

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 and videos, visit: bit.ly/AgendaRC.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



Governor Jerry Brown joined today's Regional Council meeting to champion the "California WaterFix," a proposal to update the state's system for water conveyance and storage. He stressed the urgency of acting to modernize, saying "if we don't do it now, it won't be done." The Governor had an engaged discussion with Regional Council members about the project, and other initiatives to secure the state's economic and environmental future.

ACTION

RC APPROVES FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Regional Council today voted to adopt the augmented 2017 Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP), which approves an additional \$40.6 million in funding for active transportation projects in the SCAG region as a result of the adoption of Senate Bill 1. Out of that total, SCAG's Regional Council approved allocations for more than \$1.8 million in funding for planning and non-infrastructure projects. Programs from throughout the six-county region that will receive funding include "safe routes to school" plans, active transportation demonstration projects and educational programs. The remaining \$38.8 million in the augmented regional ATP is set aside for infrastructure improvement projects. The funds will be awarded to each of the region's six counties proportionally according to population, where the county transportation commissions will administer their distribution. The augmented ATP will now be submitted to the California Transportation Commission and programmed into the statewide ATP, and another funding

cycle for 2019 will commence in the next few months.

INFORMATION

REPORT FROM OPEN DATA/BIG DATA – SMART AND CONNECTED SCAG REGION COMMITTEE

In June, SCAG launched a new Open Data / Big Data – Smart and Connected SCAG Region Committee to assess the changing landscape of technology and data in planning and governance and ensure that the agency is prepared to assist local jurisdictions with the accompanying challenges and opportunities. The committee's members – among them elected officials, tech executives and partner agencies – have been meeting monthly to further these goals. A regional data survey was distributed to public administrators and stakeholders to gauge the current needs of local jurisdictions and how SCAG can effectively support innovation. Key findings from the survey included a widespread need for better data management systems and increased staff resources for data analysis and processing, an overwhelming expression of interest in increased data-sharing and strong support for SCAG to take a leading role in hosting and managing data for the region. The committee will use this input to produce a report summarizing big/open data prospects for the region and make recommendations for how SCAG can best add value for local governments.



Receptionist Corine Milner is retiring at the end of the month after 30 years working at SCAG. Executive Director Hasan Ikhata and President Margaret Finlay presented Ms. Milner with a proclamation in honor of her contributions to the agency.

EVENT AD



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SCAG OPPOSES REPEAL OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILL SB1

As Executive Director Hasan Ikhata wrote in an [op-ed for the Southern California News Group](#) on Sept. 28, SCAG strongly opposes efforts to repeal SB 1. The bipartisan transportation funding legislation will raise \$5 billion a year to make essential investments in road maintenance, bridge repair, and public transit. Repeal efforts, if successful, would undermine safety improvements and the economic prosperity in the state. California's transportation infrastructure is in dire condition and needs significant, immediate investment. Further deferring maintenance will only drive up repair costs as our infrastructure continues to fall apart. SB 1 provides crucial funding to keep road conditions from deteriorating further and congestion delays from increasing. Among the sources of the SB 1 revenues is a 12-cent-per-gallon increase to the state gas tax (raised for the first time in 23 years) and a fee on all electrical vehicles (who are currently not contributing anything). Repeal efforts would bring maintenance, repair and transit project to an utter halt – and California would stand to lose tens of thousands of jobs per year. Dismantling SB 1 would represent an enormous step backwards for the state's infrastructure and economy.

SCAG TO PREPARE CITIES FOR 2020 RTP/SCS LOCAL INPUT PROCESS

Southern California will be facing new challenges in the development of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020 RTP/SCS). Transformative transportation innovations, ambitious new greenhouse gas reduction targets, new Federal Highway Administration planning requirements and a concurrent Regional Housing Needs Assessment cycle will require a great deal of collaboration amongst regional stakeholders and local jurisdictions. To that end, SCAG is hosting a Toolbox Tuesday workshop on Oct. 31 at 10:00 a.m. to introduce the Bottom-Up Local Input and Envisioning Process to local city staff. During the Local Input Process, SCAG will work with local jurisdictions to obtain key data including growth forecasts and land use information. This information is the foundation for the development of Southern California's 2020 RTP/SCS. This Toolbox Tuesday training will provide general information on the process, the new Scenario Planning Model Data Management Tool, resource support as well as other ways SCAG is collecting data that will influence plan development. Interested individuals can attend in person at SCAG's downtown office, at SCAG's video conferencing sites, or remotely via webinar. [Registration is now available.](#)

100 HOURS CAMPAIGN SPARKS CONVERSATION ABOUT TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

SCAG's 100 Hours campaign, a media initiative designed to highlight the untenable state of Southern California's congestion problem and start a conversation about traffic solutions, has generated a lot of media interest over the past two months. Focusing on specific traffic hotspots, the campaign proposes that we consider a package of solutions for congestion reduction, including decongestion fees for the most crowded streets. SCAG also launched a partnership with ride-hailing company Lyft to highlight mobility strategies like reducing single-occupancy trips. Media outlets at the local and national level have weighed in on the campaign, the decongestion pricing component and the Lyft partnership. The Los Angeles Times Editorial Board endorsed 100 Hours' message [in an editorial piece](#) and the Lyft partnership was covered by [CNN Money](#) and [Los Angeles Magazine](#). The congestion pricing concept sparked responses from [KPCC](#), [NBC4](#), [abc7](#) and [Planetizen](#), among others. The 100 Hours campaign also hosted a booth at COAST, an open streets festival in the City of Santa Monica, on Oct. 1. Visitors to the booth played games, discussed strategies to improve local and regional transportation and shared their ideas about which locations could best use enhancement and encouragement for alternative transportation use. Find out more about 100 Hours at the campaign website: [100hoursla.com](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October

17th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

19th Technical Working Group

24th Transportation Conformity Working Group

November

2nd Regional Council & Policy Committees

16th Technical Working Group

21st Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

28th Transportation Conformity Working Group



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