

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



March 7, 2019

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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 & videos, visit: bit.ly/SCAGagendas.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



From left, Jay Eastman, Principal Planner for the City of Riverside, Kate Meis, Executive Director of the Local Government Commission, and Oliver Chi, City Manager of the City of Monrovia, discuss how local governments can seize opportunities for sustainable growth with the support of local communities.

INFO

CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE – “WHERE WILL WE GROW?”

Today SCAG held the second 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—“Where will we grow?”—focused on resource conservation, housing demands, and economic expansion while adapting to a rapidly changing climate. Based on input provided by local cities, it is estimated that the six counties in the SCAG region will collectively add 3.6 million people and 1.6 million jobs by 2045. Given these growth projections, finding solutions for our region’s challenges necessitates thinking beyond jurisdictional boundaries. As our region’s population and employment continue to increase through 2045, where should 3.6 million new people and 1.6 million new jobs be located to achieve regional goals and maintain our quality of life?

As part of the Joint Policy Committee meeting, SCAG Planning Director Kome Ajise gave a presentation on the region’s historical growth patterns while discussing the need for the region to grow sustainably given constraints such as transportation infrastructure, geography and areas prone to wildfires. His presentation was followed by a panel of policy experts and practitioners to discuss how local governments can seize opportunities for sustainable growth with the support of local communities. Kate Meis, the Executive Director of the Local Government Commission, provided insight on how leaders can create healthy, walkable and resource-efficient communities. Monrovia City Manager Oliver Chi elaborated on how to link local growth opportunities, mobility options and community needs. The City of Riverside’s Principal Planner Jay Eastman provided examples about how one of the region’s fastest growing cities balances housing needs and transportation challenges.

The Joint Policy Committee meeting in April will further build on the discussion by addressing the transportation choices that will be required to connect our region to employment centers, recreation and entertainment. 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 **\$9 MILLION AWARDED THROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

The Regional Council today approved up to \$9 million in awards for the Sustainable Communities Program, a SCAG-administered multi-year program designed to support and implement the policies and initiatives of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The proposals approved for funding will provide much-needed resources to local jurisdictions’ sustainability planning efforts, promoting reliable and efficient mobility for people, goods and services while meeting the State of California’s ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals. The funding recommendations align with the geographic equity targets established in the Regional Active Transportation Program guidelines and provide resources to all eligible applications submitted in the Integrated Land-Use and Green Region categories. Information about the program and a listing of the approved projects can be found [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE

Topic-specific working groups, which bring together regional stakeholders to discuss the development of Connect SoCal and provide technical expertise, continue to meet on a regular basis. On Feb. 21, the Sustainable Communities working group and the Natural & Farm Lands Conservation working group both held meetings, drawing staff from local jurisdictions and transit agencies as well as representatives from non-profit organizations and private companies. At the Sustainable Communities meeting, guest speaker Michael Bohn from Studio One Eleven shared his experience revitalizing retail areas in cities throughout the region. The group also discussed potential strategies to implement the future Connect SoCal plan. The Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group featured an update on Connect SoCal Conservation Scenarios and other relevant regional projects. 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.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2019 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Registration is open 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.

Nearly 1,000 of Southern California's most influential leaders and innovators are expected to attend, including local elected officials, CEOs, business and civic leaders, transportation and environmental stakeholders, local government staff and others. This event is free for elected officials and city managers in the SCAG region. For other attendees, a special early bird registration rate of \$250 will be available until April 5. Please visit the [conference webpage to register today!](#)

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 (with up to two additional awards available at the Regional Council's discretion). The program is designed to help students develop long-term career goals and awardees will be provided a two-week internship with a local planning agency or council of governments and get 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. The due date for applications is April 26. Please visit scag.ca.gov/scholarship for application materials and additional details about the program.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

19th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
21st Technical Working Group
21st Audit Committee
21st Safety Working Group
21st Active Transportation Working Group
25th Connect SoCal Goods Movement Forum
26th Transportation Conformity Working Group
27th Modeling Task Force

April

1st RHNA Subcommittee
4th Joint Regional Council and Policy Committees
16th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
18th Technical Working Group
18th Public Health Working Group
18th Environmental Justice Working Group
23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group