting – Consideration of recommendation to the Regional Council the approval of the Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS and associated Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS PEIR.
- **April 7:** Regional Council Meeting – Consideration of the approval of the Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS and associated Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS PEIR.

Following the RC's adoption on April 7, 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 the June 4 deadline to avoid a regional conformity lapse.

# SCAG Officer Nominees



*Pictured here from left, Hon. Michele Martinez, Hon. Margaret Finlay and Hon. Alan Wapner*

## **ACTION – REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

The RC today approved the nominations for the 2016-17 officer positions submitted by the Nominating Committee. Nominees are Hon. Michele Martinez of the City of Santa Ana as President, Hon. Margaret Finlay of the City of Duarte as First Vice President, and Hon. Alan Wapner of the San Bernardino Associated Governments as Second Vice President. Their names will be forwarded to the General Assembly in May for ratification, after which they will assume their new posts.

## **NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# SCAG Employee Recognition



*At today's RC meeting, SCAG senior regional planner Courtney Aguirre was recognized for her exemplary service. Courtney is pictured here with, from left, Second Vice President Margaret Finlay, First Vice President Michele Martinez, President Cheryl Viegas-Walker and Immediate Past President Carl Morehouse.*

## **REGISTER FOR SCAG'S 2016 REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Join SCAG for the 51st Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly, May 5-6, at the La Quinta Resort & Club. This year's event theme, "Power of the Past, Force of the Future," builds upon the release of the 2016 RTP/SCS as well as last year's celebration of the agency's 50-year anniversary. This exciting and dynamic event brings together state and local elected officials, CEOs, business and civic leaders, transportation and environmental stakeholders, local government staff and others. Early bird registration and sponsorship information is now available on the conference website: [www.scag.ca.gov/ga2016](http://www.scag.ca.gov/ga2016).

## **STATE HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY RELEASES DRAFT 2016 BUSINESS PLAN**

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) recently released its Draft 2016 Business Plan for a 60-day public review and comment period, ending on April 18, 2016. The Draft includes a significant change to the initial operating segment, whereby high-speed rail service would not reach the SCAG region until completion of the full Phase 1 system in 2029. However, the Draft 2016 Business Plan proposes an additional \$2.1 billion to allow direct high-speed rail service from Los Angeles to Anaheim (one-seat ride), which was not assumed in the previous business plan. These enhancements incorporate commitments from the Memorandum of Understanding with CHSRA and Southern California transportation agencies approved by the Regional Council in 2012, providing for \$1 billion in early investments in the SCAG region. The intention is to put in place much of the infrastructure required for high-speed train service, including tracks and grade separations, which would have independent utility and provide near-term benefits to commuter, passenger and freight rail in the corridor. Additional details on specific investments will be identified as the CHSRA completes the environmental documents for this section by December 2017. SCAG staff will present draft comments to the Transportation Committee for approval at its next meeting on April 7, 2016.

#### **PARTNER EVENT: SMART GIGABIT CONFERENCE**

SCAG is a community partner for the upcoming "Smart Gigabit L.A." Business and Technology conference, March 29- 30, in Los Angeles. Cities across the country – Kansas City, Chattanooga, Charlotte -- are upgrading their broadband infrastructure to stay competitive, attract new businesses and drive economic growth. Smart Gigabit L.A. brings together city and municipal leaders from across Southern California with the "Gigabit Broadband" and "Smart City" ecosystems of technology entrepreneurs, developers, educators, applications and services innovators and more – to explore opportunities in ultra-high speed broadband networking. Attendees will learn about the technology platforms and infrastructure that is changing the metro landscape for innovation, job creation and economic growth. Featured speakers include Ted Ross, CIO of the Information Technology Agency, City of Los Angeles; Steve Reneker, CIO from the County of Riverside; Mike Pettit, CIO from the County of Ventura; Gary Halbert, City Manager from the City of Chula Vista; and many more. SCAG members can receive a special discounted registration, via [www.smartgigla.com/scag](http://www.smartgigla.com/scag).

#### **PARTNER EVENT: 2016 RANDALL LEWIS HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP FORUM**

Partners in Better Health and SCAG will be recognizing healthy communities' efforts throughout the Southern California region at the annual Randall Lewis Health Policy Fellowship Forum, April 28, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at the Ontario Convention Center. The Randall Lewis Health Policy Fellowship is an internship program for graduate students in public health, urban planning and public policy. Fellows work for one academic year with local governments on health policy and policy implementation which supports the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. This year's program includes an opportunity to interact with the 20 current fellows who are working in cities and government associations throughout the region on local health policy and policy implementation. The event is free, but RSVP is required at [bit.ly/1L3QR4t](http://bit.ly/1L3QR4t). For additional information, please contact Rye Baerg at [baerg@scag.ca.gov](mailto:baerg@scag.ca.gov).

#### **APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2016 SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

SCAG is still accepting applications for the 2016 SCAG Scholarship Program. The program provides a \$4,000 scholarship award for up to eight high school or community college students from the SCAG region plus a two-week internship with a local planning agency, council of governments or SCAG. For guidelines and additional information on how to apply, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship](http://www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship), or contact Houston Laney at [laney@scag.ca.gov](mailto:laney@scag.ca.gov).



# 2016 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

**MAY 5-6**  
[scag.ca.gov/ga2016](http://scag.ca.gov/ga2016)



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### March

**15th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

**17th** Technical Working Group

**22nd** Transportation Conformity Working Group

**23rd** Modeling Task Force

**24th** Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees

### April

**7th** Regional Council Meeting & Policy Committees

**19th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

**21st** Technical Working Group

**26th** Transportation Conformity Working Group

#### SCAG MAIN OFFICE

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#### COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES

Imperial | Orange | Riverside | San Bernardino | Ventura