

## UPDATED DRAFT RHNA ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK WORKSHOP

On Sept. 23, SCAG held a workshop to provide the general public and local jurisdictions with an overview of the updated draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Methodology framework. Staff provided a presentation on the updated draft allocation methodology framework, which incorporates feedback received from the over 250 people that participated at the public hearings and over 300 comments received during the comment period and furthers the objectives of both SCAG's regional planning efforts and State housing law. The updated draft methodology addresses both existing need (determined by projected household growth, transit accessibility, and a new component on job accessibility that was added based on input received during the public comment period) and projected need (determined by projected household growth, future vacancy need and replacement need). As part of the workshop, SCAG staff also answered questions on the recommended draft methodology from members of the public.

The staff-recommended RHNA allocation methodology will be presented at the RHNA Subcommittee meeting on Oct. 7, which will provide its recommendation to a Special Meeting of the Community, Environment & Human Development (CEHD) Committee on Oct. 21. The CEHD recommendation will go to the Regional Council for approval on Nov. 7, after which the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will undergo a 60-day review of the methodology. It is expected that the Final RHNA Allocation Methodology will be approved in January-February 2020. For a schedule of upcoming meetings or more information on RHNA, please visit [scag.ca.gov/rhna](http://scag.ca.gov/rhna). For questions or if you'd like to be added to the RHNA mailing list, please e-mail [housing@scag.ca.gov](mailto:housing@scag.ca.gov).

## "BEYOND RHNA" PLANNING UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BUILD HOUSING

SCAG is expected to be eligible for approximately \$50 million in funding from Assembly Bill (AB) 101 to administer RHNA and provide planning services to cities and counties. AB 101 establishes the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program administered by the HCD to address housing needs through planning and process improvements. Staff has prepared preliminary concepts for developing a program and funding framework and will be soliciting feedback from stakeholders over the next several months with the goal of submitting a funding application to HCD in Spring/Summer 2020. In addition to accessing funds available through SCAG, cities and counties in compliance with state housing law are eligible to receive between \$65,000 and \$1.5 million based on population directly from HCD and on a non-competitive basis. These funds can be used for the preparation and adoption of planning documents, process improvements to accelerate housing production, and to facilitate the compliance with the 6th cycle of RHNA.

## MEETINGS WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS

SCAG's outreach efforts with state and federal legislators has continued this month as the Congressional session resumed and the State Legislature's session drew to a close. On Sept. 13, SCAG President Bill Jahn and members of the Legislation Department met with Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside). They discussed important issues on transportation and air quality, including the federal surface transportation reauthorization. Congressman Takano is Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and sits on the House Education and Labor Committee. He represents the communities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Jurupa Valley and Perris.

On Sept. 16, Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells was joined by Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey and members of the policy and public affairs and planning team to meet with Assemblymember Laura Friedman (D-Glendale). During the 2018 session, Assemblymember Friedman authored legislation that created the Zero Traffic Fatalities Taskforce to study potential alternatives on how speed limits are set in local jurisdictions. The meeting was an opportunity for Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells, who is a member of the Taskforce, to update the Assemblymember on the work and discussions of the Taskforce. Assemblymember Friedman is Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, and also sits on the Assembly Transportation Committee. She represents the communities of Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta-Montrose, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Hollywood Hills, East Hollywood, Little Armenia, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Sliver Lake, and Atwater Village.

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

On Sept. 25, SCAG Regional Council President Bill Jahn, Executive Director Kome Ajise and staff hosted a New Member Orientation for 10 Regional Council and Policy Committee members who had joined SCAG from January 2018 through this year. Staff provided an in-depth presentation that covered multiple topics such as the agency's governing structure, member benefits, and major on-going projects. There was also an opportunity for members to ask questions on forms, bylaws, Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) filings, and more. Six longstanding Regional Council and Policy Committee members also participated as mentors to support the new members. The New Member Orientation will become a twice-per-year set event that will coincide with major elections.

## GO HUMAN EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

The *Go Human* Kit of Parts has launched with appearances at CicLAvia: Meet the Hollywoods, the September 2019 Regional Council meeting, and the City of Los Angeles's Sylmar Taco Festival. There are an additional 11 events scheduled with more to come. The Kit of Parts are physical "pop-up" tools that SCAG partners can borrow to demonstrate safety such as pedestrian islands, bulb-outs, parklets and crosswalks. SCAG also celebrated September's Pedestrian Safety Month with *Go Human* Challenges at four events across the region to engage and educate residents on topics such as traffic safety, sustainability, and active transportation using games like tic-tac-toe, ring toss and transportation trivia. Last but not least, *Go Human* launched two bicycle-friendly business districts (BFBD) in Baldwin Park and El Monte/South El Monte. With over 200 overall attendees, the BFBD launches also featured beginner-friendly bicycle tours of local bicycle-friendly businesses and free samples. SCAG's *Go Human* program has some exciting things planned for Walktober. Please visit the [Go Human website](#) for updates on future programs, events and announcements.

## SCAG REGIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK PROJECT POP-UP EVENTS

SCAG staff has hosted a series of five pop-up events around the region as part of the ongoing Regional Climate Adaptation Framework project. The Climate Adaptation Framework is a study that looks at how Southern California can work together to plan and prepare for the impacts of sea level rise, more frequent and damaging wildfires, severe weather events and other climate-related impacts. SCAG is working with local municipalities and stakeholders to identify positive message and strategies, engage in a dialogue, and provide planning tools for climate adaptation.

## SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING GRANTS HIGHLIGHT: GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT

In late August, SCAG kicked-off the Building Transit Supportive Communities Project in partnership with the Gold Coast Transit District. This project is part of SCAG's Sustainability Planning Grant Program, which provides direct technical assistance to agencies to support local planning and implementation of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Building Transit Supportive Community Project will provide the Gold Coast Transit District with tools to assist local governments, developers, non-profit organizations and community stakeholders in the communities that the transit agency serves with local land use planning and transit planning. The cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Ventura are included in the study and stand to benefit from directing transit-supportive land uses along existing and planned high-quality transit areas. Implementing the plan can result in more frequent bus lines, shorter travel time for passengers, increased ridership and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The project will include stakeholder and community engagement, education and data collection, as well as the development of a set of strategies and recommendations for transit supportive land uses in the study area.

## PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE ATLAS MAPPING TOOL UPDATE

On Sept. 30, SCAG launched an updated version of the Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Atlas online mapping tool. The mapping tool was first developed in May 2018 to provide interactive maps to complement a report by the same name created by the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. The atlas and mapping tool application help decision-makers identify locations in the region where electric vehicle charging is likely to be in high demand. The latest version of the application includes performance enhancements, updated data, and a heatmap layer to help users identify large employment centers. The application can be accessed from a web browser at [maps.scag.ca.gov/electric\\_vehicle](https://maps.scag.ca.gov/electric_vehicle).

## SCAG PARTICIPATES IN STATE CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM

SCAG remains engaged as an appointee to the Governor's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the statewide Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP). Jason Greenspan, SCAG's Manager of Sustainability, serves as the agency's designee on the TAC, which under the guidance of the California Office of Planning Research facilitates the development of holistic, complimentary strategies that increase California's resilience to climate change, advance equity and environmental justice, and benefit both greenhouse gas emissions reductions and adaptation efforts. The TAC's September convening in Jurupa Valley focused on Riverside County resilience activities, including a voluntary green building program and a multispecies habitat plan in the Coachella Valley. An important all-afternoon public work session was conducted on the state's "Regions Rise Together" initiative, which is a vision for inclusive economic development and sustainable land use and transportation planning across California regions.

## SCAG STAFF PRESENT AT PLANNING CONFERENCES

In mid-September, staff participated in the 2019 American Planning Association's California Conference, which is a gathering where planning professionals, academics, and leaders from around the state share best practices about topics related to urban planning. The theme of this year's conference was "A Resilient Future" with the aim to tackle pressing local and statewide issues, including housing, energy, climate change, transportation, diversity, and disaster recovery. Joseph Cryer, Assistant Regional Planner, presented on SCAG's work to support electric vehicle charging and was joined on a panel discussion by representatives from Southern California Edison, the City of San Diego, and the Center for Sustainable Energy to discuss the future of transportation electrification in California. SCAG is working to support these and other goals by supporting electric vehicle charging infrastructure through the Electric Vehicle Program and Clean Cities Coalition. Two examples of this work featured in this report include the Plug-in Electric Vehicle Atlas and sponsorship of the AltCar Expo.

On Sept. 24, staff also participated in the International Conference on Ecology & Transportation (ICOET), which is an interdisciplinary, interagency supported conference that addresses ecological issues related to transportation systems. This year's conference was hosted by Caltrans and featured presentations from planners, engineers, scientists, and policy makers from 46 states and more than 20 countries. India Brookover, Associate Regional Planner, presented on SCAG's forthcoming development of a Regional Greenprint and was joined on a discussion panel by representatives from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Greenbelt Alliance, and the California State Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. SCAG's Regional Greenprint will be a strategic conservation tool and website to help make better land use and transportation infrastructure decisions and support conservation investments based on the best available scientific data.

## ALTCAR CONFERENCE, EXPO AND RIDE & DRIVE COMING TO RIVERSIDE

SCAG is sponsoring the first AltCar Conference, Expo and Ride & Drive to take place in the Inland Empire, which will be held on Oct. 16 at the Riverside Convention Center. The AltCar Expo first took place over a decade ago and has since expanded to four separate events across the state in Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Monica, and now Riverside. AltCar Expo brings together fleets, municipalities, elected officials, transportation planners, and others for a conference, vehicle exposition, and electric vehicle ride and drive. The conference will feature panels on innovative mobility solutions and alternative technology infrastructure, as well as a keynote speech from Mary Nichols, Chair of the California Air Resources Board. The event provides opportunities to not only learn about alternative fuel vehicles, but to also test drive the latest electric vehicles. Please visit [www.altcarexposocal.com](http://www.altcarexposocal.com) for more information about the event.