

REGISTER FOR THE 2018 REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

An updated program agenda is now available for the 53rd annual Regional Conference and General Assembly, to be held May 3-4 at the Renaissance Indian Wells Resort & Spa. This year's program, themed "Southern California at a Crossroads," will address how online shopping is impacting local retail and revenue, share ways that cities can build resilience for earthquakes and other natural disasters, discuss solutions to the housing crisis and investigate the region's transportation future. Additional details on this and other breakout panels are available on the event website. [Register now](#). The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the region. Discounted early bird registration ends on April 6.

SCAG is also hosting a special pre-conference session on Wednesday, May 2: The Future Communities Forum to showcase how technology, open data, big data, and analytics are being used to solve common challenges. The Forum is part of SCAG's new effort to foster innovation and data-driven decision making in the public sector. The Forum's theme is "The Power of Shared Data" and it will bring together elected officials, public sector chief information officers, data scientists, private sector leaders, and SCAG's international partners to exchange ideas on public-private data-flows as well as how to use big data to solve big problems. For more information, please email John Cho at choj@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG IN SACRAMENTO: DELEGATION LOBBIES FOR THE REGION

A delegation of Southern California leaders traveled to Sacramento in early March to meet with a bipartisan group of state lawmakers and lobby on behalf of the region. This advocacy trip focused on regional-level issues, addressing policy goals related to alleviating the state's severe housing shortage, meeting climate targets and ensuring that Southern California gets the resources it needs to improve its transportation infrastructure and overall mobility.

The delegation stressed the need for reform on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to prevent slowdowns on much-needed developments; encouraged policies that incentivize local governments to build an adequate, affordable supply of housing; and affirmed support for dedicated funding for badly needed repairs and maintenance to our transportation infrastructure. The group also reiterated the need for equitable distribution of cap-and-trade revenues to transportation improvements and sustainable communities in all areas of the SCAG region. The delegation met directly with 20 state legislators and staff representatives of seven others. For a recap of the trip, visit <http://newsletter.scag.ca.gov/scagupdate/030818.htm>.

AIR RESOURCES BOARD UPDATES REGIONAL GHG REDUCTION TARGET

On March 23, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) voted to adopt new state and regional climate targets. As the region's metropolitan planning area responsible for charting how Southern California will meet its goal, SCAG has been working collaboratively with CARB on a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the regional level that is ambitious and attainable. The new target requires the SCAG region to make a 19 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per capita by the year 2035 – up from a previous target of 13 percent. At the community level, this means considerably reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled. SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, a blueprint for Southern California's long-term transportation and land use planning, will identify a path to meeting the adopted target. We applaud CARB for engaging in a collaborative process towards achieving regional sustainability. Partnership like this is essential to meeting climate goals and making Southern California a leading example for the rest of the world.

2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY UPDATE

In preparation for the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the upcoming Regional Housing Needs Assessment, SCAG staff has been meeting one-on-one with local jurisdictions to solicit input on the draft forecast of population, households and employment, as well as data on local land use, transportation, environmental factors and sustainability plans and programs. As of this week, staff have met with 123 jurisdictions - 62% of the region. By October of 2018, we expect to have met with all 197 jurisdictions. These meetings have also been an opportunity to educate each jurisdiction on SCAG's planning process, data development techniques, as well as SCAG's web-based Scenario Planning Model – Data Management Site. Additional information on this effort is available on our website at <http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/DataMapBooks.aspx>.

SCAG CELEBRATES BIKE MONTH WITH RE-LAUNCH OF GO HUMAN CAMPAIGN

This May, SCAG will ring in 2018's National Bike Month by launching the third year of our Go Human advertising campaign. The campaign launch will coincide with other Bike Month efforts throughout the region, including Bike to Work Day and [Bike to School Day](#). Go Human promotes traffic safety and encourages people to walk and bike, with a goal of achieving 250 million impressions through outdoor, digital, social and radio advertising across the SCAG region. The Go Human campaign is planned in coordination with County Transportation Commissions and health departments across the region, and funded through the Office of Traffic Safety. SCAG is seeking local partnerships to extend the reach of the Go Human campaign. To participate in the campaign, please use the request form available at GoHumanSoCal.org. Materials can be resized, co-branded, printed and delivered to city partners, as budget allows.

Go Human also has many open-streets events and temporary demonstration projects planned for the year, including two that are coming up soon in the cities of Costa Mesa and Walnut Park. These events, which promote safer and more accessible bicycling, are part of a broader effort to support local planning projects and making walking and biking safer and more convenient. For more details, please visit the [Go Human Events page](#).

MARCH AND APRIL TOOLBOX TUESDAY LEARNING SESSIONS

Our Toolbox Tuesday workshop series continued in March with a webinar titled “Protecting our Future: Strategies and Tools for Natural and Working Lands Conservation.” This two-hour online session focused on local and regional opportunities, resources, and strategies for conservation. To view a recording of this event and access the presentations, please visit the training site.[LINK: <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/ToolboxTuesdayTraining.aspx>].

Toolbox Tuesday will return again on April 10 with a workshop on emerging innovations in first/last mile planning and design. This one-day training focuses on three major curriculum areas: First/Last Mile Policy and Network Planning, Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Countermeasures and First/Last Mile Temporary Demonstrations. Speakers include Kome Ajise and Stephen Patchan of SCAG, Alison Kendall of Kendall Planning + Design and Meghan Mitman of Fehr & Peers. The free event will convene on April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in SCAG's new Downtown Los Angeles Office at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017. This session is eligible for AICP Certification Maintenance credits. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register for the event. For any questions, please contact India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov.

CALL FOR PROJECTS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The 2019 Active Transportation Program (ATP) call for projects will open on May 16. The program will award approximately \$440 million through fiscal year 2023 for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. As in past cycles, applicants will have two opportunities to receive funding, either through the statewide selection or SCAG's regional program. Minimum requests for infrastructure funds is \$250,000. There is no minimum for non-infrastructure projects. The deadline to apply is July 31. Awards for the statewide selections will be announced in January 2019, and SCAG's Regional Program will make announcements in June 2019. For more information on the ATP, please visit <http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/atp/>. If you have any questions, please contact SCAG staff Stephen Patchan at patchan@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG HOLDS PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION FOR FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW

A public listening session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, to receive input on how to improve the transportation planning process within Southern California. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration are conducting a review and evaluation of SCAG's regional transportation planning process for its 2018 certification. These federal agencies complete this process every four years, and invite the public to comment at a listening session that will be held at SCAG's main office, with videoconferencing capabilities at each regional office.

SCAG HOSTS PEER EXCHANGE ON SAFETY DATA

From Feb. 13-15, SCAG partnered with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to host a peer exchange program focused on developing an integrated business plan for managing California's safety data. The peer exchange will aid the state as it works to advance its capacity to collect and analyze safety data to support program planning and performance management. In addition to a presentation from SCAG on our Future Communities Initiative, the peer exchange featured presentations from state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations from across the country, representing a total of 13 states. This April, SCAG will meet with FHWA and Caltrans to continue discussions on the California Safety Data Business Plan.

SCAG IN D.C.: CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION

On March 13, staff traveled to Washington, D.C., for the annual California Transportation Congressional Reception, which SCAG sponsors in partnership with the region's County Transportation Commissions and other transportation agencies. The event convenes members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and their staff, administration officials from the Federal Transit Administration and various California stakeholders. The theme of the event highlighted some of California's applications for the Federal Transit Administration's discretionary Capital Investments Grants Program. This program funds major transit capital investments, including heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transit. Attendance at the event included over 150 people, including members of Congress and their staff.

CITY OF CARSON SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING GRANT KICKING OFF THIS MONTH

SCAG is excited to announce the City of Carson's April launch of a Neighborhood Mobility Area (NMA) study. This innovative planning study, which will examine how Carson can utilize NMAs to promote sustainable mobility and development, is funded by SCAG's Sustainability Planning Grant Program. NMAs are characterized as urban areas that, due to their density, urban form and other characteristics, have the potential to support active transportation, safer, more active streets and neighborhood-oriented development. The NMA study will be integrated with Carson's current update of its general plan and zoning codes. SCAG's Sustainability Planning Grant Program was established as a vehicle to support our jurisdictions and deploy meaningful, state-of-the-art planning tools that connect local planning with 2016 RTP/SCS goals. Our most recent grant awards were announced in 2017, and will fund over 60 planning projects throughout the region. Stay tuned for future project kick-off announcements.

URBAN LAND INSTITUTE HOSTED URBAN MARKETPLACE EVENT

On March 28, SCAG joined much of the region's planning community at the Urban Land Institute-Los Angeles' annual Urban Marketplace conference. This year's event, titled “The Future is Now: The Convergence of Policy, Partnerships & Equity,” brought together more than 250 attendees from real estate development, finance, local government and nonprofits to “make a deal, make a difference.” SCAG sponsored the event, which featured discussions on how to promote equitable development across the Los Angeles region. The “marketplace” session fostered discussion on important topics, including innovative solutions to address the region's homeless and housing crisis, promote successful public-private partnerships and reduce barriers to equitable development.