

# SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



## ABOUT

The Regional Council is the governing board of the Southern California Association of Governments and consists of 86 elected officials representing 191 cities, six counties, county transportation commissions, transportation corridor agencies, tribal governments and air districts in Southern California.

## AGENDA

[Click here](#) for current and archived Regional Council meeting agendas.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



## **ACTION** GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS 2021-2022 BOARD OFFICERS

The General Assembly today approved the nominations for the SCAG 2021-2022 Board Officers as recommended by the Regional Council. Congratulations to Hon. Clint Lorimore (City of Eastvale), who will serve as the new SCAG President; Hon. Jan Harnik (Riverside County Transportation Commission), who will serve as First Vice President; and Hon. Carmen Ramirez (County of Ventura), who will serve as Second Vice President. Leadership also took time to recognize Hon. Rex Richardson (City of Long Beach), who served as President for 2020-2021 and will continue on as a board officer in the role of Immediate Past President.

## **ACTION** **REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES THE RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN**

The Regional Council today adopted the [Racial Equity Early Action Plan](#) which will guide and sustain SCAG's regional leadership in service of equity and social justice. Following the Regional Council resolution affirming a commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice was tasked with recommending a set of policies to the Regional Council and any necessary changes to the bylaws to the General Assembly to help SCAG meet these objectives.

The Early Action Plan is the result of discussions and feedback provided by the Special Committee. It provides a definition of equity and establishes goals, strategies, and a set of "early actions" to advance racial equity through SCAG's policies, practices and activities. The four overarching goals include:

1. **Shift the Organizational Culture**, which is focused on SCAG's internal work and practices.
2. **Center Racial Equity in Regional Policy & Planning**, which refers to SCAG's regional planning functions.
3. **Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning Practices**, referring to how SCAG can influence the local elected officials and planning professionals with which it works and partners.
4. **Activate and Amplify**, in which SCAG commits to communicating more broadly its commitment to racial equity and joining with others in different fields and sectors to amplify impact.

In support of SCAG's commitment to "early actions," the General Assembly today voted to amend the SCAG Bylaws to include an increase in representation of "communities of concern" in regional policy conversations. The Regional Council also approved \$1.37 million, as part of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Final Comprehensive Budget, for two new tasks focused on equity outreach and engagement for the 2024 update of Connect SoCal and to provide more planning resources to Environmental Justice communities.

More information on SCAG's work regarding inclusion, equity, diversity and awareness, including SCAG's definition of Racial Equity, can be found [here](#).

## **ACTION** **REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 33 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

## PROJECTS

The Regional Council today approved 33 local proposals that promote walking and biking, traffic safety and expand opportunities for multimodal transportation options as part of the 2021 SCAG Regional Active Transportation and Sustainable Communities Programs.

The Regional Active Transportation Program consists of 23 projects totaling \$93.4 million that support walking and bicycling. One of these projects is the Sustainable Communities Program – Active Transportation & Safety, which includes 11 sub-projects totaling \$4.97 million that support active transportation and safety planning strategies.

SCAG staff will submit the Regional Active Transportation Program to the California Transportation Commission for adoption at their June meeting. Upon approval, staff will follow up with award letters to project sponsors regarding the next steps. Read more about the Active Transportation and Sustainable Communities Programs at [scag.ca.gov/active-transportation](https://scag.ca.gov/active-transportation).

## INFORMATION

### SCAG SEEKS FEEDBACK ON INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

To implement SCAG Resolution No. 20-623-2—SCAG’s commitment to addressing racial and social equity—and President Rex Richardson’s 2020-2021 Work Plan, SCAG staff developed the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy. Staff convened 20 focus groups from February through April 2021 to learn about ongoing efforts across the region and identify priorities and areas where SCAG can be most effective and impactful. Staff also continued to seek out best practices and data through a partnership with the University of California, Riverside Center for Social Innovation. Findings and draft recommendations were reviewed by the SCAG bench of economic advisors and the Global Land Use and Economics Council, as well as the stakeholders that participated in the convenings. With additional feedback, staff will finalize a more detailed report and web resource with related appendices. The final report and prioritized recommendations will be brought to the Regional Council in Summer 2021. Learn more about the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy and submit your feedback at [scag.ca.gov/inclusive-economic-recovery-strategy](https://scag.ca.gov/inclusive-economic-recovery-strategy).

### We Want to Hear from You

SCAG is seeking stakeholder input on the findings and proposed recommendations for the final Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy. All stakeholders who live or work in the SCAG six-county region (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura) are encouraged to review the draft Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy Findings and Recommendations and submit suggestions for recommendation revisions, suggestions for recommendations that should be prioritized and suggestions for new comments/findings and recommendations. The public comment period will be open **May 6 through 3 p.m. PST on June 4**. All comments should be sent to [economicrecovery@scag.ca.gov](mailto:economicrecovery@scag.ca.gov).



### **INFORMATION**

#### **GOVERNOR NEWSOM ADDRESSES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Governor Gavin Newsom provided remarks to open the 56th Annual General Assembly. In his video to the delegates, Gov. Newsom credited SCAG as instrumental in fighting issues like COVID-19, promoting sustainable and affordable housing development, and improving statewide and regional transportation infrastructure. His address celebrated SCAG and local government as essential to realizing the vision for the state and as key to economic recovery. In closing, Gov. Newsom urged unity and collaboration in guiding the region, the state and the country into the next chapter of innovation and inclusive economy. Watch the video [here](#).

## **NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020-2021**

President Rex Richardson closed out his term as SCAG President by sharing a report of SCAG's annual accomplishments for 2020-2021. The [Year in Review: 2020-2021](#) highlights SCAG's extensive work to identify and address the needs of the region and promote sustainability, prosperity and quality of life improvements for all Southern Californians.

Over the last year, the region has faced many challenges brought on by COVID-19. President Richardson's top policy priority was to build an inclusive and equitable recovery strategy that addresses the health, social, and economic challenges created by the pandemic. To accomplish this vision, the President

developed a comprehensive work plan that provided a framework for the year which included a three-phased process that began with a listening tour across the six-county region, the launch of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice and the development of recommendations and strategies to provide a strong foundation for continued implementation of regional planning and policies.

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under the leadership of President Rex Richardson can be found [here](#).

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### MONTHLY REPORT, MAY 2021

Read the full [Executive Director's Report](#) for May 2021 and see past reports on the SCAG website.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### MAY

18<sup>th</sup> Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

25<sup>th</sup> Transportation Conformity Working Group

26<sup>th</sup> Modeling Task Force

### JUNE

2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Administration Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Council and Policy Committees

15<sup>th</sup> Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Conformity Working Group

24<sup>th</sup> Emerging Technologies Committee

30<sup>th</sup> Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee

30<sup>th</sup> Executive Administration Committee



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