

Southern California Association of Governments

SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region
September 3, 2015

RC Report

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



Randall Winston, Interim Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council, gives an update on cap-and-trade funding opportunities to the Regional Council.

INFORMATION – CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDING UPDATE

Randall Winston, Interim Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council, was a special guest at the Regional Council meeting today, providing board members with an update on the new cycle of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program. It is anticipated that funding for FY 2015-2016 will increase from the \$120 million available last year, due to higher-than-expected revenue from the state's cap-and-trade program. Winston acknowledged the low number of projects in the SCAG region that received grants last year, and stressed a commitment to work with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and SCAG to ensure that Southern California is positioned for success in this next round.

Additionally, SCAG is continuing to implement the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Action Plan approved by the RC in July. As part of the Action Plan, SCAG held a regional forum titled, "California Gold: Bringing Cap and Trade Dollars to Southern California," on Aug. 6. The event drew more than 200 attendees, and was 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. Panelists also strategized on ways to collaborate on upcoming opportunities.

In the near-term, SCAG plans to develop a concrete set of recommendations on the guidelines for the next round of AHSC grants, will provide outreach and technical assistance to interested applicants and promote collaboration and information sharing at future workshops. 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 from the workshop are available on SCAG's [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund webpage](#).

ACTION – RC APPROVES JOINT TRAVEL SURVEY

The Regional Council today approved and authorized SCAG to proceed with a Memorandum of Agreement with three other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Sacramento Council of Governments and San Diego Association of Governments – on a cooperative travel survey. The surveys both monitor general travel characteristics and provide detailed travel behavior information to inform travel models and other planning activities. This collaborative effort between California's four largest MPOs will help pool resources and expertise, while also standardize data collection for more accurate estimates of inter-regional travel.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SCAG ASKS REGION TO 'GO HUMAN'

SCAG and its regional partners are excited to announce the upcoming launch of “Go Human,” a marketing and advertising campaign to promote roadway safety and encourage members of the public to walk or bike. Funded by a \$2.3 million grant from the 2014 California Active Transportation Program, the primary goals of the “Go Human” campaign are to reduce collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists, while increasing the levels of walking and biking in Southern California. The advertising campaign will launch on Sept. 28 in all six counties and will feature “Go Human” messaging on a variety of media including billboards, buses, radio spots and social media ads, in both English and Spanish. The launch date coincides with the decline in daylight hours, a period when bicycle and pedestrian collisions peak during the year.

The campaign is a collaborative effort with county health departments and County Transportation Commissions in the region, and all marketing materials will be made available for co-branding by local cities and jurisdictions interested in participating. SCAG’s grant also includes the production of toolkits and trainings to promote active transportation and the implementation of open streets and temporary events starting in Spring 2016. For more information on how to participate, please contact Julia Lippe-Klein at lippe-klein@scag.ca.gov.

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](#).

Further resources on the 2016 RTP/SCS are available at: scagrtpscs.net.

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY HOLDS LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

On Aug. 24, President Cheryl Viegas-Walker and Executive Director Hasan Ikhata both appeared before the State Assembly Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee to address the subject of “Goods Movement in California: What Do We Need to Support a Vibrant Economy?” The panel hearing was being held as part of the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature to address the more than \$59 billion backlog in repairs to state and local roads. The panelists briefed the Assembly leadership on the state’s economic needs as it moves forward in developing a comprehensive infrastructure finance proposal. 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 to build upon the California Goods Movement Action Plan and implement the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund. Overall, SCAG envisions a goods movement system that can sustainably grow to meet future regional, state and national freight needs in a manner that both attains clean air standards and preserves the quality of life for our communities.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

September

- 7th** Labor Day Holiday (SCAG Offices Closed)
- 15th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 17th** Technical Working Group
- 22nd** Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 23rd** Modeling Task Force Meeting

October

- 8th** Regional Council & Policy Committee Meetings
- 15th** Technical Working Group
- 20th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 27th** Transportation Conformity Working Group

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