

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO



# SCAG 101

## ABOUT SCAG

Founded in 1965, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization and council of governments, encompassing six counties and 191 cities. In addition to conducting research and developing long-range transportation plans, SCAG convenes local governments and agencies to address regional transportation, land use and other issues of mutual concern.

## OUR VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

## 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.

## FUNDING SOURCES

SCAG receives most of its funding from the federal government through Consolidated Planning Grants from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. In addition, SCAG applies for and receives funding from Caltrans. SCAG also receives supplementary funding through state and local sources, in addition to third party matching.



## REGION-AT-A-GLANCE



**6**  
COUNTIES



**16**  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS



**191**  
CITIES



**18.7M**  
PEOPLE IN THE REGION



**38,618**  
SQUARE MILES



**\$1.6T**  
REGIONAL GDP



**16TH**  
LARGEST ECONOMY  
IN THE WORLD



**47.6%**  
OF TOTAL STATE  
POPULATION

# WHAT WE DO

SCAG leads the region, creating a vision for the future with the holistic plan to achieve our unified goals.

**Primary Responsibility:**

**Connect SoCal, the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy**

Every four years, SCAG develops and implements Connect SoCal, the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), which outlines strategies that balance future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental and public health goals.

## TRANSPORTATION

SCAG authors the roadmap for Southern California’s mobility by organizing and prioritizing transportation projects across the region, and spearheading programs to meet environmental, economic and equity goals, and support jurisdictions in addressing their diverse transportation needs.

**Primary Responsibility:**

**Federal Transportation Improvement Program**

Every two years, SCAG develops the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), a comprehensive list of planned or proposed transportation projects over a six-year period.

## HOUSING

SCAG has a critical role in addressing the housing crisis by facilitating the process to allocate housing in our region, and by leading innovative solutions at many levels to overcome barriers to sustainably and equitably build more housing.

**Primary Responsibility:**

**Regional Housing Needs Assessment**

SCAG conducts the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) every eight years to determine each jurisdiction’s “fair share” of the region’s future housing need by income group based on existing need and anticipated growth.

## COLLABORATION & ADVOCACY

SCAG serves as the unified voice of the region, advocating for the legislative and funding needs of Southern California’s diverse and growing communities, and creating a strong coalition that can achieve more together.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

**Legislative Advocacy and Signature Events**

SCAG helps support implementation of regionally significant projects and programs while also providing platforms to introduce, test and nurture new ideas for the long-term benefit of the region. This is supported by the agency’s legislative advocacy and annual signature events, which include the Regional Conference & General Assembly, Southern California Economic Summit and Demographic Workshop.

## TOOLS & RESOURCES

SCAG empowers Southern California jurisdictions to work toward regional solutions by creating collaborative resources that help to level the playing field through improved access to data, best practices and tools.

**Primary Responsibility:**

**Regional Data and Information Center**

SCAG maintains a range of data products, including U.S. Census Bureau data, the Regional Transportation Model and various growth projections for the Southern California, and provides relevant data and analyses to local jurisdictions and other stakeholders in the SCAG region.

# GOVERNING STRUCTURE

... **General Assembly**

SCAG is governed by the General Assembly, which includes at least one official delegate from each of SCAG’s member cities, one from each county in the SCAG region and one from each member county transportation commission. This body meets annually at the Regional Conference & General Assembly.

... **Regional Council**

SCAG’s 86-member governing board, the Regional Council, conducts the affairs of SCAG; implements the General Assembly’s policy decisions; acts upon policy recommendations from SCAG policy committees and external agencies; appoints committees to study specific problems and programs; and amends, decreases or increases the proposed budget to be reported to the General Assembly.

... **Policy Committees**

SCAG’s decision-making process is also guided by the work of the Executive/Administration Committee, Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee and three Policy Committees. Much of the discussion and debate on issues occurs in the Policy Committees and all issues considered by the Regional Council must originate through one or more of the committees.