



Equity Working Group

Regional Planning Working Group

Thursday, December 8, 2022

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

Session Logistics



The meeting will take approximately 1.5 hours.



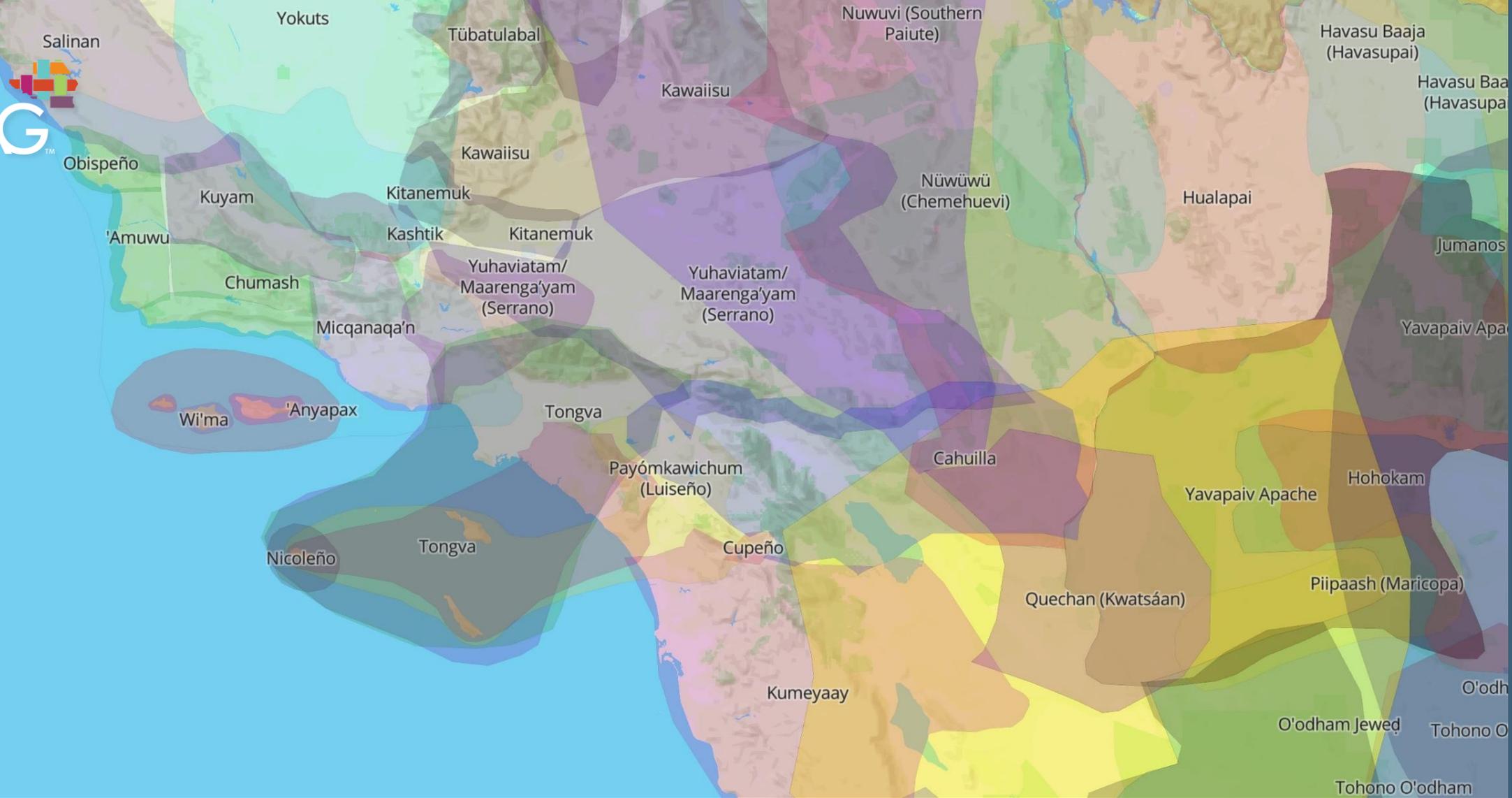
All participant lines will be muted.



At the end of today's panel, there will be a Q & A. If you have a question, please type it into the chat box.



All presentations will be posted on the SCAG website.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Agenda

- 1. Welcome** **1:00 – 1:05pm**
Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG
- 2. SCAG Digital Action Plan** **1:05 – 1:25pm**
Roland Ok, Program Manager II, SCAG
- 3. A Discussion on Equity Issues in Broadband and the Digital Divide** **1:25 – 2:10pm**
Moderator: Roland Ok, SCAG
Panelists
 - *Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund*
 - *Selwyn Hollins, Director of the County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department*
 - *Shayna Englin, Director of the California Community Foundation, Digital Equity Initiative*
- 4. Update on Connect SoCal 2024** **2:10 – 2:20 pm**
Leslie Cayton, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG
- 5. Announcements, Offers, Requests, and Connections** **2:20 – 2:30pm**
Annaleigh Ekman, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG



SCAG's Digital Action Plan

Equity Working Group

December 8, 2022

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV



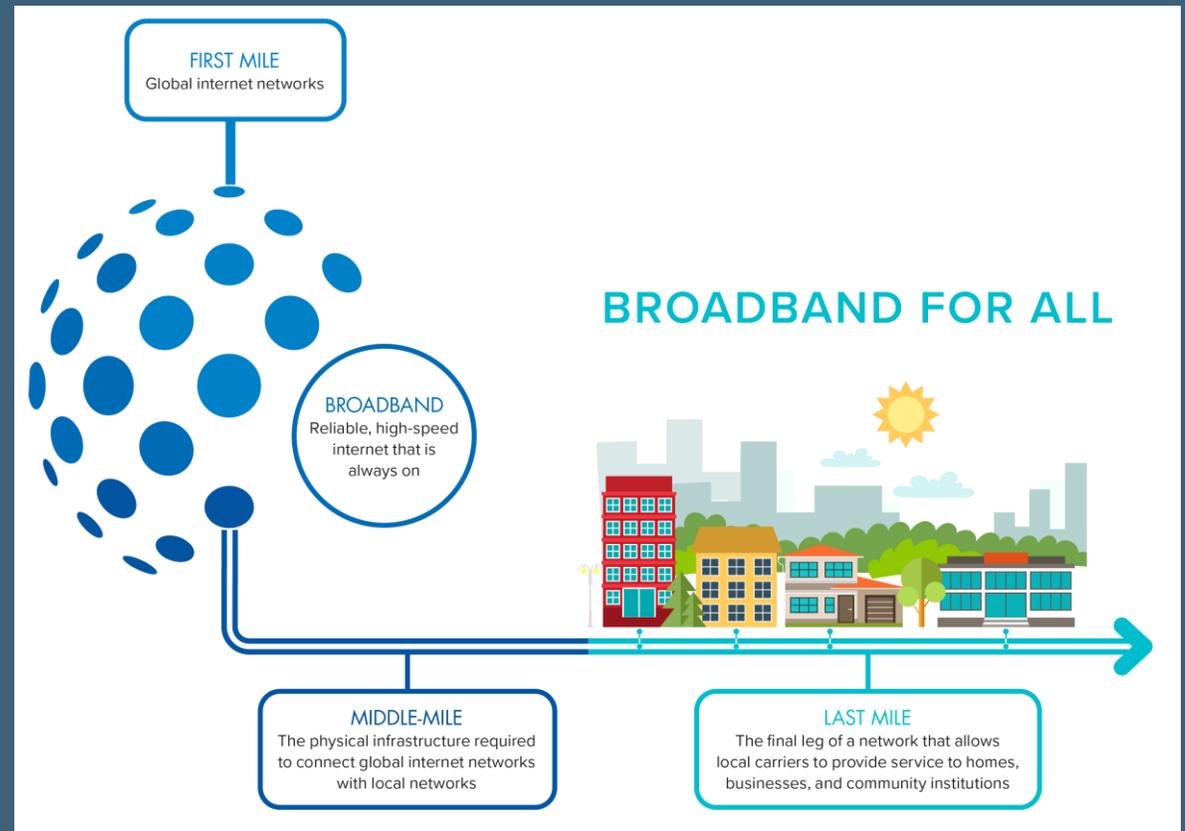
BROADBAND 101

Broadband 101

- **Broadband** is defined as **high-speed internet access** with minimum speeds of **25/3 megabits per second (Mbps)**
- Types of connections include:
 - Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)
 - Cable Modem
 - Fiber
 - Wireless
 - Satellite

Broadband Infrastructure

- First Mile/Global Internet Network
- Middle Mile
- Last Mile





THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The Benefits of Broadband

- **Accessibility:** Broadband helps people with disabilities to participate in society.
- **Civic engagement:** Broadband empowers civic engagement and effective governance
- **Economic development:** Broadband fosters economic growth
- **Education:** Broadband can enhance education
- **Public health:** Broadband can improve access to healthcare
- **Public safety:** Broadband can help create a safer society
- **Sustainability:** Broadband is a Green Strategy

What is the Digital Divide?

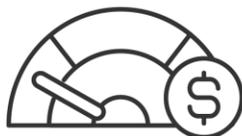
- Simplified Definition: *“The gap between those with internet access and those without it”*
- Reality: There is no **one** digital divide, there are **multiple** divides



Multiple Divides



AVAILABILITY
A lack of infrastructure
or proper service



AFFORDABILITY
A lack of affordable
subscription rates
or devices



LITERACY
A lack of understanding
or knowledge of how to
participate in digital activities

THE AVERAGE
CONSUMER WILL SPEND
AN AVERAGE OF

\$25K

OVER A 10 YEAR PERIOD



\$700



\$70/month



\$400



\$133/month

Who does it affect?

- Inequalities are apparent in rural, remote, tribal and low-income urban areas
- Communities that are **unserved** or **underserved**:
 - **Unserved communities** are those that do not have broadband infrastructure
 - **Underserved communities** are those that do not have sufficient service
- Populations affected: communities of color, senior citizens, tribal communities, etc.

Snapshot of the Region

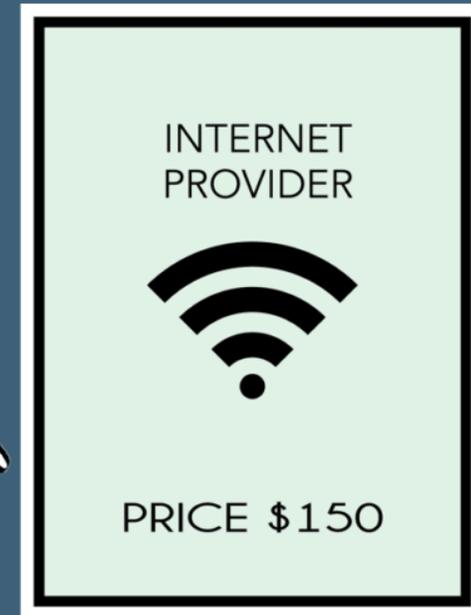
- **9 to 10%** of households do not have access to adequate internet speeds or a computer
- **13%** of the Black population do not have access to broadband and **5%** do not own a computer
- **11%** of the Native American/Indigenous population do not have access to broadband and **4%** do not own a computer
- **12%** of the Latino/Hispanic population do not have access to broadband and **4%** do not own to a computer
- **20%** of Seniors aged 65 and over do not have access to broadband and **12%** do not own a computer
- **70%** of those without internet are **concentrated** within **low-income households**



CAUSES FOR THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Why isn't it being built?

- **High Cost and Little Return**
 - Infrastructure is **expensive**
 - **No customer** base
 - Municipal broadband **does not always work**
- **Uncompetitive Market**
 - **Monopoly**
- **Permitting Issues**
 - **Too confusing, too slow, too expensive**



Inconsistent Thresholds

- FCC minimum threshold is broadband is **25/3 Mbps**
- USDA minimum threshold is **10/1 Mbps**
- **25/3 Mbps** is becoming obsolete and updated proposed standard is **100/20 Mbps**



California's New Broadband Standard

100/20 Mbps

Download and upload speeds

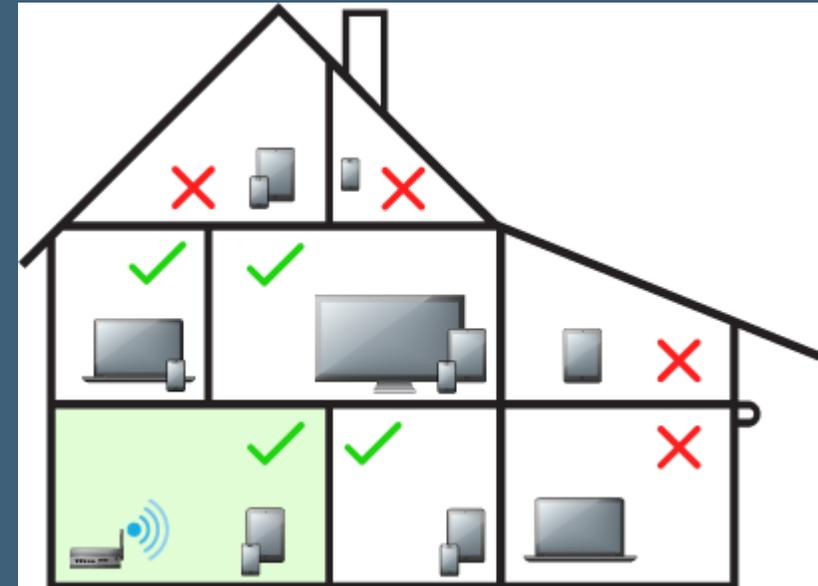
Materials and Terrain

- **Homes**

- Older homes have materials that **block Wi-Fi signals**
- Materials – Stucco lath, foil insulation, steel reinforced concrete

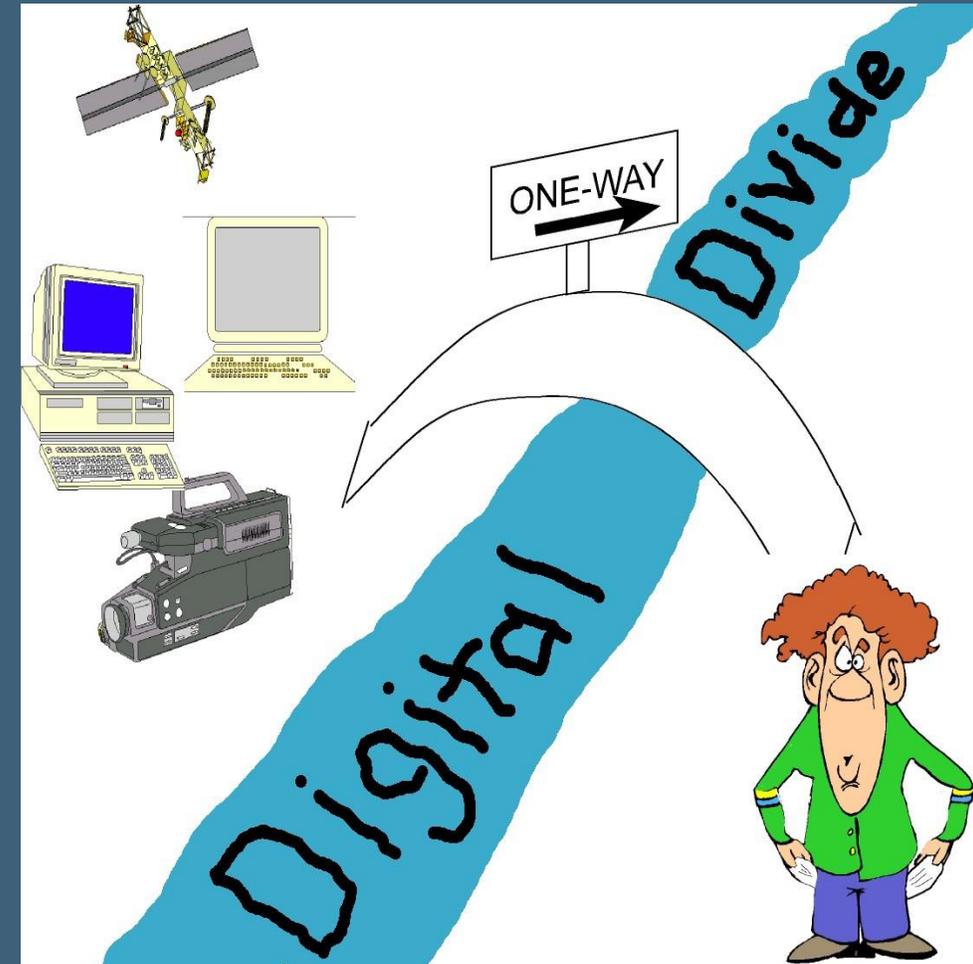
- **Terrain**

- Mountains, foliage, and atmospheric conditions can **affect signals**



Affordability

- Computer and/or laptop
 - Chromebook - \$250-275
 - Windows - \$600 to \$700
 - Life span of 5-6 years
- Smartphone - \$400 (with a lifespan of 2.5 years)
- Broadband subscription – \$30-\$70 per month
- Cellular plan - \$113 per month.
- **\$25,000 over a 10-year period.**

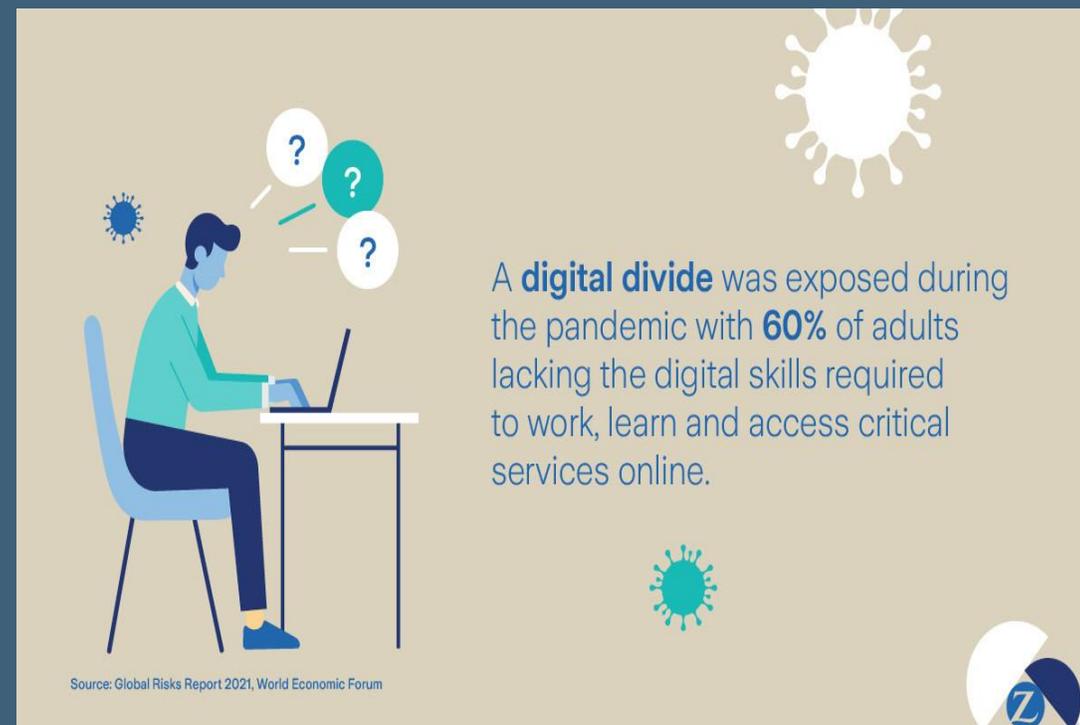


Digital Literacy

- Approximately **10% to 16% of ALL Americans are not digitally literate**
- **Affordability is the main reason for not adopting and training is easily available**
- Other reasons for not adopting:
 - **Not interested**
 - **It's a waste of time**
 - **It's intimidating**
 - **My life is fine the way it is**
- Those who are **not digitally literate** tend to **benefit** from access the **most**

Societal Impacts (Example)

- Senior citizens and minority communities are targets for **online crime**
- The “**homework gap**” experienced by children of low-income households can prevent social mobility.
- **60%** of the Latino/Hispanic population and **70%** of the Black population **unprepared for jobs** which require digital skills
 - Disqualified or underprepared for **86% of jobs** in the U.S. by 2045.





WORK EFFORTS FROM SCAG

Resolution 21-629-2 – Pledge to Bridge the Digital Divide

- **SCAG Resolution 21-629-2:** SCAG pledged to assist in bridging the digital divide
 - Develop a **Digital Action Plan**
 - Collect and invest in broadband data and conduct analysis
 - Conduct technical studies
 - Incorporate broadband into SCAG's programs



Work Efforts

- **Joint Request for Qualifications for Prospective Partnerships (RFQPP)**
- **ACP/Go-Human**
- **Broadband/VMT Report**
- **UC Davis Telework Study**
- **Permit Streamlining Project**
- **Connect SoCal**





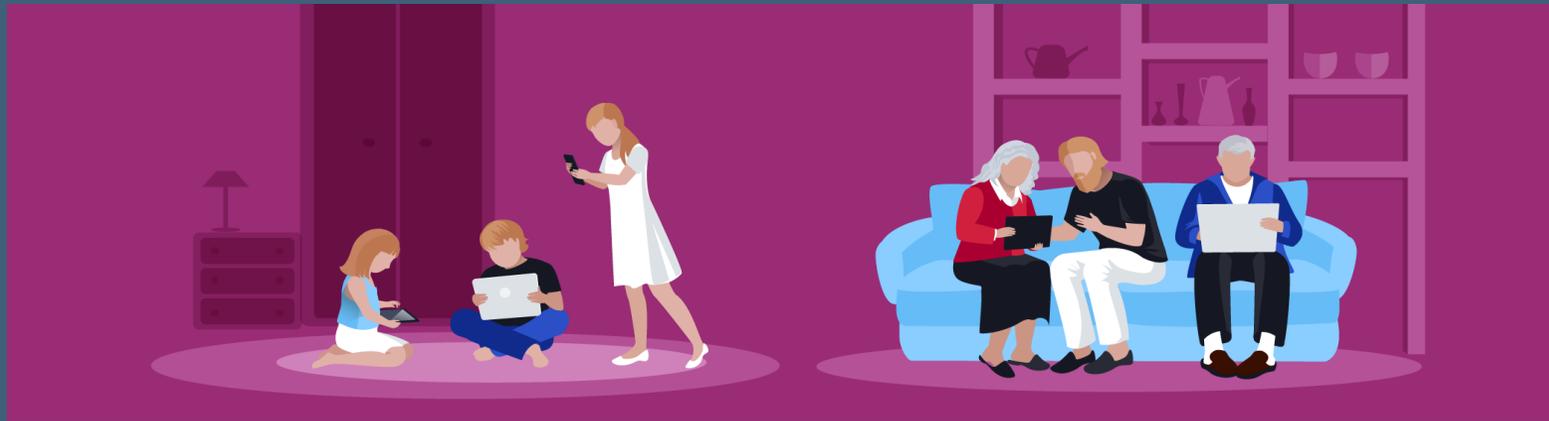
DIGITAL ACTION PLAN

Main Contents

- **Broadband 101**
- **Vision, Goals and Strategies**
- **Digital Divide 101**
- **Causes of the Digital Divide**
- **State of the Region**
- **Work Efforts**
- **Actions and Deliverables**

Vision Statement

“We envision an equitable region that fosters accessibility and adoption of affordable high-speed broadband and digital devices for all it’s residents”



Goals

1. **Accessibility and Affordability** – Every household in the region should have access to affordable high-speed broadband services and high-quality devices
2. **Adoption** – All residents should have the confidence and skills to participate in digital activities
3. **Consensus** – Build partnerships and reach consensus that high-quality and affordable broadband is an essential service to everyone and provides economic, environmental and safety benefits
4. **Planning** – Develop broadband technical tools and studies which provide value to the region

SCAG Strategies

S

SEEK AND SECURE

Seek and secure broadband funding for our local jurisdictions and stakeholders to deploy broadband infrastructure, digital devices, and advance digital equity initiatives.

C

COORDINATE AND COLLABORATE

Coordinate, collaborate and build partnerships with public agencies, local jurisdictions, partners, and the public and align work efforts to collectively bridge the digital divide.

A

ADVOCATE AND ASSIST

Advocate for better data, Southern California's fair share in funding, and open access to broadband networks and assist low-income and rural households in underserved and unserved communities.

G

GATHER AND GAIN

Gather data and gain knowledge through broadband technical and strategic studies, disseminate findings and inform decision makers and the public.

Guiding Principles to BRIDGE the DIVIDE

B

BREAK.

Break down barriers which inhibit the deployment of broadband infrastructure

R

RESILIENCE.

Plan or advocate for networks that are efficient and assists in resiliency for communities and infrastructure

I

INVEST.

Invest in communities affected by the digital divide

D

DATA DRIVEN.

Collect and share data to determine opportunity zones and solutions

G

GRASSROOTS.

Use a bottom-up approach and listen to and prioritize a community's needs

E

EXPEDITE.

Develop solutions which can be quickly implemented and efficiently

D

DETERMINE.

Determine funding opportunities and potential partnerships

I

INNOVATE.

Promote an atmosphere which allows for healthy competition, innovative solutions which are speed driven, while remaining technologically agnostic

V

VISIONARY.

Plan or advocate for networks that are scalable, sustainable and accommodate future needs and innovative technology

I

INTEGRATE.

Integrate findings into traditional disciplines of transportation and land use planning

D

DEPENDABLE.

Promote transparency and gain the trust of the public, other agencies, and stakeholders

E

EDUCATE.

Educate the public, policy makers and stakeholders and build consensus for collective action

Proposed Actions and Deliverables

- Data procurement, distribution and analysis
- Technical Studies (VMT Reports, Smart Cities, Goods Movement)
- Working groups, committees and legislative support
- Best Management Practices and Digital Literacy guides for Local Jurisdictions
- **Funding for Local Jurisdiction for Infrastructure, Adoption and Literacy**



BEYOND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Broadband is a Green Strategy

- Broadband and equity goes **beyond** “bridging the digital divide” and is a **“green strategy”**
- Broadband should be **evaluated** as a utility
- Our **reliance** in participating in the **digital landscape** will continue to grow
- The way we live continue to **change** and so will our communities
- We need to **plan** for a **sustainable, efficient** and **equitable environment**

Example: Smart Cities

- Broadband infrastructure and adoption is a **necessary** step in making our cities "smart"
- "**Smart Cities**" uses technology to make its programs and systems more **responsive** and **communicate effectively** with related systems
- To **fully** realize the **potential** of Smart Cities programs and upgrades, **broadband planning** serves as the **foundation for smart planning**



Example: Intelligent Transportation Systems

- ITS can enhance **safety** and **productivity**
- Intelligent Transportation Systems will also rely on broadband
 - Electronic Toll Compensation
 - Ramp Meters
 - Red Light Cameras
 - Traffic Signal Coordination
 - Transit Signal Priority



Example: Transportation Investments

- Tele-everything will **change travel behavioral patterns**
- Commuting to work may **decrease**, but travel trips to run chores may **increase**
- Can result in **less highway traffic** but **more local roadway traffic**
- Financial investments may need to be **better aligned**



Next Steps for the Digital Action Plan

Milestones	Date
Subregional COG Executive Directors Meeting	October 26, 2022
Emerging Technology Committee	October 27, 2022
Transformation SoCal Working Group	November – December 2022
Equity Working Group	December 8, 2022
GLUE Council	December 12, 2022
1 st Complete Draft to the Transportation Committee (Or other Policy Committees upon request)	January 5, 2023
Final Digital Action Plan to Regional Council (Approval and Adoption)	Spring 2023

What can you do to bridge the digital divide?

- Recognize the **divide** and recognize that broadband it is an **essential service**
- Listen to and **prioritize the community needs**
- Communicate, coordinate and build **partnerships across all sectors**
- Incorporate broadband into **local plans**
- Collaborate with your neighboring cities and develop **last mile infrastructure**
- Outreach to **secure affordable subscription rates and devices** and expand **digital literacy**

Panelists

- **Sunne Wright McPeak** - President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund
- **Selwyn Hollins** - Director of the County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department
- **Shayna Englin** - Director of the California Community Foundation, Digital Equity Initiative

Key topics

- What local agencies can do to advocate/initiate for broadband initiatives and secure broadband resources
- Critical data or tool kits available to help guide broadband planning at the local, county, and regional levels
- The role of local government to enable equitable access and expansion for broadband
- Necessary actions to expand broadband infrastructure and adoption
- Pricing and equity
- Grassroots efforts for implementation, adoption and literacy



THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

Broadband Planning: scag.ca.gov/broadband

THE 2024 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY
OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



Leslie Cayton

Associate Regional Planner

December 8, 2022

What is Connect SoCal?



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Connect SoCal is a 20+ year plan with 6,000+ transportation projects, a regional development pattern and many supportive programs and strategies.

What is required for the RTP/SCS?

State Requirements (SB 375)

- Integrated regional development pattern & transportation network
- Reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles to meet targets

Federal Requirements

- Updated every 4 years
- 20+ years into the future
- Revenues = Costs
- Demonstrate transportation conformity
- Public involvement

Why meet the requirements?

Meeting our Federal and State requirements is critical for projects in the region to receive **transportation funding or approval.**

- **Federal Transportation Conformity**

- Required for federal funding or approval of projects
- \$41.1 Billion of Federal Revenue Sources in Connect SoCal 2020

- **State GHG Emission Reduction Target**

- Required by Solutions for Congested Corridors Program and the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program
- In 2020, SCAG projects won a total of \$925 Million in funding from both programs

Development Update

Connect SoCal 2024 Overview



Foundations
and
Frameworks

2021

Data
Collection and
Policy
Development

2022

Outreach
and
Analysis

2023

Draft
Plan and
Adoption

2024

COMPLETED 2022 MILESTONES

- ✓ Draft Goals & Vision
- ✓ Draft Performance Measures
- ✓ Launched Policy Subcommittees
- ✓ Project List (Nov. 1)
- ✓ Local Data Exchange (Dec. 2)

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Early 2023: Submit draft Technical Methodology to CARB
- Spring 2023: General Outreach

What is the Technical Methodology?

- **Methods for calculating GHG emissions**
 - Explains how SCAG will estimate GHG reductions from Connect SoCal using the activity-based model or other off-model method
- **Required by California Air Resources Board (CARB)**
 - Every MPO must submit a draft to CARB prior to starting their formal public participation process
 - Connect SoCal 2024 public workshops slated to start in Spring 2023

SCAG's 2035 GHG
Reduction Target:
**19% from
2005 levels**

Objective: Forecasted Regional Development Pattern

- LDX helps us get to the *Forecasted Regional Development Pattern* by being:
 - Rooted in local planning
 - Steered by a regional vision
 - Aligned with state and federal policy
- scag.ca.gov/local-data-exchange
- hub.scag.ca.gov

Status

- LDX 1:1 Sessions Completed: 164 (83%)
- Input Deadline was Dec. 2
- 82+ Jurisdiction Responses
- 35 Pending Responses
- 25 Extensions Granted

Next LDX Update

Technical Working Group

- Jan. 19, 2023, 10 AM – 12 PM



NEXT GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE



RESILIENCE & CONSERVATION



RACIAL EQUITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

PURPOSE

Dive deeper into key areas for Connect SoCal and provide recommendations to the Policy Committees on how to address these issues in the plan

REPRESENTATION

Members from each county with invited participation from business or civic leaders and practitioners

DURATION

4 meetings between September 2022 and January 2023
Final Meeting and Recommendations: January 18, 19, 23
More info: scag.ca.gov/subcommittees

Questions? Comments?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
SCAG.CA.GOV/CONNECT-SOCAL



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

- Version 1.0 of the tool is now available:
<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>

HHS Environmental Justice Index

- A national, place-based tool designed to measure the cumulative impacts of environmental burden through the lens of human health and health equity
- Access the EJI Explorer and learn more here:
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCAG 2022 Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report

- Provides a snapshot of current existing inequitable conditions in the SCAG region
- Report now available: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2022racialequitybaselineconditionsreport_final.pdf?1669848218

SCAG Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee

- Meeting #2, October 20: Community Perspectives
- Meeting #3, November 17: Best Practices and Strategies
- Agendas and Recordings available: <https://scag.ca.gov/racial-equity-and-regional-planning-subcommittee>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 SCAG Sustainability Awards

- Highlights projects that use innovative planning to improve the mobility, livability, prosperity, and sustainability of our region
- Nominations are due January 10, 2023
- Award Guidelines and Application Form available here:
<https://scag.ca.gov/pod/2023-nomination-form>

OFFERS, REQUESTS, CONNECTIONS

Offers

Has your agency been working on any equity-related work you would like to share?

Requests

Are there any issues you have experienced since we met last that you would appreciate resources/support on?

Connections

Are you interested in connecting with other agencies around a specific topic?



THANK YOU!

See you in 2023!

Anita Au (au@scag.ca.gov)

Annaleigh Ekman (Ekman@scag.ca.gov)