



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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MEETING OF THE

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

***Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend
In-Person & Remotely***

Thursday, July 6, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

To Attend In-Person:

**SCAG Main Office – Policy B Meeting Room
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

To Watch or View Only:

<https://scag.ca.gov/scag-tv-livestream>

To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/116153109>

To Attend and Participate by Phone:

Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 116 153 109

PUBLIC ADVISORY

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1420. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



Instructions for Attending the Meeting

To Attend In-Peron and Provide Verbal Comments: Go to the SCAG Main Office located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or any of the remote locations noticed in the agenda. The meeting will take place in the Policy B Meeting Room on the 17th floor starting at 9:30 a.m.

To Attend by Computer: Click the following link: <https://scag.zoom.us/j/116153109>. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click “Download & Run Zoom” on the launch page and press “Run” when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically. Select “Join Audio via Computer.” The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, “Please wait for the host to start this meeting,” simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.

To Attend by Phone: Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully. Enter the **Meeting ID: 116 153 109**, followed by #. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing # to continue. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.

Instructions for Participating and Public Comments

Members of the public can participate in the meeting via written or verbal comments.

1. **In Writing:** Written comments can be emailed to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov. Written comments received **by 5pm on Wednesday, July 5, 2023**, will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG’s website prior to the meeting. You are **not** required to submit public comments in writing or in advance of the meeting; this option is offered as a convenience should you desire not to provide comments in real time as described below. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of this committee regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) are available at the Office of the Clerk, at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or by phone at (213) 630-1420, or email to aguilarm@scag.ca.gov.

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2. **Remotely:** If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, please wait for the presiding officer to call the item for which you wish to speak and use the “raise hand” function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number.
3. **In-Person:** If participating in-person, you are invited but not required, to fill out and present a Public Comment Card to the Clerk of the Board or other SCAG staff prior to speaking. It is helpful to indicate whether you wish to speak during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) and/or on an item listed on the agenda.

General Information for Public Comments

Verbal comments can be presented in real time during the meeting. Members of the public are allowed a total of 3 minutes for verbal comments. The presiding officer retains discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting, including equally reducing the time of all comments.

For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called. Items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted on with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

In accordance with SCAG’s Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is “willfully interrupted” and the “orderly conduct of the meeting” becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

<p>Cindy Allen Long Beach Civic Center 411 W Ocean Blvd Long Beach, CA 90802</p>	<p>Wendy Bucknum City of Mission Viejo - City Hall 200 Civic Center Serenata Conference Room Mission Viejo, CA 92691</p>	<p>Debra Dorst-Porada City of Ontario - City Hall 303 East B Street Conference Room 2 Ontario, CA 91764</p>
<p>Rose Espinoza City of La Habra - City Hall 110 East La Habra Boulevard La Habra, CA 90631</p>	<p>Waymond Fermon 82566 Craymill Drive Indio, CA 92203</p>	<p>Margaret E. Finlay 2221 Rim Rd. Duarte, CA 91008</p>
<p>Claudia Frometa City of Downey - City Hall 11111 Brookshire Ave Downey, CA 90241</p>	<p>Camilo Garcia City of Calexico - City Hall 608 Herber Ave Calexico, CA 92231</p>	<p>Mark E. Henderson SBCCOG, Environmental Services Center 2355 Crenshaw Blvd, Suite 125 Torrance, CA 90501</p>
<p>Cecilia Hupp 9 Muskrat Sunriver, OR 97707</p>	<p>Kathleen Kelly 46-100 Burroweed Lane Palm Desert, CA 92260</p>	<p>Tammy Kim City of Irvine - City Hall 1 Civic Center Plaza Irvine CA, 92614</p>
<p>Lauren Kleiman City of Newport Beach - City Hall 100 Civic Center Drive Bay 2E Newport Beach CA, 92660</p>	<p>Jed Leano City of Claremont - City Hall 207 Harvard Ave Upstairs Citrus Room Claremont, CA 91711</p>	<p>Anni Marshall City of Avalon - City Hall 410 Avalon Canyon Road Avalon, CA 90704</p>
<p>Casey McKeon Heslin Holdings 23421 South Pointe Dr., Suite 270 Laguna Hills, CA 92653</p>	<p>John A. Mirisch City of Beverly Hills - City Hall 455 North Rexford Drive, 4th Floor Beverly Hills, CA 90210</p>	<p>Joseph Morabito City of Wildomar - City Hall 23783 Clinton Keith Rd., Suite 201 Wildomar, CA 92595</p>
<p>George A. Nava City of Brawley - City Hall 383 Main Street Brawley, CA 92227</p>	<p>Marisela Nava City of Perris - City Hall 101 N D Street Perris, CA 92571</p>	<p>Ariel Pe City of Lakewood Lakewood City Council Chambers/Offices 5000 Clark Avenue Lakewood CA, 90712</p>
<p>Misty Perez 2505 Seafoam Court Port Hueneme, CA 93041</p>	<p>Gabriel Reyes City of Adelanto - City Hall 11600 Air Expressway 2nd Floor Conference Room Adelanto, CA 92301</p>	<p>Sylvia A. Robles City of Grand Terrace - City Hall 22795 Barton Rd 1st Floor Conference Room Grand Terrace, CA 92313</p>



EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Nick Schultz City of Burbank - City Hall 275 E Olive Ave 2nd Floor, Council Office Burbank, CA 91502	Becky A. Shevlin City of Monrovia - City Hall 415 South Ivy Monrovia, CA 91016	Acquanetta Warren City of Fontana - City Hall 8353 Sierra Ave Fontana, CA 92336
Tony Wu 4509 Temple City Boulevard Temple City CA, 91780		



CEHD - Community, Economic and Human Development Committee
Members – July 2023

- 1. Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama**
CEHD Chair, Cerritos, RC District 23
- 2. Hon. David J. Shapiro**
CEHD Vice Chair, Calabasas, RC District 44
- 3. Hon. Ashleigh Aitken**
Anaheim, RC District 19
- 4. Hon. Cindy Allen**
2nd Vice President, Long Beach, RC District 30
- 5. Hon. Valerie Amezcua**
Santa Ana, RC District 16
- 6. Hon. Al Austin**
Long Beach, GCCOG
- 7. Hon. Gary Boyer**
Glendora, RC District 33
- 8. Hon. Drew Boyles**
El Segundo, RC District 40
- 9. Hon. Wendy Bucknum**
Mission Viejo, RC District 13
- 10. Hon. Don Caskey**
Laguna Hills, OCCOG
- 11. Hon. Tanya Doby**
Los Alamitos, OCCOG
- 12. Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada**
Ontario, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 13. Ms. Lucy Dunn**
Business Representative, Non-Voting Member
- 14. Hon. Keith Eich**
La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36
- 15. Hon. Bob Engler**
Thousand Oaks, VCOG

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

- 16. Hon. Rose Espinoza**
La Habra, OCCOG
- 17. Hon. Waymond Fermon**
Indio, CVAG
- 18. Hon. Margaret Finlay**
Duarte, RC District 35
- 19. Hon. Claudia Frometa**
Downey, RC District 25
- 20. Hon. John Gabbard**
Dana Point, District 12
- 21. Hon. Camilo Garcia**
Imperial County, CoC
- 22. Hon. Marshall Goodman**
La Palma, RC District 18
- 23. Hon. Mark Henderson**
Gardena, RC District 28
- 24. Hon. Cecilia Hupp**
Brea, OCCOG
- 25. Hon. Lynda Johnson**
Cerritos, GCCOG
- 26. Hon. Kathleen Kelly**
Palm Desert, RC District 2
- 27. Hon. Tammy Kim**
Irvine, RC District 14
- 28. Hon. Lauren Kleiman**
Newport Beach, RC District 15
- 29. Sup. Matt LaVere**
Ventura County CoC
- 30. Hon. Jed Leano**
Claremont, SGVCOG
- 31. Hon. Anni Marshall**
Avalon, GCCOG

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

- 32. Hon. Andrew Masiel**
Tribal Govt Regl Planning Board Representative
- 33. Hon. Casey McKeon**
Huntington Beach, RC District 64
- 34. Hon. John Mirisch**
Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 35. Hon. Joseph Morabito**
Wildomar, WRCOG
- 36. George Nava**
Brawley, ICTC
- 37. Hon. Marisela Nava**
Perris, RC District 69
- 38. Hon. Ariel Pe**
Lakewood, GCCOG
- 39. Hon. Misty Perez**
Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)
- 40. Hon. Nithya Raman**
Los Angeles, RC District 51
- 41. Hon. Gabriel Reyes**
San Bernardino County CoC
- 42. Hon. Rocky Rhodes**
Simi Valley, RC District 46
- 43. Hon. Sylvia Robles**
Grand Terrace, SBCTA
- 44. Hon. Celeste Rodriguez**
San Fernando, RC District 67
- 45. Hon. Sonny Santa Ines**
Bellflower, GCCOG
- 46. Hon. Andrew Sarega**
La Mirada, RC District 31
- 47. Hon. Nicholas Schultz**
Burbank, AVCJPA

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

- 48. Hon. Becky Shevlin**
Monrovia, SGVCOG

- 49. Hon. Mary Solorio**
San Fernando, SFVCOG

- 50. Hon. Helen Tran**
San Bernardino, SBCTA

- 51. Hon. Mark Waronek**
Lomita, SBCCOG

- 52. Hon. Acquanetta Warren**
Fontana, SBCTA

- 53. Hon. Tony Wu**
West Covina, SGVCOG

- 54. Hon. Frank Zerunyan**
Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Thursday, July 6, 2023
9:30 AM

The Community, Economic and Human Development Committee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *(The Honorable Frank Yokoyama, Chair)*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Matters Not on the Agenda)

This is the time for public comments on any matter of interest within SCAG’s jurisdiction that is **not** listed on the agenda. For items listed on the agenda, public comments will be received when that item is considered. Although the committee may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon at this time.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting – June 1, 2023 PPG. 9

Receive and File

- 2. CEHD Committee Outlook and Future Agenda Items PPG. 18
- 3. REAP 2.0 Program Call for Applications Update PPG. 20
- 4. Connect SoCal 2024: Policy Framework PPG. 27
- 5. Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Performance Measures PPG. 44
- 6. Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337): Status Update on Additional Stakeholder Outreach and Preliminary Outline of Draft Contents PPG. 63

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 7. Connect SoCal 2024: Outreach Update 15 Mins. PPG. 70
(Camille Guiriba, Senior Regional Planner)



COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

8. REAP 1.0 Biannual Program Update 10 Mins. PPG. 142
(Ma'Ayn Johnson, Manager of Housing)
9. REAP 1: Digitized Utility Inventory Tool for Palmdale 45 Mins. PPG. 157
(David Kyobe, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG and Daniel Anderson, GeoAI Project Director, Black and Veatch)
10. RHNA Reform Process Updates 15 Mins. PPG. 165
(Ma'Ayn Johnson, Manager of Housing)

CHAIR'S REPORT

(The Honorable Frank Yokoyama, Chair)

STAFF REPORT

(Ivette Macias, Government Affairs Officer, SCAG Staff)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD)
THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD). A VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Community, Human and Development Committee (CEHD) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Shapiro, Vice Chair	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Valerie Amezcua	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Don Caskey	<i>Laguna Hills</i>	OCCOG
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Ex-Officio
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Bob Engler	<i>Thousand Oaks</i>	VCOG
Hon. Rose Espinoza	<i>La Habra</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Waymond Fermon	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG
Hon. Claudia M. Frometa	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Marshall Goodman	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Mark Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	<i>Brea</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Lynda Johnson	<i>Cerritos</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2
Hon. Lauren Kleiman	<i>Newport Beach</i>	District 15
Hon. Jed Leano	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Sup. Matt LaVere	<i>Ventura County</i>	CoC
Hon. Anni Marshall	<i>Avalon</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning</i>	



Hon. Casey McKeon	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. John Mirisch	<i>Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Joseph Morabito	<i>Wildomar</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Ariel Pe	<i>Lakewood</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Sylvia Robles	<i>Grand Terrace</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	<i>Bellflower</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Andrew Sarega	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Becky Shevlin	<i>Monrovia</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Helen Tran	<i>San Bernardino</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Frank Zerunyan	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG

Members Not Present

Hon. Ashleigh Aitken	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Al Austin, II	<i>Long Beach</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Ramon Castro	<i>Imperial County</i>	CoC
Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada	<i>Ontario, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Tammy Kim	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. George A. Nava	<i>Brawley</i>	ICTC
Hon. Misty Perez	<i>Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt.</i>	Member at Large
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Gabriel Reyes	<i>San Bernardino County</i>	CoC
Hon. Celeste Rodriguez	<i>San Fernando</i>	District 67
Hon. Nicholas Schultz	<i>Burbank</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	<i>Fontana</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Tony Wu	<i>West Covina</i>	SGVCOG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Frank Yokoyama called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and asked Councilmember Lynda Johnson, City of Cerritos, GCCOG to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Yokoyama provided detailed instructions and general information on how to provide public comments. Additionally, he noted that public comments received via email to CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov after 5pm on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, would be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. He noted this was the time for members of the public to offer comment for matters that are within SCAG’s jurisdiction but are not listed on the agenda.

SCAG staff acknowledged there were no written public comments received via email before or after the 5pm deadline on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. SCAG staff also noted that there were no public comments for matters not listed on the agenda.

Chair Yokoyama closed the public comment period for matters not listed on the agenda.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

No reprioritizations were made.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – April 6, 2023

Receive and File

2. CEHD Committee Outlook and Future Agenda Items
3. Status Report on SCAG’s Racial Equity Early Action Plan
4. Connect SoCal 2024: Equity Analysis Update – Priority Equity Communities
5. Guiding Principles for Emerging Technology
6. Connect SoCal 2024: Local Data Exchange (LDX) Survey Results

A MOTION was made (Bucknum) and SECONDED (Hupp) to approve the Consent Calendar Item 1 and Receive and File Items 2 through 6. Motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Amezcua, Andrade-Stadler, Boyer, Bucknum, Caskey, Eich, Engler, Fermon, Frometa, Goodman, Henderson, Hupp, Johnson, Kelly, LaVere, Leano, Marshall, Masiel, Mirisch, Morabito, M. Nava, Pe, Rhodes, Robles, Santa Ines, Sarega, Shapiro, Shevlin, Waronek, Yokoyama and Zerunyan (31)

NOES: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

There were no public comments on this item.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Connect SoCal 2024: Policy Development Framework Update

Chair Yokoyama made opening comments providing background information on the Policy Development Framework and draft Connect SoCal 2024 plan. He asked Elizabeth Carvajal, SCAG staff, to provide an overview of the Policy Development Framework Update presentation.

Ms. Carvajal's presentation included background information and a summary of the Policy Development framework which focused on the following updates:

- Draft Vision
- Goals: Mobility Goals and Communities examples which encourage policies that encourage housing and employment in priority development areas and promotions of the 15-minute communities that focus on streets that meet the needs of all users.
- Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback
- Next Steps – Feedback requested from CEHD members; in July 2023 staff will seek approval from the EAC and Regional Council.

SCAG staff responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers, including comments which focused on quality-of-life concerns for improving the life of a community, homeowner's housing preferences, remote work expansion, and stability that helps communities in being stronger. Additionally, feedback included concerns for safety policies around public transportation that can be included in the mobility, regional planning update, engagement with major private sector employers about strategies for adding jobs in the SCAG region, and encouragement of policies to incentivize carpools and other transportation and mobility alternatives.

The Committee requested staff to establish a way to measure the comments and ideas from the CEHD members to prioritize and focus on those ideas in the short term.

Chair noted that SCAG staff was seeking feedback that will be used to update and revise the draft Regional Planning Policies. He encouraged the Committee to work with their planning staff and share their comments and feedback with SCAG staff.

The comprehensive staff report, and PowerPoint presentations were included in the agenda packet.

There were no public comments on this item.

8. Connect SoCal Regional Growth Vision & Local Data Exchange Evaluation

Chair Yokoyama provided brief comments and noted that to provide more context before the release of the draft Plan this fall, Dr. Kevin Kane, SCAG staff, would share an evaluation of the regional growth vision based on the housing and sustainability objectives of Connect SoCal.

Mr. Kane provided background information and noted that the Connect SoCal Regional Growth Vision and Local Data Exchange Evaluation (LDX) presentation was about the growth and land use development process. The presentation outline included a high-level overview of the following topics:

1. Recap Connect SoCal 2024 Growth Forecast
2. Forecasted Regional Development Pattern
3. Growth Vision, Growth Prioritization Scale
4. Evaluating SoCal's Path toward Sustainable and Resilient Development
5. LDX Survey Results and Overall Assessment
6. Next Steps, which include release of the draft plan in October 2023.

SCAG staff responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers including discussions that focused on the short to medium-range economic forecasts, priority development areas and environmental threats to water and infrastructure demands.

There were no public comments on this item.

The comprehensive staff report, and PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet.

9. Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS) Grant Update

Chair Yokoyama provided opening comments. He asked Anna Van and Gigi Moreno, SCAG staff members, to provide an update on the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS) Grant projects.

Ms. Van and Ms. Moreno's presentation included background information of the IERS report which focused on racial and social equity, specifically communities of color and lower-income communities.

Highlights of the presentation included the following topics:

1. Family – Supporting Job Plans, Approach and Expected Outcomes.
2. Human Capital Needs Assessment: A report will be produced with recommendations and best practices around core intersectional issues, with emphasis on lower-income communities and communities of color.
3. Inclusive Contracting Toolkits: The toolkits will provide a roadmap that contain best practices and implementable actions to support and strengthen our region's diverse, local businesses.
4. Tribal Data Needs Assessment: An economic database project to assess tribal data needs for economic development. Engagement with Tribal leaders and key stakeholders will be at the forefront of the projects exploratory phase.
5. Quantify Economic Impacts of Equitable and Inclusive Economic Development in Southern California

SCAG staff responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers including comments regarding economic development, and the development of metrics to help measure the progress and success of the Inclusive Contracting Toolkits. Additional discussion focused on legislative regulations and barriers to the creation of small businesses and new jobs, including quality-of-life issues, such as crime.

There were no public comments on this item.

The comprehensive staff report, and PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet.

10. RHNA Reform Process Updates

Chair Yokoyama provided brief comments about the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Reform update currently in progress. He asked David Kyobe and Ma'Ayn Johnson, SCAG staff, to provide more details on the updates.

Mr. Kyobe's presentation included an overview of the stakeholder engagement process and RHNA Reform timelines. He noted that the input and feedback collected through the June 30th public outreach process would be reviewed and draft recommendations would be forwarded for review by the CEHD Committee for further approval by the Regional Council in August and September 2023, respectively.

Ms. Johnson noted that as part of the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) statewide RHNA reform, HCD convened a group of experts, also known as the "Sounding Board", to advise and provide direct feedback on various concepts for RHNA reform. Ms. Johnson provided a brief overview of the Sounding Board engagement process and meeting topics, timelines and next steps. She noted that as the SCAG representative, she was focused on simplifying the process, along with increasing transparency to establish trust in the agency's decision-making process.

Comments from the Committee included criticisms of HCD's role in the RHNA reform process, including the agency's lack of public participation and transparency.

Chair Yokoyama requested that Ms. Johnson relay the Committee's feedback at the next Sounding Board session. He encouraged the Committee members to respond to staff's request for attendance at the Special CEHD meeting being scheduled for mid-August.

There were no public comments on this item.

The comprehensive staff report, and PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Yokoyama welcomed and recognized Councilmembers Valerie Amezcua, City of Santa Ana, District 16, Celeste Rodriguez, City of San Fernando, District 67 and Andrew Sarega, City of La Mirada, District 31, to the CEHD Committee. Chair Yokoyama also recognized the CEHD members who attended the meeting in person and virtually.

Chair Yokoyama provided a brief overview of the Chair's Report which included highlights of the following topics:

- Update on Connect SoCal Outreach Initiatives, noting that SCAG staff will present highlights and findings from the outreach to the Regional Council (RC) next month and will also ask the Executive/Administration Committee and RC to approve an update to the Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework.
- Update on REAP 2.0 Programs, noting that the application deadline for the Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) Pilot Programs was Monday, July 10 at 5 p.m. He noted that more information could be found on SCAG's website.

STAFF REPORT

SCAG staff Ivette Macias provided a brief report that included an update on the SoCal Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee and a reminder that SCAG will hold a RHNA Reform public listening session on June 22-27, 2023.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

Chair Yokoyama asked the CEHD members to email their future agenda items requests to SCAG staff, Ms. Ivette Macias, for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Yokoyama thanked the CEHD members for their participation and noted that the next meeting of the CEHD would take place on Thursday, July 6, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Yokoyama adjourned the meeting of the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Carmen Summers
Community, Economic and Human Development Committee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CEHD COMMITTEE]

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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2023-24

MEMBERS	Representing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Aitken, Ashleigh	Anaheim, RC District 19													
Amezcuca, Valarie	Santa Ana, District 16	1												1
Andrade-Stadler, Adele	Alhambra, RC District 34	1												1
Austin, II, Al	Long Beach, GCCOG													
Boyer, Gary	Glendora, RC District 33	1		D										1
Boyles, Drew	El Segundo, RC District 40			A										
Bucknum, Wendy	Mission Viejo, RC District 13	1												1
Caskey, Don	Laguna Hills, OCCOG	1		R										1
Castro, Ramon	Imperial County, CoC			K										
Dorst-Porada, Debra	Ontario, Pres. Appt.													
Dunn, Lucy	Ex-Officio, Business Representative	1												1
Eich, Keith	La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36	1												1
Engler, Bob	Thousand Oaks, VCOG	1												1
Espinoza, Rose	La Habra, OCCOG	1												1
Fermon, Waymond	Indio, CVAG	1												1
Finlay, Margaret E.	Duarte, RC District 35													
Frometa, Claudia M.	Downey, RC District 25	1												1
Goodman, Marshall R.	LaPalma, RC District 18	1												1
Henderson, Mark E.	Gardena, RC District 28	1												1
Hupp, Cecilia	Brea, OCCOG	1		D										1
Johnson, Lynda	Cerritos, GCCOG	1		A										1
Kelly, Kathleen	Palm Desert, RC District 2	1												1
Kim, Tammy	Irvine, RC District 14			R										
Kleiman, Lauren	Newport Beach, RC District 15	1		K										1
LeVere, Matt	Ventura County, CoC	1												1
Leano, Jed	Claremont, SGVCOG	1												1
Marshall, Anni	Avalon, GCCOG	1												1
Masiel, Sr., Andrew	Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians	1												1
McKeon, Casey	Huntington Beach, RC District 64	1												1
Mirisch, John	Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt.	1												1
Morabito, Joseph	Wildomar, WRCOG	1												1
Nava, George A.	ICTC													
Nava, Marisela	Perris, RC District 69	1												1
Pe, Ariel "Ari"	Lakewood, GCCOG	1												1
Perez, Misty	Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt.													
Raman, Nithya	Los Angeles, District 51			D										
Reyes, Gabriel	San Bernardino County CoC			A										
Rhodes, Rocky	Simi Valley, RC District 46	1												1
Robles, Sylvia	Grand Terrace, SBCTA	1												1
Rodriguez, Celeste	San Fernando, District 67			R										
Santa Ines, Sonny	Bellflower, GCCOG	1		K										1
Sarega, Andrew	La Mirada, District 31	1												1
Schultz, Nick	Burbank, AVCJPA													
Shapiro, David J.	Calabasas, RC District 44	1												1
Shevlin, Becky A.	Monrovia, SGVCOG	1												1
Tran, Helen	San Bernardino, SBCTA	1												1
Waronek, Mark	Lomita, SBCCOG	1												1
Warren, Acquanetta	Fontana, SBCTA													
Wu, Tony	West Covina, SGVCOG													
Yokoyama, Frank Aurelio	Cerritos, RC District 23	1												1
Zerunyan, Frank	Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG	1												1
TOTAL ATTENDANCE		36	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	0		

Attachment: CEHD Attendance Sheet FY 2023-24 (Minutes of the June 1, 2023 Meeting)



AGENDA ITEM 2
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Elizabeth Carvajal, Deputy Director
(213) 236-1801, carvajal@scag.ca.gov

Subject: CEHD Committee Outlook and Future Agenda Items

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The draft Policy Development Framework (“Framework”) for Connect SoCal 2024 was presented to the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) on April 7, 2022. Following the Regional Council adoption of the Framework on June 2, 2022, staff developed a 12-month Committee Outlook for the CEHD, to realize the goals and discussions committed to in the Framework and develop consensus around the policy priorities that will become final recommendations in Connect SoCal 2024. For FY2023-24, the outlook for the CEHD is forthcoming, reflecting outcomes of the 2023 Executive Administration Committee (EAC) Retreat. The Committee Outlook will be updated monthly as a receive and file item.

BACKGROUND:

Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

The draft Policy Development Framework (“Framework”) for Connect SoCal 2024 was presented to the Community Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) on April 7, 2022, and was adopted by the Regional Council at the June 2, 2022 meeting. The Policy Framework is intended to facilitate the engagement of SCAG’s Policy Committees in the data, emerging issues and policy recommendations that will be presented in Connect SoCal 2024. In furtherance of the adopted Policy Development Framework, staff have developed “Committee Outlook” for each of the three Policy committees (CEHD, TC and EEC) organized around three areas: Connect SoCal, Local Assistance Program, and Regional Updates.

CEHD Committee Outlook and Framework

Building on the Policy Framework and the commitment to creating more transparency and engagement in the policy development process, staff is updating the Outlook for the Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Policy Committee for FY2023-24.

The Committee Outlook organizes content into three programmatic areas:

- 1. *Connect SoCal:*** Items within this area will center on efforts to implement Connect SoCal 2020, updates on the plan development process for 2024, and discussion of key policy issues and emerging trends for the 2024 Connect SoCal Plan. Presentations will offer best practices, lessons learned and emerging trends in key policy areas centered on land use, housing, and economic development. Throughout FY2023-24, staff will continue to seek direction from the CEHD Committee, focusing on current implementation efforts for Connect SoCal 2020 as well as status updates on the development of Connect SoCal 2024.
- 2. *Local Assistance Program:*** In this programmatic area, staff will present informational and action items related to programs that provide assistance to local partners. Currently, the main programs that will be highlighted through the CEHD committee are: the in-progress \$47 million REAP (Regional Early Action Planning) Grant program and the development and implementation of REAP 2, with a focus on the Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH) and Subregional Partnership Program 2.0 components.
- 3. *Regional Updates:*** This programmatic area will focus on regional policy issues, such as upcoming RHNA reform effort, Connect SoCal strategies, implementation of the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS) through SCAG's one-time state funding, and the related coordination with the State's new Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) program. Committee members may also recommend other policy topics for exploration.

The Committee Outlook is tracked to when the draft 2024 Connect SoCal will be published. Staff will ensure that the various policy and strategy recommendations in Connect SoCal 2024 will be reviewed and discussed by SCAG's policy committees through April 2024. The topics and panels covered may change based on speaker availability, progress on the targeted programs, and other requests from the Committee Chair and Vice Chair as well as members.

The updated 12-Month Committee Outlook, reflecting the outcomes of the 2023 EAC Retreat, is forthcoming and will be included in future agendas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 23-24 Overall Work Program (810.0120.20: Planning Policy Development).



AGENDA ITEM 3
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Executive/Administration Committee (EAC)
Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)
From: Hannah Brunelle, Senior Regional Planner
(213) 236-1907, brunelle@scag.ca.gov
Subject: REAP 2.0 Program Call for Applications Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EAC:

Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, EEC, TC AND RC:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 4: Provide innovative information and value-added services to enhance member agencies' planning and operations and promote regional collaboration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Resolution No. 22-649-1 authorizes SCAG to receive and administer \$246,024,084 in Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program of 2021 (REAP 2.0) funds from the State of California. REAP 2.0 is managed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). SCAG anticipates the final approval of the full grant award by HCD this month. REAP 2.0 supports transformative planning and implementation activities and accelerates infill development that facilitates housing supply, choice, and affordability, to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), support Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), and advance implementation of the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

SCAG's REAP 2.0 program includes six Calls for Applications to provide local agencies and eligible applicants across the SCAG region multiple opportunities to access funding in different program areas and also supports regional programs to implement Connect SoCal. This report provides a

progress update for SCAG's REAP 2.0 program and a summary of the status of each Call for Applications.

BACKGROUND:

The REAP 2.0 program was established as part of the 2021 California Comeback Plan under AB 140. REAP 2.0 builds on the success of REAP 2019 (REAP 1.0) and expands the program focus by integrating housing and climate goals, and allows for broader planning and implementation investments, including infrastructure investments supporting infill development to facilitate housing supply, choice, and affordability.

SCAG's REAP 2.0 program combines coordinated and transformative actions aligning transportation and housing development by investing in innovative finance, land use, and transportation strategies to help achieve California's housing and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. SCAG's program includes three major program areas: The Early Program Initiatives (EPIs), Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH), and the Transportation Partnership Programs (TPP). The three major program areas in SCAG's REAP 2.0 program work together to meet the REAP 2.0 objectives and support implementation of SCAG's adopted Connect SoCal.

Over the last 18 months, SCAG staff, under the direction of the policy committees, the EAC, and the RC, has worked to develop a comprehensive REAP 2.0 program. Major milestones in the program development process include the following:

- February 3, 2022, the Regional Council (RC) authorized staff to apply for the REAP 2.0 advance funding to support outreach and program development, including hiring required limited-term staff.
- July 7, 2022, the RC adopted the REAP 2.0 Program Framework including guiding principles and the identification of major programmatic areas to guide SCAG's grant proposal.
- October 6, 2022, the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) reviewed the comprehensive REAP 2.0 Draft Proposed Budget.
- November 30, 2022, the EAC, on behalf of the RC, authorized SCAG to apply for the full REAP 2.0 funding and authorized the acceptance of the full REAP 2.0 funds.
- December 29, 2022, SCAG submitted the full REAP 2.0 application ahead of the December 31, 2022, deadline.
- June 11, 2023, SCAG received a preliminary staff level approval of the REAP 2.0 application from HCD and is subject to final approval by the HCD Internal Loan Committee.

REAP 2.0 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS SUMMARY

SCAG is sub-allocating 80 percent of the full REAP 2.0 grant award for partner-led projects, to ensure projects can be delivered efficiently and effectively, while reducing SCAG's administrative costs. SCAG is releasing six Calls for Applications to provide eligible applicants multiple



opportunities to access funding across different program areas. A summary of SCAG’s Calls for Application is as follows:

Call for Applications	Funding Amount	Release Date	Closing Date	Regional Council Approval
County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program	\$80,000,000	April 2023	May 2023	July 2023
Sub-Regional Partnership Program 2.0 (SRP 2.0)	\$23,084,008	April 2023	June 2023	September 2022
Sustainable Communities Program – Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice (SCP CEEJ)	\$5,000,000*	April 2023	June 2023	September 2023
PATH - Pilot Program: Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP)	\$8,835,000	May 2023	July 2023	October 2023
PATH - Notice of Funds Available: Funding for Lasting Affordability (NOFA)	\$45,000,000	June 2023	July 2023	October 2023
PATH - Pilot Program: Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH)	\$35,000,000	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Early 2024

**\$2 million in Senate Bill 1 (SB1) funding*

To promote the Calls for Applications, SCAG implemented various outreach activities, complemented by offering multiple forms of technical assistance to help facilitate the process for applicants. The programs were promoted through SCAG newsletters, targeted emails, and presentations to external meeting groups. Outreach included program-specific application workshops to review eligibility, application requirements, and scoring. Each program also offered office hours to provide one-on-one support to applicants.

The County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program

The CTC Partnership Program connects infill housing to daily services and increases travel options that support multimodal communities to shift travel modes. On April 12, 2023, SCAG released the CTC Partnership Program Call for Applications. Prior to closing the Call on May 9, 2023, SCAG held an application workshop and made office hours available to applicants. SCAG received a total of 37 projects totaling over \$115 million. SCAG recommends funding 33 projects and is seeking approval of the recommended project award list from the RC. With the CTC Partnership Program, SCAG will fund a diverse set of transformative planning and implementation projects that expand access, increase mobility options, bring jobs and housing closer together, and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern across the region.

Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH)

PATH supports strategies to accelerate infill development leading to increased housing supply, choice, and affordability while also reducing VMT. The PATH program includes three Calls for Applications, including the Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP), Notice of Funds Available: Funding for Lasting Affordability (NOFA), and Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH).

On May 10, 2023, SCAG released the HIPP program, a competitive Call for Applications to support eligible applicants in scaling up development of available land and implementing large corridor-wide or area-wide infill housing policies and initiatives. The HIPP program has an estimated budget of \$8 million and will accept applications through July 10, 2023. On June 7, 2023, SCAG released the NOFA for Lasting Affordability, a competitive Call for Applications to provide support for innovative housing finance, trust funds, catalyst funds, and new permanent funding sources. The NOFA for Lasting Affordability has an estimated budget of \$45 million and will accept applications through July 31, 2023. To support applicants, SCAG staff are available for regular office hours to respond to questions and discuss projects proposed throughout the application periods. For both NOFA and HIPP, SCAG staff hosted application workshops and posted the recording along with Q&A responses on the program webpage.

The Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) program focuses on investments in utility infrastructure planning and capital improvements that will support jurisdictions in meeting the housing production goals. On Friday, April 28, SCAG hosted the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) Industry Forum, in partnership with PlaceWorks and the Urban Land Institute of Los Angeles (ULI/LA). The RUSH Industry Forum brought together thought leaders from Southern California and across the country for recommendations to implement the basic utility infrastructure needed for housing: water, wastewater, stormwater management and electricity. The outcomes of the RUSH Industry Forum will help guide the delivery of SCAG's RUSH grant program. The RUSH Call for Applications is expected to be released in late summer 2023.

Early Program Initiatives (EPIs)

The EPIs tie this work together by building capacity for planning innovation across the region through advancements in community engagement and partnerships, data driven decision making, and performance measurement and monitoring. The Sustainable Communities Program - Civic Engagement, Equity and Environmental Justice (SCP CEEJ) released the Call for Applications on April 12, 2023. The Call closed on June 5, 2023, and SCAG received 17 applications totaling \$6.9 million. SCAG is currently evaluating applications and anticipates taking the recommended project list to the RC in September 2023. The Sub-Regional Partnership 2.0 (SRP 2.0) Call for Applications opened April 12 and closed May 31, 2021, with extensions granted to several subregional partners through June 30, 2023. SCAG is currently evaluating submitted applications to determine eligibility with REAP 2.0 objectives and will work closely with subregional partners on next steps. The SRP 2.0



Program is noncompetitive and makes \$23 million available to sub-regional councils of governments for eligible activities supporting member cities and counties implementing housing element work plans.

Local agencies and eligible applicants are encouraged to review individual program guidelines and apply for SCAG's REAP 2.0 programs. Applications and program guidelines are available on [SCAG's REAP 2.0 website](#).

NEXT STEPS:

In July, SCAG anticipates its full REAP 2.0 application will be approved by the State allowing staff to proceed with projects approved by the RC. Staff will provide regular updates to the RC and Policy Committees on the REAP 2.0 program and any changes to the grant budget will be processed through SCAG's budget amendment procedures.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The funding for this program has been included in the REAP 2.0 work plan. Funding is subject to REAP 2.0 funding approval from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - REAP 2.0 Program Update



REAP 2.0 PROGRAM UPDATE

July 2023

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

REAP 2.0 Schedule Updates

Action	Timeline
SCAG received preliminary staff level approval from HCD on the full application	June 11, 2023
SCAG MOU development	Mid-Late Summer 2023
Anticipated Standard Agreement (SA) approval	End of July
Anticipated State announcement of REAP 2.0 awards	End of July
Template MOUs ready	Fall 2023*

* Pending State Approval of Full SCAG Program

REAP 2.0 Call for Applications Schedule

Call for Applications	Funding Amount	Release Date	Closing Date	Regional Council Approval
County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program	\$80,000,000	April 2023	May 9, 2023	July 2023
SRP 2	\$23,084,008	April 2023	June 2023	September 2022
Sustainable Communities Program – Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice (SCP CEEJ)	\$5,000,000*	April 2023	June 5, 2023	September 2023
HIPP Pilot (Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands)	\$8,835,000	May 2023	July 10, 2023	October 2023
NOFA For Lasting Affordability	\$45,000,000	June 2023	July 31, 2023	October 2023
RUSH Pilot (Regional Utilities Supporting Housing)	\$35,000,000	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Early 2024

*\$3 million from SB1



THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

<https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021>

Hannah Brunelle

Brunelle@scag.ca.gov



AGENDA ITEM 4
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Executive/Administration Committee (EAC)
Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Sarah Dominguez, Planning Supervisor
(213) 236-1918, dominguezs@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Connect SoCal 2024: Policy Framework

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EAC:

Recommend that the Regional Council adopt the updated Policy Framework for Connect SoCal 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:

Adopt the updated Policy Framework for Connect SoCal 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, EEC AND TC:

Receive and File.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In June 2022, SCAG's Regional Council adopted a Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 which documented the policy priorities and outlined a structure for continued policy development and leadership for plan development. This update to the Policy Framework advances those priorities and confirms the direction for Connect SoCal 2024 in advance of a draft plan release in October 2023.

BACKGROUND:

What is Connect SoCal 2024?

As required by federal and state law, SCAG prepares a long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years which provides a vision for integrating land use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable development.

SCAG's next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020.

What is the Policy Development Framework?

In July 2021, the Executive Administration Committee directed staff to develop a Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 that "identifies priority policy issues for deeper discussion and establishes a sub-committee structure for policy education, engagement, and consensus building to guide visionary policy development"¹.

In June 2022, the Regional Council adopted the Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 that identified the draft Vision and Goals for the plan, identified key policy priorities, outlined the structure for advancing policies through the three SCAG Policy Committees and established the Connect SoCal 2024 Special Subcommittees that concluded in Spring of this year.

Policy Framework Update

Over the past year, each Policy Committee have reviewed and discussed fundamental policy and technical aspects of plan development. The Special Connect SoCal 2024 Subcommittees dug deeper into three intersectional topics: Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning to develop white papers and recommendations. Then from April to June, SCAG conducted outreach and engagement activities and heard from thousands of stakeholder and community members throughout the region about their current challenges and priorities for the future. The direction and feedback from these avenues, in addition to ongoing engagement with stakeholders through SCAG's working group and technical advisory committees, are being incorporated in the development of the draft Connect SoCal 2024.

This update to the Policy Framework reflects specific elements of direction and feedback received over the past year. First, an update to the Goals and Vision (based on public outreach and engagement), a methodology for Priority Equity Communities (based on engagement with stakeholders and direction from Policy Committee members) and finally, a set of Regional Planning Policies (based on direction from the standing Policy Committees and special Connect SoCal Subcommittees and review by stakeholders in April 2023).

Vision and Goals: During April - June 2023, SCAG conducted public outreach and engagement activities including, but not limited to public workshops and a public survey. The full findings are discussed in a July 2023 staff report to the SCAG Policy Committees and will inform plan development in a myriad of ways. While most of the top responses and comments were currently reflected in either the Vision or Goals, there were two prominent themes expressed in both the survey and workshop comments that weren't reflected.

¹ <https://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2256&Inline=True>

Vision: One of the top responses in the public survey of over 3,600 respondents when asked about envisioning the region in 2050 was: “A region that is prosperous, with economic opportunity for all residents.” The plan Vision has been updated to include “prosperous”.

Goals: One prominent workshop comment theme and top response in the survey was about resource use (“Sustainable in its use of resources”; “More sustainable designs to conserve water and energy in residential and public spaces”). An environment subgoal has been updated to reflect the aim to “enable more sustainable use of energy and water.”

Priority Equity Communities: SCAG has developed a new, flexible equity area definition, called Priority Equity Communities, to comply with statutory requirements and support SCAG equity efforts beyond the Plan. This methodology has been developed and reviewed by stakeholders and members of the public during the Connect SoCal 2024 outreach and engagement, as well as direction from the Energy and Environment Committee.

Regional Planning Policies: The draft Regional Planning Policies were presented in June 2023 to each SCAG Policy Committee. The set of policies included in this framework incorporates feedback received at those meetings. Specifically, a policy to address safety and personal security on transit has been added to the Safety category.

Next Steps

SCAG staff are seeking approval of the Policy Framework to confirm the approach for the plan and the use of the Regional Planning Policies and Priority Equity Communities methodology before these elements are used for development of Implementation Strategies and analysis, respectively, for the draft Connect SoCal 2024. A release of the draft Connect SoCal 2024 is anticipated in October 2023 with a final plan adoption anticipated for April 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 22-23 Overall Work Program (310.4874.01: Connect SoCal Development).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Policy Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

Policy Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

JULY 2023 UPDATE

Originally approved by the Regional Council on June 2, 2022 as a Policy Development Framework, this document carried forward the existing Policy Priorities that will be reflected in Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG's 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). It also outlined a policy development leadership structure and outlook to foster policy education, engagement, consensus building and decision-making.

This July 2023 update serves to confirm the direction for Connect SoCal 2024 in advance of the draft plan release in October 2023. The changes reflect feedback on plan elements from stakeholders and the general public as well as discussions with and direction from SCAG leadership, including the regular Policy Committees and the Connect SoCal 2024 Special Subcommittees. The major changes in this version can be found in the additions of the "Connect SoCal 2024: Policy Structure" and "Priority Equity Communities" sections which serve to advance the previously set Policy Priorities.

DRAFT PLAN VISION AND GOALS

In January 2022, staff began engaging with stakeholders through the Regional Planning Working Groups and the Technical Working Group on the draft Vision and Goals for Connect SoCal 2024. Their feedback informed the original draft Vision and Goals which were further modified based on public outreach and engagement in Spring 2023. Changes to the Vision and Goals since the June 2022 adopted version of this framework, based on public outreach and engagement, are noted in **bold**.

The draft Vision is meant to capture what we want the region to be by 2050 and is supported by four draft Goals, each centered around a key theme (Mobility, Communities, the Environment, and the Economy). These goals are each further defined by supporting sub-Goals.

DRAFT VISION

A healthy, **prosperous**, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

DRAFT GOALS

Mobility: Build and maintain a robust transportation network.

- Support investments and programs that are well-maintained and operated, coordinated, and resilient, and result in improved safety and air quality.
- Ensure reliable, accessible, affordable, and quality travel options while striving to enhance equity in transportation resources offered in underserved communities.
- Plan for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Communities: Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving.

- Reinforce vibrant, human-centered communities in urban, suburban, and rural settings to increase mobility options and reduce travel distances.

- Produce and preserve a diversity of housing types to improve affordability, accessibility, and choices for all.
- Foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity, and actively seek to reduce racial and economic disparities.

Environment: Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.

- Develop communities that are resilient and can mitigate, adapt to, and respond to chronic and acute stressors and disruptions, such as climate change.
- Integrate the region’s development pattern and transportation network to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions **and enable more sustainable use of energy and water**.
- Conserve and restore the region’s natural and agricultural resources.

Economy: Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all.

- Provide physical and digital infrastructure to improve access to education, vocational training, jobs, financial systems, and to foster the growth of small businesses in underserved communities.
- Advance a resilient and efficient goods movement system that supports the economic vitality of the region, attainment of clean air, and quality of life for our communities.
- Improve regional multimodal transportation system infrastructure and efficiency to enhance the region’s global economic competitiveness.

POLICY PRIORITIES

The Draft Policy Priorities are based upon policy direction established in Connect SoCal 2020 and recent Regional Council actions to address three of the emerging issues facing the region.

EMERGING ISSUES

There are three salient and interconnected challenges facing our region: equity, resilience, and the economy. Actions by SCAG’s Regional Council since the adoption of Connect SoCal 2020 provide a policy foundation for work on the next plan and expanded policy focus on these emerging issue areas.

Equity

On July 2, 2020, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 20-623-2¹ on Racial and Social Justice, affirming SCAG’s commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and establishing the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to advance social justice throughout the agency.

On May 6, 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan², the purpose of which is to guide and sustain SCAG’s regional leadership in service of equity and social justice. It reflects discussions and feedback provided to the Special Committee on the definition of equity and overarching goals and strategies to advance racial equity through SCAG’s policies, practices, and activities.

¹ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc070220agn01.pdf?1602368143>

² <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc050621fullpacket.pdf#page=91>

Resilience

On January 7, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-628-1³ on Climate Change Action that affirms a climate change crisis in Southern California and identifies actions for SCAG to undertake, including: developing a regional resilience framework, initiating a regional climate planning network, and developing a regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP). On October 12, 2022 the Regional Council also adopted a Water Action Resolution that called on local and regional partners to join together to adopt an “all of the above” response to the drought and water shortage emergency. Resolution No. 22-641-3⁴ requires SCAG to identify, recommend and integrate into Connect SoCal 2024 policies and strategies to align investments in water infrastructure with housing needs and the adopted growth forecast and development pattern.

Economy

On July 1, 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS) Final Report and Recommendations⁵, which identifies five core principles to drive SCAG’s work and to act as a lens for identifying recommendations:

1. Center the economic recovery strategy on racial and gender equity; focusing in reducing the racial wealth gap;
2. Focus on rebuilding the middle class with high road employment;
3. Ensure that all strategies contribute to a climate ready region;
4. Tailor strategies to the needs of both industry sectors and geographic subregions; and
5. Bring new and diverse voices to the table.

On February 4, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2⁶ to establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide. The Broadband Action Plan includes incorporating broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs and future RTP/SCS strategies.

CONNECT SOCIAL 2024: POLICY STRUCTURE

Connect SoCal 2020 was organized by a Core Vision and Key Connections. Many of the policies and strategies summarized as the Core Vision are reflective of the policies and projects developed at the local level and gathered by SCAG through the plan development process (through the Local Data Exchange with local jurisdictions and Project List submissions from County Transportation Commissions). Key Connections, in contrast, identified critical regional strategies to “close the gap” between what could be accomplished through intensification of core planning strategies alone, and what needed to be done to meet increasingly aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Many of these locally driven projects and policies will be carried forward into Connect SoCal 2024 but organized instead by Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies. This change will allow SCAG to better reflect the breadth of issue areas within Connect SoCal 2024, integrate the emerging issue

³ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc010721fullpacket.pdf#page=12>

⁴ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/scag-resolution-22-647-3-water-final.pdf>

⁵ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc070121fullpacket.pdf#page=13>

⁶ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc020421fullpacket.pdf#page=13>

areas within the RTP requirements and to better support partners in demonstrating alignment with the regional plan.

- **Regional Planning Policies:** will carry on the intent of the *Core Vision* and *Key Connections* to articulate broad and established regional policies or best practices for land use and transportation planning. CTCs or local jurisdictions can point to these policies to establish alignment with the RTP/SCS. The list of Regional Planning Policies is included in Appendix 1.
- **Implementation Strategies** will be priorities for SCAG efforts in fulfilling or going beyond the Regional Planning Policies to support the region in “closing the gap” in order to reach plan goals. The list of Implementation Strategies will be included in the draft plan release and will align with categories of Regional Planning Policies.

The below chart articulates how SCAG will carry forward the Core Vision, Key Connections and other policy areas of Connect SoCal 2020 into this new Regional Planning Policies organization. There are also several new policy areas based on recent Regional Council Resolutions or discussions and direction from Policy Committee members.

Connect SoCal 2020	Change	Connect SoCal 2024
CORE VISION	→	REGIONAL PLANNING POLICIES
Sustainable Development	-	Mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Preservation and Resilience • Complete Streets • Transit and Multimodal Integration • Transportation Demand Management • Transportation System Management • Technology Integration* • Safety • Funding the System/User Pricing Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Development Areas • Housing the Region* • 15 Minute Communities* • Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making * Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development • Air Quality • Clean Transportation • Natural and Working Lands Preservation • Climate Resilience Economy
System Preservation & Resilience	-	
Demand & System Management	-	
Transit Backbone	-	
Complete Streets	-	
Goods Movement	-	
KEY CONNECTIONS	→	
Smart Cities & Job Centers	Merged under “Transportation Demand Management” and “Technology Integration”	
Housing Supportive Infrastructure	Broadened to “Housing the Region”	
Go Zones	Merged under “Transportation Demand Management”	
Accelerated Electrification	Revised and Merged under “Clean Technology”	
Shared Mobility & Mobility as A Service (MaaS)	Revised and Merged under “Transit and Multimodal Integration”	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goods Movement • Broadband* • Universal Basic Mobility* • Workforce Development * • Tourism
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* New policy area for Connect SoCal 2024

PRIORITY EQUITY COMMUNITIES

SCAG continues to affirm its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California by working to operationalize racial equity through regional planning functions. In order to implement the policy direction noted above in the “Emerging Issues” section into Connect SoCal 2024 development, staff have prepared a new approach for Connect SoCal 2024’s Equity Analysis that is grounded on best practices and extensive internal and external stakeholder input. This method for defining Priority Equity Communities (formerly Environmental Justice areas, Disadvantaged Communities and Communities of Concern) frames and focuses the Equity Analysis on populations that have been historically marginalized and are susceptible to inequitable outcomes.

On June 1, 2023, staff shared a report to the EEC on this final proposed approach for identifying an equity area for the SCAG region for use in the Connect SoCal 2024 Equity Analysis. Staff propose replacing the three equity communities (i.e., Environmental Justice Areas, SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, and Communities of Concern) with a new, flexible equity area definition, called Priority Equity Communities, to comply with statutory requirements and support SCAG equity efforts beyond the Plan. Priority Equity Communities are census tracts in the SCAG region that have a greater concentration of populations that have been historically marginalized and are susceptible to inequitable outcomes based on several socioeconomic factors.

Staff propose determining a census tract as a Priority Equity Community if there is a concentration above the county average of:

1. **BOTH** low-income households⁷ and people of color; OR
2. **EITHER** low-income households or people of color AND of four or more of the following:
 - i. Vulnerable Ages⁸
 - ii. People with Disabilities
 - iii. People with Limited English Proficiency
 - iv. Limited Vehicle and Transit Access⁹
 - v. People without a High School Diploma
 - vi. Single Parent Households
 - vii. Housing Cost Burdened Households

⁷ Households with an income less than or equal to twice the federal “poverty level”

⁸ Older adults over 65 years old and youth under 18 years old

⁹ Households with more people than vehicles owned not located near a High-Quality Transit Corridor

With the proposed approach and using data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Communities Survey five-year estimates (2017-2021), Priority Equity Communities cover approximately 49 percent of the region's population.

Priority Equity Communities will be used to conduct analysis for the Connect SoCal 2024 Equity Analysis. In continuing to affirm its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California, staff will also explore opportunities to incorporate Priority Equity Communities in planning practices and to advance equity through the policies and strategies in the Plan.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT: LEADERSHIP & OUTLOOK

Policy discussions that occur during SCAG's Policy Committee meetings provide valuable direction to staff on areas for further research, potential strategies to address regional challenges, and priorities for what to include in the proposed plan.

Staff have brought forward informational and discussion items related to the relevant Regional Planning Policies; highlighting context and data from staff research; perspectives from academics, researchers or policy experts; and insights from local practitioners. Presentations have also focused on current subregional efforts and best practices to address Connect SoCal 2020 implementation, as well as emerging trends and new issues related to each Regional Planning Policy. The plan issue areas organized by Policy Committee are outlined in the table below.

MAIN POLICY COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Regional Planning Policies		
<p>Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Preservation and Resilience • Complete Streets • Transit and Multimodal Integration • Transportation Demand Management • Transportation System Management • Technology Integration • Safety • Funding the System/User Pricing <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goods Movement • Broadband • Universal Basic Mobility • Tourism 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development <p>Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Development Areas • Housing the Region • 15 Minute Communities • Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Tourism 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development • Air Quality • Clean Transportation • Natural and Working Lands Preservation • Climate Resilience <p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • Transportation Conformity • Environmental Justice • SB 375 Technical Methodology

JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

The issues facing the region are intersectional and often do not neatly fit within one committee. For that reason, it is occasionally necessary to hold a Joint Policy Committee meeting of members from all three Policy Committees (Transportation; Community, Economic, Human Development; and Energy and Environment) to share pertinent information, discuss key plan development issues or seek coordinated actions or recommendations.

SPECIAL CONNECT SOCAL 2024 SUBCOMMITTEES

To help dive deeper into key areas for Connect SoCal, SCAG established three new subcommittees: Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning.

These three subcommittees were comprised of members from across the region. They met between September 2022 and February 2023 and prepared recommendations to SCAG Policy Committees on how to address these emerging issues within Connect SoCal 2024. The findings and recommendations from those subcommittees will be used to inform ongoing policy development discussions at each Policy Committee. The final White Papers along with agendas and materials from each subcommittee meeting can be found at their respective page at <https://scag.ca.gov/meetings-subcommittees>.

Appendix 1: SCAG Connect SoCal 2024: Draft Regional Planning Policies

The Regional Planning Policies establish broad regional policies for integrated land use and transportation planning and identify the path towards realizing the vision of Connect SoCal. The below policies are meant to guide decision making for both SCAG and partner agencies as we work towards a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for the region. It is also intended to be used as a resource by County Transportation Commissions or local jurisdictions to demonstrate alignment with the RTP/SCS by referring to specific policies when seeking resources from state or federal programs.

Per Government Code §65080(b)(2)(K), SCAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy does not regulate the use of land, nor shall it be interpreted as superseding the exercise of the land use authority of cities and counties in the region. The guidance provided in these Regional Planning Policies is meant to support local jurisdictions in future General Plan updates to help in implementing the regional vision of Connect SoCal 2024.

In summary, carrying forward the below set of policies at the regional and local level will be critical in implementing the vision represented by Connect SoCal 2024.

** (asterisk) in policies denotes terms that are defined in the glossary at the end of this document*

MOBILITY

System Preservation and Resilience

1. Prioritize repair, maintenance, and preservation of the SCAG region's existing transportation assets first, following a "Fix-It-First" principle.
2. Promote transportation investments that advance progress toward the achievement of asset management targets, including for National Highway System pavement and bridge condition and transit assets (rolling stock, equipment, facilities, and infrastructure).

Complete Streets

3. Pursue the development of complete streets that comprise a safe multi-modal network with flexible use of public rights-of-way for people of all ages and abilities using a variety of modes (e.g., people walking, biking, rolling, driving, taking transit).
4. Ensure the implementation of complete streets that are sensitive to urban, suburban, or rural contexts and improve transportation safety for all, but especially vulnerable road users (e.g., older adults, children, pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.).
5. Facilitate the implementation of complete streets and curb space management strategies that accommodate and optimize new technologies and micromobility devices, first/last mile connections to transit, and last mile delivery.
6. Support implementation of complete streets improvements in Priority Equity Communities*, and particularly with respect to Transportation Equity Zones*, to enhance mobility, safety, and access to opportunities.

Transit and Multimodal Integration

7. Encourage and support the implementation of projects both physical and digital that facilitate multimodal connectivity, prioritize transit and shared mobility, and result in improved mobility, accessibility, and safety.
8. Support connections across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to develop transportation projects and programs resulting in improved connectivity.

9. Encourage residential and employment development in areas surrounding existing and planned transit/rail stations.
10. Support the implementation of transportation projects in Priority Equity Communities, and particularly with respect to Transportation Equity Zones, to enhance mobility, safety, and access to opportunities.
11. Create a resilient transit and rail system by preparing for emergencies and the impacts of extreme weather conditions.

Transportation Demand Management

12. Encourage the development of transportation projects that provide convenient, cost-effective and safe alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel (e.g., trips made by foot, on bikes, via transit, etc.).
13. Encourage jurisdictions and TDM practitioners to develop and expand local plans and policies to promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicle travel for residents, workers, and visitors.
14. Encourage municipalities to update existing (legacy) TDM ordinances by incorporating new travel modes and new technology, and by incorporating employment and residential sites of certain populations, for example employers who have less than 250 employees (below the 250 or more employees threshold identified in AQMD’s Rule 2202).

Transportation System Management

15. Pursue efficient use of the transportation system using a set of operational improvement strategies that maintain the performance of the existing transportation system instead of adding roadway capacity.
16. Prioritize transportation investments that increase travel time reliability, including build-out of the regional express lanes network.

Technology Integration

17. Support the implementation of technology designed to provide equal access to mobility, employment and economic opportunity, education, health and other quality of life opportunities for all residents within the SCAG region.
18. Advocate for data sharing between the public and private sectors to effectively evaluate the services’ benefits and impacts on communities while protecting data security and privacy.
19. Advocate for technology that is adaptive and responsive to ensure that it remains up to date to meet the evolving needs of users and stakeholders.
20. Promote technology that has the capacity to facilitate economic growth, improve workforce development opportunities, and enhance safety and security.
21. Proactively monitor and plan for the development, deployment, and commercialization of new technology as it relates to integration with transportation infrastructure.

Safety

22. Eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries on the regional multimodal transportation system.
23. Integrate the assessment of equity into the regional transportation safety and security planning process, focusing on the analysis and mitigation of disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged communities.
24. Support innovative approaches for addressing transit safety and security issues so that impacts to transit employees and the public are minimized and those experiencing issues (e.g., unhoused persons) are supported.

25. Support the use of transportation safety and system security data in investment decision-making, including consideration of new highway and transit/rail investments that would address safety and security needs.

Funding the System/User Pricing

26. Promote stability and sustainability for core state and federal transportation funding sources.
27. Establish a user fee-based system that better reflects the true cost of transportation, provides firewall protection for new and existing transportation funds, and equitable distribution of costs and benefits.
28. Pursue funding tools that promote access to opportunity and support economic development through innovative mobility programs.
29. Promote national and state programs that include return-to-source guarantees while maintaining flexibility to reward regions that continue to commit substantial local resources.
30. Leverage locally available funding with innovative financing tools to attract private capital and accelerate project delivery.
31. Promote local funding strategies that maximize the value of public assets while improving mobility, sustainability, and resilience.

COMMUNITIES

15 Minute Communities

32. Promote 15-minute communities as places with a mix of complementary land uses and accessible mobility options that align with and support the diversity of places (or communities) across the region where residents can either access most basic, day-to-day needs within a 15-minute walk, bike ride, or roll from their home or as places that result in fewer and shorter trips because of the proximity of complementary land uses.
33. Support communities across the region to realize 15-minute communities through incremental changes that improve equity, quality of life, public health, mobility, sustainability and resilience, and economic vitality.
34. Encourage efforts that elevate innovative approaches to increasing access to neighborhood destinations and amenities through an array of people-centered mobility options.

Housing the Region

35. Encourage housing development in areas with access to important resources (economic, educational, health, social, and similar) and amenities to further fair housing access and equity across the region.
36. Encourage housing development in transit-supportive and walkable areas to create more interconnected and resilient communities.
37. Support local, regional, state, and federal efforts to produce and preserve affordable housing while meeting additional housing needs across the region.
38. Prioritize communities that are vulnerable to displacement pressures by supporting community stabilization and increasing access to housing that meets the needs of the region.
39. Promote innovative strategies and partnerships to increase homeownership opportunities across the region with an emphasis on communities who have been historically impacted by redlining and other systemic barriers to homeownership for people of color and other marginalized groups.
40. Advocate for and support programs that emphasize reducing housing cost burden (for renters and homeowners), with a focus on the communities with the greatest need and vulnerabilities.

41. Support efforts to increase housing and services for people experiencing homelessness across the region.

Priority Development Areas

42. Promote the growth of origins and destinations, with a focus on future housing and population growth, in areas with existing and planned urban infrastructure including transit and utilities.
43. Promote the growth of origins and destinations in areas with a proclivity toward multi-modal options like transit and active transportation, to reduce single occupant vehicle dependency and vehicle miles traveled.
44. Seek to realize scale economies, or a critical mass, of jobs and destinations in areas across the region which can support non-SOV options and shorter trip distances, combined trips, and reduced vehicle miles traveled.

Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making

45. Advance community-centered interventions, resources, and programming that serve the most disadvantaged communities and people in the region, like Priority Equity Communities, with strategies that can be implemented in the short-to-long-term.
46. Promote racial equity that is grounded in the recognition of the past and current harms of systemic racism and one that advances restorative justice.
47. Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and participation of people of color and disadvantaged communities in processes.

ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Development

48. Promote sustainable development and best practices that enhance resource conservation, reduce resource consumption, and promote resilience.
49. Implement the Forecasted Regional Development Pattern of Connect SoCal 2024, consisting of household and employment projections that have been reviewed and refined by jurisdictions and stakeholders, to advance this shared framework for regional growth management planning.
50. Support communities across the region to advance innovative sustainable development practices.
51. Recognize and support the diversity of communities across the region by promoting local place-making, planning, and development efforts that advance equity, mobility, resilience and sustainability.

Air Quality

52. Reduce hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and improve the air quality throughout the region through planning and implementation efforts.
53. Support investments that reduce hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.
54. Reduce the exposure and impacts of emissions and pollutants and promote local and regional efforts that improve the air quality for vulnerable populations, including but not limited to Priority Equity Communities and the AB 617 Communities*.

Clean Transportation

55. Accelerate the deployment of a zero-emission transportation system and use near-zero emission technology to offer short term benefits where zero emissions solutions are not yet feasible or commercially viable.
56. Promote equitable use of and access to clean transportation technologies* so that all may benefit from them.

- 57. Consider the full environmental life-cycle of clean transportation technologies including upstream production and end of life as an important part of meeting SCAG's objectives in economic development and recovery, resilience planning and achievement of equity.
- 58. Maintain a technology neutral approach in the study of, advancement of, and, where applicable, investment in clean transportation technology.

Natural and Agricultural Lands Preservation

- 59. Prioritize the climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and economic benefits of natural and agricultural lands in the region.
- 60. Support conservation of habitats that are prone to hazards exacerbated by climate change, such as wildfires and flooding.
- 61. Support regional conservation planning and collaboration across the region.
- 62. Encourage the protection and restoration of natural habitat and wildlife corridors.
- 63. Encourage conservation of agricultural lands to protect the regional and local food supply and agricultural economy.
- 64. Encourage policy development of the link between natural and agricultural conservation with public health.

Climate Resilience

- 65. Prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards to help the people, places, and infrastructure that are most at risk for climate change impacts, recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened.
- 66. Support local and regional climate and hazard planning and implementation efforts.
- 67. Support nature-based solutions* to increase regional resilience of the natural and built environment.
- 68. Promote sustainable water use planning, practices and storage that improve regional water security and resilience in a drier environment.
- 69. Support an integrated planning approach to help local jurisdictions meet housing production needs in a drier environment.

ECONOMY

Goods Movement

- 70. Leverage and prioritize investments particularly where there are mutual co-benefits to both freight and passenger/commuter rail.
- 71. Prioritize community and environmental justice concerns together with economic needs and support workforce development opportunities particularly around deployment of zero-emission and clean technologies, and their supporting infrastructure.
- 72. Explore and advance the transition toward zero-emissions and clean technologies and other transformative technologies where viable.
- 73. Advance comprehensive systems-level planning of corridor/supply chain operational strategies, integrated with road and rail infrastructure, and inland port concepts.
- 74. Ensure continued, significant investment in a safe, secure, clean and efficient transportation system, including both highways and rail, to support the intermodal movement of goods across the region.

Broadband

- 75. Support ubiquitous regional broadband deployment and access, to provide the necessary infrastructure and capability for Smart Cities strategies and to ensure that the benefits of these strategies improve safety and are distributed equitably.

76. Develop networks that are efficient, scalable, resilient and sustainable, to support transportation systems management and operations services and “tele-everything” strategies that reduce vehicle miles traveled, optimize efficiency, and accommodate future growth of regional economies.
77. Encourage investments to provide access towards digital activities that support upwards educational, financial and economic growth.
78. Advocate for current, accurate data to identify opportunity zones and solutions to support the development of broadband services to community anchor institutions and local businesses.
79. Promote an atmosphere which allows for healthy competition and innovative solutions which are speed driven, while remaining technologically neutral.
80. Use a bottom-up approach to identify and support a community’s broadband needs.

Universal Basic Mobility*

81. Encourage partnerships and policies to broaden safe and efficient access to a range of mobility services to improve connections to jobs, education, and basic services.
82. Promote increased payment credentials for disadvantaged community members and transition of cash users to digital payment technologies to address payment barriers.

Workforce Development

83. Foster a positive business climate by promoting regional collaboration in workforce and economic development between cities, counties, educational institutions, and employers.
84. Encourage inclusive workforce development that promotes upward economic mobility.
85. Support entrepreneurial growth with a focus on underrepresented communities.
86. Foster a resilient workforce that is poised to effectively respond to changing economic conditions (market dynamics, technological advances, and climate change).
87. Inform and facilitate data-driven decision-making about the region’s workforce.

Tourism

88. Consult and collaborate with state, county, and local agencies within the region charged with promoting tourism and transportation.
89. Encourage the reduced use of cars by visitors to the region by working with state, county, and city agencies to highlight and increase access to alternative options, including transit, passenger rail, and active transportation.

REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY GLOSSARY

AB 617 Communities: In response to Assembly Bill (AB) 617, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the Community Air Protection Program. The Program’s focus is to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. CARB, community members, local air districts, and other stakeholders are working together to identify community concerns and air quality priorities and develop actions to measure and reduce air pollution and health impacts. AB 617 Communities are communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden around the State that have been selected by CARB annually since 2018 to develop and implement community air monitoring plans, community emission reduction programs, or both in order to improve air quality in their community. As of 2022, 17 communities have been selected as the designated AB 617 communities where air pollution reduction actions are underway. For more information on the AB 617 communities, please visit <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp-communities>.

Clean Transportation Technologies: Zero- and near zero-emission vehicles, their supporting infrastructure, and other facilitating products that reduce environmental impacts over their full life cycle including upstream production and end of life.

Nature-based solutions: Actions that work with and enhance nature to help address societal challenges. This term describes a range of approaches that protect, sustainably manage, and restore nature to deliver multiple outcomes, including addressing climate change, improving public health, increasing equity, and protecting biodiversity¹

Priority Equity Communities: Census tracts in the SCAG region that have a greater concentration of populations that have been historically marginalized and are susceptible to inequitable outcomes based on several socioeconomic factors.

Technology Neutrality: A stance that does not give preference to a particular technology as long as it furthers the desired outcome of a zero-emission transportation system that meets or exceeds federal and state targets.

Transportation Equity Zones: Communities across the SCAG region most impacted by transportation-related inequities

Universal Basic Mobility: Programs that provide qualified residents subsidies for transit and other mobility services.



AGENDA ITEM 5
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments

July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Michael Gainor, Senior Regional Planner
(213) 236-1822, gainor@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Performance Measures

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC:

Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, TC AND RC:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Monitoring the performance of regional investments and strategies has long been employed by SCAG for evaluating progress being made toward meeting the regional goals outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to assess the overall efficiency of the plan toward achieving those goals over time. The recent development of new data resources and emergence of new technologies, along with the establishment of federal performance-based transportation assessment and reporting requirements, has elevated performance monitoring in the regional planning process to an even greater significance.

In response to these changing circumstances, the performance monitoring program to support the development and implementation of Connect SoCal 2024 will feature some revisions from how the process has been conducted in previous Plan cycles, while maintaining its foundational purpose of serving as a compass to guide achievement of the regional vision promoted by Connect SoCal. The Connect SoCal 2024 performance monitoring program will also integrate federal transportation system performance management and Environmental Justice measures, as well as metrics specific to federal transportation conformity reporting requirements. Regional

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets established by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) are also monitored through the SCAG regional performance assessment program.

With each new RTP/SCS cycle, SCAG re-evaluates the region’s planning priorities and objectives for the next 20 to 25 years and identifies a corresponding set of regional performance goals to guide development of the new plan. In support of Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG opted to reduce the number of overall goals to focus on four high-level regional priority areas, including Mobility, Communities, Environment, and Economy. The four plan goals are intentionally general in nature and the Connect SoCal performance metrics are designed to be supportive of the regional goals, with many of the measures aligning to multiple goals.

BACKGROUND:

CONNECT SOCIAL 2024 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Connect SoCal 2024 performance measures are the result of an extensive process of engagement and outreach conducted through the various Connect SoCal working groups. Performance monitoring is a foundational element of the RTP/SCS and must be informed by various perspectives and expertise offered through the working groups, regional partners, and subject matter experts. The Connect SoCal performance monitoring program includes two primary elements, including the assessment of plan performance based on a ‘build’ vs ‘no-build’ scenario performance assessment; and the ongoing monitoring of regional performance over time. Connect SoCal also includes an extensive equity analysis (previously the environmental justice analysis) which is supported by an additional set of performance measures that are used in the plan assessment process. This report will be limited to a presentation of the modeled Connect SoCal plan performance assessment measures and the on-going regional monitoring measures.

CONNECT SOCIAL 2024 GOALS

The Connect SoCal performance measures are organized around the four high-level regional goals that guide development of the plan. The four Connect SoCal 2024 goals include ‘Mobility’, ‘Communities’, ‘Environment’, and ‘Economy’ and are presented in Attachment 1 of this report. Each of the measures established for the plan performance assessment and the on-going regional performance monitoring programs are correlated with at least one of the plan goals, as indicated in the second column of the tables provided in Attachment 2 (Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Performance Assessment Measures) and Attachment 3 (Draft Connect SoCal 2024 On-Going Performance Monitoring Measures). The measures are intended as specific, quantifiable metrics to assess progress that has been, or may be, achieved through implementation of the Connect SoCal relative to the plan goals. For purposes of simplicity and presentational clarity, each of the performance measures are linked to only one of the four plan goals. However, many of the performance metrics serve multiple goals.

Connect SoCal Goal 1: Mobility

The Connect SoCal ‘Mobility’ goal supports the SCAG objective for building and maintaining a robust multimodal regional transportation network. The ‘Mobility’ goal is supportive of regional investments focused on the development, maintenance, and operation of transportation infrastructure that is well coordinated, resilient, and improves safety and air quality. Achievement of regional mobility objectives would ensure that reliable, accessible, affordable, and sustainable travel options are readily available to everyone, while enhancing equity in access to high-quality multimodal transportation investments and benefits.

The plan assessment performance measures associated with the Connect SoCal ‘Mobility’ goal include average travel time; access to regional job centers and to other major destinations; average trip distance; travel mode share; person hours of delay and truck delay by facility type; person delay per capita; transit boardings per capita; and travel time distribution by mode. On-going regional performance monitoring ‘Mobility’ measures include average travel time; work trip mode share; transit boardings and seat utilization; active transportation mode share; National Highway System (NHS) travel time reliability; peak hour excessive delay; NHS pavement and bridge condition; highway and transit system safety; and transit asset management.

Connect SoCal Goal 2: Communities

The Connect SoCal 2024 ‘Communities’ goal promotes the development of connected and sustainable communities that are livable and thriving. The SCAG region includes a wide diversity of communities in urban, suburban, and rural settings with different needs and priorities relative to mobility, housing, and accessibility. However, all communities are strengthened through increasing transportation mode options, reducing travel distances, and providing affordable housing opportunities.

The plan assessment performance measures directly supportive of the ‘Communities’ goal include the share of regional household growth occurring within designated Priority Development Areas (PDAs); accessibility to parks; share of trips that are less than three miles; public health incidence and costs attributable to physical activity and air pollution. On-going regional performance monitoring ‘Communities’ measures include share of households near high volume roadways; housing cost burden; share of regional housing vulnerable to environmental impacts; Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) development; and percent of residents within a one-half mile walk to open space.

Connect SoCal Goal 3: Environment

The Connect SoCal 2024 ‘Environment’ goal seeks to ensure that the SCAG region remains an environmentally sustainable place to sustain a healthful lifestyle for today’s residents and for those of the future. A sustainable environment promotes development of communities that are resilient, and able to effectively mitigate, adapt to, and respond to environmental stressors and disruptions, including climate change. Connect SoCal environmental policies seek to improve the integration and

coordination of regional land use and transportation planning activities to improve regional air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enable more sustainable use of energy and water, and conserve the unique natural resources of the SCAG region.

The plan assessment measures most directly associated with the Connect SoCal 'Environment' goal include vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita; greenhouse gas emission reductions; acreage of greenfield and rural lands converted to urban use; share of Williamson Act acreage impacted by urbanization; criteria air pollutant emissions; and energy and water consumption. On-going performance monitoring measures supportive of the 'Environment' goal include VMT per capita; share of residents in climate risk areas; urban heat island reduction strategies; air quality by air basin; and habitat connectivity and nature-based mitigation programs.

Connect SoCal Goal 4: Economy

The Connect SoCal 'Economy' goal promotes development of a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all residents. Connect SoCal 2024 advances this objective through a variety of policy priorities including the provision of a resilient and efficient goods movement system that supports economic vitality, clean air attainment, and quality of life for communities in the SCAG region. Two specific outcomes relative to the development of a sustainable and productive economic environment include development of new employment opportunities, specifically those generated directly by Connect SoCal transportation system investments. The Connect SoCal comprehensive program of projects and policies will also generate new employment opportunities indirectly by creating the foundation for the improved economic competitiveness of the SCAG region within the global economy.

Plan assessment performance measures supportive of the 'Economy' goal include the number of new jobs added to the regional economy directly and indirectly due to Connect SoCal 2024 transportation system improvements; the investment benefit/cost ratio, which is a calculated ratio of monetized regional benefits provided through the Connect SoCal program of projects relative to the total cost of the plan's transportation system investments; and the share of regional employment growth occurring within designated PDAs. On-going regional monitoring 'Economy' measures include the share of Interstate mileage that provide reliable truck travel times; total number of regional jobs; and the regional unemployment rate.

PLAN PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT MEASURES

The performance assessment process for Connect SoCal 2024 provides a means for determining how well the comprehensive program of investments and strategies featured in the regional plan may be expected to perform relative to the overall goals identified in Connect SoCal. To quantify this assessment process, a set of quantitative metrics are established to evaluate plan performance under several standard sets of planning assumptions. These assumptions are input into SCAG models to project future (2050) regional performance relative to each modeled scenario. The

scenarios are assessed based on performance observed in a comparative ‘Base Year’, which represents existing regional conditions at the time the current Plan was adopted. For Connect SoCal 2024, the Base Year will be 2019 since that was the most recent year for which observed regional performance data was available when Connect SoCal 2020 was adopted in April 2020.

The first set of modeling assumptions, referred to as the ‘Baseline’ projection, forecasts regional conditions as would be expected in the year 2050 if the transportation system investments included in Connect SoCal 2024 are not implemented. Since it assumes the continuation of existing conditions without the intervention of 2024 Plan investments, the ‘Baseline’ projection may also be referred to as the ‘No-Build’ scenario. A third set of regional planning parameters are modeled to generate the ‘Plan’ scenario, which projects regional conditions in 2050 with the assumption that the program of regional multimodal transportation system improvement projects and strategies identified in Connect SoCal 2024 are fully implemented.

The expectation in this process is that the ‘Plan’ forecast will produce results that trend toward achievement of the plan’s goals relative to the ‘Base Year’ (2019) and will present significantly better results than those forecast for the ‘Baseline’, reflecting the effectiveness of Connect SoCal 2024 programs and investments in making progress toward the regional goals. The draft list of performance measures to be used to assess performance of Connect SoCal 2024 is provided in Attachment 1 of this report.

ON-GOING REGIONAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING

In addition to the performance measures used to forecast performance of the Plan under various sets of modeled regional planning assumptions, SCAG also develops a separate, complementary, set of performance metrics to monitor and quantify progress being made over time toward achieving the regional goals identified in Connect SoCal 2024. The monitoring of regional performance trends over time is key to understanding which projects, programs, and strategies are proving successful in meeting specific regional goals and which ones may require modification or reconsideration. Ultimately, progress toward achieving SCAG’s regional objectives is made through implementation of the Plan at the local level. The development of a carefully calibrated on-going monitoring program serves to guide and support future regional and local planning efforts and investment options. The draft list of on-going regional performance measures is featured in Attachment 2 to this report.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The draft Connect SoCal 2024 performance monitoring program also takes into full account federal and state performance objectives and requirements including the following elements:

Transportation Air Quality Conformity

The Connect SoCal plan evaluation process includes measures specific to the federally mandated regional transportation conformity analysis to ensure that the Plan is consistent with, or ‘conforms’ to, the goals and objectives of the applicable air quality implementation plans for meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in the SCAG region. These air quality measures are used to demonstrate that implementation of the Plan will not create any new violations of federal air quality standards, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of federal air quality standards.

Federal Transportation Performance Management

Through federal transportation authorization legislation and subsequent rulemaking, transportation system performance management became a national program. While the federal performance monitoring and reporting process is focused primarily on highway system performance and is distinct from the regionally focused process used to evaluate and monitor Connect SoCal, SCAG has integrated the federal performance measures into the Plan’s on-going regional performance monitoring program. In addition, SCAG is required to incorporate, within each update of the regional RTP/SCS, a report presenting the federal transportation management measures, the associated performance targets established for the SCAG region, and a description of progress that has been made over time toward achieving the regional targets.

Equity Analysis

An essential element of the equity focus of Connect SoCal 2024 is the conduct of a comprehensive equity analysis in the performance assessment of the Plan. The Connect SoCal performance evaluation process includes an extensive equity analysis, featuring a distinct set of performance measures specific to regional social equity considerations. The Connect SoCal equity performance measures seek to identify any potential disparate impacts or burdens the plan may impose on historically marginalized communities and communities most susceptible to equity impacts in the SCAG region.

Connect SoCal 2024 integrates the concept of equity throughout its development and within its content. Focusing on equity as a core value to be integrated within the fabric of Connect SoCal 2024 will produce a Plan informed by many voices, ensuring the vision to which it aspires truly represents the diversity that defines the SCAG region. While many of the proposed Connect SoCal 2024 performance measures described in this report are relevant to regional equity, the metrics defined specifically for the plan’s comprehensive equity analysis are not included within the scope of this report.

Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Targets

In addition to ensuring full compliance with the federal requirements described above, SCAG is also required to meet state requirements for meeting regional GHG emission reduction targets. Specifically, SCAG is required to demonstrate that the adopted Connect SoCal, once implemented,

would achieve the 2035 regional GHG emission reduction target established by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). For the SCAG region, ARB set a target of a 19 percent reduction in per capita GHG emissions by 2035, relative to GHG emission levels recorded in 2005.

CONNECT SOCAL 2024 PERFORMANCE MEASURES OUTREACH

The performance measures developed in support of Connect SoCal 2024 presented in this report are the result of an extensive process of engagement and outreach conducted through the various Connect SoCal Regional Planning Working Groups, Technical Working Group, and SCAG interdepartmental coordination. The performance measures were also informed by stakeholder feedback provided through the SCAG Local Data Exchange (LDX) survey and by comments received during the various public outreach events held in support of Connect SoCal.

The survey results indicated that availability of affordable housing, viable transportation options to single occupancy vehicle travel, and climate change are three of the highest priority issues facing the SCAG region. Regarding housing, when presented with seven options, nearly 70 percent of survey respondents selected availability of affordable housing as one of the most important equity issues in the region. The need for more and better travel alternatives to the single passenger motor vehicle is highlighted with more than 30 percent of respondents reporting that they did not have access to reliable and convenient travel options, and 64 percent indicating that they would use public transit if they lived near a transit station. The importance for developing an effective response to the challenges presented by climate change is affirmed with 89 percent of survey respondents indicating that resilience to extreme weather events is an important priority for the region. The Connect SoCal 2024 performance monitoring program has been equipped to better respond to these challenges through greater focus on measures related to housing, accessibility, and resilience.

A series of four polls were administered at the Connect SoCal 2024 public outreach events, with participants asked to select their top three choices among six or seven options presented. For the first poll, participants were asked to select the best solutions for improving their community. By a wide margin, affordable housing was the top selection at all of the outreach events, with about 95 percent of participants selecting that option among their top three choices. The availability of good job opportunities near home was the second most popular selection (79 percent) followed by the availability of parks and open space (76 percent). The second poll asked what type of transportation improvements would most benefit the travel experience in their community in the year 2050. Responses for this question were more diverse, with high quality transit service being the top response at 73 percent, followed by the provision of more bicycle and pedestrian accessible destinations and route improvements. The third poll asked respondents to select their top three choices for reducing the impact of climate change over the next five years. Two options were selected by a significant majority of participants, including the conservation of natural lands and open space (67.5 percent), and transit accessible jobs and housing (63.5 percent). The fourth poll

question asked respondents to select their top three options for reducing regional risk of climate-related hazards over the next five years. With the most prevalent selection was to avoid new development in areas that are at high risk of wildfire, sea level rise, and flooding, with 83 percent of participants selecting that option. Protection of natural lands (65.5 percent) and reducing the impact of the urban heat island effect (52 percent) were the second and third most frequently selected options.

The Connect SoCal performance monitoring framework represents the full range of regional planning policy priorities as informed through the various outreach efforts. The performance measures presented in this report will serve to guide the assessment of Connect SoCal 2024 and the on-going monitoring of regional performance over time. The proposed measures are being presented in draft form in this report, and staff are seeking the input, feedback, and counsel of this Committee as development of Connect SoCal 2024 continues to move forward.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the Fiscal Year 23/24 Overall Work Program (310.4874.04: Connect SoCal Performance Measurement & Monitoring).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Connect SoCal 2024 Goals
2. Connect SoCal 2024 Plan Performance Measures
3. Connect SoCal 2024 On-going Performance Monitoring Measures
4. PowerPoint Presentation - Connect SoCal 2024 Performance Measures

Connect SoCal 2024 Goals

Goal	Vision	Objectives
Mobility	Build and maintain a robust transportation network.	Support investments and programs that are well-maintained and operated, coordinated, and resilient, and result in improved safety and air quality.
		Ensure reliable, accessible, affordable, and quality travel options while striving to enhance equity in transportation resources offered in underserved communities.
		Plan for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
Communities	Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving.	Reinforce vibrant, human-centered communities in urban, suburban, and rural settings to increase mobility options and reduce travel distances.
		Produce and preserve a diversity of housing types to improve affordability, accessibility, and choices for all.
		Foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity, and actively seek to reduce racial and economic disparities.
Environment	Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.	Develop communities that are resilient and can mitigate, adapt to, and respond to chronic and acute stressors and disruptions, such as climate change.
		Integrate the region’s development pattern and transportation network to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enable more sustainable use of energy and water.
		Conserve and restore the region’s natural and agricultural resources.
Economy	Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all.	Provide physical and digital infrastructure to improve access to education, vocational training, jobs, financial systems, and foster the growth of small business in underserved communities.
		Advance a resilient and efficient goods movement system that supports the economic vitality of the region, attainment of clean air, and quality of life for our communities.
		Improve regional multimodal transportation system infrastructure and efficiency to enhance the region’s global economic competitiveness.

Connect SoCal 2024 Plan Assessment Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal	Description
Access to Jobs	Mobility	Share of regional employment centers accessible during peak travel periods.
Major Destination Accessibility	Mobility	Share of major destinations accessible within 30 minutes by automobile or 45 minutes by transit.
Average Trip Distance	Mobility	Average distance traveled for work & for all trips, including trip lengths ten miles or less & 25 miles or less.
Travel Mode Share	Mobility	Share of total work trips & all trips by travel mode: auto, transit, non-motorized, & other.
Person Hours of Delay by Facility Type	Mobility	Excess travel time resulting from the difference between a reference speed & actual speed (mixed flow, HOV, & arterials).
Person-Delay per capita	Mobility	Daily amount of delay experienced per capita due to traffic congestion.
Truck Delay by Facility Type	Mobility	Excess heavy duty truck travel time based on difference between reference speed & actual speed (highways/arterials).
Average Travel Time	Mobility	Average travel time by mode: single occupancy vehicle (SOV), high-occupancy vehicle (HOV), walk, bike, & transit.
Travel Time Distribution by Mode	Mobility	Travel time distribution by mode: single occupancy vehicle (SOV), high-occupancy vehicle (HOV), & transit.
Transit Boardings per capita	Mobility	Number of annual transit boardings per capita.
Percent of Trips Less than 3 Miles	Communities	Share of work & non-work trips less than 3 miles in length.
Share of Household Growth in PDAs	Communities	Percent of total regional households located within Priority Development Areas (PDAs).
Physical Activity-Related Public Health Incidence & Costs	Communities	Public health incidences & costs related to lack of physical activity.
Air Pollution-Related Public Health Incidence & Costs	Communities	Public health incidences & costs related to air pollution.
Park Accessibility	Communities	Share of park acreage reachable within 30 minutes by automobile or 45 minutes by transit.
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita	Environment	Daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Environment	Percent reduction in GHG emissions per capita (from 2005 levels).
Land Conversion to Urban Purposes	Environment	Total square miles of greenfield & rural lands converted to urban use.
Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions	Environment	ROG, CO, NOx, PM10, & PM2.5 emissions (tons per day).
Energy Consumption	Environment	Energy (electricity, natural gas, vehicle fuel) consumption per capita.
Water Consumption	Environment	Urban water consumption per capita.
New Jobs Due to Transportation System Investments	Economy	Number of new jobs added to regional economy directly related to plan transportation system investments.
New Jobs Due to Improved Economic Competitiveness	Economy	Number of new jobs added to the regional economy due to improved transportation system conditions.
Share of Employment Growth in PDAs	Economy	Percent of total regional employment growth occurring within Priority Development Areas (PDAs).
Transportation System Investment Benefit/Cost Ratio	Economy	Ratio of monetized user & social benefits to transportation system investment costs.

Connect SoCal 2024 On-Going Monitoring Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal	Description
Average Travel Time	Mobility	Average travel time for work & non-work trips by travel mode (SOV, HOV, walk, bike, & transit).
Commute Travel Mode Share	Mobility	Percentage of total work trips by travel mode (SOV, HOV, active transportation, transit, & work from home).
Percent of Reliable Person-Miles Traveled on the NHS	Mobility	Share of total person miles traveled on NHS roadways (Interstate & non-interstate) that produce dependable travel times as compared to expected travel times.
Active Transportation Mode Share	Mobility	Share of trips that use bicycle or pedestrian travel mode.
Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay per capita	Mobility	Total annual hours of delay experienced per capita during peak travel periods.
Managed Lanes Utilization	Mobility	High-occupancy toll (HOT) & high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane utilization.
Local Roads Pavement Condition	Mobility	Local roads pavement condition.
National Highway System (NHS) Bridge Condition	Mobility	Share of total regional NHS bridge deck area in 'Good' & in 'Poor' condition
National Highway System (NHS) Pavement Condition	Mobility	Share of total regional NHS pavement lane miles in 'Good' & in 'Poor' condition.
Number & Rate of Collision-Related Fatalities	Mobility	Total annual number & rate of motor vehicle collision-related fatalities.
Number & Rate of Collision-Related Serious Injuries	Mobility	Total annual number & rate of motor vehicle collision-related serious injuries.
Number of Active Transportation Fatalities & Serious Injuries	Mobility	Total annual number of collision-related bicycle & pedestrian fatalities & serious injuries.
Transit Equipment, Rolling Stock, Infrastructure, & Facility Condition	Mobility	Assessment of regional transit system equipment, rolling stock, infrastructure, & facility condition.
Transit Boardings per Capita	Mobility	Number of annual transit boardings per capita.
Transit Seat Utilization	Mobility	Transit seat capacity utilization during peak demand hour (available seats for all transit types).
Number of Transit System Fatalities, Injuries, Safety Events, & System Reliability	Mobility	Total annual number of transit system fatalities, injuries, & safety events.
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Development	Communities	Number of ADU units developed within Priority Development Areas (PDAs).
Housing Cost Burden	Communities	Share of median household income expended on housing costs.
Housing Vulnerable to Environmental Impacts	Communities	Percent of housing units constructed in environmental hazard areas (including wildland-urban interface areas).
Asthma Exacerbation	Communities	Share of population already diagnosed with asthma who had asthma related emergency room visit in previous year.
Asthma Incidence	Communities	Share of population in the region who were ever diagnosed with asthma.
Percent of Residents within 1/2 mile Walk to Open Space	Communities	Share of residents living within 1/2 mile walk to parks or open space.
Number of Park Acres per 1,000 Residents	Communities	Number of acres of parks (local, regional, & beach parks) for every 1,000 residents.
Households Located Near High-Volume Roadways	Communities	Share of households located within 500 feet of a freeway or other high-volume roadway.

Connect SoCal 2024 On-Going Monitoring Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal	Description
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita	Environment	Annual VMT generated per capita in the SCAG region.
Percent of Population in Climate Risk Areas	Environment	Share of regional population living in flood hazard, wildfire risk, sea level rise, & extreme heat areas.
Urban Heat Island reduction strategies	Environment	Strategies implemented to reduce urban heat island impacts through development of urban tree canopy.
Air Quality by Air Basin	Environment	Existing air quality condition in the various SCAG region air basins.
Habitat connectivity investments	Environment	Total value of regional investments to enhance habitat connectivity & safety.
Nature-based mitigation programs	Environment	Number of regional nature adaptation strategies & programs.
Williamson Act contract acres impacted	Environment	Percent of Williamson Act contract acreage impacted by urban growth or transportation projects.
Unemployment Rate	Economy	Percentage of labor force not employed.
Employment	Economy	Total number of regional jobs.
Percent of Interstate System Mileage Providing Reliable Truck Travel Time	Economy	Share of total Interstate mileage that produce dependable truck travel times as compared to expected travel times.



Connect SoCal 2024 Draft Performance Measures

Mike Gainor, Senior Regional Planner
Thursday, July 6, 2023

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

Connect SoCal 2024 Goals

Connect SoCal is guided by four foundational regional goals as we move toward 2050:

Goal	Vision
Mobility	Build and maintain a robust transportation network.
Communities	Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving.
Environment	Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.
Economy	Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all.

Connect SoCal Performance Measures

Types of performance measures to support development & implementation of Connect SoCal



Plan Performance Assessment Measures

- Plan assessment measures evaluate how well the regional transportation system will be expected to perform in 2050 relative to Connect SoCal goals.
- Quantitative measures are identified to evaluate plan performance under several sets of planning assumptions.
- Planning assumptions are input into SCAG models to project future (2050) regional performance relative to each modeled scenario.
- Scenarios based on comparative 'Base Year' representing existing regional conditions in 2019.

Plan Performance Assessment Measures

- The 'Baseline' projection forecasts 2050 regional conditions expected if Connect SoCal 2024 was not implemented.
- The 'Plan' scenario projects regional conditions in 2050 with the assumption that the program of regional multimodal transportation system improvement projects & strategies identified in Connect SoCal 2024 is fully implemented.
- SCAG models generate output relative to the plan measures to provide insight on how Connect SoCal impacts regional performance.

Plan Performance Assessment Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal
Average Trip Distance	Mobility
Average Travel Time	Mobility
Travel Time Distribution by Mode	Mobility
Travel Mode Share	Mobility
Person Hours of Delay by Facility Type	Mobility
Person-Delay per capita	Mobility
Truck Delay by Facility Type	Mobility
Access to Jobs	Mobility
Major Destination Accessibility	Mobility
Transit Boardings per capita	Mobility
Percent of Trips Less than 3 Miles	Communities
Physical Activity-Related Public Health Incidence & Costs	Communities
Air Pollution-Related Public Health Incidence & Costs	Communities
Park Accessibility	Communities
Share of Household Growth in PDAs	Communities

Plan Performance Assessment Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita	Environment
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Environment
Land Conversion to Urban Purposes	Environment
Energy Consumption	Environment
Water Consumption	Environment
Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions *	Environment
New Jobs Due to Transportation System Investments	Economy
New Jobs Due to Improved Economic Competitiveness	Economy
Transportation System Investment Benefit/Cost Ratio	Economy
Share of Employment Growth in PDAs	Economy

* Federal performance measure

On-going Regional Monitoring Measures

- In addition to the plan assessment measures, SCAG develops a separate set of performance metrics to monitor progress being made over time toward achieving Connect SoCal goals.
- The monitoring of regional performance trends over time is key to understanding which investments & strategies are proving successful in meeting specific regional goals.
- An effective on-going monitoring program serves to inform & support future regional & local planning efforts & investments.

On-going Regional Monitoring Measures

- A total of 34 performance measures have been identified for the on-going regional monitoring program, 10 are new for Connect SoCal 2024.
- The on-going measures are correlated to the four Connect SoCal goal areas to ensure that progress toward achievement of regional objectives may be effectively monitored over time.
- The one-to-one correspondence is not exclusive, as many of the performance measures serve multiple regional goals.

On-going Regional Monitoring Measures

- Measures supportive of the Connect SoCal 'Mobility' goal relate to the efficiency of the regional multimodal transportation system for connecting people & freight to desired destinations.
- Mobility performance metrics include transportation infrastructure condition, system safety, multimodal options, & travel time reliability.
- The Mobility outcome is supported by 16 on-going regional performance measures.

On-going Regional Monitoring Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal
Average Travel Time	Mobility
Commute Travel Mode Share	Mobility
Active Transportation Mode Share	Mobility
Local Roads Pavement Condition	Mobility
Transit Boardings per capita	Mobility
Transit Seat Utilization	Mobility
Percent of Reliable Person-Miles Traveled on the NHS *	Mobility
Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay per capita *	Mobility
National Highway System (NHS) Bridge Condition *	Mobility
National Highway System (NHS) Pavement Condition *	Mobility
Number & Rate of Collision-Related Fatalities *	Mobility
Number & Rate of Collision-Related Serious Injuries *	Mobility
Number of Active Transportation Fatalities & Serious Injuries *	Mobility
Transit Equipment, Rolling Stock, Infrastructure, & Facility Condition *	Mobility
Transit System Fatalities, Injuries, Safety Events, & System Reliability *	Mobility
Managed Lanes Utilization **	Mobility

* Federal performance measure

** New measure for Connect SoCal 2024

On-going Regional Monitoring Measures

- The 'Communities' goal is supported by on-going performance measures related to housing & public health (8 measures).
- Measures associated with the Connect SoCal 'Environment' goal focus on air quality, climate resilience, & land/habitat preservation (7 measures).
- The 'Economy' goal is supported by measures related to employment opportunities & freight movement (3 measures).

On-going Regional Monitoring Measures

Performance Measure	Connect SoCal Goal
Housing Cost Burden	Communities
Asthma Exacerbation	Communities
Asthma Incidence	Communities
Percent of Residents within 1/2 Mile Walk to Open Space	Communities
Number of Park Acres per 1,000 Residents	Communities
Households Located Near High-Volume Roadways	Communities
Housing Vulnerable to Environmental Impacts **	Communities
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Development **	Communities
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita	Environment
Air Quality by Air Basin	Environment
Percent of Population in Climate Risk Areas **	Environment
Urban Heat Island Reduction Strategies **	Environment
Habitat Connectivity Investments **	Environment
Nature-based Mitigation Programs **	Environment
Williamson Act Contract Acres Impacted **	Environment
Percent of Interstate Mileage Providing Reliable Truck Travel Time *	Economy
Unemployment Rate **	Economy
Employment **	Economy

* Federal performance measure

** New measure for Connect SoCal 2024

Connect SoCal Performance Measures

THANK YOU!

Mike Gainor
Senior Regional Planner
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AGENDA ITEM 6
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner
(213) 236-1983, calderon@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337): Status Update on Additional Stakeholder Outreach and Preliminary Outline of Draft Contents

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC, CEHD, TC, AND RC:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the April 6, 2023 meeting SCAG staff provided the EEC with a status update on stakeholder outreach efforts and highlights of preliminary approaches to major components of the 2024 PEIR, including environmental setting, structure and environmental topics, analytical themes, mitigation approach, and alternatives analysis approach. This report provides the EEC with a status update on additional stakeholder outreach efforts since the April EEC meeting, a preliminary outline of draft contents, and a schedule of key milestones for the 2024 PEIR. Staff is seeking EEC’s feedback on the draft contents and plans to continue to keep EEC members informed of the PEIR progress and schedule, such that a recommendation for approval to release the 2024 Draft PEIR can be made to the Regional Council (RC) currently planned in Fall 2023.

BACKGROUND:

As required by federal and state law, SCAG prepares a long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years which provides a vision for integrating land use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable development. SCAG’s next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the last plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), codified at Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq., and its implementing regulations, CEQA Guidelines, found at California Code Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq., require SCAG as the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential environmental impacts for any discretionary governmental action and disclose the evaluation in a CEQA document that is appropriate for the proposed governmental action (CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(b)). As Lead Agency, SCAG found a PEIR is the appropriate type of EIR for the proposed Connect SoCal 2024.

The PEIR will serve as a first-tier, programmatic document and provides a region-wide assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed Connect SoCal 2024, including direct and indirect impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts. The PEIR must also evaluate alternatives to the proposed Connect SoCal 2024 and propose feasible mitigation measures.

Status Update on 2024 PEIR Stakeholder Outreach:

As previously reported at the April 2023 EEC meeting, the 2024 PEIR team (comprising SCAG staff and consultants) has complied with all applicable public and tribal outreach requirements, pursuant to CEQA and Assembly Bill (AB 52), for the 2024 Draft PEIR. In addition to the required outreach efforts, the PEIR team has—and will continue to—engage with stakeholders, including representatives of tribal governments, throughout the 2024 Draft PEIR development by providing periodic PEIR status updates and sharing the preliminary approaches to major components. Stakeholder outreach efforts for the 2024 Draft PEIR, to date, are presented in Table 1, below, and will continue to be updated as appropriate.

Table 1: 2024 Draft PEIR Stakeholder Outreach (as of mid-June 2023)

Date	Forum	Stakeholder Representatives	Topics Covered
November 9, 2022	2024 Draft PEIR NOP Scoping Meeting #1	Business; Environmental; Public Agencies; General Public	Connect SoCal 2024 Project and 2024 PEIR Overview
November 10, 2022	2024 Draft PEIR NOP Scoping Meeting #2	Business; Environmental; Public Agencies; General Public	Connect SoCal 2024 Project and 2024 PEIR Overview
October 10, 2022	Global & Land Use Economic (GLUE) Counsel	Business	Release of the NOP
October 31, 2022	Aviation Technical Advisory Committee	Aviation and Airports	Status Update on the PEIR Aviation Technical Report
January 4, 2023	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority / Riverside County Transportation Commission	Public Agencies	Conservation
February 16, 2023	Joint Sustainable & Resilient Communities/Natural & Farm Lands Conservation	Environmental; General Public	PEIR Overview & Status Update, Recap on NOP Comments, and Preliminary Approach to Biological Resources Impact Analysis
March 8, 2023	South Coast Air Quality Management District	Air Districts	PEIR Overview, Preliminary Technical Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analyses
March 13, 2023	City of Riverside	Public Agencies	Transportation Impacts Analysis
March 14, 2023	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District	Air Districts	PEIR Overview, Preliminary Technical Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analyses
March 16, 2023	Technical Working	Business; Environmental;	PEIR Status Update and

	Group	Public Agencies; General Public	Major Components
April 3, 2023	GLUE Counsel	Business; General Public	PEIR Overview/Status Update
Stakeholder Outreach Efforts Since the April EEC Meeting			
April 27, 2023	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District	Air Districts	PEIR Overview, Preliminary Technical Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analyses
May 24, 2023	South Coast Air Quality Management District	Air Districts	PEIR Overview and Equity
June 29, 2023 (confirmed)	South Coast Air Quality Management District	Air Districts	PEIR Overview and Equity
July 2023 (confirmed)	Technical Working Group	Business; Environmental; Public Agencies; General Public	Preliminary Outline of Draft Contents

Stakeholder engagement efforts throughout the development of the 2024 Draft PEIR will be ongoing through both existing venues and targeted meetings on specific PEIR topics, upon request.

Preliminary Outline of Draft Contents for the 2024 Draft PEIR:

Building upon the certified Final PEIR for Connect SoCal 2020 and the 2024 Draft PEIR presentations and discussions at various targeted stakeholder outreach meetings discussed above, SCAG staff has prepared the following preliminary outline of draft contents for the 2024 Draft PEIR. While staff continues to evaluate appropriate approaches and develop draft contents for the 2024 Draft PEIR analysis, which is ongoing at this time, staff’s intent is to inform the EEC members of the PEIR team’s current thinking to offer the opportunity to review, comment, and become familiar with the PEIR’s preliminary contents such that a recommendation for approval to release the 2024 Draft PEIR document may be made to the RC in Fall 2023.

At the April 2023 EEC meeting, SCAG staff highlighted preliminary approaches to major components of the 2024 Draft PEIR, including environmental setting, structure and environmental topics, analytical themes, mitigation approach, and alternatives analysis approach. These approaches are reflected in the following preliminary outline of draft contents by chapters for the 2024 Draft PEIR. Key information of each chapter is summarized below. Appendices will be included as appropriate.

- **Executive Summary:** This will summarize key information presented in the PEIR, including a table depicting significant environmental impacts and proposed SCAG and potential project-level mitigation measures for each significant environmental impact discussed in Chapter 3.
- **Chapter 1.0 – Introduction:** This chapter will provide background information on SCAG's roles and responsibilities. The introduction will summarize the results of the scoping process and describes the PEIR as programmatic environmental document. This chapter will also describe the CEQA process, emphasizing the early identification of stakeholders and engagement through the scoping process and beyond. Supplemental materials, including the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft PEIR and comments received on the NOP, will be attached, as appropriate, in appendices to the 2024 Draft PEIR document. Furthermore, the chapter will include relevant information on CEQA streamlining, the environmental review process, and an overview of the contents in Chapters 2.0 through 5.0 of the PEIR.
- **Chapter 2.0 – Project Description:** This chapter will briefly summarize the Plan's location and vision, goals, regional planning policies, and implementation strategies and highlight refinements or enhancements since Connect SoCal 2020. This chapter will include Plan goals and objectives. Regional growth forecast projections and major Plan components that have the potential to result in adverse effects on the environment will also be summarized.
- **Chapter 3.0 – Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures:** For each of the 20 environmental topics identified in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the analysis will address Environmental Setting; Regulatory Framework; Thresholds of Significance; Methodology; Analysis of Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts; Mitigation Measures; and Level of Significance after Mitigation Measures. Each section will describe the regulatory framework with respect to current laws, regulations and recent CEQA case law, as well as the relevant Plan Policies and/or Implementation Strategies taken into consideration in evaluating the environmental effects of the Plan for that environmental topic. As required by the provisions of CEQA, determination of impacts will be based on a comparison of the Plan to existing conditions. Each section will identify its PEIR baseline and conduct a programmatic analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Plan for that topic.
- **Chapter 4.0 – Alternatives:** This chapter will describe a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the Plan, which would feasibly attain most of the Plan's objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the Plan at a programmatic and region-wide level. It will include a qualitative comparison of the Plan to the No Project Alternative and the Intensified Land Use Alternative.
- **Chapter 5.0 – Other CEQA Considerations:** This chapter will identify the significant unavoidable environmental effects, significant irreversible environmental effects, irreversible damage from environmental accidents, and growth inducing impacts of the Plan.
- **Chapter 6.0 – Persons and Sources Consulted:** This chapter lists contributors to preparation of the PEIR and includes a list of sources consulted and used in preparing the PEIR.
- **Section 7.0 – Glossary:** This chapter will include acronyms used in the PEIR.

Next Steps:

Key milestones for development of the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR are listed in Table 3, below.

Table 3: Key Milestones for the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR

Milestones	Dates (Expected)
Release of 2024 Draft PEIR for Public Review and Comments	Within 30 days after Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Release
2024 Draft PEIR Public Review and Comment Period Closes	At least 45 days after 2024 Draft PEIR Release
Certification of the Final PEIR by the RC	April 2024

Key milestones for EEC review of and action on the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR are listed in Table 4, below.

Table 4: Key Milestones for EEC Review of and Action on the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR

Milestones	Dates (Expected)
EEC Review of Status Update on Stakeholder Outreach and Highlights of Preliminary Approaches to 2024 Draft PEIR Major Components	April 6, 2023
EEC Review of Status Update on Additional Stakeholder Outreach and Preliminary Outline of Draft Contents	July 7, 2023 (this meeting)
EEC Review of the Summary of Stakeholder Outreach, Approaches to 2024 Draft PEIR Major Components, and Summary of Contents of the 2024 Draft PEIR, and Consideration to Recommend that RC Authorize Release of the 2024 Draft PEIR for Public Review and Comments (Action Item)	Fall 2023
EEC Review of the Summary of Public Comments on the 2024 Draft PEIR	February 2024
EEC Review of the Summary of Contents of the Proposed 2024 Final PEIR	March 2024
Consideration to Recommend that RC Certify the Proposed 2024 Final PEIR (Action Item)	April 2024

Staff will continue to provide periodic status updates to the EEC at the next several EEC or Joint Committee meetings as development of the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR progresses such that a recommendation for approval to release the 2024 Draft PEIR can be made to the RC currently planned in the fall 2023.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Overall Work Program (23-020.0161.04: Environmental Compliance, Coordination & Outreach).



AGENDA ITEM 7 REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Camille Guiriba, Senior Regional Planner
(213) 236-1809, guiriba@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Connect SoCal 2024: Outreach Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, EEC, AND TC:

Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This spring, SCAG conducted outreach for Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG’s Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). This staff report provides a summary of outreach activities and findings. Through the outreach effort, SCAG gathered input from more than 3,600 residents across the region by conducting 20 in-person workshops and seven virtual workshops, hosting 20 pop-up and street team engagements, and partnering with 15 community-based organizations. SCAG also employed a robust digital and traditional advertising campaign which directed residents to the workshops and pop-up events, and to take the survey online. Among the common themes in the feedback collected were concerns related to housing affordability, transportation safety, climate change and economic opportunities. Staff is actively preparing the draft plan to be released this fall and will be incorporating the feedback collected through outreach to incorporate into the draft plan’s vision, goals, policies, and strategies.

BACKGROUND:

As required by federal and state law, SCAG prepares a long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years, which provides a vision for integrating land use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable development. SCAG’s next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020.

California Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, 2008 Statutes) requires SCAG and other metropolitan planning organizations to engage the region in the development process of the SCS through a series of workshops and public hearings. The plan development process is an opportunity to encourage the active participation of a broad range of stakeholder groups throughout the region. Workshops are intended to provide the public with the information and tools necessary to provide a clear understanding of the issues and policy choices. Effective engagement ensures that SCAG members can make informed decisions on regional policy through Connect SoCal 2024, along with the specific projects and plans it embodies.

On April 7, 2022, SCAG's Regional Council adopted an updated Public Participation Plan (PPP) designed to make information clear, concise and current, with methods that can adapt to evolving technologies and best practices. The PPP provides a baseline of policies and standards for outreach and engagement activities to ensure that SCAG's approach is effective and inclusive. Guided by the principles of the PPP, SCAG conducted the initial round of outreach for Connect SoCal 2024 in Spring 2023.

OUTREACH UPDATE:

This memo summarizes activities and findings from Connect SoCal 2024 outreach during Spring 2023. Through the outreach activities, participants engaged with issues related to the Connect SoCal 2024 goal areas (Mobility, Economy, Community, and Environment) with additional focus on the special topics of Equity and Resilience.

Staff gathered input from residents primarily via a survey which providing contextual and educational information. Residents were directed to the Connect SoCal 2024 survey through four primary engagement methods:

- Public Workshops (in-person and remote)
- Pop-Up and Street Team Engagements
- Digital and traditional advertising
- The Connect SoCal Community Partnership Program

Survey

The survey focused on nine questions asking participants for their thoughts on regional challenges, their vision for the future of the region, travel mode perceptions and preferences, transportation and land use improvements, community resilience, and regional equity issues. Demographic questions were also included to further understand the diversity of respondents. The survey was available online in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese and paper versions of the survey were also collected through Pop-Ups and Community Partner activities.

Public Workshops

Public workshops included informal presentations on issues related to the Connect SoCal goal areas and additional special topics. At each in-person workshop, seven automated slideshow presentations appeared on large format screens, placed throughout the meeting space. Presentations were paired with interactive activities to allow participants to answer questions, write comments or indicate preferences. The virtual meetings comprised of the same presentations and interactive exercises as the in-person meetings adapted for the virtual environment.

Pop-Up and Street Team Engagements

Through pop-up and street team engagements, staff went into the community to educate members of the public about issues related to Connect SoCal 2024 and the plan process, while gathering meaningful input from a diverse range of audiences and locations. Locations included farmers markets, transit stations, community events, festivals/fairs, and other public spaces. Pop-up and Street Team locations were specifically chosen to fill in geographic gaps where workshops were not being offered. The purpose of these engagements was to reach a broader audience by connecting with community members that may not attend the conventional public workshops.

The pop ups involved eye-catching, colorful displays to attract members of the community to the table. To gather input from the public, staff encouraged passersby to take the survey on available hand-held devices or their personal mobile device. Paper surveys were also made available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Staff also distributed cards with a QR code to the survey for those who did not have time to stop to take it so that they could take the survey at their convenience. Pop-Up participants could also provide comments by talking with staff or writing them down. Street team staff used a similar approach during less formal events without tabling materials.

Digital and Traditional Advertising

SCAG also used paid advertising to provide information about the plan via an animated explainer video and SCAG's website, directing residents to the workshops and pop-up events, and to take the survey online. The purpose of the media activity was to meet people where they are and allow them to engage and provide input at a level workable for them, without necessarily attending an in-person or scheduled event.

Digital ads ran in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean with the video, website and survey link. Most of the advertising budget was spent on targeting residents in zip codes across the SCAG region within CalEnviroScreen designated Disadvantaged Communities¹. The remaining budget was used later in the outreach phase to target residents in zip codes there were few survey respondents. All in all, the online ads were seen over 7.5 million times.

¹ <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>

Finally, there was also an extensive traditional media campaign across the region to encourage input in person or online, which were seen or heard nearly 42 million times:

- More than 100 transit shelter ads in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties.
- Fifteen (15) billboards in Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura and Imperial Counties.
- Ads in ten (10) print newspaper outlets for Black audiences and in-language preferred speakers of Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.
- Radio ads during local traffic/weather reports in all counties except Imperial and Ventura Counties.

In addition, SCAG used its own social media platforms to promote public input via the survey, workshops and pop-up events. In total, organic social media posts earned nearly 11,400 impressions. Staff also utilized email communications to promote the input opportunities to more than 19,000 contacts that include a broad range of SCAG region stakeholders. The email outreach included a series of emails as well as weekly, monthly and quarterly newsletters. In total 73,225 emails were sent across 14 emails which generated approximately 28,613 opens (39%) and 1,898 clicks (2.6%).

Community Partnership Program

In alignment with SCAG's Racial Equity Early Action Plan, the Connect SoCal Community Partnership Program is a continuation of SCAG's commitment to fostering partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs), receiving direct feedback from historically underrepresented populations, and moving toward meaningful community participation in planning processes. SCAG worked with 15 Community Partners with a demonstrated history of engaging target populations and geographies across the six-county region. Target populations included: (1) children and youth, (2) individuals with access and functional needs, (3) low-income communities of color, (4) older adults or retired persons, (5) populations with limited English proficiency, and (6) women and female-headed households. Community Partners conducted a variety of engagement activities to increase participation and solicit feedback from residents on Connect SoCal topics.

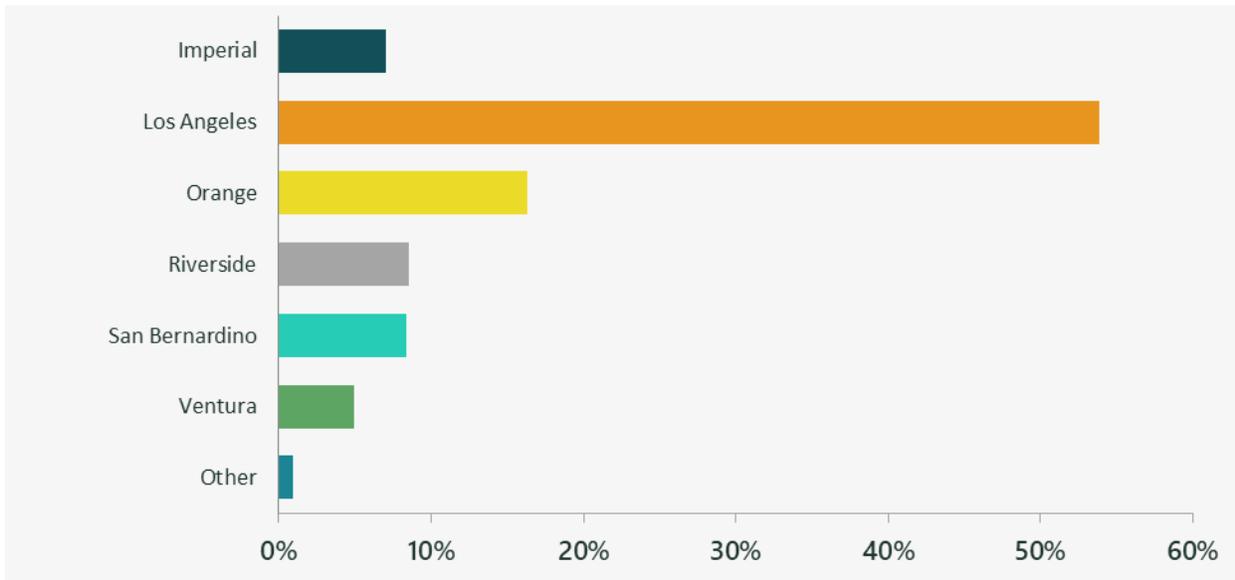
RESULTS AND FINDINGS:

Survey Findings

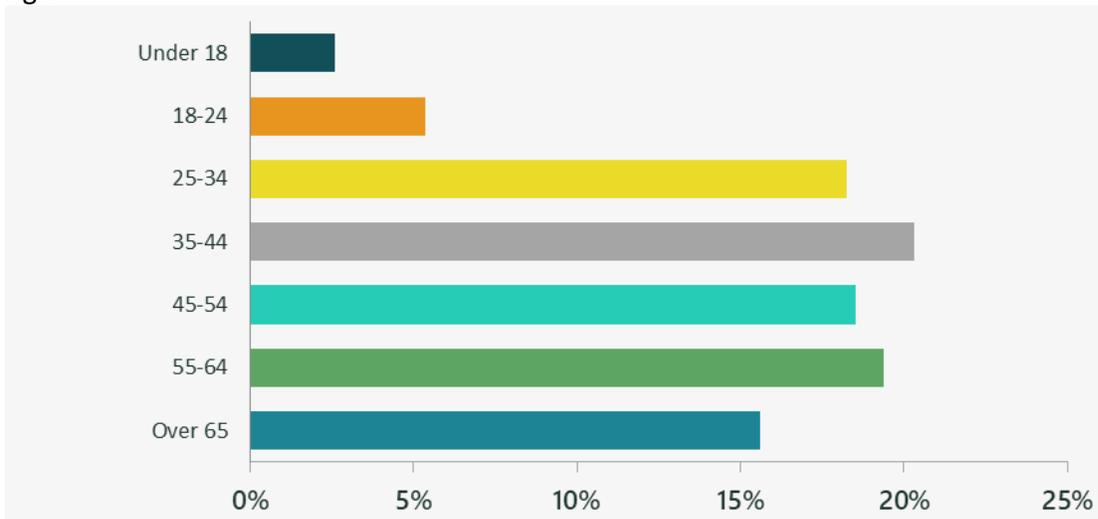
SCAG received a total of 3,683 completed surveys from across the region. About 9 out of 10 survey respondents answered the optional demographic questions. The following charts summarize respondent demographics by county, age, race/origin, and income.

County

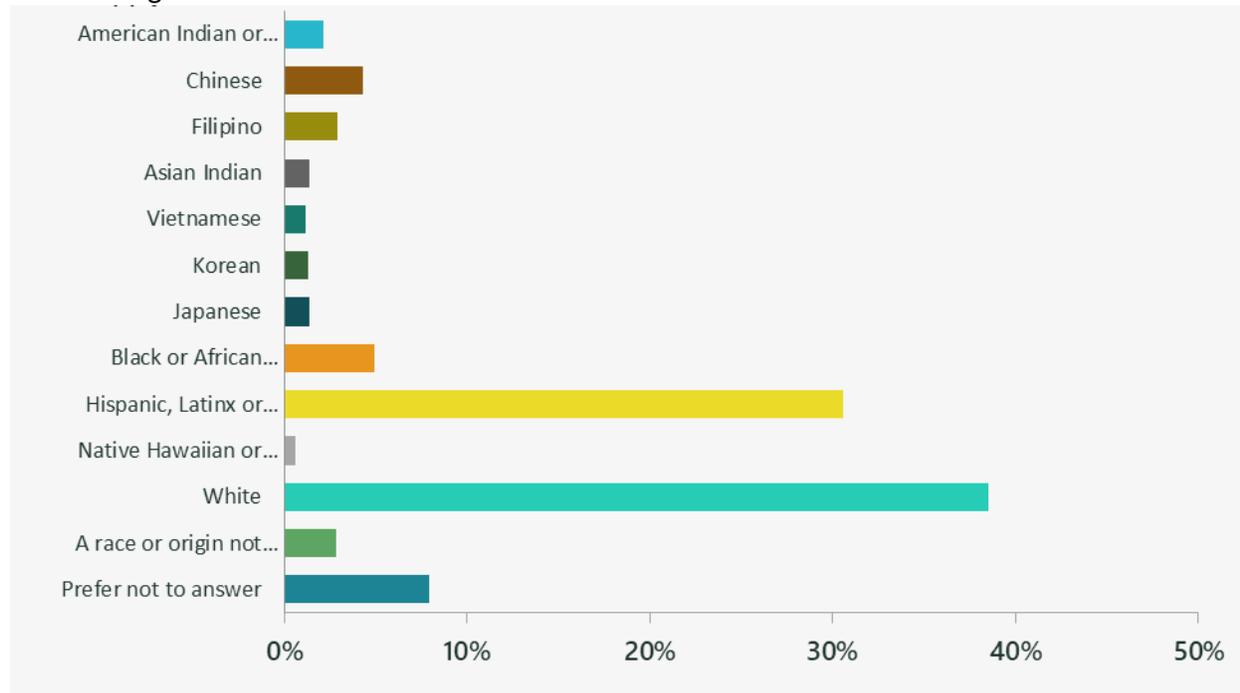
A majority of the respondents who indicated their location reside in the Los Angeles County (53.86%), followed by Orange County (16.33%). About 1% of the respondents indicated they do not live within the SCAG region.



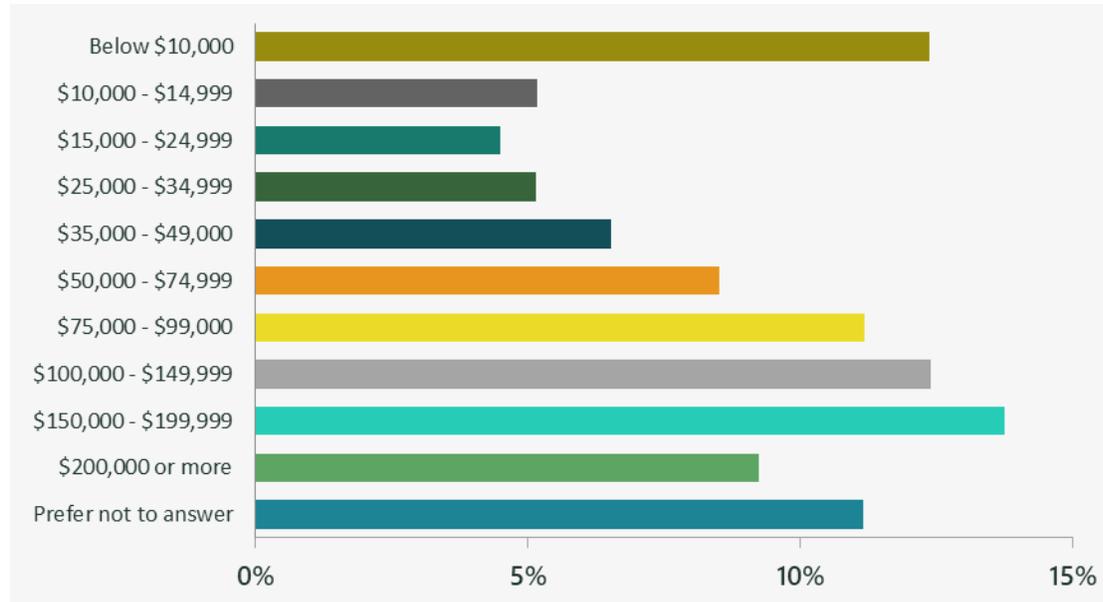
Age



Race or Origin



Income



Below are highlights from a selection of the survey results.

- Of the choices provided for question regarding regional challenges, the top three chosen by those who responded were:
 - Shortage of affordable and diverse housing options (51%)
 - Limited reliable travel options besides driving to everyday destinations (e.g., work, school/childcare, grocery stores, etc.) (37%)
 - Climate change impacts (e.g., extreme heat, drought, heavy storms, etc.) (33%)
- For the question regarding the **vision for our region in 2050**, the top three chosen answers were:
 - Healthy for all people to live in (53%)
 - Prosperous, with economic opportunity for all residents (46%)
 - Safe for all modes of travel (39%)
- The top three **transit improvements** chosen by respondents were:
 - More comfortable routes for walking, biking or rolling (55%)
 - More access to reliable, frequent and fast transit options (52%)
 - Improved street safety (49%).
- The top three **land use & development** priorities chosen by respondents were:
 - Housing that is affordable to people of all income levels (70%)
 - More parks and open space (60%)
 - More sustainable designs to conserve water and energy in residential and public spaces (49%).
- In regard to **resilience**, the majority of respondents indicated each shock and stressor listed to be very important, followed by important, in order for communities to be resilient. This speaks to the concern of many major events that have impacted or will impact communities (e.g., pandemic, utility disruptions, extreme weather events, natural disasters, etc.)
- The top three **transportation-related equity priorities** were:
 - Fast, frequent and reliable transit and transportation options (63%)
 - Safe streets for bicyclists and pedestrians (60%)
 - Access to everyday destinations (56%).
- The top **regional equity priorities** identified by survey respondents were:
 - Housing affordability (67%)
 - Air quality (40%)
 - Economic opportunities (33.3%) and clean water (33.1%) were close.

A complete summary of survey results is attached to this staff report.

Workshops Findings

To ensure that SB 375 requirements were met, four in-person workshops were held in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, with three held in each of the SCAG Region's counties - Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. In all, SCAG hosted 20 in-person and seven virtual workshops with combined attendance of 227 people and nearly 2,500 comments collected.

The following tables summarize the most comment responses that SCAG received on the interactive poster boards that were presented alongside related content and background material. The workshop comments parallel many similar concerns identified through the survey such as housing affordability, transit reliability and frequency, and safety on streets.

What challenges do you face today?

Housing affordability
Climate change impacts like sea level rise and wildfires
Traffic congestion and long commutes
Not safe to walk or bike
Homelessness

How might we make the future better?

More affordable housing
More community involvement and leadership in decision making
Better transit with additional routes and more frequent, reliable service
Make it safer to walk and bike, both through infrastructure and education
Improved land use such as more mixed use, jobs/housing balance and integration with transportation

How can we make the region more equitable?

More affordable housing, especially for very low income
Access to education and job training
More inclusive public meetings, at accessible locations and times
More community spaces like parks and indoor playgrounds
Reduce car dependence by providing alternatives like free, reliable transit

Additional Criteria that SCAG should consider for equity analysis²:

Environmentally burdened, like disadvantaged communities
Farm Workers
LGBTQ+ community
Low and middle income
Indigenous and Native people
Youth coming out of foster care
Homeless
Veterans

How can we make our region more resilient?

Better emergency preparedness including floods, fires, earthquakes but also pandemics and climate change
Stronger economy, with support for small businesses and high paying jobs
More educational opportunities, including higher education and vocational training
More housing, especially near jobs
More options for travelling without a car, such as walking, biking, transit

What Economic Challenges do you see in the future?

High housing costs and lack of affordable housing
Persistent income inequality and lack of high paying jobs
Artificial intelligence, robotics and automation displacing workers
High education costs and lack of training as barrier to a skilled work force

How can we ensure that benefits of the growing economy are accessible to all?

Quality education for children and adults
Improve community leadership in problem solving
Housing for all and ability to live close to work

² This is in addition to the current equity analysis criteria: low income households, people of color, vulnerable ages, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, limited vehicle and transit access, people without a high school diploma, single parent households and housing cost burdened households.

Please find a more detailed summary about the Public Workshops attached.

Pop-Up and Street Team Findings

There were a total of 20 pop-up and street team engagements with more than 2,000 interactions with members of the public. While these engagements were primarily focused on directing people to the survey, outreach staff collected over 100 comments through the impromptu interactions. The most frequent comments received were related to a 1) more open space/community gardens, 2) street cleanliness and 3) water management/cleanliness.

Community Partnership Findings

From mid-April to late May 2023, Community Partners held 19 Connect SoCal presentations at existing meetings or events and organized 11 stand-alone Connect SoCal convenings using multilingual presentation materials and feedback collection templates. Community Partners also conducted in-person outreach and used their own mailing lists, website and social media accounts to drive attendance to SCAG's existing workshops and encourage survey participation. In addition, Community Partners from across the region collected more than 500 paper survey responses.

Overall, community members who provided feedback through partner organizations agreed with the general direction and intent proposed in each Connect SoCal topic but offered nuanced viewpoints, priorities, and concerns based on their experiences. Many communities raised transportation safety and accessibility, housing quality and affordability, environmental health, and high-quality job creation and small business retention as key priorities for Connect SoCal 2024.

Below are the key takeaways that emerged from the Community Partnership Program are summarized below:

- Limited transportation options and the housing affordability crisis are affecting quality of life issues across the region, particularly in historically disinvested areas.
- Improvements in infrastructure and amenities should be coupled with direct benefits and protections for residents and small businesses at risk of displacement.
- While community members appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback on Connect SoCal, many desired continued engagement with community partners on plan implementation including updates on strategies and performance metrics.

Attached is a memo summarizing the Community Partnership Program and findings in more detail.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff is actively preparing the draft plan to be released this fall and will be incorporating the feedback collected through outreach into the draft Connect SoCal 2024 vision, goals, policies, and strategies.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 22-23 Overall Work Program (310.4874.01: Connect SoCal Development).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Connect SoCal 2024 Community Partner Memo
2. Connect SoCal 2024 Survey Summary
3. Connect SoCal 2024 Workshops Summary
4. PowerPoint Presentation - Connect-SoCal-2024_Outreach_Update_July-2023

SCAG Connect SoCal 2024 Community Partner Program Feedback Summary Memo

I. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Connect SoCal 2024 development process, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) implemented its second round of the Connect SoCal Community Partners Program to engage diverse communities across Southern California. The Community Partnership Program outreach focused on the core Connect SoCal topic areas – mobility, communities, economy, environment, and equity and resilience – with the intent of capturing key priorities from populations that have historically been underrepresented in formal planning processes.

On behalf of SCAG, Estolano Advisors initiated the Community Partners Program in early February 2023 through an open solicitation process that was shared with SCAG’s non-profit and community-based organization contact lists. Drawing from previous grassroots outreach processes and best practices cited in the [2022 Public Participation Plan](#), SCAG and Estolano Advisors contracted with 15 community-based organizations (Community Partners) with a demonstrated history of engaging target populations and geographies across the six-county region. Target populations included: (1) children and youth, (2) individuals with access and functional needs, (3) low-income communities of color, (4) older adults or retired persons, (5) populations with limited English proficiency, and (6) women and female-headed households. Geographically, Community Partners represented constituents from Torrance to Imperial and Ventura to Southern Orange County. While the mission and work of each organization is varied, they shared a common commitment to creating a more equitable, resilient, accessible, and affordable Southern California. A short summary of the mission and outreach activities conducted by each organization is provided in Section IV of this report.

In alignment with SCAG’s [Racial Equity Early Action Plan](#), the Connect SoCal Community Partnership Program is a continuation of SCAG’s commitment to fostering partnerships with community-based organizations, receiving direct feedback from historically underrepresented populations, and moving towards community ownership of planning processes. This partnership model acknowledges the contributions of grassroots organizations that regularly engage residents who are often subject to negative outcomes from existing land use patterns and transportation policies. This report outlines key priorities and local challenges raised by these communities for SCAG’s consideration as the Connect SoCal 2024 goals and strategies are developed.

II. KEY TAKEAWAYS

Community Partners conducted a variety of engagement activities to increase participation and solicit feedback from residents on Connect SoCal topics. From mid-April to late May 2023, Community Partners held nineteen (19) Connect SoCal presentations at existing meetings or events and organized eleven (11) stand-alone Connect SoCal convenings using multilingual presentation materials and feedback collection templates co-developed by SCAG, Peacock Sinning, and Estolano Advisors. Community Partners also conducted in-person and digital outreach to drive attendance to SCAG’s existing Open House workshops and encourage survey participation. In total, Community Partners from across the region collected more than 500 surveys.

Community Partners collected feedback through presentations and convenings that responded to the draft Connect SoCal goal priorities provided by SCAG and the consultant team at the start of the engagement process and listed in Section III of this report. Overall, community members agreed with the general direction and intent proposed in each Connect SoCal topic but offered more nuanced viewpoints, priorities, and concerns based on their experiences. **Many communities raised transportation safety and accessibility, housing quality and affordability, environmental health, and high-quality job creation and small business retention as key priorities for Connect SoCal 2024.**

Key takeaways that emerged from the community engagement process are summarized below:

1. **Limited transportation options and the housing affordability crisis are affecting quality of life issues across the region, particularly in historically disinvested areas.** For every Connect SoCal topic, community members voiced concerns about transit safety, accessibility, and high housing costs. Feedback from neighborhoods served by LA Metro agreed that more affordable housing should be built adjacent to transit stations, while communities outside LA advocated for more frequent and diverse transit services (fixed bus route, paratransit, bike share, etc.). Many felt that these investments could help reduce the unhoused population and increase access to quality jobs and other destinations without increasing car dependency. The strategies proposed in Connect SoCal should address existing disparities across mobility and housing issues and present concrete solutions that prioritize vulnerable communities.
2. **Improvements in infrastructure and amenities should be coupled with direct benefits and protections for residents and small businesses at risk of displacement.** Citing increasing costs and ongoing environmental harms, several communities called for holistic investment strategies that cut across Connect SoCal topics. Example co-benefits community members shared were low-to-no cost transit fares for key populations, rent control measures, and support for small businesses, including street vendors. Others advocated for prioritizing climate infrastructure improvements, such as electric vehicle charging stations and building electrification, and subsequent high-quality job opportunities in historically disinvested communities. Connect SoCal should recognize the challenges and opportunities for advancing its

goals and promote anti-displacement strategies that prevent further harm to vulnerable populations.

3. **While community members appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback on Connect SoCal, many want concrete strategies with performance metrics incorporated into the plan along with more frequent engagement with SCAG.**

Several residents raised the importance of ongoing touchpoints and requested updates on Connect SoCal’s implementation. Many shared mechanisms for future engagement, such as short check-in surveys, neighborhood visits from SCAG officials, and the formation of a community roundtable, to name a few. To encourage transparency and trust with communities, some residents recommended community performance metrics that track Connect SoCal’s progress, such as health conditions and conservation efforts. SCAG should explore options for maintaining communication with Community Partners and residents beyond the final plan adoption.

III. SUMMARY FEEDBACK BY GOAL TOPIC

A. Mobility – Build and maintain a robust transportation network.

Draft Goal priorities:

- 1) Create more connections across travel modes;
- 2) Increase reliable, accessible, affordable, and quality travel options;
- 3) Increase opportunities to walk, bike, or take transit.

Community Priorities:

Communities across the SCAG region emphasized safety concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians and called for infrastructure that promotes alternative modes of transportation rather than vehicles.

- **Pedestrian Safety:** Community members highlighted the dangers of abandoned scooters and speeding scooters on sidewalks, the necessity of well-paved and well-maintained streets (especially for wheelchair users), the need for brighter lights near bus stops, and the need for more crossing guards.
- **Alternative modes of transportation:** Community members suggested strategies for promoting car alternatives, including funding a mix of transit options—such as buses, trains, streetcars, pedi-cabs, and paratransit—and better first- and last-mile options. Participants also want to see prioritization for bus- and bike-only lanes over car lanes and more transit stations. Community members added that transit and other modes should connect residents to more destinations through longer bus routes, for example. Community Partners in Orange County, in particular, want better connections between central Orange County and other counties in the region through more rail infrastructure.¹

²

¹ Santa Ana Active Streets

²Orange County Environmental Justice Education Fund

- **Parking and affordable electric vehicle charging:** Some participants raised the need for more neighborhood parking and more places to affordably charge electric vehicles, especially for low-income communities.
- **More reliable transit:** Community members expressed that more frequent, better-maintained, faster, and more reliable transit is needed since many residents rely on transit. One Community Partner also noted that increased reliability would incentivize greater public utilization of transit services. Another Community Partner that serves the disabled community shared that paratransit services are not reliable and needs vast improvements.
- **Accessible and affordable transportation:** Community members emphasized the importance of accessible and affordable transit for all members of the public, with some participants also advocating for discounted or free transit ridership to seniors, children, and low-income individuals.
- **Changes to land use to support reduced vehicle miles traveled:** One group of participants recommended changing planning and zoning regulations to allow people to live closer to where they work, reducing the need for travel.

Participants also suggested that SCAG learn from other cities around the world that have successfully implemented sustainable transportation models.

Challenges for Implementation at Local Level:

Several challenges for implementation at the local level surfaced in discussion with community members. Participants expressed opposition to policy solutions that center cars and car-accommodating infrastructure over public transit. One group highlighted how subsidizing electric vehicles and self-driving cars incentivizes driving and fails to address the problems with cars like traffic, air pollution, and the danger they pose to other drivers, pedestrians, and bikers. Rather than use public funds to build new highways or car infrastructure, local governments could offer subsidies for electric bicycles or remodel existing highway systems to support more bus and rail. These participants recommended more events like CicLAvia, where streets are closed to car access, as opportunities to promote safe, healthy, and environmentally friendly mobility.³

Concerns with the safety and accessibility of public transit were echoed across feedback sessions, with several participants noting barriers including the cost of fares, poorly maintained escalators and elevators at Metro stations, low Metro ridership, and unsafe bus shelter locations. Challenges with Uber and Lyft dominating the rideshare industry were discussed as well as suggestions for local governments to start their own city rideshare programs. Participants discussed the dangers of shared bike lanes and how separating car traffic from other transportation modes would be safer. Other feedback revolved around a lack of trust in requirements for electric vehicle incentives which could prevent community buy-in for implementation.

³ Los Angeles Ecovillage Institute

B. Communities – Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving.

Draft Goal priorities:

- 1) Improve access to transit and jobs;
- 2) Integrate a regional development pattern with the transportation network;
- 3) Meet regional housing needs.

Community Priorities:

Throughout feedback sharing sessions, participants circulated ideas and priorities for livable and thriving communities.

- **Engagement:** Community members overwhelmingly agreed on the importance of their involvement and opportunity to provide future input regarding Connect SoCal. In particular, youth participants asserted their desire to be involved in community improvement strategies and have access to resources and opportunities.⁴
- **Quality and affordable housing:** Access to amenities, especially quality and affordable housing during a housing crisis, was another priority that emerged among community participants. Residents shared concern with the number of people who are unhoused in the region and suggested that providing housing, specifically multi-family and dense housing, would result in safer sidewalks and transit facilities. Instead of promoting the building of new housing, participants supported **infill infrastructure** as a strategy to revitalize vacant buildings while also discouraging exurban development in conservation areas. Residents in multiple engagements called for mandating rent-controlled housing, particularly near transportation nodes, as a key affordable housing preservation strategy.
- **Amenities near housing:** Residents also expressed a preference for more parks and grocery stores near housing. One group suggested structuring development patterns in the SCAG region around small community hubs that are accessible by walking, biking, or rail.
- **Clean and safe streets:** From tidying street litter to reducing the prevalence of liquor and other substances in disinvested zip codes, residents felt their communities would benefit from safer and cleaner streets.⁵

Challenges for Implementation at Local Level:

Community Partners shared that community members wanted to see more alignment of local and regional mitigation initiatives, including connecting non-profit conservation efforts, the State's 30x30 commitment, and Connect SoCal; connecting the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy to local efforts to implement Climate Action and Adaptation Plans; and other concrete connections between implemented policies and overarching Connect SoCal goals. Community members discussed a lack of trust in SCAG and skepticism around its effectiveness, source of funds, and lack of prior community involvement. Residents would like to see SCAG representatives and local officials visit their communities and see areas of concern first-hand. To receive ongoing feedback, SCAG could have a comment

⁴ Strategic Action for a Just Economy, Central City Neighborhood Partners

⁵ Latino Health Access, Central City Neighborhood Partners

box where community members can write or submit pictures of areas of concern within their community. One group also pointed to the need for consistent survey collection to detect community issues. Another group suggested SCAG create a mobile application to connect survey participants with the specified contact points for their local jurisdiction. These communities shared a desire to be informed and be able to participate despite language barriers.

C. Environment – Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.

Draft Goal priorities:

- 1) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants;
- 2) Conserve open space and farmland;
- 3) Help the region grow sustainably.

Community Priorities:

Concerning the environment and ways to help create a healthy region, community members advocated for more green space and better access to parks and open space, including through better transit connectivity.

- **Inclusive conservation:** One group highlighted how the definition of conservation should be as broad and inclusive as possible to include restoration, resilience, and reclamation, for example.
- **Air quality and pollution:** Residents brainstormed pathways to improving air quality and reducing air pollution, such as the preservation and enhancement of natural and working lands, infill development, transition to zero and near-zero vehicles, setting and attaining building electrification goals, mitigation of road congestion, and prohibition of new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- **Clean streets, litter, and recycling:** Street cleanliness was a core priority for community members, who called for more frequent and vigilant litter cleanup. One Community Partner also noted that participants want to see more programs that promote the use of recycled materials.

Challenges for Implementation at Local Level:

Residents wanted to see more alignment between conservation policies, such as land protection and restoration policies and complementary work, such as the housing mandate. Strong community involvement throughout the strategizing and implementation of policies remained a key request for participants. One group suggested creating a collaborative roundtable for conservation groups.

D. Economy – Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all.

Draft Goal priorities:

- 1) Support new jobs through transportation investments and increased competitiveness;

- 2) Support efficient and resilient goods movement.

Community Priorities:

Accessing jobs closer to home with better pay and benefits was a shared priority among residents.

- **Livable wages:** Individuals emphasized the importance of livable wages in enabling people to access housing and other basic needs.
- **Infrastructure Investments:** One group of participants believed new transportation infrastructure could provide new and better-paying jobs in their Orange County region.⁶ Other groups called for more conservation funding, high-quality and affordable housing, and economic opportunities.
- **Support for small businesses:** Greater support for small businesses, such as street vendors, came up as an important discussion point as well.

Challenges for Implementation at Local Level:

Community members criticized high taxes and costs of living as challenges which exacerbate issues that affect low-income and disinvested zip codes in the SCAG region.⁷ One group noted how corporations like Amazon create an expectation of fast delivery of goods which contributes to unjust and harmful work conditions that disproportionately burden low-income communities. This group called for more local production of goods and services.⁸ Some participants felt the focus on economic goals conflicts with the mobility and community goals; they perceived the pursuit of economic growth as the cause of the social and environmental justice challenges in the region. They suggested SCAG instead consider working toward de-growth and addressing the harm caused by past economic growth.⁹ Participants identified training and outreach to communities on where and how to apply for jobs as necessary.

E. Equity and Resilience

Draft Goal priorities:

- 1) Ensure safe streets and walkable neighborhoods close to transit;
- 2) Locate jobs near housing;
- 3) Improve access to goods and services;
- 4) More affordable housing and better housing affordability;
- 5) Dependable transportation system;
- 6) Improved mobility and travel modes to reduce emissions.

Community Priorities:

Community Partners reported persistent concerns among residents about equity and resilience in their communities. Groups highlighted the need for long-term accommodations for vulnerable

⁶ Orange County Environmental Justice Education Fund
⁷ Latino Health Access
⁸ Orange County Environmental Justice Education Fund
⁹ Los Angeles Ecovillage Institute

populations, such as elderly people, displaced and unhoused people, people of different gender identities, people with disabilities, and low-income people of color.

- **Priority populations:** Residents provided crucial perspectives on how to make goals like transportation-centered housing, electric vehicles, building electrification, high-quality jobs, complete streets, and public transportation more equitable and accessible for these priority populations. Regarding the needs of the elderly, one group surfaced a suggestion that seniors should be included directly in the description of Connect SoCal 2024 rather than under the umbrella of all ages.
- **Literacy- and digitally-inclusive accommodations:** To enhance equitable access to safer roads and healthy transportation options, groups offered suggestions including offering information on community services in various languages at bus stops; translating transportation apps and content into all languages spoken by local communities with accommodations for various literacy levels; providing more convenient and effective digital interactions to allow less technologically literate people to access information.
- **Community involvement:** Regional planning should incentivize resilience and sustainability and incorporate meaningful community involvement throughout decision-making processes.

Challenges for Implementation at Local Level:

Community members identified how public transit is extremely segregated and almost exclusively used by low-income people of color. Residents pointed out the difficulty in encouraging the use of public transit by people from different racial, social, and economic backgrounds. Considering how housing and transportation have historically disproportionately harmed minority communities and ethnic enclaves, new infrastructure should remain affordable and effective for low-income residents.

Communities would like to understand and stay informed about the timeline for implementation of SCAG projects, particularly around affordable housing, and better job opportunities. In terms of long-term regional resilience, one group of participants reflected how the pandemic epitomized the deadly consequences and risks faced by minority elderly communities, especially those with limited English. To this point, capturing long-term health metrics is fundamental. The lack of health equity metrics, particularly for Asian populations who are often categorized together, contributes to policy that overlooks significant health equity discrepancies.¹⁰

¹⁰ Save Our Seniors Network

IV. COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILES

Bike Ventura County (BikeVC) | Bike Ventura County's mission is to grow a safe, healthy community through equitable bicycle education, empowerment, and advocacy. BikeVC currently provides youth and adult bike skill and safety education to over 1,500 students annually and has two nonprofit shops providing low-cost bike repair solutions from donated bicycles and parts.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 16, 2023 – Conducted surveys at the Annual Earth Day EcoFest at Ventura Charter School, Ventura
- April 29, 2023 – Conducted surveys at the Día De Los Niños Celebration, Oxnard

California Walks | California Walks works to create safe, just, and inclusive streets and public spaces. California Walks partners with state agencies, organizations and communities to establish and strengthen policies and practices that support pedestrian safety and healthy, walkable communities. California Walks works to expand and strengthen a network of community organizations working for pedestrian safety and community walkability through equity, engagement, education, advocacy and collaboration.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) | CCA EJ is a progressive, base-building, non-profit organization bringing communities together to find opportunities for cooperation, agreement and problem solving in improving their social and natural environment. Using the lens of environmental health to achieve social change, we work within communities to develop and sustain democratically based, participatory decision-making that promotes involvement of a diverse segment of the community in ways that empower the community. With its beginnings in 1978 and success in achieving institutional change, CCA EJ has become a highly respected voice for disproportionate communities of color in the Inland Empire region.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events

Central City Neighborhood Partners (CCNP) | CCNP is a collaborative non-profit organization that primarily serves BIPOC community members by fostering partnerships in support of positive community change. By ensuring equal access to essential services, CCNP uplifts BIPOC families with direct links to rent assistance, food, and educational support for intergenerational households. CCNP is a trusted resource hub centrally located in the Westlake

Attachment: Connect SoCal 2024 Community Partner Memo (Connect SoCal 2024: Outreach Update)

neighborhood of the City Los Angeles that fortifies resilient support in assisting the community to enrich their everyday lives.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 15, 2023 – Conducted surveys at CCNP’s Earth Day Event, Los Angeles
- April 19, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to CCNP Youth Council, Los Angeles
- April 22, 2023 – Conducted surveys at Family Fun Day, Los Angeles
- May 11, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation during CCNP Nutrition Course, Los Angeles
- May 16, 2023 – Connect SoCal Plan Meeting, Los Angeles
- May 19, 2023 – Connect SoCal Plan Meeting, Los Angeles

Summary of Feedback Received

- Youth were excited about the plan and asked for: (1) strategies to make streets safer, (2) increased bus frequency, (3) improved safety at bus stops and shelters, (4) and solar panels on residential and community spaces. Community members echoed these calls, especially for safer streets and increased bus frequency.
- CCNP members and youth were concerned about how to address the homelessness crisis, highlighting the need to work in community to address it. In tandem, members raised the need for more affordable housing, but some cautioned that home construction does not always address homelessness.
- Community members were interested in understanding when the Connect SoCal plan will be implemented and how it would impact them. Specifically, members wanted to understand who would benefit from new affordable housing, since many of the participants are on affordable housing waitlists.
- Street cleanliness and safety were also major concerns across the engagements. Some community members suggested issuing tickets for littering, more frequent trash pickup, and more street lighting. Others suggested more security in areas like parks.
- Community members also want to dedicate more attention to public spaces. Specifically, they called for designated spaces for street vendors since they often take up room on sidewalks. Community members also want more park space that is safe and clean and where their children can spend time.
- Community members were interested in learning more about the concept of creating jobs near where people live.
- Community members want SCAG to visit their community to see and understand their areas of concern. They also requested a comment box to share issues with SCAG.

Day One | Day One is a community-based nonprofit organization with a 35-year history of providing effective, high quality and culturally-sensitive public health education, intervention, and

policy development in the San Gabriel Valley. Our mission is to build vibrant, healthy cities by advancing public health, empowering youth, and igniting change. Our vision is to create a healthy, connected, vibrant world. Our team has learned the importance of listening, learning, and leading. Youth have always been at the heart of our program and are instrumental in guiding the direction of our efforts.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- May 10, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation at Day One Youth Advocate Meeting, Pasadena
- May 22, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation at Foothill League of Women Voters, Pasadena 100, and Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition Meeting, Pasadena (Virtual)

Summary of Feedback Received

- Students shared that transportation should be a larger community focus, especially transit given that many people can’t afford a car and instead take the bus. They want to see transit improvements such as more Metro stations, longer bus routes, and more bike lanes.
- Community members and youth also raised concerns about ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the plan. Students also want more green space, especially near roads and highways.
- Community members were interested in whether the Inflation Reduction Act would be mentioned in the Connect SoCal plan.

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) | Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks’ mission is “to promote, protect, and enhance the harbors, beaches, parks, trails, open spaces, natural preserves, and historic sites in Orange County.”

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- May 2, 2023 – Connect SoCal Workshop, Orange County (Virtual)
- May 9, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to Power in Nature Southland Regional Group (Virtual)
- May 15, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to Power in Nature Southland Regional Group (Virtual)

Summary of Feedback Received

- Participants shared that aligning Connect SoCal with other conservation planning efforts, including 30x30 would help bolster the goals of each. They also suggested that aligning SCAG’s other work, such as the housing mandate, with

conservation efforts would help support community-driven work and help SCAG and its partners meet their goals.

- Participants emphasized the importance of community involvement, including conservation groups, in Connect SoCal development to ensure that conservation and environmental policies are adequately addressed. Some participants would like to learn about future Connect SoCal feedback opportunities. However, others were curious about how the conservation community would benefit from being involved with Connect SoCal.
- Participants also emphasized that conservation and the environment should be incorporated throughout the plan. They added that the conservation definition should be broad (e.g. “not just land protection, but also restoration, resilience, and reclamation”). One group noted that conservation needs to be called out separate from land use.
- Participants were interested in learning about advance mitigation to fund conservation efforts.

Latino Health Access (LHA) | LHA is a non-profit public health organization founded in 1993 with the mission to partner with communities to bring health, equity and sustainable change through education, services, consciousness-raising, and civic participation. The Community Health Worker/Promotor model is the driving force for the organization to reach and engage working-class Latinx communities and other communities of color in Orange County. LHA facilitates core programming in the areas of chronic disease prevention and management, children and youth engagement, mental health and emotional wellness, civic and community engagement and active transportation.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 22, 2023 – Conducted surveys at Sana Ana Fit Run, Santa Ana
- May 1, 2023 – Conducted surveys at Santa Ana High School, Santa Ana
- May 19, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to LHA Youth, Santa Ana
- May 22, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to LHA Staff, Santa Ana (Virtual)
- May 24, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to LHA Membership, Santa Ana

Summary of Feedback Received

- All groups agreed that there is a housing crisis and a need for more affordable, quality housing. Youth cited concerns about their ability to access quality housing in the future and about access to affordable healthcare. Staff added that more housing assistance programs are needed to support residents with securing housing and that there should be less liquor and other substances in disinvested zip codes.
- Across all groups, participants raised concerns about street safety and facilities. Youth called for improvements to bike and pedestrian infrastructure; members called for more bus and rail routes and higher frequency; and staff emphasized

the need for better transportation access for residents who use wheelchairs. Members also called for more transit accessibility, including free fares.

- Members emphasized that low-income households are the most impacted by the region's challenges. Staff added that increased taxes and cost of living exacerbate the issues that these households face.
- Members and staff also raised economic concerns, such as ensuring that small businesses have the access they need to thrive. Staff also noted that increased wages would improve residents' access to quality housing.
- Each group also noted environmental concerns related to air pollution and congestion, street cleanliness, and materials recycling.
- Recommendations for Connect SoCal included (1) more consistent survey collection as a means of identifying community issues, and (2) more micro-level analysis of impacts since the four goal areas impact each community differently.

Los Amigos de la Comunidad | The mission of Los Amigos de la Comunidad, Inc is: To increase the capacity of the underserved communities of the Imperial Valley and intertwined regions facing socio-economic and environmental injustices, health care access disparities and institutional discrimination. Los Amigos de la Comunidad, Inc is dedicated to building capacity of underserved communities from the ground-up with an emphasis on communities facing socio-economic and environmental injustices and challenges, lack of educational opportunities, poor infrastructure, lack of affordable and adequate housing by using culturally competent and relevant organizing and advocacy methods. Capacity building includes civic engagement, direct organizing/advocacy, creating access to resources and fostering leaders from the underserved communities to become their best advocates and take control of their issues focusing on the most underserved; people living below, at or just above the poverty level, people of color, immigrants, women, undocumented, LGBTQ, homeless, farmworkers and other marginalized/disenfranchised subgroups within our region.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 16, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation at Velocity, El Centro
- April 27, 2023 – Connect SoCal Workshop, Niland
- May 5, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation at 5 de Mayo Taco Festival, Brawley
- May 6, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation at Calexico Community Center, Calexico
- May 22, 2023 – Los Amigos SCAG Platica, Brawley
- Conducted surveys at community events around the valley

Summary of Feedback Received

- Overall, participants were not familiar with SCAG and its jurisdiction, but were appreciative of the opportunity to provide input.
- Participants shared concerns about the lack of job opportunities in the region and the number of low-paying jobs. They added that there needs to be more jobs with

better salaries and benefits, more job training, and tailored outreach to the community about how to apply for openings.

- Participants were also concerned about the air quality in the area and the prevalence of respiratory illnesses such as asthma in the community. They want to see a plan to improve the air quality.
- Participants wanted to ensure that perspectives of people who live near the US-Mexico border are considered in the plan.

Los Angeles Ecovillage Institute | Los Angeles Ecovillage Institute’s mission is to demonstrate higher quality living patterns at lower environmental impacts by maximizing beneficial connections between the ecological, economic and social systems of a neighborhood. The Ecovillage has been a resource for the Koreatown community for the past 30 years, providing affordable, ecological housing and a range of programming on neighborhood resilience topics.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 16, 2023 – Conducted surveys at CicLAVia, Los Angeles (Mid-City/Pico Union)
- April 17, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to Urban Soil / Tierra Urbana Co-Op, Los Angeles
- April 18, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to Rampart Village Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles
- April 21, 2023 – Reimagining a Resilient and Regenerative LA Connect SoCal Workshop, Los Angeles
- May 6, 2023 – Connect SoCal Workshop, Los Angeles

Summary of Feedback Received

- Overall, participants raised concerns with existing transportation systems and suggested that changes to zoning could better enable residents to live near their workplaces and recreational activities, which would ultimately lead to less required travel.
- Participants highlighted the need for more “reliable, frequent, and well-maintained public transit,” citing that current transit options are “unreliable, inconsistent, and poorly maintained.” One group noted concerns about low transit ridership and that cleanliness is a leading reason. Another group added that ADA accessibility at stations can be challenging since elevator maintenance is unreliable. The group suggested that Metro should have an increased maintenance budget to address these issues. Participants also shared that public transit should be free.
- Protected bike lanes and dedicated bus lanes were also topics of concern. Participants called for more bike lanes, but discouraged the use of shared bus / bike lanes due to safety concerns for bicyclists. They also suggested car-free

streets, better first/last mile connections, more connected bike lane systems, a street-car system, bicycle co-ops (as pedi-cabs), city-owned ride-share, and more small businesses in Metro stations to increase safety.

- Overall, participants want to see bicycle and transit infrastructure prioritized over car infrastructure and discouraged the expansion of freeways. This includes moving away from policy solutions that incentivize electric vehicles since this still incentivizes driving, and battery production has harmful impacts.
- Participants were concerned with shared electric scooters, which users drive fast on sidewalks and park across pedestrian spaces, and wanted to know how governments would address them.
- Participants also highlighted the need for more affordable housing for people who are unhoused since many need to use transit as shelters. Affordable housing should be multi-family and dense.
- Participants were also concerned about the fact that local governments can ignore the recommendations in plans like Connect SoCal, and that these agencies should focus on implementing their existing plans. Participants added that there should be more transparency and accountability for implementation, which can be possible through coordination between government agencies and community groups.
- Participants were concerned with the Economy goal area, given that they found economic growth to be in direct conflict with the social and environmental goals.

Orange County Environmental Justice Education Fund (OCEJEF) | Founded in 2016, OCEJEF’s mission is to bring the fight for environmental justice to Orange County through advocacy, community mobilization, systemic transformation, scientific investigation, and public accountability. We work a lot around sustainable land use, and a transition to a renewable and restorative economy, including safe and accessible clean energy transportation.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 21, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to the Santa Ana Climate Resiliency Coalition, Santa Ana
- May 25, 2023 – Connect SoCal Workshop, Orange County (Virtual)

Summary of Feedback Received

- Participants emphasized the need for Connect SoCal to connect to local efforts and plans such as climate adaptation plans and vice versa. Others added that the improvements need to remain accessible for low-income residents. They also encouraged local officials to visit their communities to see their unique challenges.
- Participants were concerned with housing affordability and accessibility and emphasized the need for rent control to ensure that new development remains accessible. Participants also agreed that housing should be located near

transportation and be mixed-use. One group added that vacant buildings should be rehabilitated for housing, rather than focusing on new development, since there are more vacant homes than people who are unhoused in Southern California.

- Participants were also concerned with transportation accessibility and complete streets and suggested: (1) an app for mapping transit routes (similar to one in Seattle), (2) safer and more accessible sidewalks, (3) protected bike lanes, and (4) more transit fare exemptions.
- Some community members called for more vehicle electrification assistance for low-income communities. One example of this would be free electric vehicle charging stations that are solar-powered.
- Participants want to preserve natural land to provide open space and to address air quality issues. They called for more collaboration with Indigenous communities in conversations about land and water through repatriation.
- Participants suggested adding goals related to building electrification, given the climate footprint of buildings and the public health impacts of gas stoves. Some added that there should be more local power creation, and that there should be a ban on new fossil-fuel infrastructure.

Santa Ana Active Streets (SAAS) | SAAS is a community-based coalition with the mission of cultivating diverse community participation in creating a safe and accessible environment for active transportation in Santa Ana. Formed in 2013, our vision is to empower residents to become engaged participants in the emerging active transportation movement in Santa Ana by hosting community events, partnering with local organizations, and working directly with city officials.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- May 8, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to Willard Neighborhood Association, Santa Ana
- May 18, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to SAAS Volunteer and Programs Meeting, Santa Ana

Summary of Feedback Received

- Participants want to see safer streets, with more crossing guards and well-paved facilities. They added that it needs to be easier to incorporate crossing guards into safety strategies. Participants also raised parking as a needed strategy, but noted that this isn't a long-term solution.
- Participants raised many ideas related to better transit, including: (1) reliable, frequent, and fast transit (most popular); (2) better facilities for walking, biking, and rolling (also most popular); (3) increased number of destinations that can be reached by walking, biking, or rolling (third most popular); (4) lighting at bus stops; (5) vouchers for student bus passes; (6) increased connectivity and transit

frequency, especially on rail, between Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties; and (7) bus stops as an opportunity to share information on community services (in multiple languages).

- One participant shared that zero emission vehicles incentives and infrastructure are not as high of a priority.
- One participant found the plan development to be challenging to grasp, preferring to focus attention on short-term issues such as parking access.

Save Our Seniors Network (SOSN) | SOSN is an all-volunteer network of individuals and organizations working to promote, protect, and advocate for culturally competent, community-led healthcare, based on compassion not profits, for Japanese-American, limited-English proficient, immigrant, and all vulnerable seniors.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- May 4, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to SOSN Members, Los Angeles (Virtual)
- May 16, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to SOSN Executive Committee, Los Angeles (Virtual)
- May 23, 2023 – Save Our Seniors Network Open House Workshop: Our Elders in 2040, Torrance
- May 25, 2023 – Our Seniors in 2050 Connect SoCal Workshop (Virtual)
- May 19, 2023 – Conducted surveys at Nijya Market, Torrance

Summary of Feedback Received

- Participants raised the need for more connections between Connect SoCal and local policies given that SCAG cannot enforce the plan’s goals. This related to the need for more coordination between agencies. They added that there is skepticism around SCAG’s effectiveness, transparency, sources of funds, and history of community involvement. Others noted that major infrastructure investments have historically harmed minority communities, especially due to air quality impacts.
- Participants suggested that there should be clear performance metrics from previous and future Regional Transportation Plans to measure progress. They also added that there should be more mention of ways for communities to engage with housing and transportation planning locally.
- Participants emphasized that the plan needs an intergenerational connection and a stronger emphasis on the needs of the elderly. Given that elderly require greater levels of care, participants were concerned by the lack of health equity metrics in the plan. Participants added that the plan should more clearly point out the impacts of the environment on health.
- Participants shared that the “sandwich generation,” or those who care for a parent over 65 and have a child under 18, are heavily dependent on commuting.

For elders who don't have personal transportation, the location of services is also very important.

- Participants wanted to see a larger emphasis on connections to nature and strategies to address homelessness humanely.
- Participants were concerned with the slow pace of changing land use designations and emphasized the need to address airports that continue to operate in residential areas.

Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS) | Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living’s mission is to empower individuals with any disability of all ages to become independent through employment, education and community service.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- May 19, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to SCRS Consumers, Downey

Summary of Feedback Received

- Many participants raised that paratransit services are not reliable. As a result, many participants have to rely on public transportation, which feels less safe. Some added that they feel more understood on paratransit than on bus or rail transit due to their disabilities.
- Participants shared that safety and operator compassion and understanding also stand out, but participants did not elaborate on why.

Strategic Action for a Just Economy (SAJE) | SAJE builds community power and leadership for economic justice. We are driven by a vision of a society where justice and equity are the foundation of community development, where communities are stable, and where workers and tenants have the same rights, stature, and decision-making power as corporations and property owners. Our four main areas of work are around Tenant Rights and Policies, Healthy Housing, Equitable Development and Transit.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- May 18, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to SAJE Members (Virtual)

Summary of Feedback Received

- Participants were curious about how the Connect SoCal goals would be implemented.
- Participants were concerned about the high cost of housing and access to amenities in their neighborhoods now and in the future. Youth and parents

agreed that more open space and other amenities are needed for youth in their communities.

- Participants added that there needs to be more accessible transportation that is also reliable, safe, and affordable. Participants specifically called for fareless transit, better safety on transit, electric transit vehicles, and longer transit routes. Participants also shared that community members don't trust the requirements for electric vehicle incentives.

Uplift San Bernardino/Making Hope Happen Foundation | The Making Hope Happen Foundation engages people, builds partnerships, provides leadership, and delivers resources where they are needed to achieve a thriving and innovative community in which every student is a life-long learner and can be successful in meeting their hopes and aspirations. Uplift San Bernardino is a collective impact initiative, and the backbone organization is the Making Hope Happen Foundation. The mission of our collective is to build a generation of successful adults committed to growing roots in San Bernardino through neighborhood development, economic opportunities, and our greatest asset, our human capital.

Summary of Engagement Activities

- Promoted SCAG-hosted and other Connect SoCal workshops / events
- April 15, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to IE Tenants Union Meeting, San Bernardino County
- April 17, 2023 – Conducted surveys at Small Business Resource Group, San Bernardino (Virtual)
- April 22, 2023 – Conducted surveys at the City of San Bernardino's Arbor/Earth Day Revitalization, San Bernardino
- May 1, 2023 – Conducted surveys at Community Council Meeting, San Bernardino (Virtual)
- May 17, 2023 – Connect SoCal Presentation to the Neighborhood Association Council of San Bernardino, San Bernardino (Virtual)

Summary of Feedback Received

- Participants shared that they face more immediate needs than those captured in a plan with a 2050 time-horizon. The issue of greatest concern was housing security, and participants noted that concerns about this issue make it challenging to focus on other areas for improvement such as transportation. Participants agreed that affordable housing is not affordable on minimum wage. Despite these concerns, the group hopes that the plan will focus on addressing these housing issues.
- Alongside affordable housing, participants want to see solutions for people who are being displaced. They noted that while people who are unhoused are being forced out of parks, they don't have anywhere else to go.
- In addition to housing, participants called for more park access and better transportation and street safety given the number of speeding drivers. Survey

participants added that traffic is increasing and roads are deteriorating, especially after the development of more distribution centers and the recent rains. Some also added that air quality and smog are major issues. Some survey participants shared that they'd like to see more shared mobility, such as ride-share and bicycle and scooter sharing. However, some also raised the challenges with maintaining these resources.

Connect SoCal 2024: Survey Analysis & Summary

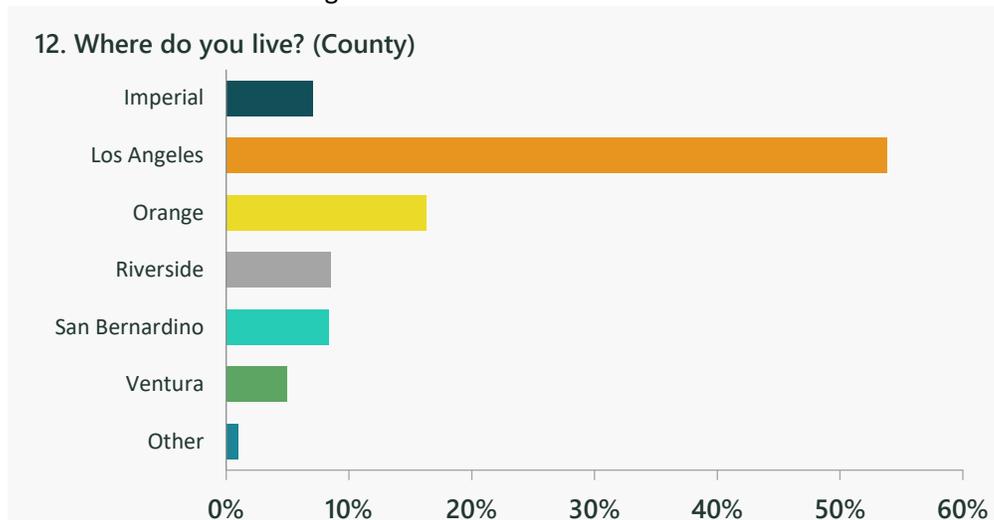
Background

On March 19, 2023, SCAG launched the Connect SoCal 2024 Survey to collect feedback from the public on during the initial outreach prior to the release of the draft Connect SoCal 2024 (Plan) in the fall. The survey consisted of 14 questions total: nine questions specific to the respondent’s regional priorities, concerns and future vision, and five optional sociodemographic questions. Circulated concurrently with the public open-house workshops and pop-up events, the survey concluded on June 4, 2023, collecting a total of 3,683 responses. The feedback gathered will be used to assess the direction of Plan vision, goals and priorities.

The survey ran on two digital platforms, Esri Survey123 and SurveyMonkey. During the outreach phase of plan development, the survey was shared through various avenues: digital ads, billboards, transit shelter ads, radio ads, pop-up events, SCAG-hosted workshops, and ethnic newspaper outlets. The survey was made available in English, Spanish, Chinese (Traditional), Korean and Vietnamese. In addition, SCAG partnered with 15 community-based organizations (CBOs) to conduct strategic outreach including distributing paper surveys to key and historically underrepresented stakeholder groups. SCAG’s CBO partners collected over 500 paper surveys. Early in the process, SCAG received feedback on the survey to encourage an opportunity for open-ended comments, to which SCAG responded by including the opportunity to email additional comments. SCAG also received critiques on the framing and unintended assumptions within the survey questions themselves.

Highlights

- A majority of the respondents who indicated their location reside in the Los Angeles County (53.86%), followed by Orange County (16.33%). About 1% of the respondents indicated they do not live within the SCAG region.



- Of the choices provided for **Q1. Regional Challenges**, the top three chosen by those who responded were: Shortage of affordable housing (51.24%); Limited reliable travel options (37.29%); and Climate change impacts (33.08%).

- Of the respondents who answered **Q2. Vision**, the top three chosen to describe their future vision were: Healthy for all people to live in (52.73%); Prosperous, with economic opportunity for all residents (45.94%); and Safe for all modes of travel (39.17%). Other responses of note included: Public safety, Public transportation, Public and/or open spaces, Housing affordability, and Homelessness.
- From the **Q3. Travel Mode Perceptions** respondents:
 - 25.28% (top choice) indicated that they somewhat agree to be willing to pay for parking to be closer to their destination, whereas 21.22% (second choice) strongly disagreed.
 - 26.33% (top) somewhat agree and 18.91% (third choice) strongly agreed that they prefer remote or online options for their daily activities. The majority 31.78% neither agreed nor disagreed.
 - 39.69% (top) strongly agreed and 24.32% (second) somewhat agreed that they would take public transit if they lived closer to a bus stop or rail station.
- Of the **Q4. Travel Mode Preferences** respondents:
 - Preferences for driving alone (24.91%) and transit or rail (24.85%) were nearly even, followed closely by walk/bike/roll (23.86%).
 - However, for accessing school and/or childcare, the majority (37.56%) preferred to walk/bike/roll.
 - For errands, the majority (41.92%) preferred to drive alone.

It is important to note that the responses to Q3. and Q4 may be influenced by latent demand, or the lack of information or of the infrastructure/mode option available.

- The top three **Q5. Transit Improvements** chosen by respondents were: More comfortable routes for walking, biking or rolling (54.89%); More access to reliable, frequent and fast transit options (52.48%); and Improved street safety (49.44%).
- The top three **Q6. Land Use & Development** priorities chosen by respondents were: Housing that is affordable to people of all income levels (70.35%); More parks and open space (60.17%); and More sustainable designs to conserve water and energy in residential and public spaces (49.24%).
- **Q7. Resilience:** The majority of respondents found each shock and stressor to be very important, followed by important, in order for communities to be resilient. This speaks to many major events that have impacted communities (e.g., pandemic, utility disruptions, extreme weather events, natural disasters, etc.)
- **Q8. Equity (Transportation):** The top three transportation-related equity priorities were: Fast, frequent and reliable transit and transportation options (62.58%); Safe streets for bicyclists and pedestrians (60.24%); and Access to everyday destinations (55.67%).
- **Q9. Equity (General):** The top three regional equity priorities were: Housing affordability (67.29%); Air quality (40.26%); and Economic opportunities (33.34%). Clean water followed closely with 33.11%.
- For those who responded to **Q10. Age**, many fell into the 35-44 (20.31%), 45-54 (18.51%), and 56-64 (19.38%) age groups.

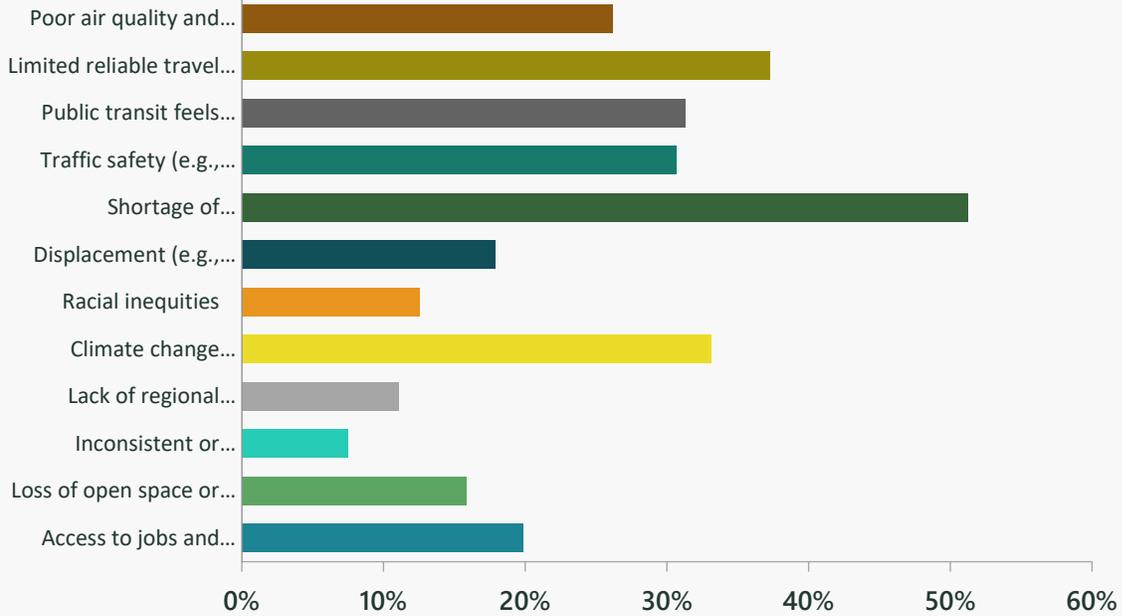
Full Survey Results

1. Regional Challenges

When you think about the challenges our region faces, please choose (3) that are most important to you.

CHOICE	# of RESPONSES	% of Q1 RESPONSES
Poor air quality and related health impacts	962	26.15%
<i>Limited reliable travel options besides driving to everyday destinations (e.g., work, school/childcare, grocery stores, etc.)</i>	1,372	37.29%
Public transit feels unsafe (e.g., due to other passengers' behavior, lack of bus stop lighting, adequate shading in extreme heat, etc.)	1,151	31.29%
Traffic safety (e.g., serious and fatal collisions)	1,127	30.63%
<i>Shortage of affordable and diverse housing options</i>	1,885	51.24%
Displacement (e.g., relocating due to eviction, extreme rent increases, etc.)	658	17.89%
Racial inequities	461	12.53%
<i>Climate change impacts (e.g., extreme heat, drought, heavy storms, etc.)</i>	1,217	33.08%
Lack of regional emergency preparedness (e.g., pandemics, earthquakes, wildfires, etc.)	408	11.09%
Inconsistent or unaffordable broadband/high-speed internet access	275	7.47%
Loss of open space or farm lands	582	15.82%
Access to jobs and economic opportunities	730	19.84%
TOTAL Q1 RESPONDENTS	3,679	

When you think about the challenges our region faces, please choose three (3) that are most important to you:



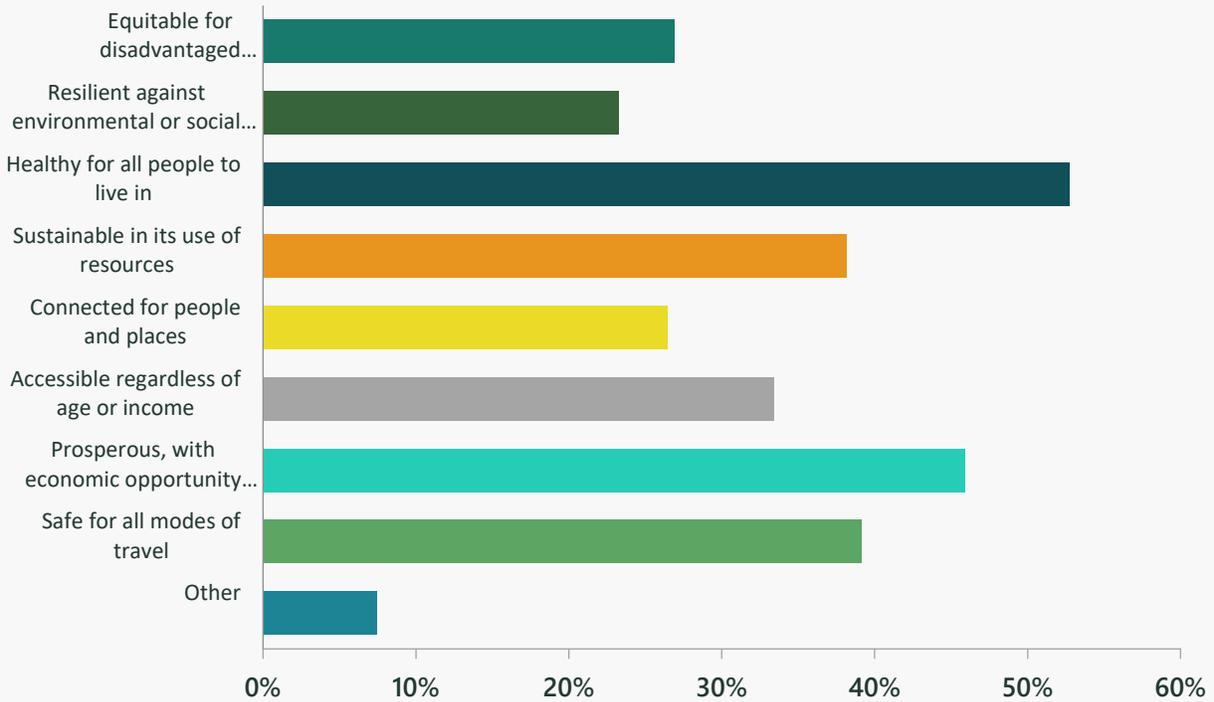
2. Vision

When you envision our region in 2050, which three (3) choices below best describe what you'd like to see? A region that is...

CHOICE	# of RESPONSES	% of Q2 RESPONSES
Equitable for disadvantaged populations	991	26.94%
Resilient against environmental or social shocks/stressors	856	23.27%
<i>Healthy for all people to live in</i>	1,940	52.73%
Sustainable in its use of resources	1,404	38.16%
Connected for people and places	974	26.47%
Accessible regardless of age or income	1,230	33.43%
<i>Prosperous, with economic opportunity for all residents</i>	1,690	45.94%
<i>Safe for all modes of travel</i>	1,441	39.17%
<i>Other*</i>	273	7.42%
TOTAL Q2 RESPONDENTS	3,679	

*These figures only indicate the respondents who selected the "Other" option, which may be higher than valid responses.

When you envision our region in 2050, which three (3) choices below best describe what you'd like to see? A region that is...



Open-ended response to, “When you envision our region in 2050, which three (3) choices below best describe what you’d like to see? A region that is...”

Top responses demonstrated support for improvements with (from 249 usable comments):

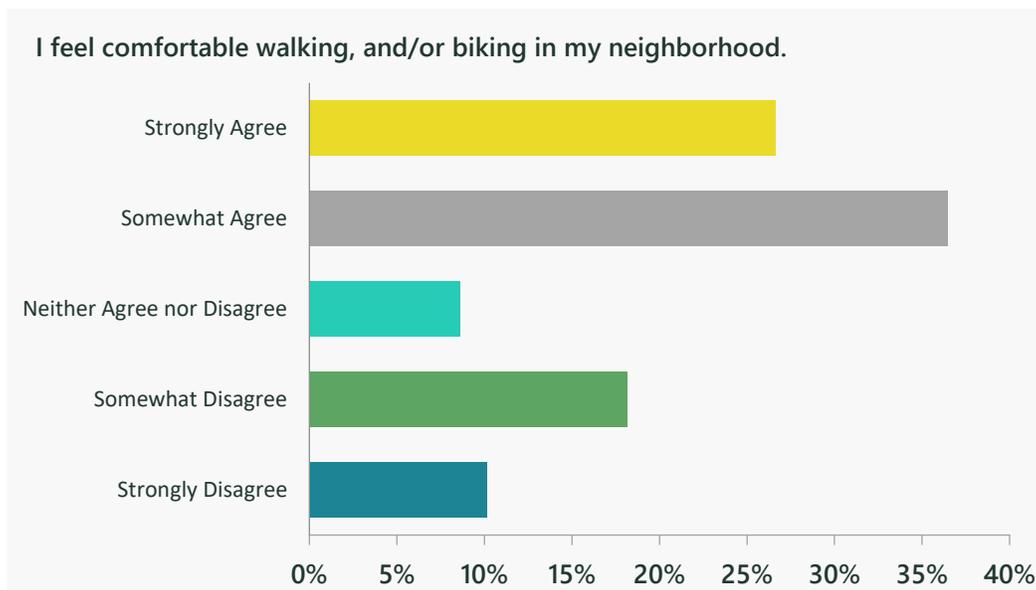
- Public safety (24)
- Public transportation (23)
- Public and/or open spaces (18)
- Housing affordability (15)
- Homelessness (12)

3. Travel Mode Perceptions

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

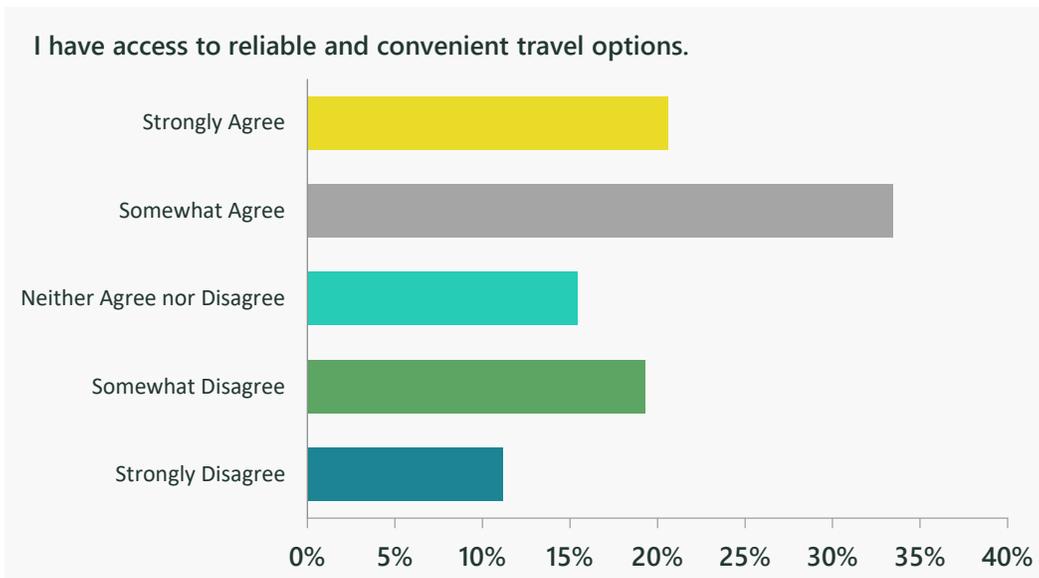
a. I feel comfortable walking and/or biking in my neighborhood.

CHOICE	# of RESPONSES	% of Q3.a RESPONSES
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	971	26.65%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	1,329	36.47%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	313	8.59%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	662	18.17%
Strongly Disagree	369	10.13%
TOTAL Q3.a RESPONDENTS	3,644	



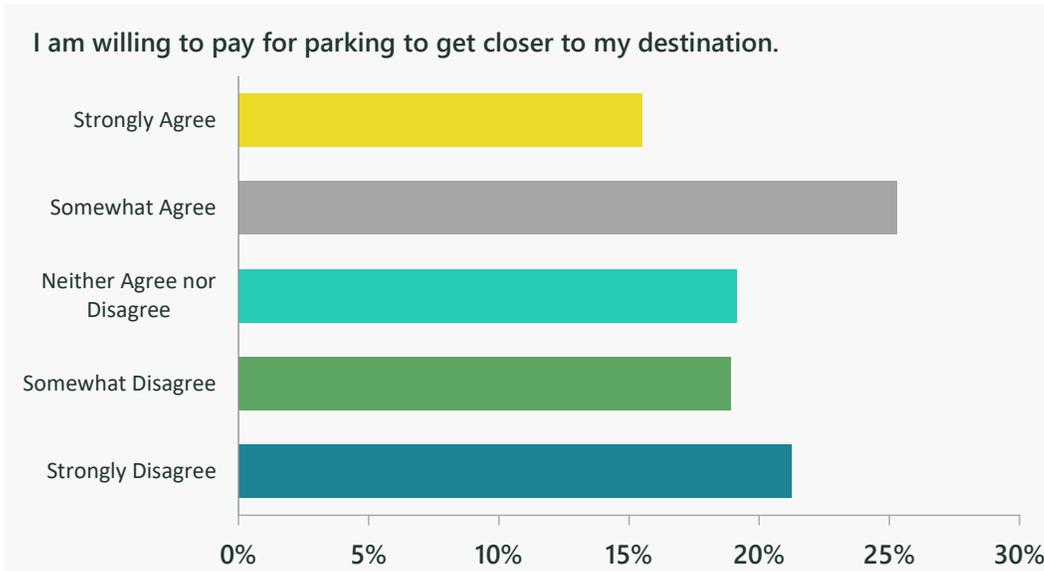
b. I have access to reliable and convenient travel options.

CHOICE	# of RESPONSES	% of Q3.b RESPONSES
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	747	20.60%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	1,214	33.47%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	560	15.44%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	701	19.33%
Strongly Disagree	405	11.17%
TOTAL Q3.b RESPONDENTS	3,627	



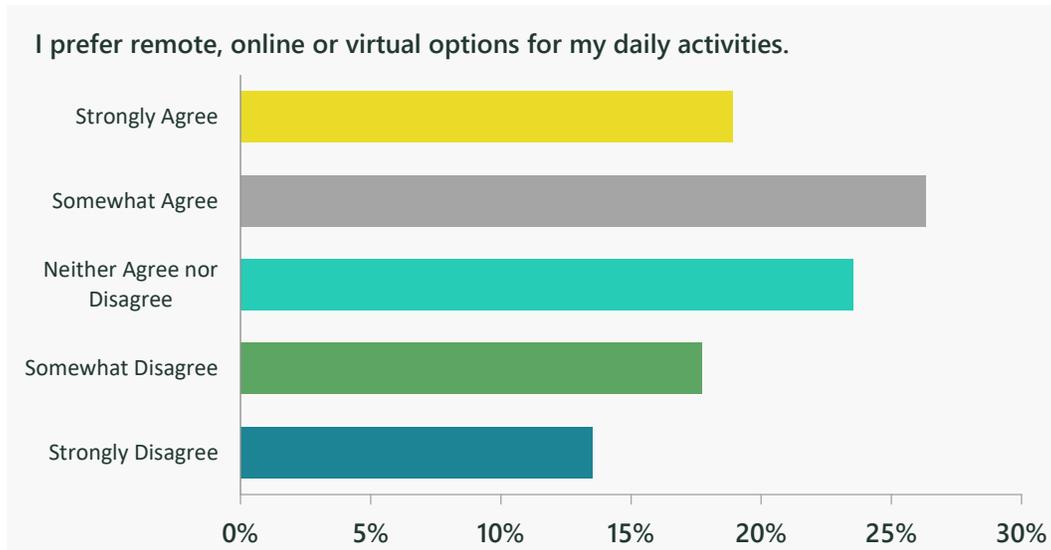
c. I am willing to pay for parking to get closer to my destination.

CHOICE	# of RESPONSES	% of Q3.c RESPONSES
Strongly Agree	560	15.49%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	914	25.28%
<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	691	19.11%
Somewhat Disagree	683	18.89%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	767	21.22%
TOTAL Q3.c RESPONDENTS	3,615	



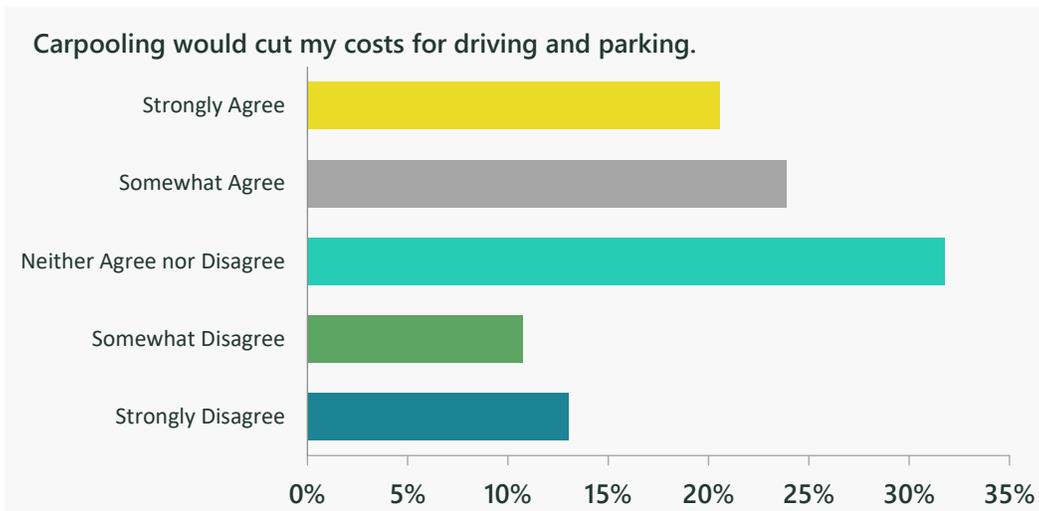
d. I prefer remote, online or virtual options for my daily activities.

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q3.d RESPONSES
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	685	18.91%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	954	26.33%
<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	852	23.52%
Somewhat Disagree	642	17.72%
Strongly Disagree	490	13.52%
TOTAL Q3.d RESPONDENTS	3,623	



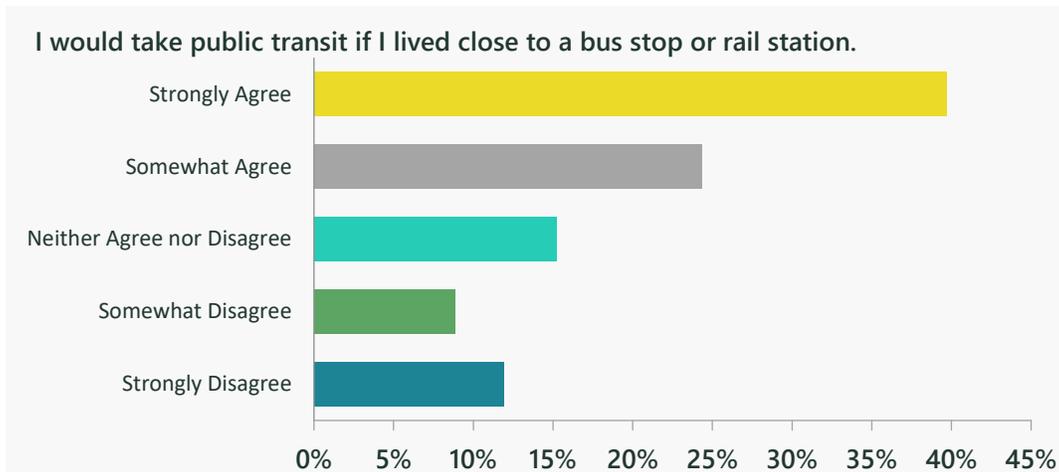
e. Carpooling would cut my costs for driving and parking.

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q3.e RESPONSES
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	743	20.55%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	864	23.89%
<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	1,149	31.78%
Somewhat Disagree	389	10.76%
Strongly Disagree	471	13.03%
TOTAL Q3.e RESPONDENTS	3,616	



f. I would take public transit if I lived close to a bus stop or rail station.

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q3.f RESPONSES
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	1,439	39.69%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	882	24.32%
<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	552	15.22%
Somewhat Disagree	321	8.85%
Strongly Disagree	432	11.91%
TOTAL Q3.f RESPONDENTS	3,626	

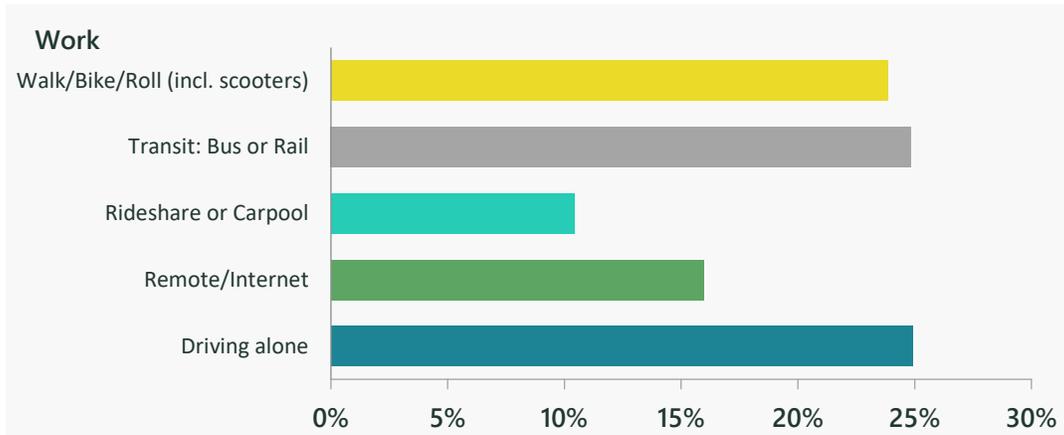


4. Travel Mode Preferences

What travel option would be your ideal mode to access the various activities below? Select your preference for each activity.

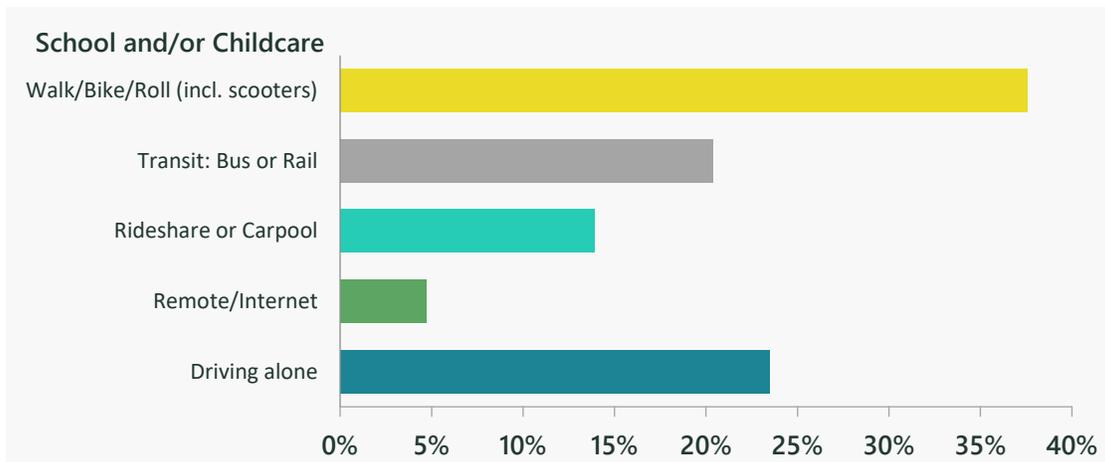
a. Work

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q4.a RESPONSES
<i>Walk/Bike/Roll (incl. scooters)</i>	824	23.86%
<i>Transit: Bus or Rail</i>	858	24.85%
Rideshare or Carpool	360	10.43%
Remote/Internet	551	15.96%
<i>Driving alone</i>	860	24.91%
TOTAL 4.a RESPONDENTS	3,453	



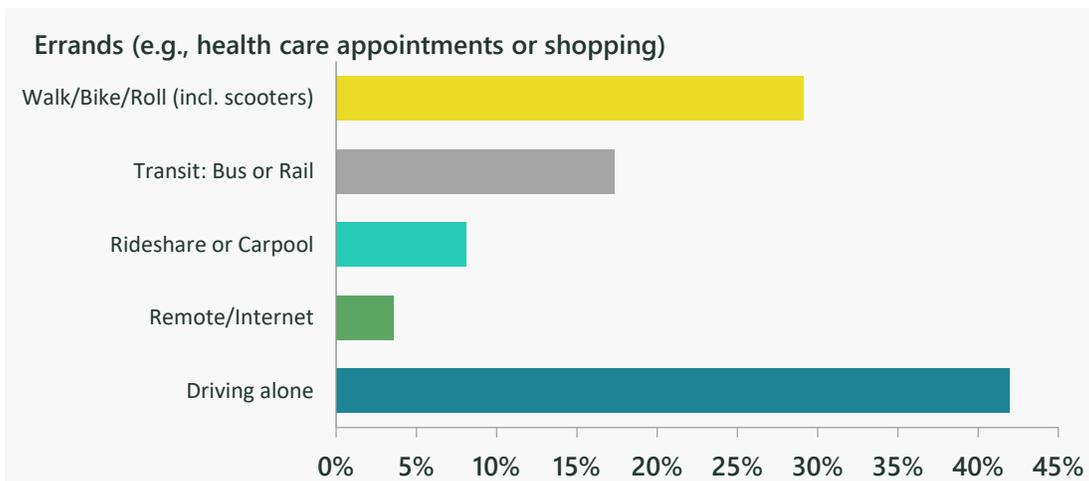
b. School and/or Childcare

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q4.b RESPONSES
<i>Walk/Bike/Roll (incl. scooters)</i>	1,280	37.56%
<i>Transit: Bus or Rail</i>	695	20.39%
Rideshare or Carpool	474	13.91%
Remote/Internet	160	4.69%
<i>Driving alone</i>	799	23.44%
TOTAL 4.b RESPONDENTS	3,408	



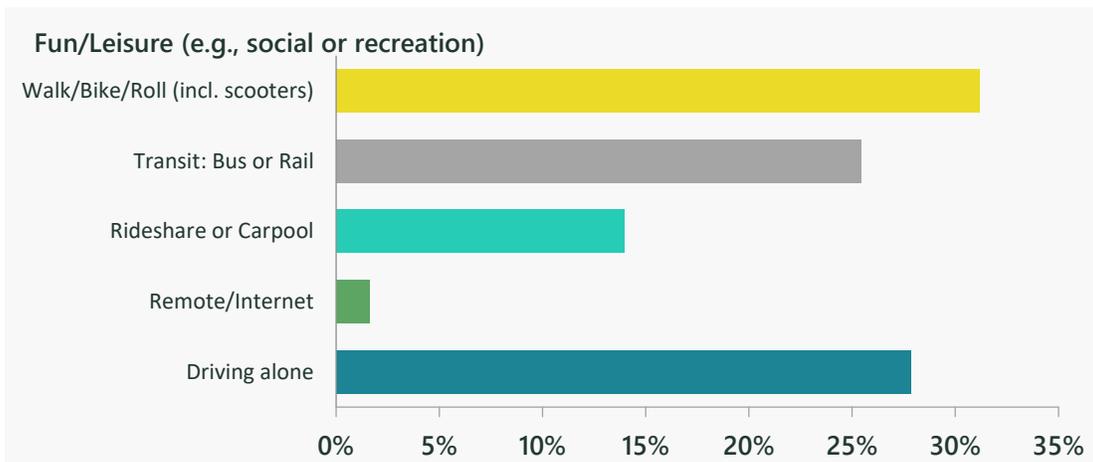
c. Errands (e.g., health care appointments or shopping)

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q4.c RESPONSES
<i>Walk/Bike/Roll (incl. scooters)</i>	1,044	29.14%
<i>Transit: Bus or Rail</i>	620	17.30%
Rideshare or Carpool	289	8.07%
Remote/Internet	128	3.57%
<i>Driving alone</i>	1,502	41.92%
TOTAL 4.c RESPONDENTS	3,583	



d. Fun/Leisure (e.g., social or recreation)

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q4.d RESPONSES
<i>Walk/Bike/Roll (incl. scooters)</i>	1,115	31.15%
<i>Transit: Bus or Rail</i>	910	25.43%
Rideshare or Carpool	499	13.94%
Remote/Internet	58	1.62%
<i>Driving alone</i>	997	27.86%
TOTAL 4.d RESPONDENTS	3,579	

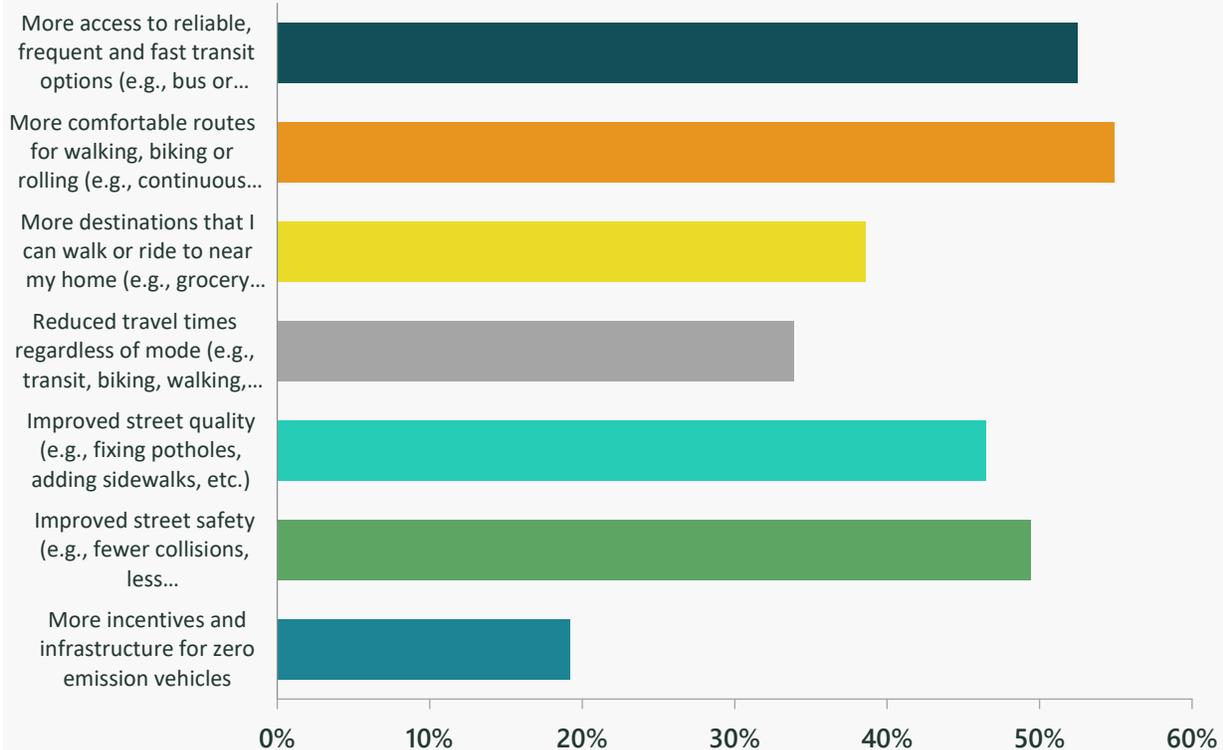


5. Transportation Improvements

Of the following, which three (3) transportation-related improvements are the most important to you in your community?

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q5 RESPONSES
More access to reliable, frequent and fast transit options (e.g., bus or bus rapid transit, rail, shuttle, etc.)	1,830	52.48%
More comfortable routes for walking, biking or rolling (e.g., continuous sidewalks, crosswalks, curb extensions, street	1,914	54.89%
More destinations that I can walk or ride to near my home (e.g., grocery stores, restaurants, shops, etc.)	1,346	38.60%
Reduced travel times regardless of mode (e.g., transit, biking, walking, etc.)	1,182	33.90%
Improved street quality (e.g., fixing potholes, adding sidewalks, etc.)	1,622	46.52%
Improved street safety (e.g., fewer collisions, less pedestrian/bicyclist injuries, slower traffic speeds, etc.)	1,724	49.44%
More incentives and infrastructure for zero emission vehicles	671	19.24%
TOTAL Q5 RESPONDENTS	3,487	

Of the following, which three (3) transportation-related improvements are the most important to you in your community?

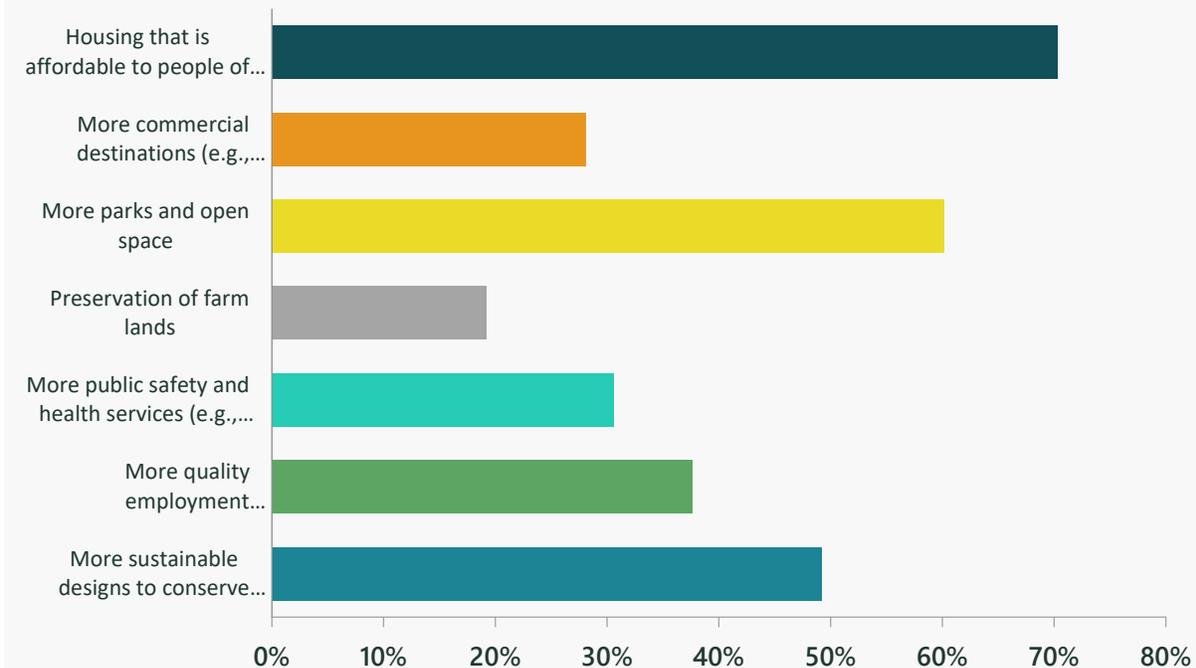


6. Land Use and Development

In your community, which three (3) improvements are most important to you?

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q6 RESPONSES
<i>Housing that is affordable to people of all income levels</i>	2,460	70.35%
More commercial destinations (e.g., restaurants, shops, and grocers)	983	28.11%
<i>More parks and open space</i>	2,104	60.17%
Preservation of farm lands	671	19.19%
More public safety and health services (e.g., fire, police, hospital)	1,070	30.60%
More quality employment opportunities closer to home	1,315	37.60%
<i>More sustainable designs to conserve water and energy in residential and public spaces</i>	1,722	49.24%
TOTAL Q6 RESPONDENTS	3,497	

In your community, which three (3) improvements are most important to you?

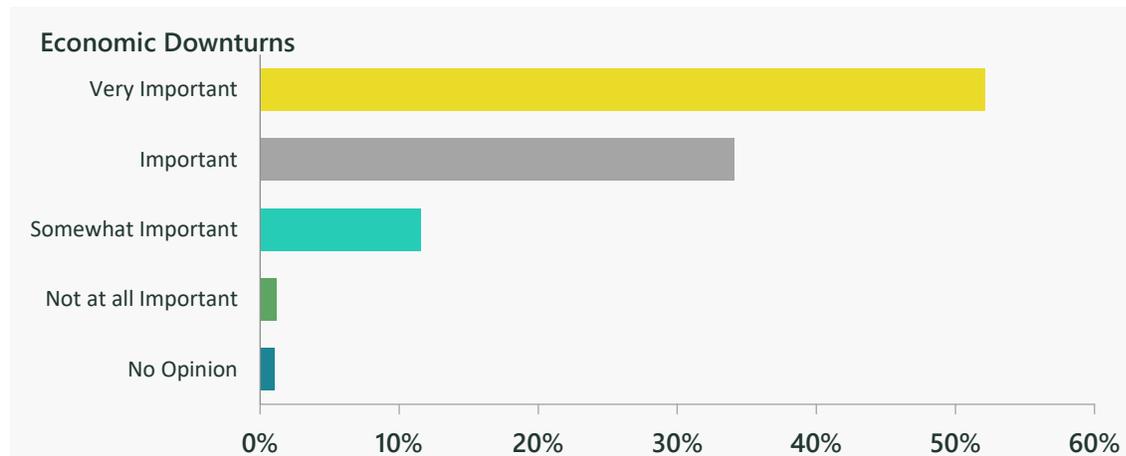


7. Resilience

Resilience: Our region needs to be resilient to shocks or stressors like climate change, pandemics and natural disasters. Please indicate the importance of preparing for and being resilient to the following in your community:

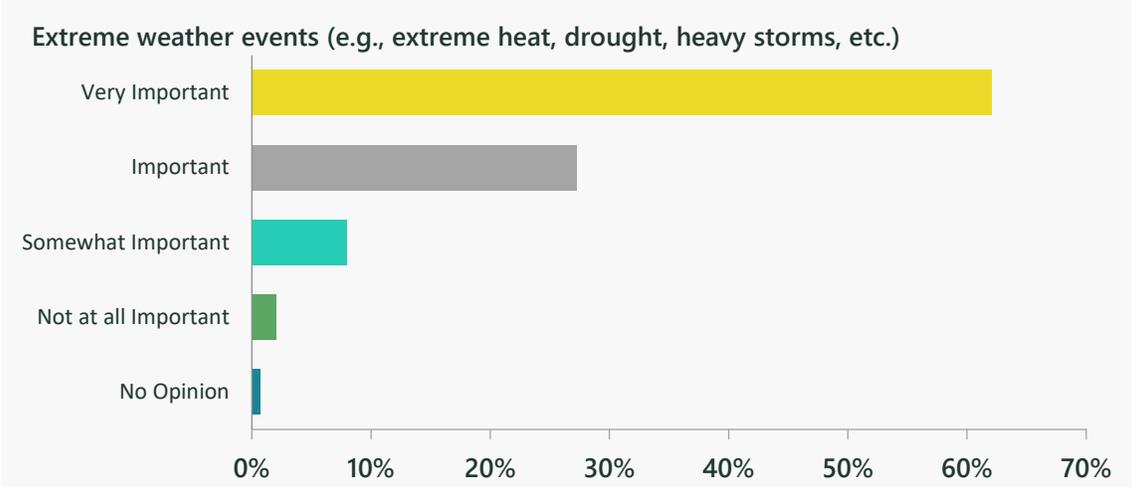
a. Economic Downturns

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.a RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	1,669	52.12%
<i>Important</i>	1,091	34.07%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	371	11.59%
Not at all important	38	1.19%
No opinion	33	1.03%
TOTAL Q7.a RESPONDENTS	3,202	



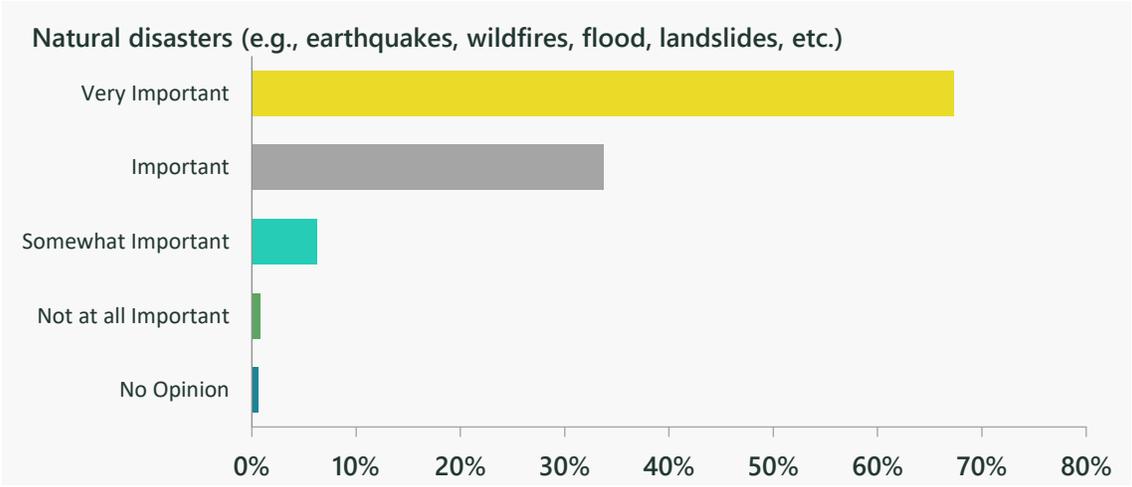
b. Extreme weather events (e.g., extreme heat, drought, heavy storms, etc.)

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.b RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	2,133	62.04%
<i>Important</i>	937	27.25%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	275	8.00%
Not at all important	70	2.04%
No opinion	23	0.67%
TOTAL Q7.b RESPONDENTS	3,438	



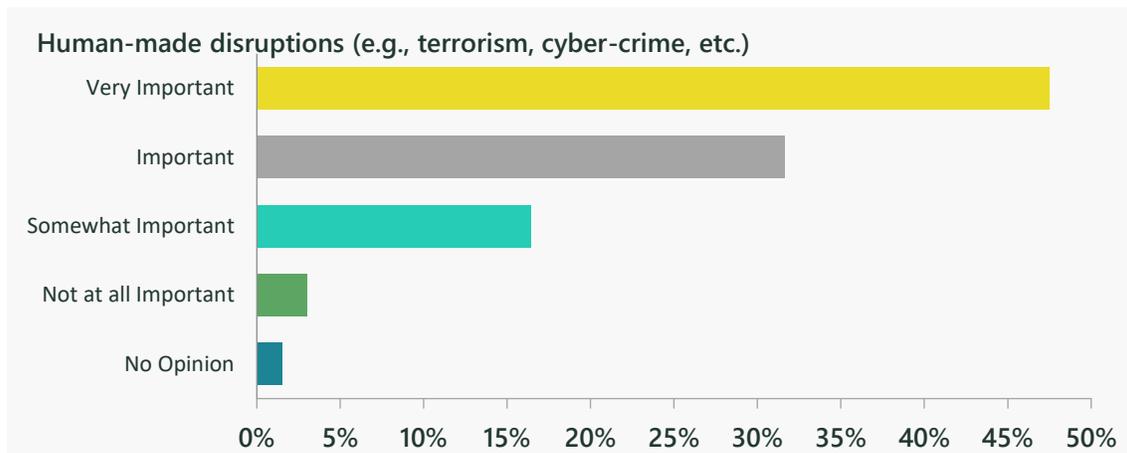
c. Natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes, wildfire, flood, landslides, etc.)

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.c RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	2,318	67.29%
<i>Important</i>	1,161	33.70%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	215	6.24%
Not at all important	28	0.81%
No opinion	23	0.67%
TOTAL Q7.c RESPONDENTS	3,445	



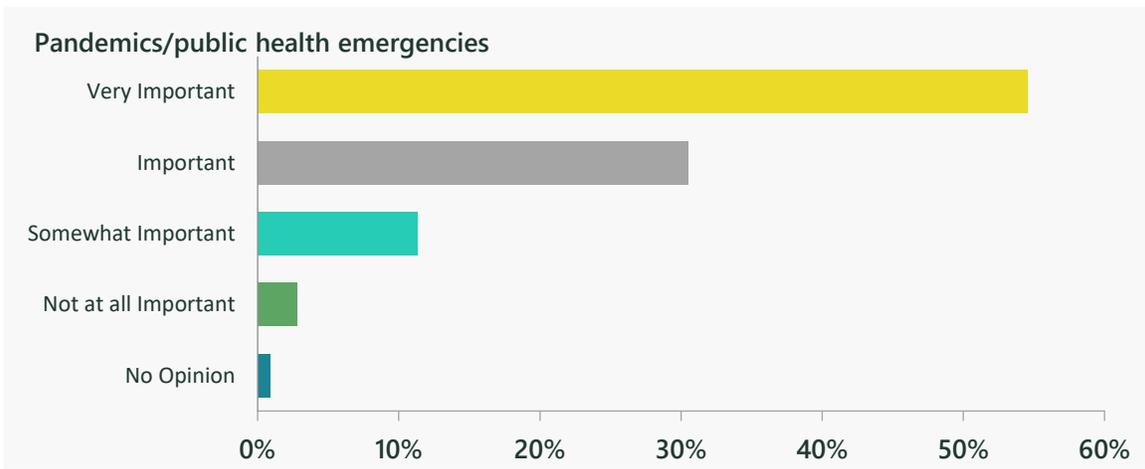
d. Human-made disruptions (e.g., terrorism, crime, etc.)

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.d RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	1,623	47.47%
<i>Important</i>	1,081	31.62%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	561	16.41%
Not at all important	102	2.98%
No opinion	52	1.52%
TOTAL Q7.d RESPONDENTS	3,419	



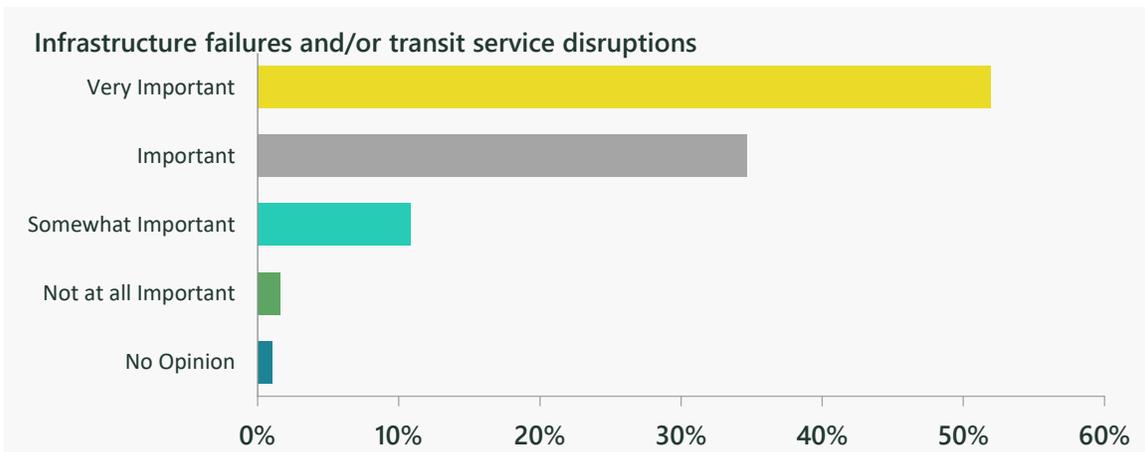
e. Pandemics/public health emergencies

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.e RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	1,860	54.53%
<i>Important</i>	1,039	30.46%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	387	11.35%
Not at all important	95	2.79%
No opinion	30	0.88%
TOTAL Q7.e RESPONDENTS	3,411	



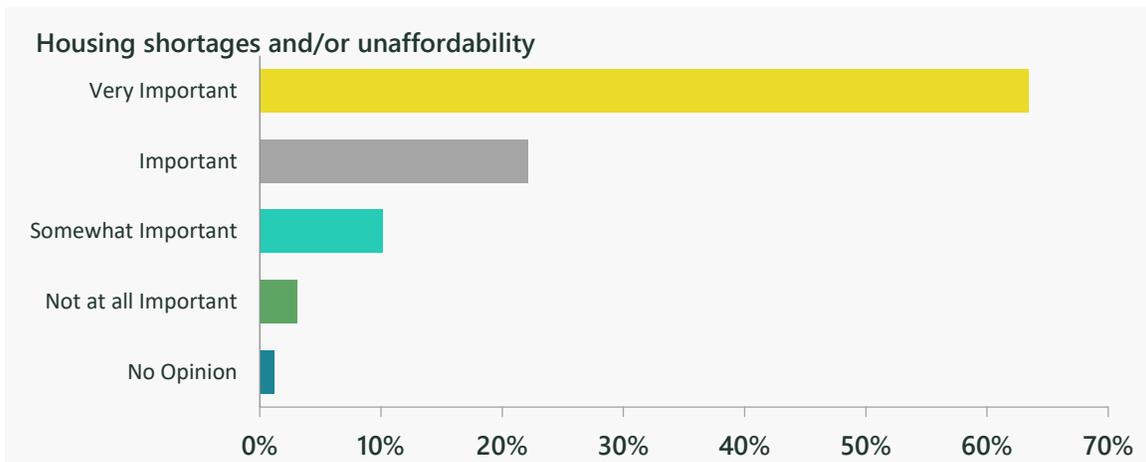
f. Infrastructure failures and/or transit service disruptions

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.f RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	1,770	51.94%
<i>Important</i>	1,181	34.65%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	368	10.80%
Not at all important	53	1.56%
No opinion	36	1.06%
TOTAL Q7.F RESPONDENTS	3,408	



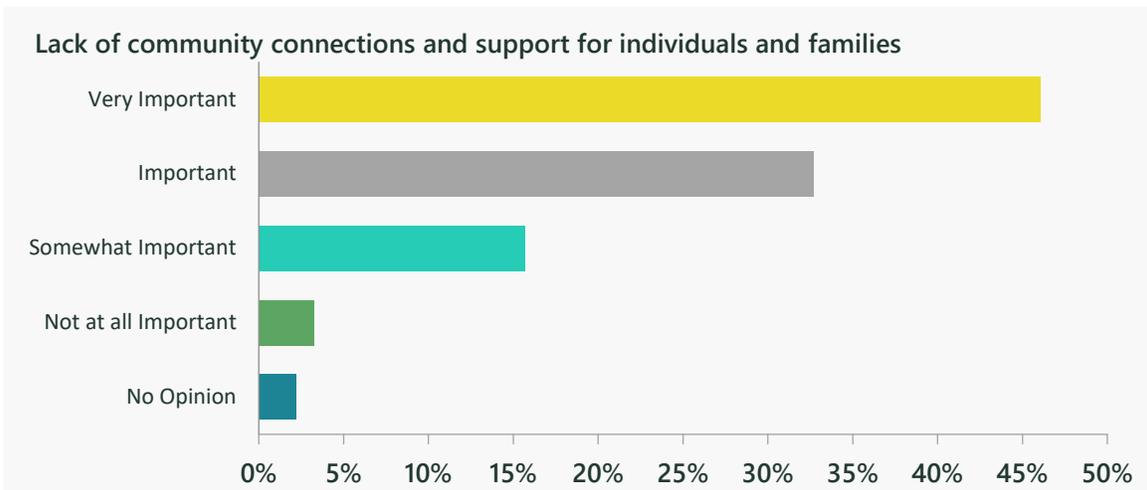
g. Housing shortages and/or unaffordability

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.g RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	2,167	63.40%
<i>Important</i>	756	22.12%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	347	10.15%
Not at all important	106	3.10%
No opinion	42	1.23%
TOTAL Q7.g RESPONDENTS	3,418	



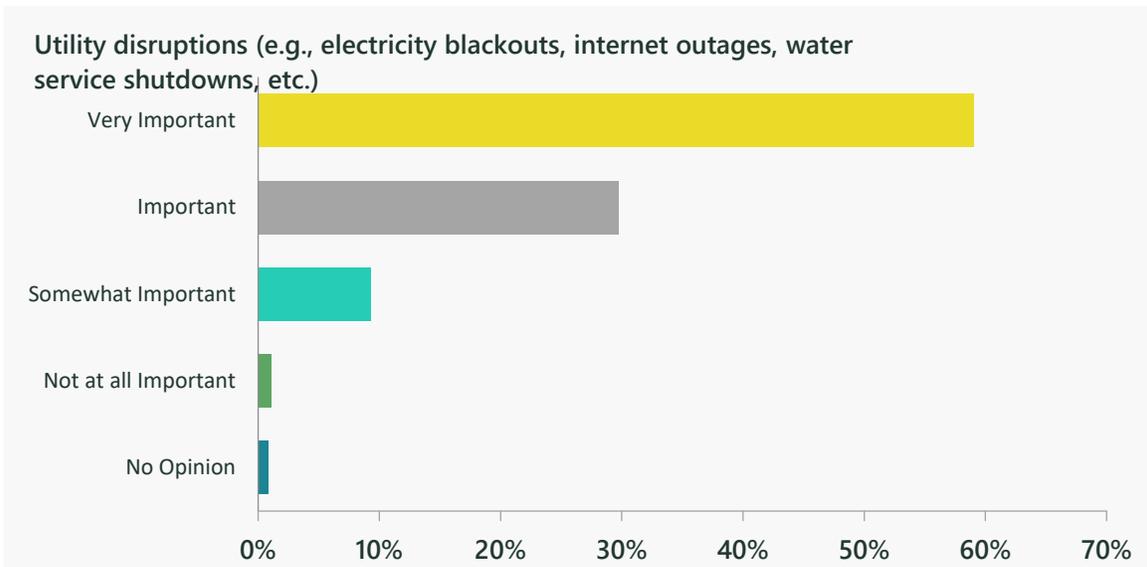
h. Lack of community connections and support for individuals and families

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.h RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	1,573	46.09%
<i>Important</i>	1,116	32.70%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	536	15.70%
Not at all important	112	3.28%
No opinion	76	2.23%
TOTAL Q7.h RESPONDENTS	3,413	



i. Utility disruptions (e.g., electricity blackouts, internet outages, water service shutdowns, etc.)

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q7.i RESPONSES
<i>Very Important</i>	2,019	59.05%
<i>Important</i>	1,016	29.72%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	318	9.30%
Not at all important	37	1.08%
No opinion	29	0.85%
TOTAL Q7.i RESPONDENTS	3,419	

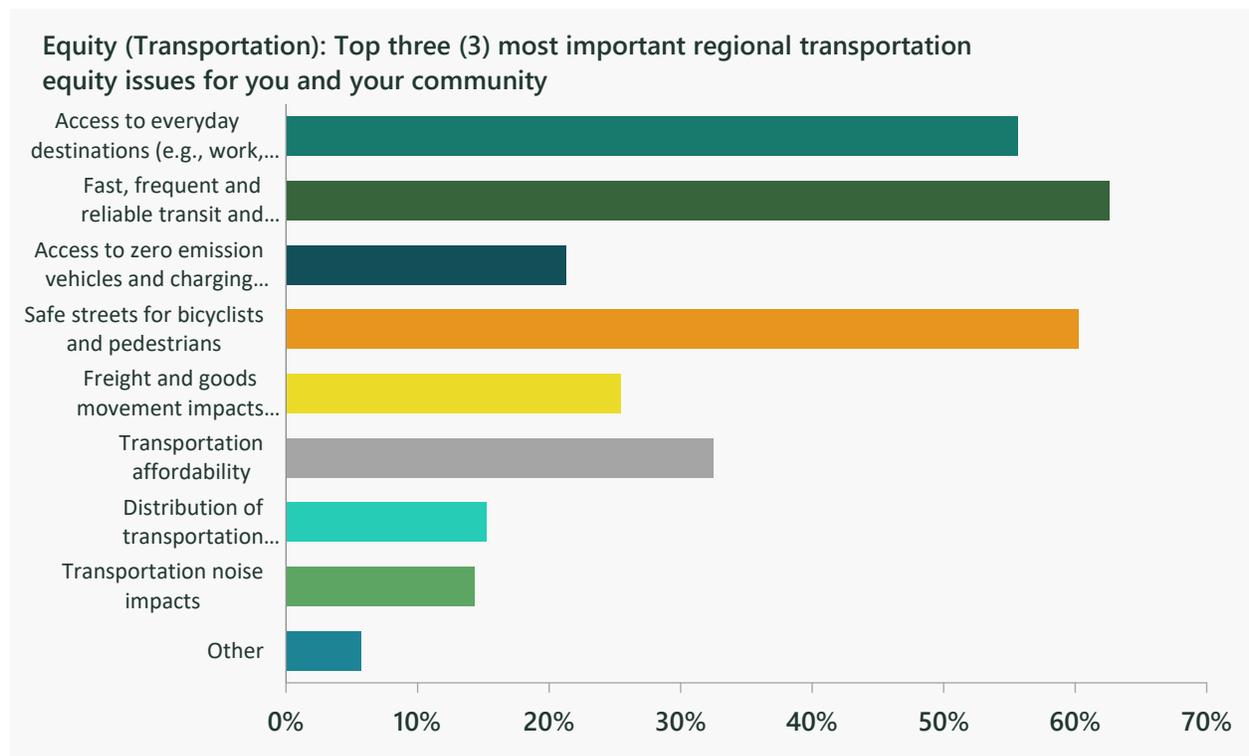


8. Equity (Transportation)

Consider how benefits and burdens of our current transportation system are unevenly distributed to people. What are the top three (3) most important regional transportation equity issues for you and your community?

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q8 RESPONSES
<i>Access to everyday destinations (e.g., work, retail, schools, health care and parks)</i>	1,949	55.67%
<i>Fast, frequent and reliable transit and transportation options</i>	2,191	62.58%
Access to zero emission vehicles and charging infrastructure	746	21.31%
<i>Safe streets for bicyclists and pedestrians</i>	2,109	60.24%
Freight and goods movement impacts (pollution, traffic congestion)	891	25.45%
Transportation affordability	1,138	32.50%
Distribution of transportation investments	533	15.22%
Transportation noise impacts	502	14.34%
Other*	200	5.71%
TOTAL Q8 RESPONDENTS	3,501	100.00%

*These figures only indicate the respondents who selected the “Other” option, which may be higher than valid responses.



Open-ended responses to: “Consider how benefits and burdens of our current transportation system are unevenly distributed to people. What are the top three (3) most important regional transportation equity issues for you and your community?”

Top responses demonstrated support for improvements with (of 191 usable comments):

- Public transportation safety (46)
- Transit improvements/frequency/connectivity/reliability (20)
- Road maintenance (14)
- Traffic (10)

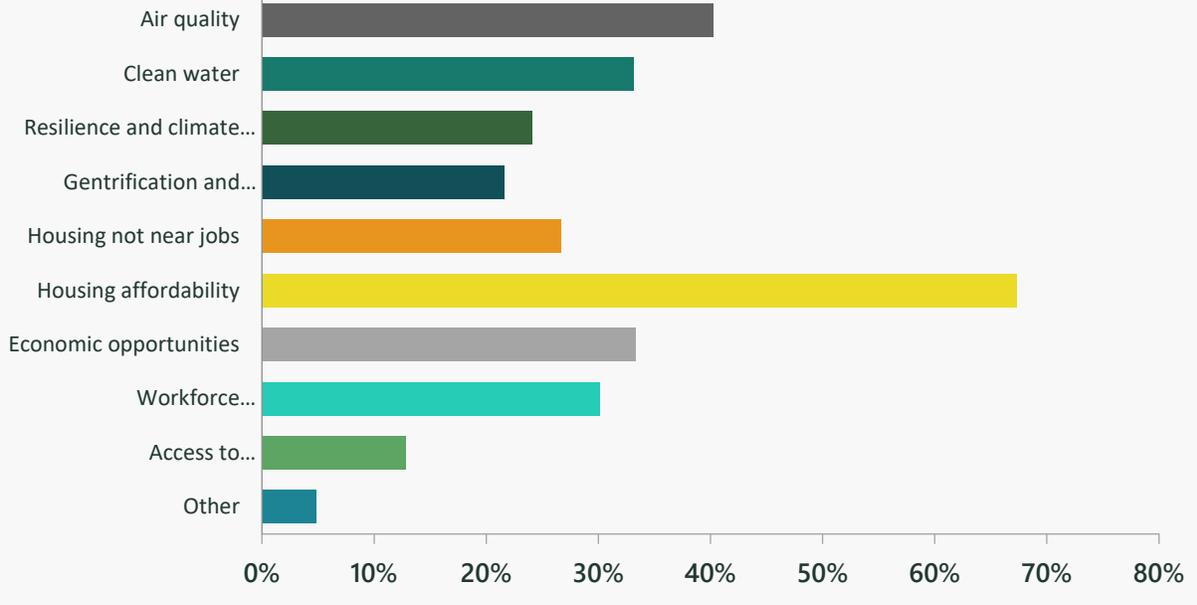
9. Equity (General)

Consider how environmental hazards, housing quality and economic opportunities are unevenly distributed across the region’s population. What are the top three (3) most important regional equity issues for you and your community?

CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q9 RESPONSES
<i>Air quality</i>	1,408	40.26%
Clean water	1,158	33.11%
Resilience and climate vulnerability	844	24.13%
Gentrification and displacement	757	21.65%
Housing not near jobs	934	26.71%
<i>Housing affordability</i>	2,353	67.29%
<i>Economic opportunities</i>	1,166	33.34%
Workforce development and pathways to good jobs	1,053	30.11%
Access to broadband/internet	447	12.78%
Other*	168	4.80%
TOTAL Q9 RESPONDENTS	3,497	

*These figures only indicate the respondents who selected the “Other” option, which may be higher than valid responses.

Equity (General): Top three (3) most important regional equity issues for you and your community



Open-ended response to, “Consider how environmental hazards, housing quality and economic opportunities are unevenly distributed across the region’s population. What are the top three (3) most important regional equity issues for you and your community?”

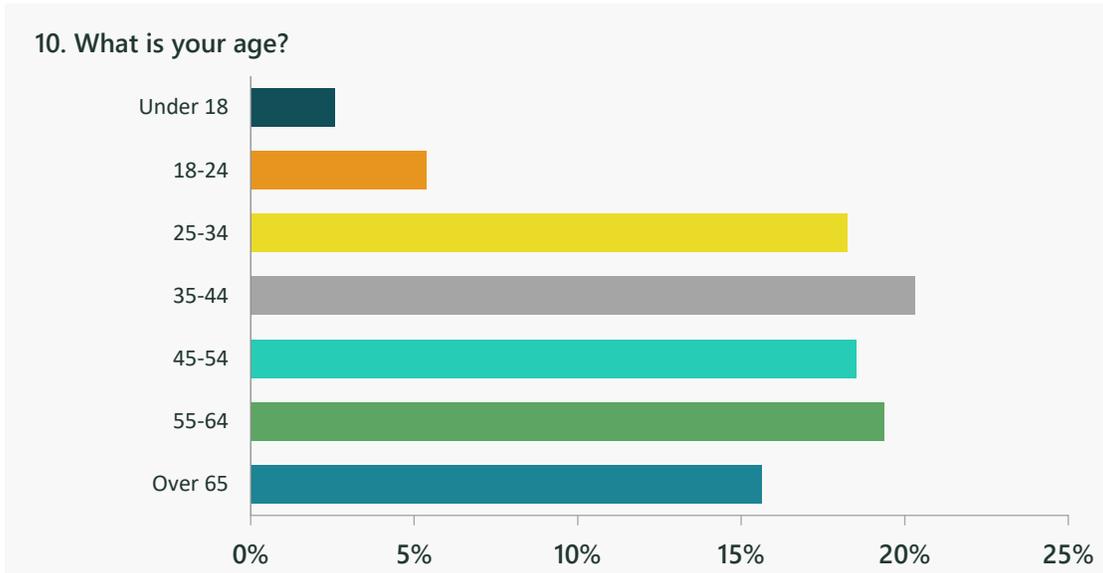
Top responses demonstrated support for improvements with (of 146 usable comments):

- Public safety (15)
- Transit improvements/reliability/frequency/affordability (11)
- Education (7)
- Taxes (7)

Demographic Questions

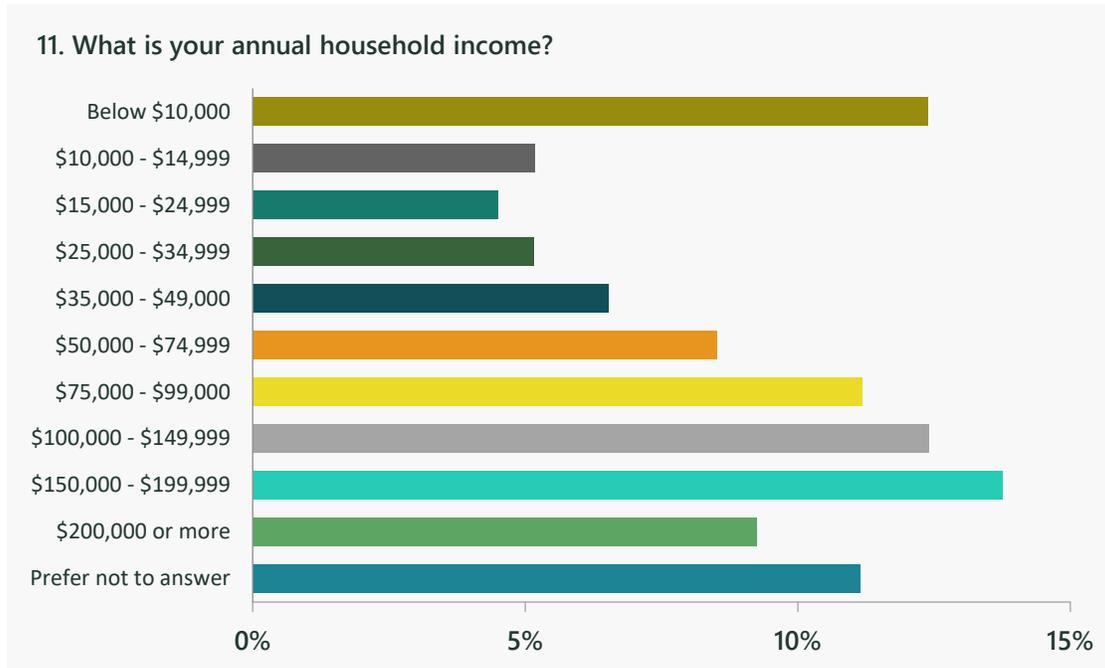
The following questions were designed to help us ensure we are hearing from the diverse populations within our region.

Age



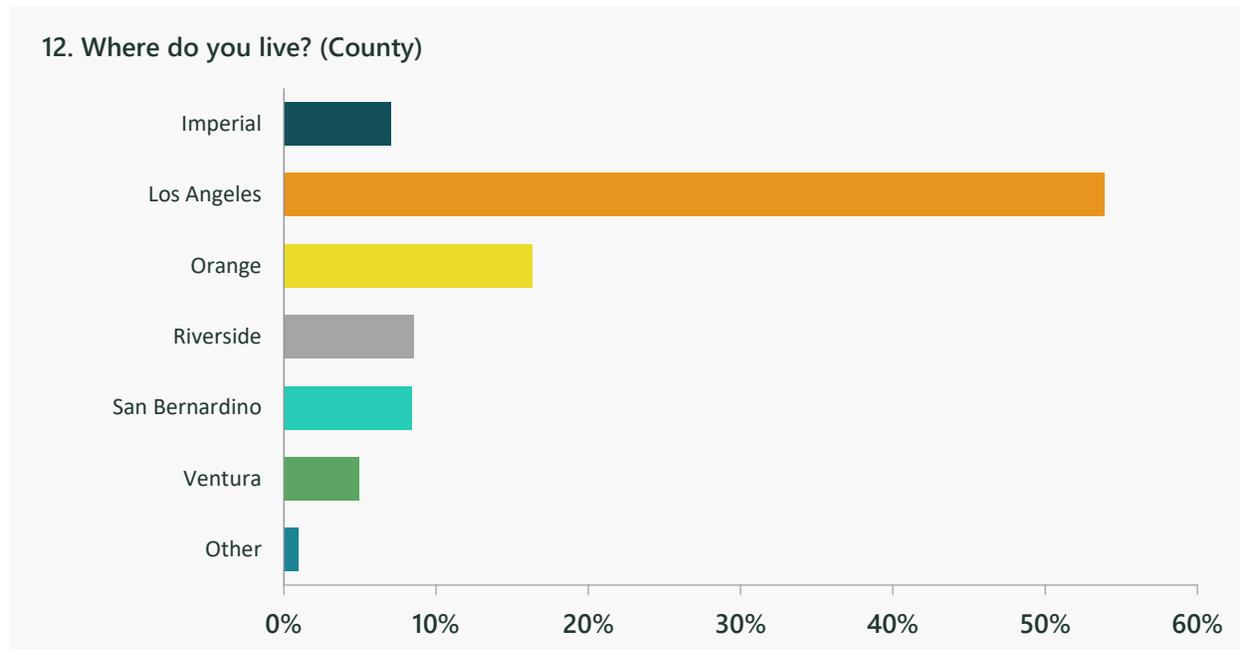
CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q10 RESPONSES
Under 18	89	2.58%
18-24	185	5.36%
25-34	630	18.25%
35-44	701	20.31%
45-54	639	18.51%
55-64	669	19.38%
Over 65	539	15.61%
TOTAL Q10 RESPONDENTS	3,452	

Household income



CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q11 RESPONSES
<i>Below \$10,000</i>	423	12.38%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	177	5.18%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	154	4.51%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	176	5.15%
\$35,000 - \$49,000	223	6.53%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	291	8.52%
\$75,000 - \$99,000	382	11.18%
<i>\$100,000 - \$149,999</i>	424	12.41%
<i>\$150,000 - \$199,999</i>	470	13.75%
\$200,000 or more	316	9.25%
Prefer not to answer	381	11.15%
TOTAL Q11 RESPONDENTS	3,417	

Where do you live (County)



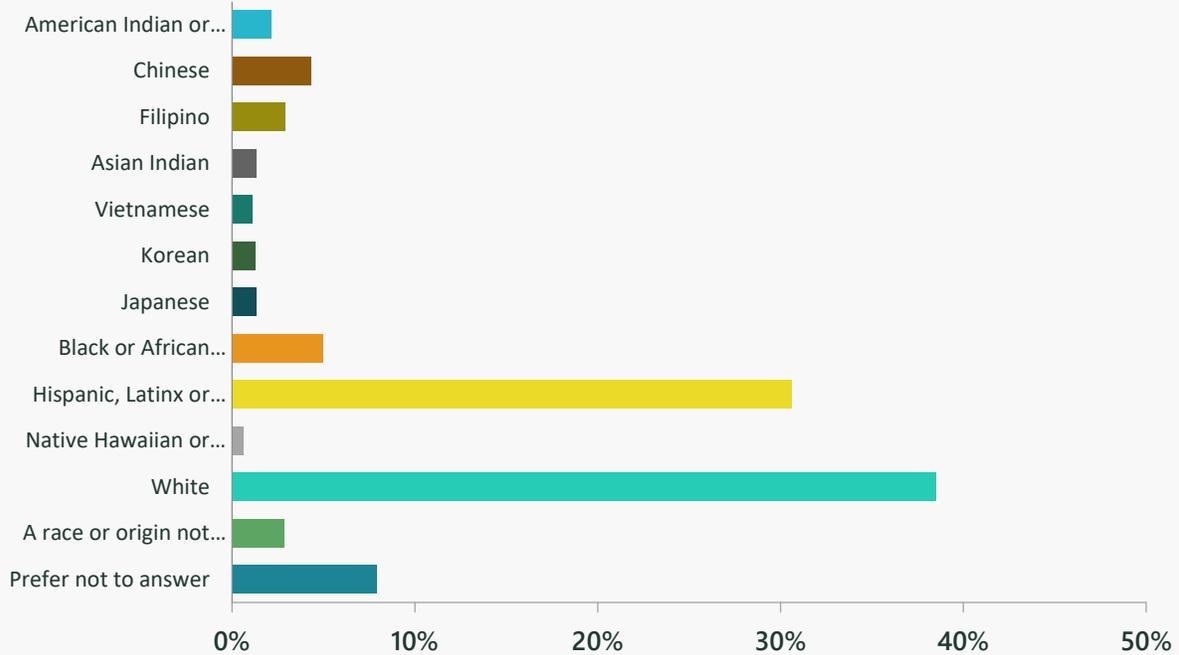
COUNTY	# of RESPONSES	% of Q12 RESPONSES
Imperial	231	7.03%
Los Angeles	1,771	53.86%
Orange	537	16.33%
Riverside	280	8.52%
San Bernardino	276	8.39%
Ventura	162	4.93%
Other	31	0.94%
TOTAL of Q12 RESPONDENTS	3,288*	
% of TOTAL RESPONSES		89.28%

*The total number of respondents to Q12 include all valid and usable responses (i.e., no blanks, incomplete codes, etc.)

“Other” respondents included Kern, Santa Barbara, Monterey, Marin, Trinity, King, Sonoma Counties and Lake and Peninsula Borough.

Race or origin

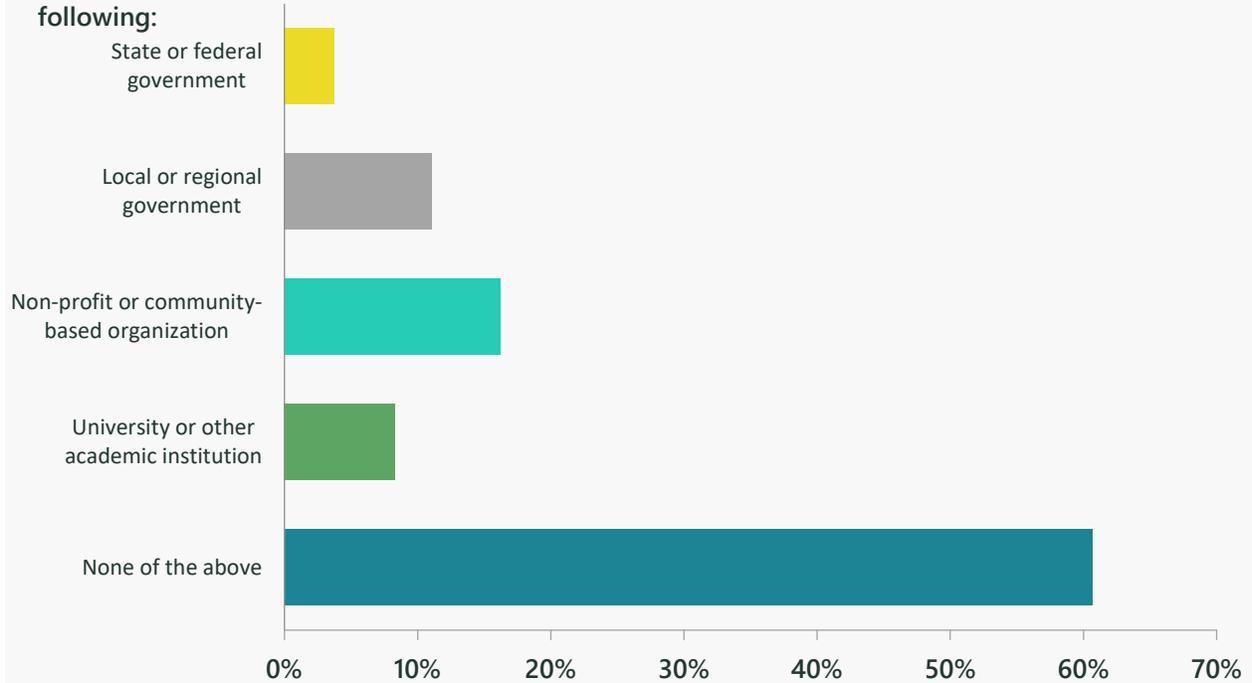
13. Which census category best describes your race or origin? Please select all that apply:



CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q13 RESPONSES
American Indian or Alaska Native	81	2.37%
Chinese	162	4.73%
Filipino	109	3.18%
Asian Indian	51	1.49%
Vietnamese	43	1.26%
Korean	49	1.43%
Japanese	51	1.49%
Black or African American	187	5.46%
<i>Hispanic, Latinx or Spanish origin</i>	1,153	33.67%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	24	0.70%
<i>White</i>	1,450	42.35%
A race or origin not listed here	108	3.15%
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	299	8.73%
TOTAL Q13 RESPONDENTS	3,424	

Affiliation

14. Affiliation: We consider the responses to this survey to be an individual's perspective. However, please let us know if you are affiliated with one of the following:



CHOICE	TOTAL	% of Q14 RESPONSES
State or federal government	127	3.75%
<i>Local or regional government</i>	375	11.08%
<i>Non-profit or community-based organization</i>	548	16.18%
University or other academic institution	282	8.33%
<i>None of the above</i>	2,054	60.66%
TOTAL Q14 RESPONDENTS	3,386	

Connect SoCal 2024: Workshops Summary

Overall Meeting Format

The public workshops were designed as a curated combination of virtual and in-person meetings as both support consistent and ongoing integration throughout the different phases of the process. The virtual meetings were comprised of the very same presentations and interactive exercises as the in-person meetings.

The meeting schedule was structured to allow the workshop team to remain in one area for a more extended amount of time allowing the public to come and go at their convenience throughout the duration of 2 days in some cases. Staff time was better utilized because the schedule was manageable and the accompanying stress and concern over having to be in Victorville on one day and Imperial County the next was virtually eliminated.

For workshop engagement, we developed an interactive, immersive and creative "Connect SoCal Roadshow," positioned as a traveling exhibit that is educational and entertaining.

At each in-person workshop, seven automated slideshow presentations appeared on large format screens, placed throughout the meeting space. Presentations were paired with interactive activities to allow participants to answer questions, write comments or indicate preferences. The virtual meetings comprised of the same presentations and interactive exercises as the in-person meetings adapted for the virtual environment.

To ensure that SB 375 requirements were met, four in-person workshops were held in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, with three meetings held in each of the SCAG Region's counties - Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. In all, a total of 20 in-person and 7 virtual meetings were hosted.

County	# of Attendees	Attendees/ Meeting	Date	Time	Meeting Location
Los Angeles	41	17	4/11/2023	11 am-1 pm 4-6 pm	Billy Jean King Library
		6	5/11/2023	12-3 pm	
		18	5/25/2023	12-3 pm	SCAG HQ
		18	4/13/2023	9 am-12 pm 1-3 pm	Depot Tile Room
San Bernardino	36	18	5/8/2023	12-3 pm	Anthony Munoz Community Center, Ontario
			4/18/2023	12-3pm	El Centro Library
Imperial	19	12		4 -6 pm	
			4/19/2023	10 am-12 pm	
		14	4/20/2023	12-3 pm	Buena Park Community Center Ballroom
Orange	29	15	4/26/2023	12-3 pm	Laguna Hills Recreation Center
				4 -6 pm	
		8	5/2/2023	12-3 pm	UC Riverside, Palm Desert
		4 -6 pm			
	5/3/2023	9-11am			

Ventura	24	24	5/15/2023	1-3 pm	Ventura County Office of Education
				4-6 pm	
			5/16/2023	9-11 am	
Virtual Meeting	14		5/9/2023	10 am-12 pm	Via Zoom
Virtual Meeting	4		5/10/2023	12-2 pm	Via Zoom
Virtual Meeting	8		5/17/2023	12-2 pm	Via Zoom
Virtual Meeting	9		5/18/2023	4-6 pm	Via Zoom
Virtual Meeting	9		5/22/2023	6-8 pm	Via Zoom
Virtual Meeting	14		5/23/2023	10 am-12 pm	Via Zoom
Virtual Meeting	8		5/24/2023	6-8 pm	Via Zoom

Each participant was greeted upon entry, asked to sign in and given an overview of each presentation station and accompanying interactive exercise. They were warmly encouraged to visit with one or more of our SCAG representatives if they had questions, as well as take a survey, provided on tablets or written, as they preferred. Surveys were available in paper format in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and English. A Spanish interpreter, either a SCAG employee or a member of the outreach team was available at each meeting. Other interpretation was available upon advanced request, but we received no requests.

The seven presentation stations could be viewed in order, or as stand alone, depending on preference or level of comfort.

The first station greeted visitors with an animated video introducing Connect SoCal 2024 and giving context and background as to how and why the Connect SoCal effort was important and ways people could engage and provide feedback.

Station two reviewed the challenges we heard during the last cycle, as well as those we are facing now and how we can meet those challenges to make the region better. An interactive board provided each viewer with the space and the opportunity to share their concerns and ideas.

Station three examined equity and resilience and how SCAG views racial equity and resiliency in the region's future. Participants were asked to consider what could be done to make the region more equitable, examine the SCAG-established equity criteria and make suggestions as to how it could be improved. The last question asked was for their ideas as to how we can make our region more resilient written on post-it notes and placed on the board.

Stations four through seven addressed the four basic components of the plan: Community, Mobility, Economy and Environment. Each station offered options for participants to share their preferences on ideas to improve each facet presented, as well as comment on potential strategies to address issues and concerns.

A combined 227 stakeholders attended the in-person and virtual workshops, leaving a total of 2,482 comments.

In-Person Attendees	161	Written Comments	1,397
Virtual Meeting Attendees	66	Dot Board Comments	1,085
Combined Total of Attendees	227	Total Comments	2,482

What we heard in the SCAG Region

The following summaries are responses that SCAG received on a series of interactive poster boards that were presented alongside related content and background material. The results presented are a summarized statement for the most common responses received. For a full documentation of all comments received by SCAG during the Spring 2023 outreach and engagement period, please see the Connect SoCal Drafts & Documents webpage at <https://scag.ca.gov/drafts-documents>.

What challenges do you face today?

Housing affordability
Climate change impacts like sea level rise and wildfires
Traffic congestion and long commutes
Not safe to walk or bike
Homelessness

How might we make the future better?

More affordable housing
More community involvement and leadership in decision making
Better transit with additional routes and more frequent, reliable service
Make it safer to walk and bike, both through infrastructure and education
Improved land use such as more mixed use, jobs/housing balance and integration with transportation

How can we make the region more equitable?

More affordable housing, especially for very low income
Access to education and job training
More inclusive public meetings, at accessible locations and times
More community spaces like parks and indoor playgrounds
Reduce car dependence by providing alternatives like free, reliable transit

Additional Criteria that SCAG should consider for equity analysis¹:

Environmentally burdened, like disadvantaged communities
Farm Workers
LGBTQ+ community
Low and middle income
Indigenous and Native people
Youth coming out of foster care
Homeless
Veterans

How can we make our region more resilient?

Better emergency preparedness including floods, fires, earthquakes but also pandemics and climate change
Stronger economy, with support for small businesses and high paying jobs
More educational opportunities, including higher education and vocational training
More housing, especially near jobs
More options for travelling without a car, such as walking, biking, transit

What Economic Challenges do you see in the future?

High housing costs and lack of affordable housing
Persistent income inequality and lack of high paying jobs
Artificial intelligence, robotics and automation displacing workers
High education costs and lack of training as barrier to a skilled work force

How can we ensure that benefits of the growing economy are accessible to all?

Quality education for children and adults
Improve community leadership in problem solving
Housing for all and ability to live close to work

¹ This is in addition to the current equity analysis criteria: low income households, people of color, vulnerable ages, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, limited vehicle and transit access, people without a high school diploma, single parent households and housing cost burdened households.

For the following questions, the numbered black and white icons indicate top responses by county when they do not align with the overall top response.

1 Ventura County; 2 Imperial County; 3 Orange County; 4 Riverside County 5 Los Angeles 6 San Bernardino

It's 2050. What do you want your community to look like?

Response	Total Votes
Housing that is Affordable to people of all Income Levels	60 6
Better Jobs Closer to Home	53 1 6
More Parks and Open Space and Preservation of Farm Lands	41
More commercial Destinations	31 2
More public safety and health services	27 2

It's 2050. How do you want to get around in your community?

Response	Total Votes
More access to transit options?	55
Improved Street Safety?	39
More comfortable routes for walking, biking, rolling?	38
Improved Street Quality?	38 6
More Incentives and Infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles?	37 2
More Destinations that can be reached by walking, biking or rolling?	34
Reduced Travel Times Regardless of Mode?	24

It's 2050. Have we done enough to ensure the region remains vibrant and healthy? Which are the most important to do in the next 1-5 years to reduce the region's impact on climate?

Response	Total Votes
Increase Jobs and Housing Near Transit and Within Existing Communities	37

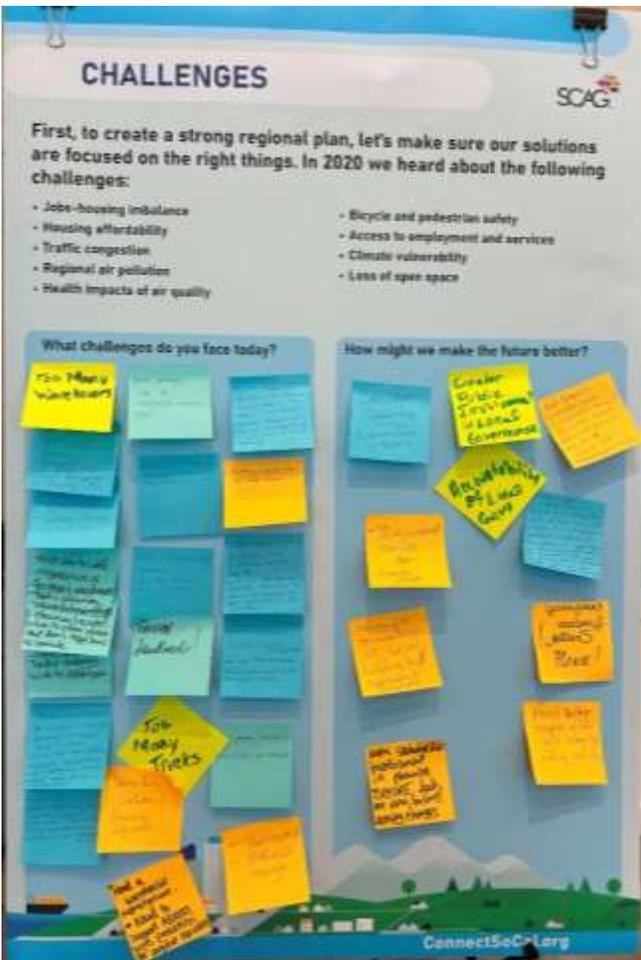
Avoid Growth in Areas at Risk of Wildfires, Sea Level Rise, Flooding, Landslides and Other Natural Disasters	34 ¹ ³
Improve Pedestrian Infrastructure, Including Adding Trees and Vegetation Near Sidewalks	33 ² ⁴
Protect and Maintain Natural and Agricultural Lands	32
Conserve Natural Lands, Parks, Open Spaces and Areas Where Wildlife Thrives	29
Expand Incentives and Infrastructure for Clean Vehicles, such as Rebates and Chargers	29
Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect by Enhancing the Urban Tree Canopy	27
Encourage Future Developments to be Built within Existing Urban and Suburban Areas	25
To Reduce our Regional Risk from Climate Hazards - which are most important to tackle in the next one to five years: Ensure Preservation and Resilience of the Transportation System	25
Improve Bicycle Networks	22
Provide Shade Near Bus Stops and Rail Stations	22 ⁴
Retrofit Existing Buildings to withstand climate hazards	14
Expand Bikeshare, Carshare and Vanpool Programs	9
Adapt to Sea Level Rise by Protecting Shoreline Communities	8



Ventura County, May 15-16



The Tile Depot, San Bernardino



Interactive Board, Ontario



Los Angeles, SCAG HQ

Outreach Activities

- **20** in-person workshops
- **7** virtual workshops
- **20** Pop-Up and Street Team Engagements
- **15** Community Partners
- Regionwide advertising campaign
- Resulting in over **3,600** surveys collected



What We Heard

What We Heard: Survey



When you think about the **challenges** our region faces, please choose (3) that are most important to you.

Shortage of affordable and diverse housing options (51%)

Limited reliable travel options besides driving to everyday destinations (37%)

Climate change impacts (33%)

5

What We Heard: Survey



When you **envision our region in 2050**, which three (3) choices best describes what you'd like to see?

Healthy for all people to live in (53%)

Prosperous, with economic opportunity for all residents (46%)

Safe for all modes of travel (39%)

6

What We Heard: Community Partnerships



Limited transportation options and the housing affordability affect quality of life, particularly in historically disinvested areas.

Infrastructure improvements should be coupled with direct benefits and protections for residents/small businesses at risk of displacement.

Desire for continued engagement with community partners on Connect SoCal implementation including updates on strategies and performance metrics.

7

Next Steps



Policy Development Framework

Updated Vision and Goals based on public input



Connect SoCal 2024 Development

Feedback incorporated into draft strategies and technical reports



Draft Connect SoCal 2024

Anticipated release in October 2023

8

Questions? Comments?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
SCAG.CA.GOV/CONNECT-SOCAL





AGENDA ITEM 8
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Regional Council (RC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Ma'Ayn Johnson, Planning Supervisor
(213) 236-1975, johnson@scag.ca.gov

Subject: REAP 1.0 Biannual Program Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD:
Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:
Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
Under the California 2019-20 Budget Act, SCAG was awarded \$47 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 1.0) funding to support local governments and stakeholders with planning activities that accelerate housing production and meet the region’s goals for producing 1.3 million new units of housing by 2029, as determined by the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The REAP 1.0 funding is a one-time planning program that authorizes subregional partnerships and encourages inter-governmental collaboration on projects that have a broader regional impact on housing production. SCAG is administering the REAP funds through a combination of direct technical assistance (including housing element data components and policy assessments), subregional partnerships with councils of government, community-based partnership grants in collaboration with philanthropic organizations, and planning support offered through the Sustainable Communities Program to local jurisdictions or entities serving single or multiple jurisdictions.

Staff is providing a bi-annual program status and update on the REAP 1.0 programs.

BACKGROUND:

Under the California 2019-20 Budget Act, SCAG was eligible for \$47 million in REAP funding to support local governments and stakeholders with planning activities that accelerate housing production and meet the region's goals for producing 1.3 million new units of housing by 2029, as determined by the 6th Cycle RHNA.

SCAG has framed the REAP funding into three umbrella categories:

1. Partnerships and Outreach
2. Regional Housing Policy Solutions
3. Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Integration

This report provides an update on the current and future REAP program implementation activities, organized by each umbrella category, with an additional update on administrative actions related to program implementation.

The last update was presented to the CEHD Committee at its July 7, 2022 meeting and SCAG staff intends to continue providing program updates on a bi-annual basis. In addition, as the REAP funded programs begin to produce results and deliverables, staff will coordinate presentations to the CEHD committee on the impacts and lessons learned in the program.

REAP Program Administration

AB 101 originally required that all REAP 1.0 funds must be expended by December 31, 2023. SB 197, which was enacted on June 30, 2022 and immediately took effect, extended the REAP 1.0 expenditure deadline to December 31, 2024. To receive full reimbursement of REAP activities, SCAG must submit all of its processed invoices to HCD by June 30, 2024.

REAP Program Updates***1. Partnerships and Outreach***

There are three programs within the Partnerships and Outreach category of SCAG's REAP funding.

1) Subregional Partnership Program

SCAG set aside approximately \$24 million of its REAP housing funding for the Subregional Partnership Program (SRP) to fund subregional partnership planning activities that will accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance in implementing a jurisdiction's 6th cycle RHNA. The program is intended to augment resources available through locally received SB 2 and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grants and foster subregional collaborations to take advantage of economies of scale in meeting housing goals. The funding amount available for each subregional partner is based on the final RHNA allocation.

Over 70 SRP projects have kicked off and are well underway. Because completion timelines vary, SCAG staff will prepare a closeout report for each individual project. All SRP projects are projected to finish by early 2024 to meet the reimbursement deadlines for the REAP program.

SRP projects that are completed or are very close to completion include:

- City of Palmdale (North Los Angeles County) Digital Utility Data Inventory Tool -- a comprehensive utility data inventory and interactive online viewing tool to support the development of housing.
- Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Affordable Housing Catalyst Fund Investment Plan – a housing action plan in partnership with Lift to Rise, a locally based nonprofit, to support the launch of an affordable housing catalyst fund for the local region.
- County of Los Angeles Parking Strategies to Increase Housing Production – a multi-part project that analyzes opportunities to increase housing production through parking strategies that will be implemented through a specific plan and countywide ordinance.

Over the next year, SCAG anticipates a large number of transformative projects to reach milestones and completion. Highlighted projects include:

- Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG)/Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)/VCOG Cross-regional Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Communication Toolkit -- a multi-regional collaborative project to enable jurisdictions to educate the public about opportunities for ADU production and meet common goals.
- County of Imperial Colonias Housing Infrastructure Needs Assessment – an assessment of infrastructure needed and identification of funding opportunities to increase housing stock in the unincorporated Colonias of the County.
- San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) SB 1000 Environmental Justice Toolkit – a toolkit that provides local jurisdictions guidance regarding environmental justice in local land use planning.
- Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program – a program to establish a dedicated and ongoing revenue to accelerate housing production.

SCAG will continue to update the CEHD Committee on various SRP projects in upcoming biannual reports and publicize highlighted deliverables as they become available.

2) Call for Collaboration

In partnership with the California Community Foundation (CCF) and other philanthropic organizations, the Call for Collaboration program was designed to fund community-based organizations and non-profit led activities that result in action-oriented planning policies and programs demonstrating a nexus to accelerating housing production. This collaboration fosters diverse community-driven approaches and strategic coalitions to shape and execute a vision for more housing in every community while addressing historic racial inequities.

The Call for Collaboration grantee projects were all completed between December 2022 and June 2023. A technical assistance provider procured by CCF hosted seven 90-minute trainings to assist grantees on special topics, in addition to holding monthly check-in meetings with grantees. CCF and SCAG collectively conducted a thorough review of grantee deliverables. A presentation on the program was given to CEHD at their October 6, 2022, meeting. Currently SCAG staff and CCF are preparing final reporting requirements of the State.

3) Housing Policy Leadership Academy (HPLA)

SCAG procured a consultant team to develop and lead a housing leadership academy that aims to convene, educate, and engage elected officials, local leaders and influential stakeholders on housing issues related to production and preservation of housing. The objectives of this program are to educate and elevate local leadership to proactively contribute to accelerate housing production, develop regional pro-housing coalitions, better utilize housing funding opportunities, implement housing elements, and collaborate with SCAG's emerging housing program. Two subregional partners, San Fernando Valley Council of Governments and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, opted to use a portion of their SRP funds to sponsor their own HPLA cohort as part of their Subregional Partnership Program grant funding, for a total of 8 subregional cohorts.

The first HPLA session kicked off in February 2022. Over 275 individuals representing a variety of stakeholders, including planning commissioners, elected officials, non-profit leaders and service providers, completed the program in November and December 2022. The series concluded with 154 graduates, that prepared a culminating group research project and policy proposal. Some members indicated voluntarily continuing to work on the initiatives begun in class and will be seeking stakeholder support, local approvals, and funding to execute on the policy recommendations researched. Notable proposals with plans to move forward aim to re-zone a publicly owned courthouse parking lot in the San Fernando Valley for affordable housing, establish a Coachella Valley Community Land Trust, develop a limited equity housing cooperative in Santa Ana, and establish an overlay zone that would allow faith institutions to develop their land for affordable housing in Fullerton.

In addition to the trainings, the leadership academy program included four (4) region-wide convenings on core housing topics that started in November 2021 and concluded in November 2022, with attendance ranging up to 300 attendees for each forum. The last two Forums were held in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). National- and local-level speakers were featured and provided an overview of recent Federal and State housing legislation, along with other important housing topics such as homeownership. HPLA participants presented their policy proposals to the CEHD committee in February 2023.

2. Regional Housing Policy Solutions

There are three programs in the Regional Housing Policy Solutions category.

1) RHNA Methodology/Allocation

In Summer 2022, SCAG launched an effort to collect public input and develop recommendations to the State as part of the RHNA reform process required under AB101. While HCD has not yet made available its schedule or process for statewide RHNA reform, AB101 and the extension granted by SB 197 require that HCD make recommendations by December 31, 2023. Due to restrictions from HCD on using REAP 1.0 funding for RHNA reform, SCAG will limit its remaining RHNA work under REAP to creating a lessons learned and best practices document on the 6th cycle RHNA.

Using other funding sources, SCAG staff developed a set of draft recommendations for RHNA reform and held a public outreach process between May 15 and June 30 to collect feedback on the draft recommendations. After review of all verbal and written comments, staff will prepare proposed draft recommendations to the CEHD at a special meeting on August 16 and Regional Council on September 7 for approval. Subsequent to Regional Council approval, staff will prepare a comment letter based on the recommendations and submit it to HCD as part of their Statewide outreach process. A more detailed report on the RHNA reform process is included as a separate staff report in the CEHD Committee July 7, 2023 meeting agenda packet.

2) Data Tools and Technical Support for Housing Element Updates

In June 2022, SCAG launched a new program offering consultant grant writing assistance for housing-supportive opportunities for jurisdictions and Tribal Governments. The technical assistance provides technical assistance to recipients to ensure that the jurisdiction or Tribal Government meets application evaluation criteria for various grants offered by public agencies such as HCD. Four jurisdictions and two Tribal Governments have begun receiving technical assistance. One recipient of this program, the City of Needles, was awarded \$445,000 from the Prohousing Incentive Pilot Program.

Space is still available for additional recipients and applications may be submitted. SCAG will continue to reach out to potential recipients until program funds are expended.

3) Housing Policy Solutions Research

Building upon prior internal research efforts which focus on housing policies and fiscal innovations, this work item was established to develop collaboratively funded university studies (“university partnerships”) or other partnerships and engagements that provide research and recommendations on best practices that accelerate housing production. The key deliverables will consist of policy briefs and periodic white papers on timely topics and best practices. Five efforts are underway or completed for this program:

1. *Other to Residential*: The Other-to-Residential project considers the opportunities and barriers for conversion of underutilized non-residential sites to much-needed residential use in the SCAG region. The underutilized non-residential land uses include retail commercial uses, gas stations, brownfields, and golf courses. The final product, an Other-to-Residential Toolkit, showcases case studies and best practices in the conversion of non-residential land uses, and was completed in July 2022. In Spring 2023, the APA Los Angeles chapter awarded the Other-to-Residential Toolkit an Award of Excellence in the Best Practices category, which recognizes how innovative planning practices can create lasting communities of value.
2. *Housing Development Streamlining*: The Housing Development Streamlining Project will offer guidance documents, best practices, workshops, and other materials and resources to support local jurisdictions’ efforts to streamline their CEQA and general administrative review processes. A total of 14 guidance documents were published covering a range of topics, including CEQA streamlining, exemptions, and other State laws. A total of four workshops were held to provide technical support on these topics. The dedicated webpage (<https://scag.ca.gov/development-streamlining-efforts>) includes presentations and recordings of the workshops and other materials. In late Summer/early Fall, the consultant will hold one on one office hours to provide additional technical assistance.
3. *Smart Permitting*: The City of Cerritos pilot program, as a part of the Future Communities Pilot Program (FCPP), continues making progress on their online permitting platform to accelerate housing production but has encountered some contractual and software-related delays. Following the migration of content, installation of critical modules, and launching the new platform, the platform experienced some technical difficulties with the software system which impacted the system’s ability to efficiently process permits and continue with implementation and monitoring. The project timeline was extended again in response to the current challenges, and data findings, best practices, and regional replicability will now

be anticipated by Spring 2023. The project team has developed a series of immediate strategies to increase production support and explore alternative options for completing the final project tasks and improving upon the efficiency of the platform.

4. *Tax Increment Financing (TIF)*: An expansion of SCAG's TIF pilot program, this project will provide technical assistance to advance establishment of innovative self-help financing districts for local jurisdictions that can accelerate housing production, including Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs), Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIAs), Neighborhood Infill Finance and Transit Improvements Districts (NIFTIs/NIFTI-2s), and Affordable Housing Authorities (AHAs). The project will complete studies for the County of Imperial and City of Barstow incorporating best practices for district establishment and infrastructure financing and will have a specific focus on implementing housing supportive infrastructure and expanding housing supply. Scheduled to complete by the end of 2023, the project will produce a tax increment funding model, general fund fiscal impact model, and refined lists of infrastructure projects that will be implementable for the two jurisdictions participating.
5. *Preservation Strategy*: The purpose of this program is to develop a series of recommendations for a comprehensive preservation program focused on both current affordable housing with expiring covenants as well as naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) at risk of converting to market rate. Preservation of expiring covenants and NOAH is a critical component of a robust Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing program as it is a powerful anti-displacement strategy. The project kicked off in September 2022 and work is currently underway. The Preservation Advisory Committee has convened three times over the last few months and has two remaining meetings over the next few months. As part of the project, the consultant has produced a series of deliverables including a draft cost-benefit analysis tool that is currently under review.

3. ***Sustainable Communities Strategies Integration***

There are three programs in the SCS Strategies Integration category.

1) 2020 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) – Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD)

This program (<https://scag.ca.gov/sustainable-communities-program>) was designed to provide resources and direct technical assistance to jurisdictions to complete local planning efforts that both accelerate housing production as well as enable implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) of Connect SoCal. There are three eligible categories for this program including: (1) implementing ADU programs; (2) Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones, and Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts; and (3) streamlining housing permitting, parking reduction strategies, housing-related specific plans and

other pro-housing policies. Staff assembled the 26 applications received into 12 project bundles based on similar project outcomes and deliverables.

Over the next year, SCAG anticipates completion of the bundles. Highlighted projects include:

- **HSD 1-B:** This bundle is a technical assistance project that supports the development of ADU policies and programs for the cities of Buena Park, Garden Grove, Paramount, and Santa Fe Springs. A primary objective of this project is to facilitate additional ADU production in these four cities and have them serve as models for other jurisdictions in the SCAG region. The project has already produced an online cost calculator for residents and local ADU builders and a host of technical reports that aim to better inform local staff and officials of the ADU landscape in their cities. Upcoming key deliverables include a user-friendly ADU handbook and pre-reviewed ADU standard design plans. The contract is currently expected to complete by November 2023.
- **HSD 1-C:** This bundle is a technical assistance project for the City of Compton that is focused on the development of pre-reviewed ADU standard plans and public engagement. A SCAG-procured consultant team is currently working with the city on developing five sets of plans for different ADU typologies that can be tailored to a common lot configuration within the City of Compton. The intent is to facilitate additional ADU construction by offering local homeowners and ADU builders a pre-reviewed design that would make the permitting process more streamlined and ultimately more cost effective. The contract is currently expected to be complete by November 2023.
- **Heart of Hollywood Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD):** This project is nearing completion with the final deliverables being submitted to the City of Los Angeles, including a City Council motion to form an EIFD.

2) Transit Oriented Development Work Program

LA Metro Partnership: SCAG and Metro created a Transit Oriented Development/Transit Oriented Communities (TOD/TOC) partnership to fund a three-part program that promotes housing production near transit stations. Each part aims to accelerate the delivery of housing and will include evaluating station access, parking strategies, joint development strategies, housing supportive community outreach and industry forums. The goal of the partnership is to plan for nearly 10,000 units of housing on transit-adjacent properties. A Joint Development Acceleration Plan has been completed, along with a Metro Housing Dashboard. SCAG staff is working closely with Metro to in the development of additional deliverables including a Consolidated Parking Strategy, a Neighborhood Area Median Income methodology, and community outreach and education materials.

Metrolink TOD Study: SCAG and SCRRRA are partnering through an MOU to identify and encourage transit-oriented housing and redevelopment opportunities throughout Metrolink's network and around its stations. Particular emphasis is being made to support and add value to the Metrolink Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) capital improvement and service enhancement program. Local cities and county transportation commissions are being included to maximize coordination on issues such as alignment of land development policies and regulations, land ownership and site control opportunities of transit station areas and supporting facilities. This effort includes preparing a station area land-use analysis for the Metrolink station areas that will be included in the 2024 Connect SoCal Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

A list of sixteen (16) potential stations based on development opportunities and equity and displacement was developed and from that list additional screening resulted in nine (9) stations to move forward with in April 2023. A real estate analysis and strategy on how to incorporate TOD will be conducted on these selected station areas. A stakeholder engagement plan and project kick-off meeting for each station area have been completed as of May 2023. Individual station area work plans are now being developed. The TOD station analysis and strategy is only being conducted for station areas where jurisdictions had expressed interest in participation.

3) Priority Growth Area (PGA) Analysis

SCAG has pursued partnerships to further next steps on housing supportive land use analyses and strategy development in PGAs. Staff have focused on partnerships that leverage existing programs and efforts, with an emphasis on the State-funded Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) areas. SCAG has selected two cities, Pomona and Riverside, to partner with in pursuing additional analysis and feasibility studies in connection with their existing TCC grant funds.

The partnership with the City of Pomona will develop a housing land use suitability and infrastructure study to analyze the potential for development of affordable housing on City-owned parcels in the downtown area. The project kicked off in July 2022. The consultant has completed significant public outreach and site visits and is conducting technical studies and analysis. The project is scheduled for completion by Fall 2023. Ongoing public outreach, working sessions and presentation with city councils and planning commission and other decision making groups. A draft analysis has been prepared and is under review.

The partnership with the City of Riverside originally focused on an infrastructure plan in its identified TCC area. However, after two unsuccessful procurements, SCAG and city staff modified the scope to provide contracted planners to review and expedite housing applications within the original plan area. While a third procurement with a revised scope was unsuccessful, a fourth



procurement resulted in the selection of a consultant. At this time, the project is waiting for the City Council to approve the MOU after which the project will begin.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 23-24 Overall Work Program (22-300.4872.01: Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants Program (AB 101)).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - REAP Biannual CEHD July 2023



SCAG's Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) *Biannual Program Update*

Ma'Ayn Johnson, AICP
Manager of Housing
July 7, 2023

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

Grant Administration

- Total award amount: \$47M
- Goal and purpose: To increase housing supply and accelerate housing production
- REAP 1.0 Deadline Extension SB 197, July 2022
 - HCD expenditure due date December 2024
 - SCAG invoices must be submitted to HCD by mid-2024
 - Updated MOUs and contracts, as needed

REAP Program Areas

Partnerships & Outreach



- Subregional Partnership Program
- Call for Collaboration
- Housing Leadership Academy

Regional Housing Policy Solutions



- Data and Technical Support for Housing Element Updates
- Grant writing technical assistance
- Housing Policy Solutions Research

Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Integration



- Sustainable Communities Program
- Transit Oriented Development Work Program
- Priority Growth Area (PGA) Analysis and Data Tools

Other



- RHNA Methodology/ Allocation
- Administration

Subregional Partnership Program

\$24.7M Program

15 subregional partners

Over 70 individual projects across the region



Completed projects include

- City of Palmdale Digital Utility Data Inventory Tool
- County of Los Angeles Parking Strategies to Increase Housing Production
- CVAG Affordable Housing Catalyst Fund Investment Plan

Upcoming projects include

- OCCOG/Gateway Cities COG/VCOG Cross-regional ADU Communication Toolkit
- County of Imperial Colonias Housing Infrastructure Needs Assessment
- San Bernardino COG SB 1000 Environmental Justice Toolkit
- Westside Cities COG Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program

REAP Partnership & Outreach Programs

Call for Collaboration

- 15 awards to non-profit and community-based organizations, totaling \$1.25 million
- All projects completed in Spring 2023

Leadership Academy

- Last of 10 sessions held in November 2022
- Almost 200 individuals completed the program and presented on a policy proposal
- Forum #3 and #4 held in August and November 2022
- Full closeout in early 2023

Regional Housing Policy Solutions

RHNA Methodology/Allocation

- RHNA reform will continue under a different funding source in 2023

Housing Element Update Data & Technical Assistance

- Online permitting portal platform with the City of Cerritos: Regional replicability and best practices
- Grant writing technical assistance: Four jurisdictions and 2 Tribal Governments are receiving TA, spots still open

Housing Policy Research

- Other to residential project: StoryMap published in early 2023, received APA Los Angeles award in Spring 2023
- Development streamlining resources and training: Fourteen guidance documents published, workshops completed, one-on-one meetings scheduled for late Summer/early Fall 2023
- Tax Increment Financing strategies: Public workshops in Summer 2023
- Housing Preservation Strategy: Three convenings held with two remaining meetings

2020 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) – Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD)

- \$5M in funding approved for 26 projects
- Completion of bundles by end of 2023

Upcoming highlights

- ADU bundle 1-B: Technical assistance, user-friendly handbook, pre-reviewed standard design plans
- ADU bundle 1-C: Pre-reviewed standard plans and public engagement
- EIFD bundle: Intent to form EIFDs in City of Los Angeles

Program/Bundle Types

Advancing accessory dwelling unit (ADU) implementation

Housing sustainability districts, workforce housing opportunity zones, and housing supportive tax increment financing districts

Objective development standards for streamlined housing, pro-housing designation program, and parking innovation

7

Transit Oriented Development Work Program



Partnership with LA Metro

- Completion of Joint Development Acceleration Plan
- Metro Housing Dashboard

Housing production near transit stations

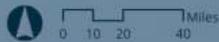
Partnership with SCRRRA (Metrolink)

- Nine stations selected to participate in real estate analysis and strategy
- Completely optional participation

8

Priority Growth Area (PGA) Analysis and Data Tools

- Connection to Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)
 - *Pomona TCC*
 - Significant public outreach and site visits, technical studies and analysis completed
 - Draft analysis prepared and under review
 - Scheduled for completed in Fall 2023
 - *Riverside TCC*
 - Rescope of project to review and expedite housing applications within original plan area
 - Consultant selected
 - Project will kick off after City Council approval of MOU in mid-July



*Excludes unincorporated areas.
Source: County Transportation Commission, LAPCO, Local Jurisdictions in SCAG Region, SCAG, 2019



THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

www.scag.ca.gov/housing



AGENDA ITEM 9

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments

July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Regional Council (RC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: David Kyobe, Associate Regional Planner
(213) 236-1858, kyobe@scag.ca.gov

Subject: REAP 1: Digitized Utility Inventory Tool for Palmdale

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy. 6: Deploy strategic communications to further agency priorities and foster public understanding of long-range regional planning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Under the California 2019-20 Budget Act, SCAG was awarded \$47 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding to support local governments and stakeholders with housing planning activities that accelerate housing production and meet the region’s 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation. One such project is Digitized Utility Inventory Tool for Palmdale which was developed under the Subregional Partnership Program (SRP). The tool utilizes a comprehensive utility data inventory and has interactive online viewing that displays built and future master planned utility infrastructure supportive of housing development in the Palmdale area, including but not limited to the City of Palmdale, unincorporated LA County areas with the City’s outer boundary, and unincorporated LA County areas adjacent to City boundaries.

BACKGROUND:

On December 3, 2020, SCAG Regional Council adopted REAP 1.0 work program that directed REAP funding into projects and programs that increase housing supply and accelerate housing production in the region. The SRP was designed to partner with SCAG’s subregional entities to take advantage of economies of scale and create and implement plans that help local jurisdictions meet their 6th cycle housing need. The City of Palmdale managed the Digitized Utility Inventory Tool for Housing project on behalf of the North Los Angeles County area and this report provides an update on this effort.

SCAG staff procured Black and Veatch consultants on behalf North Los Angeles County/Palmdale subregion to develop an online tool that utilizes a comprehensive utility data inventory and has interactive online viewing that displays built and future master-planned utility infrastructure supportive of housing development in the Palmdale area. The user-friendly, interactive mapping and estimation online tool increases accessibility to the City's geospatial data and provides an interface for completing preliminary estimating prior to project submission by developers. By providing developers access to this tool and data, it can improve application submission quality, reduce inquiries to City of Palmdale staff for information by providing this data online, and allow for more informed development design and planning.

Digital Utility Data Inventory Tool for Housing

The mounting housing crisis in California and the significantly higher 6th Cycle RHNA allocations have created an urgent need for innovative ways to speed up housing production. One of the key challenges to providing a significant amount of housing to support long-term housing attainability at all income levels is the lack of housing-supportive utility infrastructure. The tool will develop an online interactive data viewing platform to meet the need for an accurate, complete, and immediate display of geospatial data representing the availability of essential utilities such as water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure that support new housing development in the City of Palmdale and its surrounding areas. At present, the lack of a complete housing-supportive infrastructure often serves as a bottleneck to new residential development in the city. Uncertainty of infrastructure availability results in ambiguity, additional research time, and higher costs for developers. These concerns can prevent or delay new housing developments from moving forward.

Today's presentation to the CEHD Committee on the Digitized Utility Inventory Tool for Housing will be made by the consultant project manager, Daniel Anderson, who led the work developing the tool. Mr. Anderson will provide an overview of the process of developing the tool, how the tool can be used by planners and city staff, and some of the challenges with obtaining utility data.

Speaker Bio

Daniel Anderson has 16 years of experience in Telecom & Electric leasing and management, and over 20 years of experience in commercial asset management. He currently is a lead in a Geospatial AI initiative at Black & Veatch helping develop solutions for utility data collection and analysis using advanced mobile mapping and machine learning. He recently acted as Project Manager for the City of Palmdale Digitized Utility Inventory Tool under SCAG REAP SRP, helping manage and provide recommendations for tool development to drive the most value to developers and City of Palmdale staff.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 23-24 Overall Work Program (22-300.4872.01: Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants Program (AB 101)).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Digitized Utilities Inventory for Housing City of Palmdale

Digitized Utilities Inventory for Housing

City of Palmdale, CA for
Southern California Association of Governments

Daniel Anderson

Project Manager

Oleg Kachirski

Lead Developer



City of Palmdale: Utility Inventory Application

Objective: Accelerate development in Palmdale, CA by providing developers a user friendly, interactive mapping and estimation tool

Major Activities

- **Discovery**
Reviewed existing GIS data, planning processes, review comments & fee schedules
- **GIS Server Installation & Upgrade**
ArcGIS 2022 Server Platform running ArcGIS Enterprise v11
Improved security through ArcGIS Web Adaptor
Successfully transitioned key GIS Services
- **Stormwater Pipe System digitized: Over 150 Miles**
- **Application Development**
 - User friendly, interactive mapping and estimation online tool
 - Utilizes GIS layers directly from existing city GIS services
 - No additional recurring tool costs for City of Palmdale

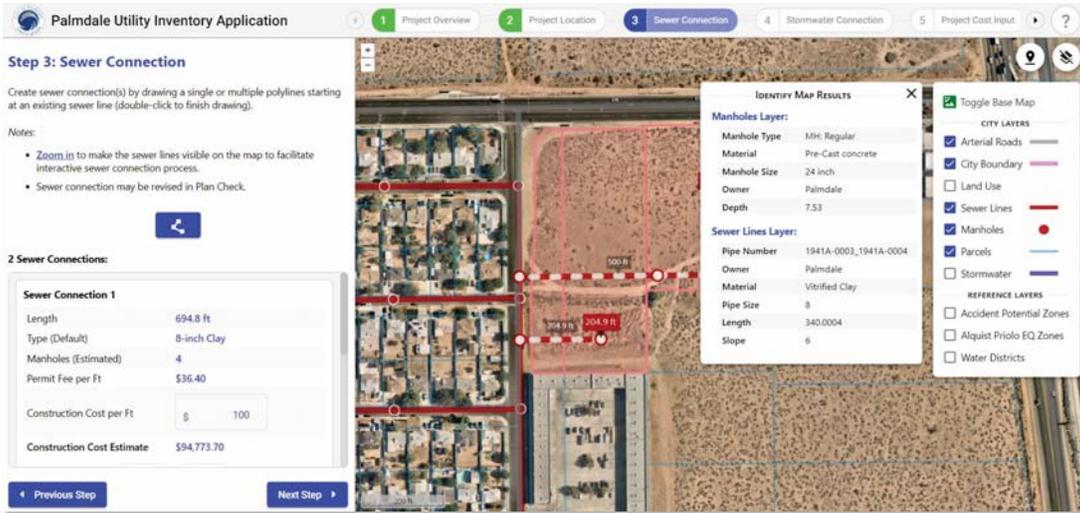


Digitized Stormwater Pipe System

Most Frequently Asked Questions by Developers

1. Where are sewer points of connection?
2. What are water points of connection?
3. Where is right of way?
4. What is zoning (*current and future*)?

Accessible Information in Application



Parcel Information

10 reference map layers

GIS Attribute data

High resolution aerial imagery

Sewer estimate calculation

Manhole estimate calculation

Stormwater pipe connection estimate calculation

3rd Party Utility Contact Info

Easy to incorporate future GIS reference layers without coding

Key Challenges

3rd Party Utilities unwilling to share bulk utility data

- Not currently required by regulatory body
- Currently paid fees for new development review
- Possible reasons:
 - Liability for data accuracy
 - Security / Privacy Concerns
 - Resources
 - Cost to maintain

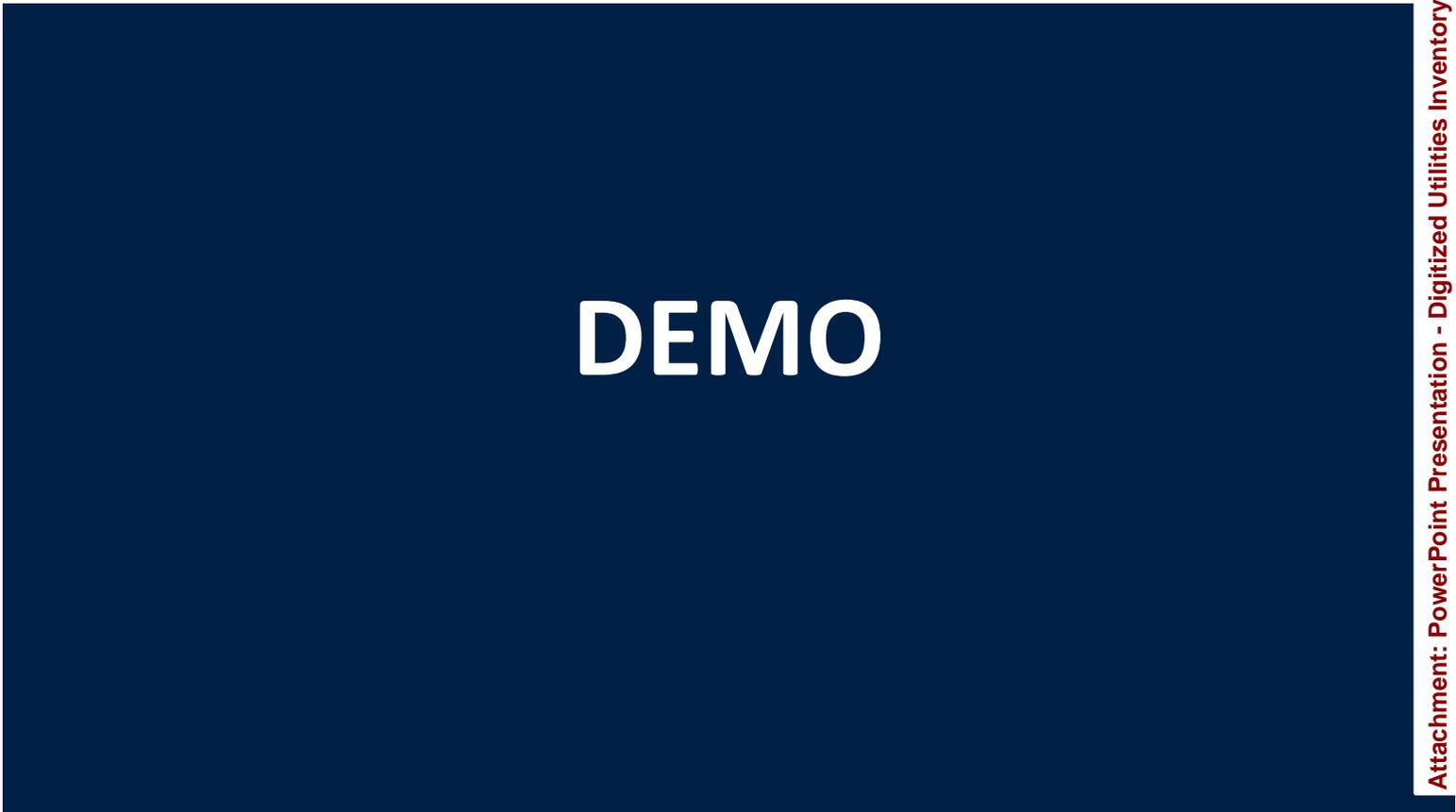
ArcGIS Server & Upgrades

City Resources Constraints

Lack of Existing Calculations

Future Opportunities

- **3rd Party Utility Data:**
Coordinate with SCAG with other cities who experience utility data challenges raising concerns to California Public Utility Commission.
- **Estimate Calculation & Fee Development:**
Development database which uses logic-based rules to provide fees or range of potential costs. Other key areas: anticipated road costs, landscaping, street lighting.
- **Additional GIS Layers or Attributes:**
Obtain feedback from developers, and internal City of Palmdale staff who would be tool users and obtaining a list of GIS layers or attributes for feature service display in tool.
- **Provide Critical Information Which Can Improve Application Submittal Quality:**
City Stakeholders should identify common pain points and highlight these in final report of tool.



Thank you!



Contact Us

Daniel Anderson: Project Manager

andersontd@bv.com

213-312-3322



AGENDA ITEM 10
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
July 6, 2023

To: Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Regional Council (RC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Ma'Ayn Johnson, Planning Supervisor
(213) 236-1975, johnson@scag.ca.gov

Subject: RHNA Reform Process Updates

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD:

Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is currently developing recommendations to reform the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process, which they must submit to the State legislature by December 31, 2023. As part of this process, HCD convened an advisory group of invited experts, which included a SCAG staff representative, to gather feedback on reform. Concerns expressed by the CEHD Committee at its June 1, 2023 meeting were shared with the advisory group per the direction of the Committee.

As a complementary effort, SCAG developed a set of draft recommendations for public review and conducted a public outreach process between May 15 and June 30, 2023. Two public virtual listening sessions along with a brief online survey were held to collect additional input on the recommendations. Based on input received through June 30, SCAG staff will forward draft recommendations for review by the CEHD Committee for further approval by the Regional Council in August and September, respectively. The approved recommendations will be used to inform a comment letter to HCD on RHNA reform that will be submitted by early to mid-September.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is a process to determine existing and projected housing need for every jurisdiction within the State of California. This housing need, also known as the RHNA allocation, covers an 8-year period and requires each jurisdiction, defined as cities and unincorporated counties, to plan for this need in their housing elements through an analysis of suitable sites and implementing various programs, including rezoning. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provides every council of governments (COG), including SCAG, a regional RHNA determination and each COG is responsible for developing a methodology to distribute this regional need to individual jurisdictions. The 6th cycle RHNA regional determination for the SCAG region is 1,341,827 housing units across four income categories and covers the planning period October 2021 through October 2029.

Assembly Bill (AB) 101 (2019) and SB 197 (2022) require HCD, in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Research, to conduct RHNA reform and make recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2023. However, its purview is restricted to Government Code Section 65584 through 65584.2, which concerns the RHNA process such as the regional determination, COG methodology, appeals process, and adoption of the final RHNA plan. Housing elements and zoning are in other sections of Government Code and thus not part of this current process.

HCD held an active statewide engagement effort from mid-March until early June 2023. Their efforts included an online survey that closed on May 12, a dedicated email inbox (CAHousingFuture2040@hcd.ca.gov), and a series of meetings with an invited advisory group of experts to provide feedback on various reform topics, also known as the Sounding Board (see following section). HCD has indicated that all comments must be submitted by mid-September, though at the time of this report a specific date has not been publicized. This information was presented at the April 6 and June 1, 2023 CEHD Committee meetings.

To complement HCD's efforts, SCAG is conducting its own RHNA reform engagement process, which will ultimately inform a comment letter that the agency will submit to HCD by mid-September. As part of its outreach, SCAG published online its [draft RHNA reform recommendations](#), which includes various input from stakeholders and the public that was collected by staff in Summer 2022. Additionally, the public was encouraged to take a brief survey on the RHNA webpage focusing on general concepts for reform. Written comments could also be submitted to housing@scag.ca.gov.

In addition, SCAG held public listening sessions on June 22 and June 27, 2023 to collect input and feedback on its draft recommendations. The sessions were designed to engage stakeholders on their perspectives and the actions needed, such as legislative or SCAG and HCD administrative changes, to implement them. Over 60 individuals registered to participate in at least one session and participants represented a variety of stakeholder groups, including jurisdictions, housing advocates, and individual residents.

The input and feedback collected through June 30 will be reviewed and considered by staff. Staff will summarize the comments collected during SCAG’s outreach process and will present the draft recommendations for action at a special CEHD meeting on August 16, 2023 and for approval at the September 7, 2023 Regional Council meeting. The approved recommendations will be used to inform a comment letter from SCAG to HCD on RHNA reform by early September.

Sounding Board

As part of its statewide engagement process, HCD convened a group of approximately 30 invited stakeholders, also known as the “Sounding Board”, to advise and provide direct feedback on various concepts for RHNA reform. Stakeholders include representation from academia, the California Building Industry Association, California YIMBY, various COGs, and other industries and organizations. Ma’Ayn Johnson, Housing Department Manager, represented SCAG on the Sounding Board.

The meetings were held on May 3, May 15, May 31, and June 5, 2023. While the meetings were not open to the public, agendas were posted prior to the meetings along with supporting background materials. The full agendas and supporting materials are posted on [HCD’s RHNA reform webpage](#).

Below are topics of focus for each meeting:

Meeting	Date	Topic(s)
1	May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional determination process • Factors used in determining regional housing need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cost burden adjustments o Improving the jobs housing relationship o Use of comparable region for setting benchmarks o Accounting for unhoused populations
2	May 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthering the 5 statutory objectives of RHNA • Producing better affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) outcomes • Review and use of RHNA methodology opportunity and constraint factors
3	May 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and transportation planning alignment • Housing and climate change
4	June 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process improvements • Overflow from previous meetings

Because the draft recommendations have not been reviewed and approved by the CEHD Committee and Regional Council, comments from the SCAG representative focused on simplifying the process, along with increasing transparency and using accurate sources. These concepts will

help SCAG conduct a 7th cycle RHNA process that maximizes participation and strengthens public trust in the process.

At its June 1, 2023 meeting the CEHD Committee expressed significant concern that HCD's process to develop its RHNA reform recommendations, along with other RHNA processes such as the regional determination, are not transparent. Criticisms included the fact that the Sounding Board meetings were not open to the public and the exclusion of resident groups from participation. The CEHD Committee directed the SCAG representative to share the Committee's concerns at the June 5 Sounding Board meeting. As part of the June 5 meeting discussion, the SCAG representative shared the CEHD Committee's comments, which were noted by HCD staff.

Next Steps

As noted above, staff will begin its review of submitted written and verbal comments on RHNA reform and begin to prepare a set of draft recommendations and report to the CEHD Committee as part of its special August 17, 2023 meeting. After review and action by the CEHD Committee, the recommendations will be reviewed by the Regional Council at its September 7 meeting for approval. Following approval, the final recommendations will be used to inform a comment letter that SCAG staff will submit to HCD by mid-September.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 23-24 Overall Work Program (290.4924.01 – Regional Housing Program).