

# SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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## IN THIS ISSUE

- ACTION - RC GREEN-LIGHTS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
- ACTION - RC ADOPTS 2019 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
- ACTION - RC ADOPTS UPDATED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- UPDATE ON RHNA AND CONNECT SOCAL (2020 RTP/SCS)
- DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL DATA PLATFORM
- GO HUMAN PROMOTES TRAFFIC SAFETY DURING BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON
- SCAG SHARES PRIORITIES WITH STATE SENATE LEADER AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

## 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](http://bit.ly/AgendaRC).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING

# ANNOUNCING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM 2018 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Active Transportation**    **Integrated Land Use**    **Green Region Initiative**

## ACTION

RC GREEN-LIGHTS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Regional Council today approved release of guidelines for SCAG's 2018 Sustainable Communities Program, formerly known as the "Sustainability Planning Grants" program. The program includes a multi-year funding commitment of about \$6 million, which will fund integrated land use, green region and active transportation projects that support the policies and initiatives of the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. All SCAG-member jurisdictions, including cities, counties and Councils of Governments are encouraged to apply.

Application materials will be made available online on Monday, Sept. 10, [here](#). Applications will be due to SCAG by 5:00 p.m on Nov. 15. A webinar for potential applicants will be held on Oct. 2, and will be announced soon. After reviewing and ranking applications, staff will seek Regional Council approval for funding recommendations in March 2019.

#### **ACTION**

#### **RC ADOPTS 2019 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Regional Council voted today to approve the 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), which catalogues the SCAG region's transportation investment priorities over the next six years. The Regional Council also approved a corresponding Amendment #3 to the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), which creates consistency between the two major plans.

The full 2019 FTIP can be viewed [here](#).

#### **ACTION**

#### **RC ADOPTS UPDATED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The Regional Council today adopted a new Public Participation Plan for SCAG, which will define the agency's goals, strategies, and processes for engaging the public in the regional planning process. The update, initiated to ensure that SCAG's approach to public engagement is current, effective and inclusive, features changes designed to make the plan more accessible to a general audience and more adaptable in anticipation of evolving technologies.

The draft Public Participation Plan was released for a 60-day period of public review and comment period earlier this year. After reviewing and integrating comments where appropriate, staff presented a Proposed Final Public Participation Plan to the Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee, who recommended it to the Regional Council for adoption.

The new SCAG Public Participation Plan is available online here: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/participate/Pages/PublicParticipationPlan.aspx>

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### UPDATE ON RHNA AND CONNECT SOCIAL (2020 RTP/SCS)

Since Fall 2017, SCAG staff has been working hard to engage all the region's local cities and counties in the process for developing our next major transportation and land use plans: the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Working closely with local governments and collecting their data on land use and growth trends in a "[Bottom-Up Local Input and Envisioning Process](#)" helps us get a clear picture of what's happening at the local level, and forms the basis for SCAG's demographic projections and strategies for meeting state targets to reduce greenhouse gases.

We are excited to announce a major milestone: SCAG staff has now held one-on-one meetings with each of the 191 cities and six counties in our region, ensuring that SCAG's planning process is fully explained. This process also ensures that SCAG's plans are locally relevant and sensitive to unique challenges across diverse communities. SCAG staff have also been providing on-site technical assistance to nearly 80 agencies that need help in compiling the data. We are grateful for the support of our local partners, including our 15 subregional organizations, for hosting SCAG presentations at standing meetings and facilitating engagement with city and county leadership. The local input process is still ongoing; the deadline for [sharing information with SCAG](#) is Oct. 1.

### DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL DATA PLATFORM

SCAG has begun internal work on our upcoming Regional Data Platform, which will standardize regionally significant datasets, provide opportunities for local partners to update their data in real-time and draw insights from local trends. This platform will help people engage with data translating a vast pool of available information into actionable insights and knowledge. Local agencies will be able to use this platform for their own initiatives, leverage it to engage their residents, and help to improve the platform through data revision and insight sharing. Later this year, SCAG will be conducting a local data needs assessment and soliciting participation from local agencies. The Regional Data Platform is anticipated for release in Fall 2020. For additional information, please contact Kimberly Clark, Regional Planner Specialist, at [clark@scag.ca.gov](mailto:clark@scag.ca.gov).

### GO HUMAN PROMOTES TRAFFIC SAFETY DURING BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON

SCAG's Go Human program and Culver City officials kicked off the new school year with an event on August 13 aimed at reminding drivers to slow down and look out for students as they walk or bike to school. City officials, parents and students gathered in Culver City at [La Ballona Elementary School](#) to call for increased traffic safety in advance to back to school. Speakers, including SCAG Regional Council Member and Culver City Vice Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells, urged drivers to slow down and be alert as children are walking and biking.

In addition, SCAG has partnered with AAA to promote safe driving at schools throughout Southern California as part of [AAA's Annual School's Open Campaign](#). Through this partnership, 115 schools have requested Go Human banners to display that remind drivers to slow down and look out for students walking to school. SCAG president Alan Wapner joined the Go Human team at events in the cities of West Covina in July and Ontario in August. Hundreds of attendees were able to experience temporary infrastructure demonstrations that promote and encourage safe walking and biking. Three more demonstration events are planned for the month of September in the cities of Culver City, Chino and San Jacinto on Sept. 15, 22 and 29 respectively. To stay up to date on Go Human activities, follow the campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### SCAG SHARES PRIORITIES WITH STATE SENATE LEADER AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

In July, SCAG had the honor to welcome California Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins to our headquarters for a discussion on collaborative solutions for several statewide issues, particularly in the area of infrastructure. Senator Atkins was a special guest at the Los Angeles County Business Federation Leadership Roundtable, which SCAG hosted. SCAG President Alan Wapner opened the program, sharing updates on some of our agency's major upcoming programs and operations – including the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy and the next cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. President Wapner also thanked Senator Atkins for her leadership in securing resources for Southern California, and emphasized that though her home district falls outside the SCAG region, her partnership is a priority. The roundtable gathering covered pressing policy matters around housing, transportation and energy, and discussed how to cultivate a system in Southern California that allows partners to work together across sectors, across cities and counties, to move the region forward. More details on SCAG's work on legislative engagement and advocacy at both the state and federal level are available on our [Legislation Program website](#).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### September

**6th** Regional Council & Policy Committees  
**18th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee  
**20th** Technical Working Group  
**25th** Transportation Conformity Working Group  
**26th** Modeling Task Force

### October

**4th** Regional Council & Policy Committees  
**16th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee  
**18th** Technical Working Group  
**23rd** Transportation Conformity Working Group



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