# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
## JULY 2016

## SCAG SEEKS INPUT ON LOS ANGELES—SAN BERNARDINO TRANSIT AND RAIL STUDY

On July 12 and 13, SCAG will host two open house-style community meetings to engage and inform the public about the Inter-County Transit and Rail Planning Study. SCAG is working in coordination with Metro and SANBAG to evaluate current and future travel needs in eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County, with a focus on the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension, Metrolink service and access to Ontario International Airport. The Inter-County Study will identify recommendations for the optimal mix of transit services including light rail transit, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and express bus services. Work completed to date includes analysis of existing conditions and travel markets and development of technical methodology for cost estimating and ridership forecasting. SCAG has also engaged with two advisory committees, a Technical Working Group and a Stakeholder Review Committee, to ensure that the local jurisdictions, subregional councils of governments, transit operators and other transportation agencies have the opportunity to provide input. During the July 12 and 13 community meetings, participants can view exhibits, discuss future transit and rail options with planners and complete a survey to help shape the future of transportation for the area. More information, including time and location details for the two community meetings, is available at www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Pages/InterCountyTransitRail.aspx.

## ARB DETERMINES 2016 RTP/SCS MEETS GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

On June 28, the Air Resources Board (ARB) issued Executive Order G-16-066 accepting the determination that SCAG's 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) would, if implemented, meet state established 2020 and 2035 regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. ARB staff's evaluation showed SCAG used technical methodologies that would accurately quantify GHG reductions. SCAG's 2016 RTP/SCS, adopted on April 7, would meet the state established targets of an 8 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and would exceed the established target of a 13 percent per capita reduction by 2035 with an 18 percent per capita reduction.

## DRAFT 2016 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

On June 30, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) released the Draft 2016 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for a 60-day public review. Although air quality has dramatically improved over the past decades, the South Coast region still exceeds federal and state health-based air quality standards and has among the worst air quality in the country. The Draft 2016 South Coast AQMP is proposing comprehensive measures to control air pollutant emissions from all sources to attain federal and state ambient air quality standards for ozone and fine particulate matter. The draft air plan was jointly prepared by the SCAQMD, the lead agency, the California Air Resources Board and SCAG.

The integrated land use and transportation strategies in SCAG's adopted 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, including the committed transportation control measures, represent SCAG's portion of the overall control strategy in the Draft 2016 AQMP. The Draft 2016 AQMP includes an important component relative to future regional transportation plans and programs: The motor vehicle emissions budgets, which set an upper limit that on-road transportation activities are permitted to emit. These emission budgets, once approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will become the applicable emissions budgets that future regional transportation plans and programs are required to meet. As part of the public review process, the SCAQMD is scheduled to hold public workshops throughout the South Coast region in July 2016. For details about the Draft 2016 South Coast AQMP, visit http://bit.ly/29h9UqY. Other parts of the SCAG region also face air pollution challenges and air plans are being developed by their respective local air districts and the Air Resources Board. SCAG will continue to provide updates on the Draft 2016 South Coast AQMP and other air plans as these plans develop.

## DEADLINE FOR DRAFT CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT ACTION PLAN COMMENT PERIOD APPROACHING

As per Governor Brown's Executive Order B-32-15, the Draft California Sustainable Freight Action Plan was released for comment in May and is to be finalized by close of July 2016. The Draft Action Plan is intended to integrate investments, policies and programs across several state agencies to help realize a unified vision for California's freight transportation system and is a coordinated effort by the California Air Resources Board, California Department of Transportation, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the California Energy Commission. The Draft Action Plan highlights broad recommendations to the Governor focusing on specific policies and programs related to freight transportation including a long-term 2050 Vision and Guiding Principles for freight transportation and targets to guide the state toward meeting the Vision.

As per the Executive Order, state agencies are to establish targets to improve 1) freight system efficiency; 2) transition to zero emission technologies; and 3) increase the competitiveness of California's freight transportation system. The Draft Action Plan includes specific recommended proposals by staff of the state agencies:

- Increase 25% in system efficiency as measured by Gross Domestic Product/reduction in GHGs by 2030;

- Deploy over 100,000 freight vehicles and equipment capable of zero emission operation and maximize near-zero emission operation by 2030; and

- Foster future economic growth within freight industry working with industry stakeholders.

The Draft Action Plan is intended to integrate elements from a number of existing state plans related to California's freight transportation system, including the California Freight Mobility Plan, the 2014 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, the Sustainable Freight Pathways to Zero and Near-Zero Emissions Discussion Document, the Heavy-Duty Technology and Fuels Assessments, Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans Report and others.

SCAG staff has been coordinating with other regional agencies to submit a joint letter. Coordination is also underway with other MPOs throughout the state. After consideration of public comments and any new information received, the state agencies will make changes as appropriate and provide the Action Plan to the Agency Secretaries for Transportation, Environmental Protection and Natural Resources for consideration and submittal to the Governor. The staff of the state agencies will be presenting on the Draft Action Plan at SCAG's upcoming July Transportation Committee meeting.

## ARB RELEASES LATEST CALIFORNIA INVENTORY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Under state statutes, the Air Resources Board (ARB) is responsible for developing and maintaining California's statewide inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. An updated GHG inventory is published annually to reflect current data. The latest GHG inventory covers years 2000 to 2014 and during this time, total GHG emissions in California declined from 466 to 442 million metric tons, a 5 percent decrease; while per capita GHG emissions dropped from 13.7 to 11.4 tons per person, a 17 percent decline. The emission estimates are statewide estimates that rely on state, regional or national data sources and on aggregated facility-specific emissions data reported under the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Accompanying the GHG inventory data are documents which explains trends in statewide GHG emissions from major sectors and updates made to the inventory since the previous inventory release.

Pursuant to SB 375, SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) is required to meet the regional GHG emission reduction targets set by ARB. The recently adopted 2016 RTP/SCS meets or exceeds the current 2020 and 2035 GHG emission targets set for the SCAG region. In collaboration with metropolitan planning organizations throughout California including SCAG, ARB is in the process of setting the second round of regional GHG emission targets. Once the new targets are established, the future RTP/SCS will be required to meet them. The updated GHG inventory data and supporting documents are available at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/data.htm.

## GO HUMAN RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The National Association of Government Communicators recently recognized SCAG's Go Human campaign at the 2016 Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards, honoring excellence, innovation and creativity in government communication. SCAG's traffic safety and encouragement campaign, which focuses on walking and biking, received high honors for its brand identity and received the Award of Excellence for its transit shelter poster designs. Cities and counties across the region are welcome to co-brand and use Go Human's open-source materials to encourage residents to walk, bike and drive safely. This fall, SCAG will provide an opportunity for local agencies to apply for funds to implement the Go Human advertising campaign, Go Human open streets and safety demonstration projects, as well as other active transportation planning projects and programs. More information on the Call for Projects is available on SCAG's website at www.scag.ca.gov/activetransportation.

## SCAG TO HOST CALIFORNIA HOUSING SUMMIT THIS OCTOBER

On October 11, SCAG, along with partners representing business and community leaders, developers and other stakeholders, will be hosting a California Housing Summit at the L.A. Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The California Housing Summit will look at the challenges of housing affordability, along with focusing on resources to build more housing and innovative tools for housing development in local communities. The program will also include speakers on funding infrastructure to support housing and how to convey the health, economic and accessibility benefits to communities. Visit www.scag.ca.gov/housingsummit for more information.

## SCAG CONCLUDES 27TH ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP

SCAG and USC Sol Price School of Public Policy jointly hosted the 27th Annual Demographic Workshop at the California Science Center in Los Angeles on June 13. More than 180 people attended this year's workshop, which addressed the theme, "The Continued Rise of the Millennials?" The workshop provided new insights and research on this important demographic group and what they mean for the region's future, including housing, employment and services. Presentations, photos and full videos of the panel discussions are available here: http://www.scag.ca.gov/calendar/Pages/DemographicWorkshop.aspx.

## SCAG SHARES KNOWLEDGE AT 2016 ESRI USER CONFERENCE

In late June, SCAG staff participated and presented at the 2016 Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) User Conference in San Diego, which is a yearly convening on advances in geographic information systems (GIS). This conference attracts approximately 15,000 professionals from around the world and offers a variety of paper sessions, technical workshops and exhibits. Several SCAG staff members presented at the conference: Simon Choi gave a presentation on a Web-Based Local Population Projection Tool; Jung Seo presented on Geospatial Analysis of Job-Housing Mismatch Using ArcGIS and Python; and Tom Vo presented on Distance-Based Job Accessibility Analysis: An Integration of GIS and SAS. In addition,

SCAG staff also presented five posters at the ESRI Map Gallery: Asthma Rate and Built Environments, Job-Housing Mismatch, 3D Spatial Analysis, Origin-Destination Commuting Flow and Distance-Based Job Accessibility. SCAG's poster presentation on Historical Collision Analysis for Different Transportation Modes has been selected and included within this year's 2016 ESRI User Conference Map Book.

## SCAG CONVENES ENTITLEMENTS WORKING GROUP

In response to requests from building industry stakeholders and to address lessons learned during the Bottom-Up Local Input Process for the 2016 RTP/SCS, SCAG convened a new Entitlements Working Group to help inform the update of local data for use in future plans. The working group, comprised of professionals in the building industry and development services, will assess and verify SCAG's entitlement geodatabase to ensure that details on upcoming construction and development are reflected in the regional growth forecast and future land use scenarios for the 2020 RTP/SCS. This group will also provide feedback on how best to engage with stakeholders to ensure the accuracy of SCAG's local data—including the density, intensity and phasing of planned development projects. It is anticipated that the Entitlement Working Group will contribute greatly to existing efforts for a shared vision of growth that will serve as a cornerstone of the forthcoming Plan.

## UCLA PLANNING SCHOOL SEEKS IDEAS FOR CAPSTONE PROJECTS

The UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs is currently seeking ideas for capstone projects in urban planning and public policy that pair master's students with external client agency partners. Every year, UCLA Public Policy and Urban Planning students complete nearly 50 projects through consulting agreements for external clients representing a wide range of sectors and industries including local, regional and state government agencies; engineering and consulting firms; startups and entrepreneurial small businesses; educational institutions; and nonprofit service organizations. The Lewis Center, the Institute of Transportation Studies and the Luskin Center for Innovation provide funding for meritorious capstone projects that fit within their missions. The deadline for submitting project ideas is Friday, July 15. More information is available at: http://eepurl.com/b7woQv.