
News Release

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SCAG Regional Council adopts resolution on Connect SoCal – a significant milestone in meeting the mobility, quality-of-life needs for six-county region

Los Angeles – The Regional Council of Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted a resolution Thursday to submit its proposed final Connect SoCal plan to the federal government, a critical step in meeting the mobility needs of a region expected to add 1.6 million people in the next 25 years.

The resolution allows for submittal of the \$638.6 billion regional transportation plan as soon as possible to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) so they may review it for conformity purposes by June 1. Fully implemented, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan would reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and improve the region’s long-term economic viability.

“As we climb out from behind the shadows of COVID-19, Connect SoCal will help our region enhance the overall quality of life in the SCAG region by creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and generating billions of dollars of economic activity,” said Bill Jahn, President of SCAG and a Big Bear Lake City Councilmember. “This plan also contributes meaningfully toward achieving our regional goals for sustainability, transportation equity, and improved public health and safety.”

As the metropolitan planning organization for six counties and 191 cities, SCAG is mandated by law to develop a long-term regional transportation and sustainability plan every four years. Funding for many critical projects is dependent upon having an approved regional plan – an important consideration as Southern California looks ahead to the post-pandemic recovery.

Connect SoCal is built around a series of strategies that would reduce overall vehicle-miles traveled and achieve the region’s targets for reducing greenhouse gases from autos and light-duty trucks by 19% per capita, from 2005 levels, by 2035. Fully implemented, the plan would save local jurisdictions \$3.8 billion from reduced capital infrastructure and ongoing operations of maintenance costs due to the more efficient development patterns.

Other benefits include 168,400 new jobs as a direct result transportation investments, 264,500 new jobs as a result of enhanced economic competitiveness and improved overall regional economic performance, and an overall return of \$1.54 for every \$1 spent. The plan also increases investment in active transportation from \$12 billion to \$22 billion, including safety improvements and safe routes to school investments.

“Connect SoCal plan represents a significant milestone in meeting the mobility and quality-of-life needs of one of the fastest-growing population centers in the United States,” said Rex Richardson, SCAG First Vice President and a Long Beach City Councilmember. “With this, we now have an integrated web of

creative strategies to address our regional transportation challenges while ensuring continued economic prosperity and safeguarding public health.”

Said Kome Ajise, SCAG Executive Director, “A key to building an effective regional transportation strategy is working closely with local and sub-regional partners to understand transportation needs and relationships to land use. That’s what allows us to come up with the solutions that help us reduce travel times and costs, and improve air quality, for all Southern Californians.”

For more on Connect SoCal, visit www.connectsocial.org.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.