

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2012

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Overall Work Program Approved by Funding Agencies

On June 26, 2012, we received notification that SCAG's Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Overall Work Program (OWP) was approved by the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. As a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), this approval is required for SCAG to implement the Board priorities and planning activities included on the OWP. We would like to thank our funding partners for their continued support.

Around the Region

Throughout the month of June, Board Officers, Executive Staff and I, traveled across the region participating in a number of annual sub-regional General Assemblies and other year-end activities. First, on Thursday June 7th, the SCAG delegation and I attended the VCOG Annual Dinner and heard from Timm Herdt, the State Bureau Chief for the Ventura County Star. On Thursday, June 14th, SANBAG hosted its 2nd Annual General Assembly where I participated on an economic-focused panel while presenting the major trends of the SCAG 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The following Thursday, June 21st, the SCAG delegation and I attended the 21st Annual WRCOG General Assembly which had a keynote address from General Colin Powell (ret.). Finally, on June 25th, the SCAG delegation and I attended the CVAG General Assembly and were treated to a video presentation of the year's sub-regional accomplishments in the Coachella Valley. I would like to congratulate all the organizations for successful events and all their accomplishments for the year.

Recognition and Awards

On June 13, 2012, immediate Past President Pam O'Connor and I were honored by Move LA at their annual event for the work of the Regional Council on the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Additionally, on June 28th, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Greater Los Angeles Chapter presented me with the Dykstra Award for Excellence in Government. I would like to thank Move LA and ASPA for the recognition and the Regional Council for their leadership.

Federal Transportation Improvement Program

On July 5, 2012 the Transportation Committee (TC) will consider releasing the Draft 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for a 30-day public review and comment period. SCAG, as the MPO for the region, is responsible for developing the FTIP for submittal to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the federal funding agencies. The FTIP is a multi-modal list of capital improvement projects to be implemented over a six (6) year period and is the program that implements the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Upon completion of the public review and response to public comments, SCAG staff will report back to the TC at the September 6, 2012 meeting on any comments received.

2012 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan Update

Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act, the 2012 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) is being prepared by three (3) responsible agencies—including SCAG—to demonstrate attainment with the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards. SCAG staff has prepared the required regional transportation strategy and control measures as the Draft Appendix IV-C for the 2012 AQMP. The Draft Appendix IV-C is inclusive of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS as well as a review of reasonably available transportation control measures. As authorized by the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC), on June 7, 2012, the Draft Appendix IV-C was transmitted to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for inclusion in the Draft 2012 AQMP for public review and comment. After the public review, the Appendix IV-C will be revised as appropriate and the Final Appendix IV-C will be presented to the EEC for recommendation to the Regional Council for adoption. After the adoption, the Final Appendix IV-C will be transmitted to the AQMD for inclusion in the Final 2012 South Coast AQMP.

Training Opportunities

From June 5th to June 8th, The Transportation Research and Analysis Computing Center at Argonne National Laboratory held an advanced modeling workshop and Transportation Analysis and Simulation System (TRANSIMS) training course at SCAG. TRANSIMS is an integrated set of tools developed to conduct regional multimodal transportation system analyses. TRANSIMS is a public resource and made available by the Federal Highway Administration under a NASA Open Source Agreement. Fourteen individuals, including SCAG staff and transportation modelers from Metro, Caltrans, and local jurisdictions participated in the training.

GIS Services Program

In 2010, SCAG launched a new program to provide GIS services, training, and data to member cities at no charge. Entering its 3rd year, the program has been well received by members. Recently, SCAG completed the installation of computer hardware and software and provided additional training to 15 local jurisdictions: Apple Valley, Brawley, Buena Park, Calexico, Calipatria, Canyon Lake, El Monte, Holtville, ICTC, La Mirada, Los Alamitos, Menifee, Needles, Perris, and Westmorland. The overall goal of the program is to increase the use of GIS in local and regional planning activities, data sharing, and data standardization. As the program moves forward, SCAG staff will focus on providing greater services to our member agencies including intermediate and advanced training, data conversion, data sharing, and networking opportunities.