SOCAL GREENPRINT PUBLIC HEARING HELD

On Aug. 24, SCAG hosted a public hearing on the SoCal Greenprint, a web-based tool that will compile more than 100 existing data sources into interactive maps to help stakeholders visualize how to better integrate nature into future growth and development. The public hearing was held at the direction of the Regional Council, which voted at the July 1 meeting to pause the implementation of the SoCal Green print for at least 30 days and hold a public hearing.

The public hearing included an introduction by SCAG President Clint Lorimore and an overview presentation from SCAG staff. Over 75 stakeholders participated in the public hearing and 33 stakeholders provided verbal comments. SCAG also received 36 written comments before the 6:00 p.m. deadline. A video of the public hearing, the presentation, and written comments are all available for review on the Public Hearing & Comments webpage on the SCAG website. The written comments and feedback received during the public hearing will be summarized for the Regional Council, as will input received from other outreach activities and survey findings on the SoCal Greenprint's proposed data layer list.

In addition to the public hearing held on August 24, another public hearing will be held in the future to provide an opportunity to share comments and feedback directly with the Regional Council.

SCAG RECEIVES STATE BUDGET EARMARK FOR IERS IMPLEMENTATION

At its July 1 meeting, the Regional Council adopted the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS). Through the May budget revise and AB 129, SCAG was awarded $3.5 million in one-time grant funding to implement several core recommendations in the IERS that is centered around work products in five areas: 1) Supporting expansion of the number of, and access to, middle wage jobs; 2) Strengthening supply chains and access to contracting opportunities; 3) Construction apprenticeships and training; 4) Providing regional data; and 5) Addressing human capital needs. The grant funding is being implemented through an agreement with the California Workforce Development Board and work is slated to begin in early 2022.

MEET-AND-GREET WITH NEWLY ELECTED ASSEMBLYMEMBER ISAAC BRYAN

On Aug. 12, SCAG's executive board officers, including President Clint Lorimore, 2nd Vice President Carmen Ramirez, and Immediate Past President Rex Richardson, who were joined by Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee Chair Alan Wapner and Regional Council members Alex Fisch and Mark Henderson, met with Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Baldwin Hills) who was recently elected to represent California's 54th Assembly District. Assemblymember Bryan previously served as an advisor to Senator Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles) and Mayor Eric Garcetti. Assemblymember Bryan spoke with our board officers and Regional Council members about his commitment to solving the state's housing crisis. He also expressed that he shares other priorities with SCAG, such as good environmental good stewardship and increasing broadband access. As a newly elected Assemblymember, he expressed a desire to maintain dialogue and leverage SCAG's resources and knowledge to guide policy solutions.

GO HUMAN UPDATE

COMMUNITY STREETS MINI-GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDS 31 COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

In June, SCAG awarded over $275,000 through the *Go Human* campaign to community organizations and non-profits to implement 31 targeted traffic safety engagement projects across the region as part of its Community Streets Mini-Grants Program. This third funding round awarded more resources than the previous two rounds combined (over $41,000 was awarded to 14 projects in 2018 and over $210,000 to 28 projects in 2020). Awardees have initiated engagement

strategies to increase safety of pedestrians, provide education on proper helmet fittings, implement temporary safety demonstrations, facilitate leadership training for youth and other community members, and implement digital outreach efforts, among many other creative, community-led strategies. Engagement strategies will continue through September 2021. Please visit the *Go Human* blog for more information about the awardees.

SUMMER TRAFFIC SAFETY PEER EXCHANGE SERIES COMES TO A CLOSE

In August, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign wrapped up its summer 12-part Traffic Safety Peer Exchange series. The virtual sessions kicked off in June and brought together more than 300 partners and practitioners from public agencies, non-profits, community-based organizations, and others throughout the region to share their experiences and insight on addressing the region's most pressing traffic safety issues. The June sessions addressed high-injury networks, safety funding, and community engagement while the July and August sessions addressed traffic safety issues confronting rural, suburban, and urban communities. The sessions featured speakers from community-based organizations such as The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice and the Central Coast Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, government organizations such as Riverside University Health System and the City of Ventura, and state and elected officials such as California Transportation Commissioner Michele Martinez and City of Redlands Councilmember Denise Davis. A full listing of speakers, session recordings, and materials are available to view and share on the *Go Human* Traffic Safety Peer Exchange webpage.

'ACTIVATE ARTESIA' SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT HELD IN LONG BEACH

On Aug. 21, in partnership with the City of Long Beach, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign hosted **Activate Artesia Blvd @ the Uptown Jazz Festival**. The event featured a *Go Human* demonstration project highlighting proposed safety improvements including curb extensions, high visibility crosswalks, and a parklet on Artesia Blvd. The project highlighted upcoming improvements as part of the Artesia Grand Boulevard project led by Long Beach Public Works. The event also featured many local vendors and interactive programming including a health equity fair led by the Black Health Equity Collaborative, the "Hoop Bus" promoting local parks and recreation, music and entertainment by the Urban Society, pop-ups from local restaurants, and a Kids Zone sponsored by the YMCA. The event drew more than 250 participants and 75 survey responses.

FHWA-SUPPORTED TRANSPORTATION SAFETY MODELING WORK

At the July 2021 Modeling Taskforce meeting, SCAG shared details from its recent work developing predictive models for safety planning and target setting. SCAG initiated this work last fall after securing support from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through their Safety Data and Technical Assistance Program. The two distinct suites of models include safety target setting models that predict fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries at the county level. The work also resulted in the development of community models that predict traffic crashes at the traffic analysis zone level. The safety models will support SCAG's work going forward as the agency establishes safety targets to comply with federal legislative requirements. The models will help the region estimate how much investment in safety may be needed to meet future safety targets given growth and other regional changes. The safety models can also support assessments of the safety impacts of large-scale projects and the comparisons of alternative growth scenarios (i.e., scenario planning). SCAG staff anticipate wrapping up this work in September, after receiving final feedback from Caltrans as well as the Office of Traffic Safety.

STATEWIDE GUIDANCE ON HIGH INJURY NETWORKS

In July and August, SCAG held Listening Sessions and shared presentations with stakeholders regarding highlights from a new draft of the "Recommendations for Statewide Guidance on High Injury Networks" report. Since November 2020, a statewide team pulled from California's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Bicycle and Pedestrian Challenge Teams, which was led by SCAG staff, have been working on recommendations for high injury network (HIN) statewide guidance.

Much of the work involved drafting a report that reviewed existing HINs across California, assessed case studies, discussed challenges, and provided resulting recommendations for statewide and jurisdictional guidance. SCAG staff are currently in the process of integrating stakeholder feedback and anticipate sharing the final report with the SHSP Steering Committee and Caltrans in September. The ultimate goal is to have the guidance institutionalized in the "California Manual for Setting Speed Limits" so jurisdictions with HINs can have more authority over setting speeds at the local level.

SB 743 LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE

SCAG has been collaborating with several local agencies throughout the region in the development of locally focused implementation plans in support of SB 743-related vehicle miles traveled (VMT) assessment and mitigation requirements. SB 743 changed the focus of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) transportation impact analysis from motor vehicle delay, as measured by "level of service" (LOS), to VMT reduction. Local implementing agencies are now required to assess and, if necessary, mitigate the level of new VMT that would be generated by new development projects as part of the CEQA process. SCAG is currently working with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), and City of Banning on SB 743 implementation programs specific to their jurisdictions. Three of the four current projects are supported by the SCAG Sustainable Communities Grant program: LADOT (Phase 1), SBCTA, and City of Banning. The fourth of these projects, LADOT (Phase 2), is being funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grant. Two additional SCAG-supported SB 743 local implementation assistance projects, for the City of Temecula and Western Riverside Council of Governments, have been completed.

SCAG TEAM TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH SB 379 SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATES

From February to June 2021, SCAG's Local Information Services Team (LIST) provided Housing Element technical assistance to more than 70 local jurisdictions and stakeholders in the SCAG region. Responding to jurisdictions' requests for further technical assistance, a team of technical staff is prepared to provide one-on-one technical and information services. Currently, the LIST members are focusing on assisting local jurisdictions with Safety Element updates, specifically the component under SB 379 that requires cities and counties to include climate adaptation and resilience strategies into their next Safety Element update. LIST members are providing technical assistance services on SCAG's available climate adaptation data and tools, such as toolkits from the Regional Climate Adaptation Framework, environmentally-sensitive layers within HELPR 2.0, and the recently published "SB 379 Compliance Curriculum for Local Jurisdictions." To learn more or request technical assistance, please contact list@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG RECEIVES APA AWARD FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING TOOLS

On July 17, the American Planning Association's Sustainable Communities Division (APA-SCD) awarded SCAG their 2021 Award for Excellence in Sustainability: Policy, Law, or Tool for its work on the Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework (CAF). The APA-SCD Award for Excellence in Sustainability honors projects, policies, plans, individuals, and organizations whose work is dedicated to supporting sustainable, resilience, and equitable communities. The Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework consists of a collection of adaptation planning tools and resources ready for use by jurisdictions to help individuals, communities, and natural systems cope with the unavoidable consequences of a changing climate. The video from APA-SCD featuring SCAG's work can be viewed here.