

## 2016 RTP/SCS UPDATE

On Thursday, March 24, the Proposed Final 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) was presented to the Policy Committees at a special Joint Meeting. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Policy Committees approved recommending that the Regional Council adopt the Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS, the associated conformity determination and Consistency Amendment #15-12 to the 2015 FTIP. In addition, SCAG's Policy Committees recommended that the Regional Council certify the Final PEIR for the Final 2016 RTP/SCS and adopt Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program associated with the Final PEIR.

The most recent Proposed Final Plan and PEIR documents, which will be considered by the Regional Council on April 7, can be found online at <http://scagrtpsc.net/>.

## GUEST SPEAKERS ADDED FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SCAG's upcoming Regional Conference and General Assembly, happening May 5-6, at the La Quinta Resort & Club, includes many panels and breakout sessions that will dig into the most pressing issues in transportation, sustainability and economic development that are facing the region today. Several guest speakers will be joining the program as well. The conference will open on Thursday with remarks from Dan Walters, prolific political journalist and mainstay at the *Sacramento Bee*. On Friday, the conference will also feature a morning keynote from Steve Swatt, veteran political analyst and author of the award-winning book *Game Changers: Twelve Elections that Transformed California*. Conference sessions include panels "Monetizing Waste," "Beyond the Sharing Economy—What's Mine is Yours...For Hire," "What is Driving the Future," and "Southern California: Affordable & Livable—Can Gentrification Help?"

The conference is free for elected officials and city managers in the SCAG region. The early bird registration rate of \$250 has also been extended to April 13—take advantage of the discount while it lasts and [register](#) today! April 13 is also the last day to secure a room at the La Quinta Resort & Club at the special conference rate. Stay tuned for announcements about panelists, the Sustainability Awards and more, coming soon. For more information about the program, you can view a [PDF](#) of the full conference agenda.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS INVITED TO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM

As part of its Go Human campaign, SCAG is hosting an Active Transportation Leadership Symposium on Wednesday, May 4, for elected officials interested in promoting traffic safety and encouraging walking and biking in the region. The symposium will include a toolkit training and a facilitated site visit to a unique demonstration project in Palm Desert that temporarily transforms the City's San Pablo Avenue into a commercial destination with bike infrastructure, advanced pedestrian-oriented place-making and engagement techniques to grow community support for permanent changes.

SCAG welcomes all elected officials to this invitation-only event, held in conjunction with the 2016 Regional Conference and General Assembly.

*When:* Wednesday, May 4, 11:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

*Where:* La Quinta Resort and Club, 49-499 Eisenhower Drive, La Quinta, CA 92253

Space is limited; RSVP to Alek Bartrosouf at (213) 236-1884 or [bartrosouf@scag.ca.gov](mailto:bartrosouf@scag.ca.gov).

## SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM UPDATE

As reported last month, SCAG staff have been moving toward completing the more than 70 projects in the region awarded Sustainability Grants by the Regional Council in 2013-2014. The grants helped local jurisdictions begin implementing the 2012 RTP/SCS. SCAG is pleased to share that two of the projects that were awarded planning support took substantial steps towards implementation this past month. On March 22, the Glendale City Council unanimously voted to move the Space 134 Freeway Cap project forward. In their action, they accepted the latest vision plan and authorized City staff to issue an RFP for a feasibility study funded by Metro Measure R local return. More details on the Space 134 Freeway Cap project can be found here: <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/project/glendale>.

On April 2, the City of Hermosa Beach hosted a groundbreaking for a bicycle mini-corral, one of 15 sites identified in the SCAG-funded South Bay Bicycle Mini-Corral Plan. A bicycle mini-corral converts an on-street automobile parking space into an area that can fit six to 10 bicycles. The South Bay Bicycle Mini-Corral Plan identified multiple locations in the commercial districts of the cities of Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach that demonstrated a need for improved bicycle parking. SCAG congratulates the City of Glendale and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments on their progress and will provide updates on other Sustainability Grant Programs in the future.

## **UPDATE ON STATE HIGH-SPEED RAIL DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN**

On Friday, March 25, the region's county transportation CEOs and I met with California High Speed Rail Authority Board Chairman Dan Richard, Authority CEO Jeff Morales and Secretary Brian Kelly of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to express Southern California's collective disappointment and concern about the lack of progress in delivering the commitments identified in the Southern California Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU, signed in 2013, commits \$1 billion in Prop. 1A high-speed rail funds and other funding sources on early investments in the region's Metrolink system and the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor to provide immediate, near-term benefits while laying the groundwork for future integration with the high-speed train.

On Monday, March 28, I testified at the Assembly Transportation Committee hearing to emphasize that the MOU commitments must be funded by Prop. 1A and dedicated high-speed rail Cap-and-Trade funds. Other funding sources such as Cap-and-Trade Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and federal TIGER, New Starts, Core Capacity and FAST Act funds, cannot be considered as fulfilling the MOU commitment because they are funds that the region would otherwise receive with or without the MOU and they would likely come at the expense of other needed transit and rail improvements throughout the region. Moving forward, SCAG staff will continue to work with the County Transportation Commissions, the Authority and CalSTA to identify an immediate action plan to advance the MOU projects. SCAG will further request, through comments on the Draft 2016 Business Plan, that this action plan be incorporated into the Final 2016 Business Plan.

## **U.S. EPA PARTIALLY DISAPPROVES AIR PLAN TO ADDRESS 2006 PM2.5 NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

On March 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Administrator signed a final rule to partially disapprove the 2012 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) that addresses the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 standards and the 2015 Supplement to the 2012 AQMP (collectively the "Air Plan"). The partial disapproval is due to deficiencies in the 2010 version of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) program included in the Air Plan. Once effective (anticipated in April/May 2016), the partial disapproval will trigger three Clean Air Act sanction clocks. There is no immediate impact on the South Coast region from these sanction clocks. However, if the underlying Air Plan deficiencies are not corrected by the respective deadlines, stationary offset sanctions would be imposed within 18 months, highway sanctions would be imposed within 24 months and federal air plan would be promulgated within 24 months.

Of particular significance to SCAG are the highway sanctions. Under highway sanctions, restrictions will be imposed on federal funding to transportation projects that expand highway capacity (e.g., addition of mixed-flow lanes), non-exempt project development activities (e.g., new interchanges or improvement to existing exchanges) and any other project that does not explicitly meet exemption criteria (e.g., repaving or resurfacing except for safety purposes). To correct the Air Plan deficiencies, the SCAQMD and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) must submit and EPA must approve, a demonstration that the aggregate emission reductions from the RECLAIM program are equal to the reductions anticipated from the direct application of reasonably available control technology on RECLAIM sources (e.g., power plants and refineries). SCAG staff is closely monitoring the development related to the partial disapproval and will work with staff at the SCAQMD, the ARB and the EPA to ensure that the underlying Air Plan deficiencies be corrected in a timely manner. For detailed information about the U.S. EPA action, see the pre-publication Federal Register Notice at: <http://1.usa.gov/1PSsiTh>.

## **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COORDINATION FOCUS OF REGIONAL SUMMIT**

On February 24, SCAG hosted a regional summit for the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The SHSP is a statewide data-driven traffic safety plan that coordinates the efforts of a wide range of organizations to reduce traffic accident fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. In coordination with federal, state, local and private sector stakeholders, the SHSP establishes goals, objectives and emphasis

(or challenge) areas. Under the plan, traffic fatalities declined 30% between 2006 and 2012. Severe Injuries fell by nearly 18% during the same period. The SHSP was most recently updated and adopted in 2015, to incorporate new solutions to continue reducing traffic fatalities and injuries.

Over 150 city, county and Caltrans planners throughout Southern California attended the event. The goal of the meeting was to introduce local safety practitioners to the updated SHSP, get feedback on local activities and help implement the SHSP by local governments. SCAG, as a SHSP Steering Committee member since 2006, will provide updates from the SHSP implementation process to participants, seeking feedback and to help better integrate State efforts with local efforts in reducing traffic fatalities and injuries.

## **WORKSHOP HELD ON ECONOMIC CENSUS**

On March 18, SCAG hosted a training workshop on the Economic Census, which was presented by the U.S. Census Bureau. The workshop included an overview of the Census Bureau's economic program, including the monthly, quarterly, annual and periodic economic initiatives conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The presentation also provided an overview of the Census Bureau's economic data for California and focused on their largest program - the Economic Census. Followed by overview presentations, the training provided a deep, detailed dive into data that can be used by planners and development staff to promote economic growth in their areas. About 40 people participated in person or via webinar from 20 different organizations, including SCAG, SBCAG, DOF, County of Los Angeles, County of Orange, City of Los Angeles, City of Indio, LAEDC, USC, UC Davis and UC San Diego, amongst many others.

## **SCAG GIS SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE**

Recently, SCAG welcomed the City of Irwindale to its GIS Services Program, where SCAG will assist the city by providing a laptop computer equipped with GIS software and spatial data. Irwindale will also receive training and assistance in processing their existing GIS data. Also benefitting from this effort are the cities of Avalon and Signal Hill. SCAG's GIS Services Program assists local jurisdictions with their daily business activities and long range projects by digitizing in-house data and streamlining manual processes. This past month, SCAG also conducted Introductory GIS, Intermediate GIS and Advanced GIS training for over 50 staff from various Los Angeles County jurisdictions. In the upcoming month, SCAG staff will hold additional GIS trainings in the Town of Apple Valley, City of Coachella, City of Los Angeles and City of Santa Ana for over 100 staff from jurisdictions throughout the region.

## **SCAG HOSTS NANJING DELEGATION**

In March, SCAG hosted a 25-member Chinese delegation from the City of Nanjing, the capital of China's Jiangsu province. This high-level delegation was headed by the deputy general secretary of Nanjing's Municipal Government and included key staff from the Administrative Office of the Major, the Department of Economic and Social Development and the Science and Information Committee. SCAG staff gave Chinese officials a presentation on the 2016 RTP/SCS and SCAG's integrated and collaborative regional planning approach for low carbon economic growth. Staff also discussed with delegates about SCAG's governance structure, quantitative planning and data-driven policy impact analysis.

## **SCAG IMPLEMENTS WELLNESS INITIATIVE FOR STAFF**

The 2016 RTP/SCS doubles investments in active transportation and provides additional emphasis on public health. SCAG believes in leading by example and has developed a Wellness Initiative to encourage employees to walk and bicycle more. Walking and bicycling for everyday activities is a great way to be physically active and enjoy the many health benefits of active transportation. SCAG's Employee Wellness Initiative consists of several supportive components including the provision of pedometers for monitoring physical activity, a company bike share program and fun contests to encourage SCAG staff to be active. SCAG has been recognized for its employee wellness efforts and is currently in the process of obtaining a Bicycle Friendly Business Certification from the League of American Bicyclists. The program was funded by a generous donation by Randall Lewis.

## **SCAG'S ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE HAS MOVED**

Early last week, the SCAG Orange County Office changed addresses. The office is still located at the Orange County Transportation Authority's headquarters in the City of Orange, but it has moved from the 9th floor to the 12th floor. All phone numbers and extensions for the Orange County office remain the same. The new mailing address is 600 S. Main St., **Suite 1233**, Orange, CA 92868.