

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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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



Mayor Eric Garcetti from the City of Los Angeles providing comments on housing goals as the Regional Council discussed releasing the proposed RHNA methodologies for public comment.

ACTION

RC APPROVES RELEASE OF RHNA METHODOLOGY OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW

The Regional Council voted today to release the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) methodology options for public review and comment. The methodology is a formula for calculating the number of housing units each city must plan for during the upcoming October 2021 – October 2029 RHNA planning cycle. SCAG is required under state law to develop a proposed RHNA methodology to distribute existing and projected housing need, which must also consider State housing goals, local planning factors, and affirmatively furthering fair housing.

The public comment period will include four public hearings specifically to receive verbal and written comments. All public comments on the proposed RHNA methodology must be received by SCAG no later than Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments can also be submitted directly to housing@scag.ca.gov.

Following the public comment period, SCAG staff will review all comments received and make a proposal to the RHNA Subcommittee to recommend one distribution methodology as the “draft RHNA methodology” at a special meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2019. The recommendation from the RHNA Subcommittee will be further reviewed and considered for approval by the Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee at a specially scheduled meeting in late September 2019 and thereafter by the Regional Council at its meeting in October 2019.

The proposed RHNA methodology options, as well as the dates, times and locations of the public hearings, will be posted to the [RHNA webpage](#) on August 2, 2019.

INFO

JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE RECEIVES CONNECT SOCAL UPDATE

Today, SCAG held a Joint Policy Committee meeting to provide members with an update on the overall development process of Connect SoCal – the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, as well as specific updates on the outreach, performance measure development, and growth forecast elements of the plan. Overarching policy themes were also presented, as well as strategies to be considered by the Policy Committees over the next three months before the draft Connect SoCal plan is released for public comment and review by the end of the year.

For Connect SoCal outreach, the agency held a series of 29 public outreach events across the region (28 open-house workshops and one telephone town hall meeting) to share information and get input on how residents travel and their preferences. SCAG also solicited input online, promoting the Connect SoCal survey—which was answered by approximately 4,000 people—across multiple channels including social media and radio ads, street teams and partnerships with community-based organizations in each county in the region. In total, SCAG received over 12,000 unique comments.

For the latest details on the plan’s development, please visit ConnectSoCal.org.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE

SCAG recently completed the public outreach phase of Connect SoCal – the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Feedback received will inform the policies, strategies and investments included in the draft Connect SoCal plan.

SCAG staff also recently completed a series of targeted outreach meetings focused on the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). An environmental report that will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Connect SoCal plan, the PEIR considers at big-picture regional policy solutions and provides a foundation for further environmental review at the local level. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of county transportation commissions, councils of governments, and state agencies to share any comments and concerns about the development of the PEIR. Comments received from the stakeholder meetings will assist SCAG in identifying key areas of concern and guide the drafting of the Connect SoCal PEIR.

A joint meeting of SCAG's Regional Planning Working Groups, which will bring together stakeholders to help inform the development of our major transportation and land use plans, is scheduled for Aug. 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at SCAG's main office in downtown Los Angeles. SCAG's seven Regional Planning Working Groups each focus on a specific planning issue or transportation mode and allow interested parties from across industries and sub-regions to have a direct pipeline into SCAG's planning process. Directly following the joint meeting, the Environmental Justice Working Group will have a meeting of their own from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All working group meetings are open to the public – if you are interested in attending, in person or via web streaming, [RSVP](#) here (videoconferencing options via [SCAG's regional offices](#) will be provided upon request). For details on other upcoming meetings and to learn more about our Regional Planning Working Groups, visit the [SCAG website](#). You can find the latest details on the plan's development at [ConnectSoCal.org](#).

REGION-WIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKSHOPS COMING IN AUGUST

Take action to create safer streets by joining SCAG at a traffic safety workshop this August. Four workshops will be held at locations across the region, offering attendees the opportunity to hear from traffic safety experts and learn proven tactics for reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. The program will feature expert panels and highlight successful strategies for improving traffic safety, centering on the “four E's” of building safer streets: education, enforcement, engineering and evaluation. SCAG will also provide a menu of free resources for partners to use, including safety signage, programming modules and a kit of parts for temporary safety infrastructure demonstrations. Any local government or public agency staff in a position to move traffic safety initiatives forward, including city planners, public works directors, local law enforcement officers and traffic engineers are invited to attend. Select a workshop near you and register online [here](#). Please direct any questions to Hina Chanchlani at chanchlani@scag.ca.gov.

JOINT SCAG/ICTC TRAFFIC ANALYSIS PROJECT COMPLETED

In June 2019, SCAG and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) completed the Calexico West Port-of-Entry Traffic Circulation Plan. Working closely with regional, state, national, and international (i.e., Mexico) partners and stakeholders, SCAG and ICTC conducted a study to assist the City of Calexico with daily traffic management as a result of the Phase 1 expansion and reconfiguration of the Calexico West Port-of-Entry. With SCAG as the lead applicant, ICTC was awarded a Caltrans State Planning and Research grant to analyze traffic conditions related to the opening of the border crossing. The goal of the project was to provide traffic circulation strategies to promote more efficient mobility for border travel. The study also focused on appropriate and feasible reductions in traffic delay and the need for traffic control staff. The City of Calexico will be able to use the findings from the project to make further adjustments to the traffic recommendations to accommodate the flow of goods and people through the port-of-entry and the adjacent border area. The project was completed successfully, on-time, and within budget.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August

15th Technical Working Group
15th Public Hearing: Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology
15th All Regional Working Groups Meeting
15th Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting
20th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
20th Public Hearing: Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology
22nd Public Hearing: Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology
27th Transportation Conformity Working Group
27th Public Hearing: Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology

September

5th Joint Regional Council and Policy Committees
17th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
19th Technical Working Group
24th Transportation Conformity Working Group
25th Modeling Task Force
25th Audit Committee