

SCAG Regional Council Report by Councilman Mark Henderson

New Assignment:

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee is a special committee of the SCAG Regional Council established to identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in the Connect SoCal Plan and guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region. The subcommittee, chaired by past ESJC member Hon. Mark Henderson, will meet over the course of four virtual meetings from September 2022 to January 2023.

CEHD:

Item 8 - Subject: Demographic Workshop and Demographic Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This item will provide an update of recently released demographic data for the SCAG region in the context of long-term trends, with a focus on their relationship to Connect SoCal 2024 development. In addition, the 33rd Annual Demographic Workshop will be jointly hosted by SCAG and the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy on September 14 and September 21, 2022.

Item 9 - Connect SoCal 2024 Local Data Exchange and Regional Data Platform Status Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On May 23, 2022, SCAG officially launched the Local Data Exchange (LDX) process, which is a local jurisdiction's opportunity to provide input related to the future growth of employment, household, and land use to help the development of Connect SoCal 2024 (i.e., Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy or RTP/SCS). The LDX process aims to gather the most updated land use, growth, and other information from local jurisdictions to link local planning with regional plan goals and objectives—namely, the extent to which SCAG is meeting its climate, mobility, economy, and sustainability goals. Throughout 2022, SCAG's Local Information Services Team (LIST) plans to virtually meet one-on-one, with all 197 jurisdictions to provide background on the development of Connect SoCal 2024, discuss the maps in their local context, and provide training on available tools in the Regional Data Platform (RDP). To date, LIST has met and scheduled one-on-one LDX meetings with 90 jurisdictions. Feedback from local jurisdictions is due on December 2, 2022

RC:

Item 9 - Subject: Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 22-052-C01, Connect SoCal 2024 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To support outreach and engagement for Connect SoCal 2024, the consultant shall develop a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy and execute multiple tasks to support plan development. This project supports the goals and strategies identified in SCAG's adopted Public Participation Plan to ensure that opportunities for public involvement are accessible to all communities. This project will lead to more responsive strategy development for Connect SoCal.

Item 12 - Subject: Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 22-062-C01, Strategic Services for SCAG's Broadband Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The selected consultant shall assist in providing general strategic services with respect to broadband. Broadband plays a pivotal role in transportation planning by providing an alternative/digital means of transportation via telework, telehealth, and e-commerce. Based on previous studies, broadband can serve as an effective tool to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) impacts. The consultant shall evaluate "dig-smart/dig-once" policies, which advocate for installation of conduit during roadway improvements. Further, the consultant will provide tele-everything/broadband assumptions for the upcoming 2024 Connect SoCal Plan (Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy [RTP/SCS]).

Executive Director's Report:

Dear Regional Council Members,

As we close out another successful Regional Council meeting, I wanted to briefly share some highlights from the last month:

On Aug. 10, I travelled to Sacramento with Deputy Director of Planning Jenna Hornstock and our Housing Program Manager Ma'Ayn Johnson to meet with California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Director Gustavo Velasquez and his executive team. The purpose of our trip was to share the progress of our Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) I program, a \$47 million program that we launched with the Regional Council's direction a little over 18 months ago.

The team and I had the opportunity to show that we are on track in delivering the largest technical assistance program we have ever provided in the region, and the only technical assistance program we have ever provided on housing. We also highlighted that we:

- Executed 19 contracts totaling \$7.1 million to support this work to date, mostly in direct support of local housing planning;*
- Executed 15 Memorandum of Understandings with all interested Subregional Councils of Governments (COGs) allocating half of our REAP I funding to the COGs based on their Sixth Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation numbers to match resources with units to be accommodated in housing element updates. These agreements support 60 COG-led projects across the region;*

- *Have consultant teams in place working directly with 26 cities who applied through the Sustainable Communities Program including support for Accessory Dwelling Unit programs, the development of Objective Development Standards, and the establishing Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts.*

All in all, it was a positive meeting that set us up for future collaboration.

These opportunities to meet and share our work are critical in helping us gain better footing with our state partners. We have already seen changes in our work with HCD staff on the REAP2 program development based on our request for support, and our ability to better explain our approaches and how we can best serve our regional general plan amendment.

Also last month, in keeping with our mission to support jurisdictions in meeting our shared current challenges, SCAG was a proud sponsor of the 2022 Mobility 21 Summit, which brought together transportation leaders from all over California, including some of our own. President Harnik, Second Vice President Brown, and many other Regional Council and Policy Committee members attended, and, myself, Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey, and Organizational Development Business Unit Lead Nicole Katz, each participated in the breakout sessions and panels.

The conference focused on moving forward together as a region post-pandemic and included major themes like transit and goods movement, with housing being mentioned a number of times.