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REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

RACIAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, January 19, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/89921007957>

To Attend and Participate by Phone:

Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 899 2100 7957

***Please see next page for detailed
instructions on how to participate in the meeting.***

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A), the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

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All written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, Wednesday, January 18, 2023, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

2. **In Real Time**: If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) or at the time the item on the agenda for which you wish to speak is called, use the “raise hand” function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer. For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called; items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted on with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

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In accordance with SCAG’s Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is “willfully interrupted” and the “orderly conduct of the meeting” becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

OUR MISSION

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.

OUR VISION

Southern California’s Catalyst for a Brighter Future

OUR CORE VALUES

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous



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3. Select “Join Audio via Computer.”
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5. During the Public Comment Period, use the “raise hand” function located in the participants’ window and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

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2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 899 2100 7957**, followed by #.
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4. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
5. During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

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RACIAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee *Members – January 2023*

1. **Hon. Mark Henderson**
Chair, Gardena, RC District 28
2. **Hon. Darrell Dorris**
Lancaster, NCTC
3. **Hon. Ray Hamada**
Bellflower, RC District 24
4. **Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson**
Riverside, RC District 68
5. **Hon. Andrew Masiel**
Tribal Govt Regl Planning Board Representative
6. **Hon. Marisela Nava**
Perris, RC District 69
7. **Hon. Kim B. Nguyen**
Garden Grove, RC District 18
8. **Hon. Deborah Robertson**
Rialto, RC District 8
9. **Hon. Colleen Wallace**
Banning, WRCOG
10. **Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama**
Cerritos, RC District 23

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RACIAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
Thursday, January 19, 2023
9:00 AM

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *(The Honorable Mark Henderson, Chair)*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Matters Not on the Agenda)

This is the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that is **not** listed on the agenda. Although the committee may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon at this time. Public comment for items listed on the agenda will be taken separately as further described below.

General information for all public comments: Members of the public are encouraged, but not required, to submit written comments by sending an email to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Such comments will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) are available at the Office of the Clerk, located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 during normal business hours and/or by contacting the office by phone, (213) 630-1420, or email to aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to verbally address the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee in real time during the meeting will be allowed up to a total of 3 minutes to speak on items on the agenda, with the presiding officer retaining discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting. The presiding officer has the discretion to equally reduce the time limit of all speakers based upon the number of comments received. If you desire to speak on an item listed on the agenda, please wait for the chair to call the item and then indicate your interest in offering public comment by either using the "raise hand" function on your computer or pressing *9 on your telephone. For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar (if there is a Consent Calendar), please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called; items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted upon with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.



RACIAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – November 17, 2022

PPG. 5

ACTION ITEM

2. Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee White Paper Recommendations 100 Mins.
(Elizabeth Carvajal, Manager of Housing and Economic Empowerment, SCAG and Charles T. Brown, Founder and CEO, Equitable Cities)

PPG. 9

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve submission of Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee White Paper recommendations to the Joint Policy Committee.

ADJOURNMENT



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
January 19, 2023

RACIAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE RACIAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE (RERP). A VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee (RERP) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting virtually (telephonically and electronically), given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A). A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Hon. Mark Henderson, Chair	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Darrell Dorris	<i>Lancaster</i>	NCTC
Hon. Ray Hamada	<i>Bellflower</i>	District 24
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning</i>	
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Kim Nguyen	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Deborah Robertson	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Colleen Wallace, Vice Chair	<i>Banning</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23

Members Not Present

Hon. Lorrie Brown	<i>Ventura</i>	District 47
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Mark Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and asked the Honorable Deborah Robertson, City of Rialto, District 8, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk confirmed a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Henderson opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

The Clerk acknowledged there were no written public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

Seeing no public comment speakers, Chair Henderson closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEM

There were no reprioritizations made.

CONSENT CALENDAR**Approval Item**

1. Minutes of the Meeting- October 20, 2022

Receive and File

2. Status Report on SCAG's Racial Equity Early Action Plan

A MOTION was made (Robertson) and SECONDED (Dorris) to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Dorris, Henderson, Nava, Nguyen and Robertson (5)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

There were no public comments or additional discussions received for this item.

Chair Henderson made opening remarks and stated that the previous two meetings focused on the history of systemic racism with a targeted look at the SCAG region. He noted this meeting would highlight best practices, strategies and opportunities for advancing racial equity, which would uplift

major themes and recommendations that the Committee would highlight in the White Paper discussion at the upcoming January 19, 2023 RERP meeting.

There were no public comments or additional discussions received.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Best Practices: Mitigating the Impacts of Systemic Racism through Policy and System Changes

Chair Henderson introduced Elizabeth Carvajal, SCAG staff, to present a presentation on Mitigating the Impacts of Systemic Racism through Policy and System Changes in the SCAG region.

Ms. Carvajal provided information on the Subcommittee's goal, a brief outline of scheduled topics or calendar lookahead, a summary of the topics heard thus far, best practices and an overview of the SCAG's equity work. Ms. Carvajal stated that panelists, Ms. Jocelyn Gibson, Sr. Consultant, ZoneCo., Dr. Andre Perry, Sr. Fellow, Brookings Metro and Mr. Christopher Coes, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation, would share their work with facilitated discussions led by Mr. Charles Brown, Equitable Cities.

Ms. Carvajal reiterated that the Committee's goal was to present recommendations and themes for the White Paper discussion at the next RERP Committee meeting on January 19, 2023.

Chair Henderson recognized Councilmember Deborah Robertson who provided observations and comments.

Mr. Brown introduced the panelist. Ms. Jocelyn Gibson's presentation was titled, Centering Equity within Zoning Codes. Dr. Andre Perry's presentation was titled, The Black Progress Index, Examining the social factors that predicts Black well-being. Lastly, Mr. Christopher Coes shared a presentation that focused on the Department of Transportation's insights on the Justice40 covered programs, strategic goals and priorities.

There were no public comments received for this item.

Chair Henderson recognized Councilmember Deborah Robertson and Councilmember Darrell Dorris who provided observations and comments.

Chair Henderson requested staff to address policies that focus on the short-, mid- and long-term best practices and strategies to address inequities in marginalized communities. Chair Henderson suggested that the Subcommittee look back at the progress that was being made on a quarterly basis.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet.

The Committee thanked the panelist for the comprehensive presentations. The presentations and video are available on SCAG's website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Henderson thanked everyone for their participation and noted that in the upcoming meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023, staff would be presenting the White Paper with recommendations for advancing racial equity in Connect SoCal. The White Paper would include all the discussions learned in prior meetings.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Henderson adjourned the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Carmen Summers
Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE]

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AGENDA ITEM 2
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
January 19, 2023

To: Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee (RERPC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Elizabeth Carvajal, Department Manager
(213) 236-1801, carvajal@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee White Paper
Recommendations

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve submission of Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee White Paper recommendations to the Joint Policy Committee.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee has convened three times between September and November 2022 with the goals of identifying opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal and to guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region.

The Subcommittee meetings covered the historic impacts of systemic racism in the United States, the impacts within the SCAG region, and a series of best practices that could be considered to advance racial equity in the region. Each meeting included a presentation from SCAG staff, presentations from experts in the field, facilitated dialogue by Mr. Charles T. Brown of Equitable Cities, and feedback from Subcommittee members.

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee White Paper summarizes the learnings from the prior subcommittee meetings along with recommendations from Subcommittee members. Subject to feedback and concurrence from the Subcommittee members in January, the White Paper recommendations will be submitted to the Joint Policy Committee in March 2023.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG is currently developing Connect SoCal 2024. As required by federal and state law, SCAG prepares a long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years which provides a vision for integrating land use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable development. SCAG's next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020.

Three special Regional Council subcommittees have been created around Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning. Each subcommittee planned to meet between September 2022 and January 2023 to identify recommendations that will inform how these emerging issues are addressed in Connect SoCal 2024. The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meeting includes Regional Councilmembers from across the region, including:

1. Hon. Mark Henderson, Chair, Gardena, RC District 28
2. Hon. Colleen Wallace, Vice Chair, Banning, WRCOG
3. Hon. Darrell Dorris, Lancaster, NCTC
4. Hon. Ray Hamada, Bellflower, RC District 24
5. Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, RC District 68
6. Hon. Andrew Masiel, Tribal Govt Regional Planning Board Representative
7. Hon. Marisela Nava, Perris, RC District 69
8. Hon. Kim B. Nguyen, Garden Grove, RC District 18
9. Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto, RC District 8
10. Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama, Cerritos, RC District 23

Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee Summary

The goals of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee are to identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal and to guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region.

The Subcommittee meetings occurred three times between September and November. Each meeting was facilitated by Mr. Charles T. Brown of Equitable Cities with Subcommittee member feedback collected over the course of each meeting. A summary of each meeting is noted below, with a more thorough overview included in the attached White Paper.

- ***Historic and Contemporary Impacts of Systemic Racism in the United States***

The first meeting examined the historic and contemporary impacts and outcomes of systemic racism in the United States. The content provided a national and historic perspective that illustrated

the breadth of the systems that have created and perpetuated systemic racism across the country at every level of government.

- ***Impacts and Outcomes of Systemic Racism in the SCAG region***

Building on the historic perspective that was offered in the first meeting, the second Subcommittee meeting focused on the current day impacts and outcomes of systemic racism in the SCAG region. Content included a presentation on the updated Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report which includes demographic information and data on the economy, housing, mobility, and the environment and presentations from two community partners.

- ***Best Practices for Mitigating the Impacts of Systemic Racism***

The third Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meeting focused on best practices and strategies for mitigating impacts of systemic racism. The meeting started with a staff update on the Racial Equity Early Action Plan, followed by presentations by three guest speakers.

White Paper Recommendations

Staff took note of Subcommittee members' comments at each meeting and kicked off subsequent meetings with a summary of the feedback received to date. Following the November 2022 meeting, staff reviewed feedback and organized the comments as the key findings included in the White Paper. As noted previously, the goals of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee are to *identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal and to guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region*. In response to the subcommittee goals, staff drafted recommendations that were informed by the Subcommittee members' feedback and recommendations for further consideration in the Connect SoCal 2024 process.

The following recommendations, which are subject to the Subcommittee's feedback and concurrence, will be shared with the Joint Policy Committee in March 2023 for further discussion.

1. Connect SoCal 2024 will be a vehicle to promote racial equity (as defined in the Racial Equity Early Action Plan), to address the historic impacts of systemic racism and coordinate and implement equity centered activities across the region.
2. Embed a racial equity lens in Connect SoCal implementation, prioritize equity as a process and outcome that benefits and reduces burdens for the most disadvantaged communities and people across the region, and identify opportunities to measure and track success and lessons learned.
3. Incorporate equity centered best practices in data collection to ensure that data assessments reflect community needs, disaggregate data by race/ethnicity and other important demographic factors, ground truth data, widely distribute data to impacted stakeholders, and incorporate community perspective in data-informed decision making.

4. Break down silos-within SCAG and among other local, regional, and federal agencies that are doing equity-centered work, for example State Reparations Effort and Justice40.
5. Prioritize community-centered interventions, resources, and programming that serve the most disadvantaged communities and people in the region with strategies that can be implemented in the short-to-long-term.
6. Identify and target communities that are vulnerable to displacement and work towards stabilizing communities and increase access to housing that meets the needs of the region, with an emphasis on preserving and producing affordable housing, increasing homeownership opportunities, and reducing housing cost burden (for renters and homeowners), with a focus on the communities with the greatest need.
7. Incorporate equity-centered economic activities that increase access to opportunity and living wages for disadvantaged communities and individuals who face barriers to employment and economic mobility.
8. Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and participation of people of color and disadvantaged communities in SCAG led and funded planning processes.

The intent of the above recommendations is to inform the on-going development and policy discussions related to Connect SoCal 2024. The recommendations are not final and will be taken to the Joint Policy Committee for further discussion. Beyond the JPC discussion, the goal is to incorporate the recommendations into the Connect SoCal 2024 planning process, across topic areas through further engagement with SCAG Policy Committees and the public.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 22-23 Overall Work Program (310.4874.01: Connect SoCal Development).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. 22-0119 REARP Draft_White_Paper

Connect SoCal 2024 White Paper

RACIAL EQUITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

Introduction

SCAG is currently developing Connect SoCal 2024. Three special Regional Council subcommittees have been created around Next Generation Infrastructure, Resilience and Conservation, and Racial Equity and Regional Planning. Each subcommittee met between September 2022 and January 2023, to identify recommendations that will inform how these emerging issues are addressed in Connect SoCal 2024.

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee was convened to respond to the following policy questions:

- ***What are the opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal? and***
- ***How can Connect SoCal guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region?***

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee convened four times between September 2022 and January 2023. Through the course of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meetings, staff brought forth content and experts in the field to ground how SCAG could approach racial equity in Connect SoCal by first recognizing the history and current day prevalence of systemic racism, outlining how it has manifested in inequitable outcomes across the region, and uplifting a series of best practices and resources that SCAG can explore to advance racial equity in the Connect SoCal 2024.

Subcommittee Foundations

In July 2020, the SCAG Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 20-623-2 affirming that systemic racism is a human rights and public health crisis which results in disparities in family stability, health and mental wellness, education, employment, environmental justice, economic development, transportation, public safety, incarceration, and housing and reaffirming its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern California. The resolution directed a series of comprehensive actions that were grounded in building awareness, competency, and impact around racial equity in the SCAG region.

Of note, the resolution spurred the formation of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice in 2019 that led the development of the Racial Equity Early Action Plan in 2019. The Racial Equity Early Action Plan defined racial equity for SCAG and included a series of goals, strategies and actions grounded in building staff awareness and education, data, engagement, and economic activity. Informed by research, best practices, peer agency review, the Racial Equity Early Action Plan identified leading with racial equity as a focal point in addressing the pervasive and deep inequities faced by people of color across the region. SCAG recognizes that challenging racism is essential if SCAG is to support the creation of a just and equitable society. Though all dimensions of equity are not addressed in the plan, by focusing on race, SCAG staff will develop the skills needed to address inequities faced by

other marginalized groups based on gender, sexual orientation, ability and age, among others. A comprehensive status report on these efforts is included on SCAG’s website.

The Connect SoCal Subcommittee on Racial Equity and Regional Planning was formed to explicitly focus and seek board direction on strategies to “Center Racial Equity in Regional Policy and Planning,” which is one of the four goals identified in SCAG’s Racial Equity Early Action Plan. Connect SoCal provides a regional vision for integrating land-use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable growth and serves as the guiding policy document for local planning and transportation funding across the region. Therefore, ensuring that Connect SoCal’s goals, policies and metrics are centered on racial equity is critical to integrating and institutionalizing the Regional Council’s commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern California through regional planning.

Subcommittee: Discussion & Key Findings

Discussion

The Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee met four times between September 2022 and January 2023. Each meeting included a presentation from SCAG staff, presentations from experts in the field, facilitated dialogue by Mr. Charles T. Brown, founder and principal of Equitable Cities, and feedback collected from Subcommittee members. The meeting topics included:

- ***Historic and Contemporary Impacts of Systemic Racism in the United States***

With a focus on housing and transportation, the first meeting examined the historic and contemporary impacts and outcomes of systemic racism in the United States. The content provided a national and historic perspective that illustrated the breadth of the systems that have created and perpetuated systemic racism across the country at every level of government. Despite both the ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868, intended to provide equal protection under the law, and the 15th (1870) and 19th (1920) Amendments, which guaranteed citizens the right to vote, people of color have consistently not seen the full benefits of these rights. In 1896, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of “separate but equal” laws in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson, ushering in the Jim Crow Era of racial segregation and disenfranchisement. During this era, major expansions in transportation infrastructure were encouraged by a stimulus of federal funding in California. In 1911, the newly established California Highway Commission implemented federal policy direction toward the creation of the Interstate Highway System, which included the 1921 and 1944 Federal Aid Highway Acts. The Commission determined project locations, and both state and local officials routed new freeways through existing communities of color, displacing thousands of households through eminent domain. Much of this freeway construction was in service of a suburban housing boom that was explicitly segregationist. Racist policies and decisions also influenced the siting of other types of transportation infrastructure, such as commuter railways, and the delivery of transit services.

The content included a viewing of [Segregated by Design](#), a short video that summarizes the book *The Color of Law*, which provides a historic overview of how systemic racism shaped

housing policies and access to housing, homeownership opportunities for people of color, and racial segregation in the United States. Segregated by Design highlighted how federal policies across the nation caused displacement of established and thriving Black communities for major infrastructure and public works projects. In addition, the video highlighted how a series of specific actions by the governmental actors, at all levels, across the nation, created segregated communities. For example, the United States Housing Authority of the New Deal Programs resulted in public housing projects that segregated different racial and ethnic groups. Another example was a program by the Federal Housing Administration which subsidized the development of suburbs with the requirement that the homes could only be sold to white families and the inclusion of deed restrictions that prohibited resale to African American families.

The meeting also included a presentation by Ms. Beth Osborne, Director of Transportation for America, on transportation and racial equity. Ms. Osborne highlighted the importance of roadway design and how it could create dangerous conditions for the most vulnerable users. She highlighted the increase in pedestrian fatalities (62%) between 2009-2020 and the higher risk for people of color, especially for Black and Native American pedestrians and those from low-income households.

- ***Impacts and Outcomes of Systemic Racism in the SCAG region***

Building on the historic perspective that was offered in the first meeting, the second Subcommittee meeting focused on the current day impacts and outcomes of systemic racism in the SCAG region. Content included a presentation on the updated [Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report](#) that was published in 2019 and later updated in 2022. The Baseline Conditions Report highlights demographic information and important regional data on the economy, communities, mobility, the environment, and wherever possible, disaggregation of the data by race/ethnicity. The report is significant in furthering SCAG's racial equity work because it memorializes how communities across the region are faring around the above topic areas. In addition, the report disaggregates data by race/ethnicity which allows for an assessment of how people from different racial and ethnic groups are impacted around the various indicators.

A few compelling SCAG region indicators and outcomes include:

- Hispanic/Latinx (40%), Native American (39%), and Black households (38%) experience the highest poverty rates, almost twice the rates of White Households (20.2%), who have the lowest rates in the region.
- Hispanic/Latinx full-time workers (29%) are three times more likely to be living in poverty than White full-time workers (10%).
- Hispanic/Latinx Households have the highest Housing Cost Burden of any racial/ethnic group in the region with 42% of renters and 16.2% of homeowners experiencing a housing cost burden (meaning that 30% or more of household income goes towards housing cost). This is in comparison with 24.2% of White Households who are renters and 9.4% of White Households who are homeowners who experience a housing cost burden.

- Black households have the lowest homeownership rates at 36% in the region, compared to White households with the highest at 61%.
- Hispanic/Latinx households make up the largest percentage of residents living in census tracts with the highest CalEnviroScreen scores (highest environmental/pollution burden) in comparison to White Households who disproportionately live in the areas with the lowest percentile (least environmental/pollution burden).

Beyond the Baseline data, the Connect SoCal 2024 Plan will also include Equity Performance Measures. The proposed measures are organized around the economy, communities, mobility, and the environment. Sample measures include neighborhood change and displacement, share of transportation system usage, resilience and climate vulnerabilities, and public health impacts.

The meeting also included presentations from two community-based organizations (CBOs)/community partners, Just San Bernardino (Just SB) and Santa Ana Active Streets (SAAS). The community partners were invited to share their work to uplift the importance of equitably integrating the community perspective in ground-truthing data, meaningfully engaging vulnerable and marginalized people and communities, and working with stakeholders to identifying community needs, assets, and solutions.

- ***Best Practices for Mitigating the Impacts of Systemic Racism***

The third Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meeting focused on best practices and strategies for mitigating impacts of systemic racism. The meeting started with a staff update on the Racial Equity Early Action Plan, followed by presentations by three guest speakers.

- **Racial Equity Early Action Plan:** The Racial Equity Early Action Plan includes a series of activities for SCAG to advance racial equity in the region. For example, SCAG has funded several initiatives that have advanced equitable engagement and partnerships with Community Based Organizations and community leaders. The Call for Collaboration is funded by REAP 1, in partnership with three foundations. SCAG provided \$1 million of its REAP 1.0 funding to develop a program that provided capacity-building technical assistance and grants to non-profits and CBOs. Fifteen organizations were invited to engage in land use planning efforts that support the acceleration of housing production, with an emphasis on ensuring principles of equity are included in planning processes, new funding programs, and policies.

The Go Human Program completed its Mini Grant Program, which aimed to build street-level community resiliency and increase the safety of people most harmed by traffic injuries and fatalities, prioritizing Black, Indigenous and People of Color; people with disabilities; and frontline workers, particularly those walking and biking. The program emphasized community-driven co-creation and community engagement. Go Human awarded more than \$350,000 to 26 CBO-identified and led projects, directly engaging more than 300,000 people.

In addition, SCAG is in process of developing the Sustainable Communities Program Call 4, the Call for Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice which will prioritize resources in historically disinvested areas and communities most impacted by adverse

public health outcomes and air quality impacts. This program will catalyze planning activities to support housing, GHG and VMT reduction, advance equity and environmental justice, and provide needed funding to communities with the highest need.

Addressing poverty and access to economic opportunity is one of the most impactful ways to address racial inequities. In July 2021 SCAG adopted the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS). The guiding principles for the IERS are: (1) center on racial and gender equity with regard to economic opportunity; (2) rebuilding the region’s middle class; (3) contributing to a climate-ready region; (4) tailoring strategies to meet both regional factors and specific needs for targeted industries; and (5) reflect new and diverse voices. As a result of one-time State funding, SCAG created a limited-term Department of Inclusive Economic Growth that is responsible for implementing targeted economic and workforce development projects that were direct recommendations from the IERS. These projects will expand access to economic opportunity in the region by centering the community in identifying pathways to quality jobs, promoting inclusive government contracting, and by building the business case for equity.

- **Ms. Jocelyn Gibson, Sr. Consultant, ZoneCo:** Ms. Gibson was the first speaker following the staff presentation on the Racial Equity Early Action Plan. She is an experienced city planner with extensive public and private sector planning, zoning, and commercial real estate experience. Ms. Gibson’s presentation highlighted the history of zoning and how its roots are infused with racism and the intent to segregate people. Of note, the presentation highlighted the confluence of a series of actions that included policies that terrorized black families who moved into white neighborhoods, the destruction of property, racial covenants, race-based zoning, redlining, and housing finance, urban renewal, real estate practices that have shaped the segregation, housing, and wealth inequities that exist today.

The equity-centered best practices that were discussed by Ms. Gibson focused on procedures, standards, and policies. For example, Ms. Gibson highlighted the value of limiting subjective review, requiring that public engagement is representative of the community, and that appointed bodies are representative of the community to ensure that a multitude of perspectives inform decision making. Zoning standards that were recommended to advance racial equity included promoting housing diversity in all zoning districts where residential uses are appropriate, removing parking minimums, and ensuring equal access to food, services, amenities, and public goods. Finally, policy recommendations included ensuring that equity-driven policy level frameworks at the general plan level related to the zoning level implementation tools.

- **Dr. Andre Perry, Senior Fellow, Brookings Metro:** Dr. Perry is a Senior Fellow at Brookings Metro, a scholar-in-residence at American University, and a professor of practice of economics at Washington University. A nationally known commentator on race, structural inequality, and education, Dr. Perry is the author of the book “Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America’s Black Cities”.

Dr. Perry's presentation focused on the [Black Progress Index: Examining the social factors that influence Black well-being](#). The research-based tool looked at life expectancy for black people from 1200 major black cities and metropolitan areas across the United States. The Black Progress Index highlighted, through research, the places where black people are thriving most and the social predictors that are in place.

In the presentation, Dr. Perry highlighted the 13 key predictors of life expectancy that can generally be categorized around environmental quality, family health, human and social capital, safety, and wealth. Examples of these indicators include percent of black foreign-born adults, black higher educational attainment, black household income, black homeownership rates, black commuting via walking/biking, and black business ownership rates. The tool is a valuable resource because it uplifts the places where black people thrive in the United States and the factors that are in place to support this.

- **Mr. Christopher Coes, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary:** Mr. Christopher Coes serves as the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the Office of the Secretary. Mr. Coes presented on Justice40 Program, which established a commitment that 40% of federal investments and benefits will go to communities who have been overburdened with environmental justice harm and underserved from federal investments.

Mr. Coes highlighted that Justice40 is centered around seven areas, 39 funding programs, across five modes, and totaling \$204 billion. The presentation included an overview of the process that U.S. DOT is pursuing to carry out Justice40 including the key indicators that they are using to define disadvantaged communities and how Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) could use the indicators to identify Justice40 communities in their region. Mr. Coes highlighted that MPOs should incorporate housing, land use, and equitable economic development in their transportation planning processes and identify and prioritize the areas in the region who have experienced the greatest harm, identify a baseline and strategy for how to address those needs, identify the projects that will help address those needs, and focus on project delivery.

The content from the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meetings included a wealth of information for subcommittee members to identify opportunities for integrating racial equity in Connect SoCal 2024. The feedback received from subcommittee members is summarized in the Key Findings section with the recommendations included in the following Subcommittee Recommendations section.

Key Findings

The overarching task of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee was to identify:

- *What are the opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal? and*
- *How can Connect SoCal guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in the SCAG region?*

Each of the subcommittee meetings included facilitated discussion led by Mr. Charles T. Brown of Equitable Cities with feedback collected at each meeting. The Racial Equity and Regional Planning subcommittee presentations and subsequent discussions highlighted the following key findings:

- Break down silos across governmental agencies and equity efforts.
- Important to identify short to long term recommendations and measure success.
- Systemic racism has shaped housing and transportation policy, funding, and implementation in the region.
- Housing cost burden (rental and ownership) is highest for households of color.
- People of color have lower homeownership rates in the region, with Black households experiencing the lowest homeownership rates.
- Predatory real estate practices have undervalued homes in black neighborhoods.
- Mobility infrastructure varies across the region (commuter community versus dense/transit rich community). However, the need to create walkable places is needed across the region.
- Need to identify economic development strategies to address poverty in the region, including employment opportunities for nonviolent offenders, contracting opportunities for people of color, improve wages and career ladders, and engaging the business community.
- There is a need to assess how to improve health outcomes for people of color.
- Environmental Injustice most negatively affects communities of color, with Latinx most affected in the region.
- Need to identify strategies to collect and use data and science to support black and brown communities in improving outcomes including affordable housing and mobility.
- Data should be disaggregated beyond racial/ethnic categories, identify historic trends, be shared widely, and vetted with affected communities. Essential to understand the underlying issues that are creating negative outcomes in communities of color.
- Need to include diversity and representation in jurisdictional staffing and decision making.
- Need to identify how to effectively engage affected disadvantaged communities and communities of color.
- Need to develop inclusive engagement practices, with accountability, that facilitate participation of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups.
- Need to document historic inequities as part of planning processes.
- Need to consult with indigenous and other marginalized people, beyond required consultation in environmental process.
- Broadly communicate SCAG's equity work.
- There is a need to analyze equity for SCAG and support jurisdictions to do this assessment.

Subcommittee Recommendations

One of the most significant opportunities that SCAG has to advance racial equity is to first acknowledge that SCAG has a role in advancing racial equity. SCAG is in a unique position to advocate, convene,

coordinate, and prioritize the implementation of racial equity-centered initiatives across the region. As the largest MPO in the United States, the infusion of racial equity policy direction in Connect SoCal will have a transformative impact in the region that will shape planning and investments that are grounded in recognition of historic harms with a keen focus on addressing inequities and prioritizing resources in the communities with the greatest need.

The following recommendations were informed by the feedback received at each of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee meetings. Given the intersectionality of racial equity, the recommendations are cross cutting and are centered on pursuing equitable processes and outcomes across all Connect SoCal topic areas.

1. Connect SoCal 2024 will be a vehicle to promote racial equity (as defined in the Racial Equity Early Action Plan), to address the historic impacts of systemic racism and coordinate and implement equity centered activities across the region.
2. Embed a racial equity lens in Connect SoCal implementation, prioritize equity as a process and outcome that benefits and reduces burdens for the most disadvantaged communities and people across the region, and identify opportunities to measure and track success and lessons learned.
3. Incorporate equity centered best practices in data collection to ensure that data assessments reflect community needs, disaggregate data by race/ethnicity and other important demographic factors, ground truth data, widely distribute data to impacted stakeholders, and incorporate community perspective in data-informed decision making.
4. Break down silos-within SCAG and among other local, regional, and federal agencies that are doing equity-centered work, for example State Reparations Effort and Justice40.
5. Prioritize community-centered interventions, resources, and programming that serve the most disadvantaged communities and people in the region with strategies that can be implemented in the short-to-long-term.
6. Identify and target communities that are vulnerable to displacement and work towards stabilizing communities and increase access to housing that meets the needs of the region, with an emphasis on preserving and producing affordable housing, increasing homeownership opportunities, and reducing housing cost burden (for renters and homeowners), with a focus on the communities with the greatest need.
7. Incorporate equity-centered economic activities that increase access to opportunity and living wages for disadvantaged communities and individuals who face barriers to employment and economic mobility.
8. Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and participation of people of color and disadvantaged communities in SCAG led and funded planning processes.

Beyond the above recommendations the following conceptual preliminary strategies are recommended for further consideration as regional policy priorities and/or implementation strategies for the plan:

1. Develop an agencywide Community Based Organization Partnering (CBO) Strategy that outlines tools and resources for partnering with CBOs to increase inclusive and equitable engagement opportunities.

2. Develop a Restorative Justice Pilot Program that prioritizes comprehensive solutions, capacity building, engagement, planning, and investment in the most underserved communities in the region (1 in each county in pilot phase).
3. Develop an Equity Assessment Tool that can be utilized by SCAG in program development and delivery and a complementary tool that can be incorporated into local assistance/subrecipient programming and delivery.
4. Identify, align with appropriate State and Federal partners, and utilize equity-centered measures to track outcomes, progress, and lessons learned on Connect SoCal implementation.
5. Identify innovative homeownership models that can reduce costs and increase housing production in the region and identify strategies to engage households of color that are underrepresented as homeowners.
6. Develop and deploy community stabilization (anti-displacement) resources that can be utilized to address displacement pressures for communities across the region and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.
7. Deploy actions that expand access to training and employment, with an emphasis on lower income communities, communities of color, and others facing barriers to employment.
8. Implement strategies that support the creation and expansion of small, minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned businesses in the region.
9. Develop a resource guide and training for equitable stakeholder engagement for public agencies, including SCAG, that is culturally relevant, recognizes community contexts and histories, existing community resources and engagement opportunities, and inclusion of cultural and racial/ethnic groups.

The above list of conceptual strategies are preliminary ideas of how the recommendations move forward. Further assessment and evaluation of the policy recommendations and concept strategies will be explored through the SCAG Policy Committees and the Connect SoCal 2024 stakeholder engagement process.

Next Steps

These recommendations are intended to inform the on-going development of the Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework to provide direction for addressing emerging and cross-cutting issues in Connect SoCal 2024. They will be considered by the Joint Policy Committee alongside recommendations from the Next Generation Infrastructure Subcommittee and the Resilience and Conservation Subcommittee in March. The scope of the subcommittee discussions also illuminated opportunities for broader recommendations to inform SCAG's work both in Connect SoCal implementation and other program areas.