

2016 RTP/SCS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

As part of the development of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS), SCAG developed the Policy Growth Forecast, which is a locally-informed growth scenario that maximizes the efficiency of transportation investments and other sustainability factors. Starting in late June and during the month of July 2015, SCAG sought input from local jurisdictions on the distribution of growth under this scenario at the neighborhood, or traffic analysis zone (TAZ) level. The review by jurisdictions of this data is a supplement to the initial round of feedback provided during SCAG's Bottom-Up Local Input Process, which was conducted in 2013 and 2014. The Policy Growth Forecast builds on input received during that period, as jurisdictional level totals on population, household, and employment growth are carried over from the Local Input Process. Overall, 80 jurisdictions provided input and SCAG's staff will be working with our local partners to incorporate all of the technical feedback provided by jurisdictions, specifically information on planned development projects and entitlements.

In August, SCAG held two follow-up workshops on the development of the environmental justice analysis for the 2016 RTP/SCS. The workshops, held in downtown Los Angeles and in the City of Ontario, followed a round of focus groups and interviews recently held with stakeholders on SCAG's environmental justice analysis approach. The workshops were an opportunity for SCAG to provide updates on outreach efforts, modifications to the methodology based on stakeholder feedback and progress on the analysis. During the breakout session, participants were invited to provide input on strategies and solutions to address potential impacts on minority and low income communities from projects included in the 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG staff is reviewing all of the input received and will post these comments on the environmental justice webpage: www.scag.ca.gov/environmentaljustice. Further resources on the 2016 RTP/SCS are available at: <http://scagrtpscs.net>.

"CALIFORNIA GOLD" WORKSHOP DRAWS HUNDREDS FOR CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDING

On Aug. 6, over 200 people attended SCAG's regional forum, "California Gold: Bringing Cap and Trade Dollars to Southern California," aimed at helping cities and stakeholders better understand new funding opportunities from the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for programs related to transportation, energy efficiency and natural resources, and strategizing ways to collaborate on upcoming opportunities. The first panel consisted of representatives from state agencies, academia and local government advocates, and panelists discussed the components of the fund's proposed \$2 billion FY 2015-2016 expenditure plan. A second panel featured housing and transportation sector leaders on the outcomes from the first year of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program and approaches for success in the upcoming year.

Administered by the Strategic Growth Council, an estimated \$400 million will be available next year in the AHSC program, an increase from \$120 million in FY 2014-2015. In the previous cycle, the program awarded \$27 million in AHSC grants to 13 projects from the SCAG region – a disproportionately low number considering the region's share of population and concentration of disadvantaged communities. SCAG provided substantive input to the Strategic Growth Council during their AHSC "Lessons Learned" workshop. Both President Cheryl Viegas-Walker and Second Vice President Margaret Finlay delivered comments to the Strategic Growth Council regarding the fund's equity, the role of integrated transportation, jurisdictional caps, rural communities and capital leverage.

SCAG thanks its many partners who helped organize the California Gold event, including LA n Sync, Climate Resolve, LA Thrives, County of Riverside, County of Orange, City of Ventura, City of El Centro and the County of San Bernardino. Presentations and an archival video of the workshop are available on SCAG's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund webpage at <http://bit.ly/1ih3Li6>. Future workshops on additional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund funding opportunities are being planned.

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY HOLDS LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

On Aug. 24, SCAG President Cheryl Viegas-Walker and I appeared before the State Assembly Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee of the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature to address the subject of “Goods Movement in California: What Do We Need to Support a Vibrant Economy?” The purpose of this panel hearing was to better inform the Assembly leadership in considering the State’s economic needs, along with infrastructure and environmental needs, as it moves forward in developing a comprehensive infrastructure finance proposal that will work in tandem with SBX1-1 by Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jim Beall (D-San Jose), which is supported by SCAG.

SCAG shared with the committee details on how goods movement works in Southern California, the industry’s importance to the regional, state and national economies; current capacity constraints of the goods movement system; future needs; and how to avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’ by building on the great work already done preparing the California Goods Movement Action Plan and implementing the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund. Looking to the future, we want to ensure that the goods movement system can sustainably grow to meet future regional, state and national freight needs in a manner that both attains clean air standards and preserves quality of life for our communities.

SCAG TO LAUNCH “GO HUMAN” CAMPAIGN

SCAG is excited to announce the upcoming launch of “Go Human,” a marketing campaign to promote traffic safety and encourage members of the public to walk or bike. The “Go Human” campaign is a reminder to all that people on the road are not just objects that get in our way – they are human beings, just like us. The “Go Human” campaign will launch at the end of September to coincide with dwindling daylight hours and when bicycle and pedestrian collisions peak during the year. The initial launch will include an advertising campaign in all six counties. Advertisements will run in both English and Spanish in a variety of media including billboards, bus tails, radio and digital. The campaign is a collaborative effort with agencies across the region, and all campaign materials will be made available for co-branding by local cities and jurisdictions that are interested in participating and extending the reach of the campaign. For more information on how to participate, please contact Julia Lippe-Klein at lippe-klein@scag.ca.gov.

CTC PUBLIC FORUM FOCUSES ON FUNDING NEEDS

On Aug. 20, SCAG partnered with the California Transportation Commission and the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) to hold a Public Forum on Transportation. I was joined by Orange County Transportation Authority Executive Director Darrell Johnson, CalTrans District 12 Director Ryan Chamberlain, Transportation Corridor Agencies, Executive Director Michael Kraman, and OCBC Chief Economist Dr. Wallace Walrod for a panel on California’s Highway and Road System: Past, Present and Future. These regional agency executives and I discussed the current condition of Orange County’s transportation system, its effect on local and regional economic growth and options for more stabilized transportation funding for the future. The forum continued with participants sharing ideas on revenue policies, needed bureaucratic reforms and ideas for project fast-tracking.

CTC TO ANNOUNCE 2015 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AWARDEES

The California Transportation Commission will announce staff project recommendations for the Statewide and Small Urban and Rural portion of the 2015 Active Transportation Program on Sept. 15. The 2015 funding program will provide \$360 million over a three-year period (FY 2016-2017, FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019), with \$180 million to be awarded in the statewide, or first round, portion. The state commission will approve the final statewide program on Oct. 21. Projects not selected in this first round will be eligible for second-round consideration at the Metropolitan Planning Organization-level, which SCAG and the six County

Transportation Commissions administer in the SCAG region. Approximately \$72 million will be available to the SCAG region during this second round and project recommendations will be submitted to the California Transportation Commission in December 2015. For more information, visit <http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/ATP.htm>. For more information on this funding program, please contact Stephen Patchan at patchan@scag.ca.gov.

CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Caltrans is now accepting applications for the FY 2016-2017 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. The \$9.8 million program is a highly competitive grant program that supports federal and state transportation planning goals and is divided into two grant types: Strategic Partnerships Grants and Sustainable Communities Grants. These grants may be used for a wide range of transportation planning purposes that address local, regional and interregional transportation needs and issues. The grants are a great opportunity for local jurisdictions to plan for the following project types: Active transportation, complete streets, first and last mile assessments, corridor studies and feasibility studies. The grants will be awarded in amounts between \$50,000 and \$500,000. If applying with SCAG as a primary recipient, grant applications are due to SCAG by Oct. 9. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html> or contact Karen Aceves at: Aceves@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE AT 2015 GIS USER CONFERENCE

In late July, SCAG staff members were given the opportunity to present at the annual ESRI International Users Conference in San Diego. The conference attracts more than 15,000 GIS users from around the world to discuss cutting-edge methods in analyzing and presenting spatial or geographical data. Twelve SCAG staff members were invited to present four papers and one poster on applying GIS technology in the regional planning process. Their research includes:

- Analyzing and Mapping Urban Run-off Pollutants and Distribution in GIS Framework;
- Visualization of Commuter Flow Using CTPP Data and GIS applications;
- Python Scripting for Efficient Regional Land Use Data Management and QC Workflow;
- Demonstrating Local Population Projection Portal;
- Historical Collision Patterns in Southern California.

Their presentations highlight the level of expertise here at the agency and builds upon SCAG's reputation for cutting-edge work.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE UPDATE

On July 17, SCAG hosted a high-level Chinese delegation from Zhejiang Province, including the Deputy Director-General of the Development and Reform Commission, and senior representatives from the Department of Commerce, Quality and Technology Supervision, Statistics Bureau and Finance Office. SCAG's staff gave the delegates an overview of the agency's governance structure and major federal and state programs. The staff also showcased SCAG's information services program, which is integrated with the latest GIS technology and facilitates effective data collaboration among government agencies, local jurisdictions and the general public.