

## Report to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments

by Britt Huff/ SBCCOG delegate to CALCOG  
(California Council of Governments)

### Submitted to the June 26, 2025 SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting

The CALCOG Board of Directors met in Sacramento on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 after the CALCOG/ Self-Help Counties Coalition 2025 joint Legislative Forum. In partnership with the Self Help Counties Coalition, we convened transportation & housing leaders, policymakers, and thought partners from across California for this annual Joint Legislative Day.

The event sparked a timely, solutions-oriented conversation on the challenges of housing and transportation planning. Guest speakers were: Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Lori Wilson, California Transportation Commissioner Jason Elliott, Senate and Assembly committee staffers Manny Leon and Julia Kingsley, Steve Wertheim from Assemblymember Wicks' office, and Melissa Sparks-Kranz of Cal Cities. Their insights brought valuable depth and political perspective to the day's discussions.

Legislative Day was a strong reminder of the power of partnership. Progress happens when regional and state leaders come together to shape smart, forward-looking transportation policy. **Key Takeaways:**

- **Cap and Trade (now Invest).** The Governor's proposed set-asides for fire safety and high speed rail make preserving existing transit and sustainable community investments challenging. Existing programs are at risk.
- **The Housing, CEQA, VMT, & RTP/SCS Milieu.** How the state's regulatory framework evolves around these related issues is uncertain. But the increased cost of mitigating VMT is starting to affect the number of transportation projects that can be delivered. Meanwhile, CEQA streamlining is intriguing. Thus, CALCOG and SHCC members continue to engage on these issues to shape the most workable solutions.
- **SB 375.** Although legislation is unlikely this year, we expect more than a couple proposals next year. CALCOG is working with all members to develop a universal set of principles that would address all needs.
- **Promises, Promises.** Transformative project delivery requires infrastructure-permitting certainty. Our members, through their plans and voter approved tax measures, have made commitments to their constituents related to specific outcomes. New state policies must account for this context.
- **The SHCC-CALCOG Partnership Remains Strong.** We work hard to collaborate and coordinate our messaging to provide strong representation for our members.

For ongoing updates, you can check out the CALCOG regularly updated [Bill Tracker](#) and explore the policy tab on the [CALCOG Website](#), where you'll find CALCOG's Legislative principles, key resources, and recent letters and positions. For questions about a specific bill, the legislative process, or learn more about CALCOG, contact [Vincenzo Caporale](#), CALCOG's

Government Affairs Analyst. The CALCOG Board of Directors met after the Legislative Forum to review issues discussed and conduct Board business.

### **CALCOG Receives the CTF 2025 Outstanding Organization Award**

On June 12, 2025 the California Transportation Foundation/CTF presented its 2025 Outstanding Organization Award to CALCOG at its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Awards Gala at the Irvine Marriott. The CTC raises funds for Cal Trans highway accident employees and supports transportation causes. The Award was accepted by CALCOG State President, Britt Huff, and CALCOG Executive Director Bill Higgins, along with CALCOG VP Tim Hepburn, and Deputy Director Sabrina Bradbury. The CTC Life Time Achievement Award was presented to Kome Ajise, SCAG Executive Director and former Cal Trans executive.