



Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Regional Council Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
June 2, 2022

To: Executive/Administration Committee (EAC)
Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

From: Sarah Dominguez, Program Manager II
(213) 236-1918, dominguezs@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EAC:

Recommend that the Regional Council adopt the Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:

Adopt the Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, EEC AND TC:

Receive and File.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In July 2021, the Executive Administration Committee convened for a strategic planning session. One action identified during that session was to create a Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024. Connect SoCal 2024, the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), will be prepared by SCAG over the next two years, in anticipation of an April 2024 adoption date. SCAG will build from the strategies and policies established in Connect SoCal 2020, such as the Core Vision and Key Connections. However, in developing Connect SoCal, SCAG must continue to monitor and reexamine trends and emerging issues in order to put forth a plan that addresses the region's evolving needs, challenges and opportunities. The attached draft Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 outlines the approach for policy development with the existing Policy Committees and three new sub-committees.

BACKGROUND:**What is Connect SoCal 2024?**

SCAG prepares a long-range RTP/SCS every four years which provides a vision for integrating land use and transportation for increased mobility and more sustainable growth.

SCAG's next RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024, will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, enhanced strategies and investments based on, and intended to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020. The pillars of the Connect SoCal—the *Core Vision* and *Key Connections*—are anticipated to continue into the next plan. The *Core Vision* centers on maintaining and better managing the transportation network we have for moving people and goods, while expanding mobility choices by locating housing, jobs and transit closer together and increasing investment in transit and complete streets. The *Key Connections* augment the *Core Vision* of the plan to address trends and emerging challenges. These *Key Connections* lie at the intersection of land use, transportation and innovation to accelerate progress on regional planning goals. For this plan development cycle, SCAG staff will focus on process improvements and data updates and refinements. However, in developing Connect SoCal, SCAG must continue to monitor and reexamine trends and emerging issues in order to put forth a plan that addresses the region's evolving needs, challenges and opportunities.

Connect SoCal 2024: Status Update

As described at the February 2022 Joint Policy Committee Meeting, SCAG is now entering into the "Data Collection and Policy Development" phase of plan development.

Throughout 2022, staff will be continuing with research to better understand the trends and existing conditions in the region. This phase also includes steps to understand the existing conditions and planning occurring at the local jurisdiction level through the Local Data Exchange process and engagement with County Transportation Commissions on the Project List later this year. Over the course of the next year and in the first half of 2023, SCAG staff will be seeking direction from our policy makers, through the relevant Policy Committees, on the priorities and strategies for Connect SoCal 2024 to augment and help better align plans and investments across the region.

Phases of Connect SoCal 2024 Development



Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

In July 2021, then President Lorimore convened a strategic planning session for the Executive Administration Committee (EAC) and executive staff to establish high-level work goals and priorities for work planning for the year. The resulting EAC Strategic Work Plan identified elevating and expanding policy leadership as a central measure to advancing the EAC’s goals and priorities. Among the tasks assigned to staff to expand policy leadership was the development of a Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024. Per the EAC Strategic Work Plan:

“Working with the Executive Officers and the Policy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs to develop a Policy Development Framework for 2024 Connect SoCal that identifies priority policy issues for deeper discussion and establishes a sub-committee structure for policy education, engagement, and consensus building to guide visionary policy development (March 2022)”

The attached Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 includes the preliminary plan vision and goals¹, key policy priorities, and an outline for the focus and responsibility of each Policy Committee and three new sub-committees to consider opportunities to incorporate new policy direction and priorities identified by the board since 2020 into the regional plan.

In March 2022, SCAG staff shared this draft with the EAC for initial feedback. Several members highlighted the need to address or discuss water in relationship to planned development. Staff noted that in Connect SoCal 2020 we incorporated water considerations through the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Key Connection and through analysis in the Program Environmental Impact Report. Staff will explore how best to address this issue within the requirements and goals for Connect SoCal 2024.

In April 2022, SCAG staff presented the draft to each Policy Committee. Policy Members provided direction to staff on areas for further discussion or consideration including but not limited to: leveraging remote work to reach regional goals; addressing disabled community needs through universal design and first-last mile; feasibility of blending biofuels in diesel trucks; and exploring

¹ The attached Policy Development Framework includes updated vision and goals which reflect stakeholder feedback collected between January and April 30, 2022.

hydrogen-powered heavy-duty freight. Staff have noted these areas of interest for inclusion during plan policy development.

Next Steps

Following adoption, SCAG will circulate a survey to all members, to assess interest in policy issues and in serving on one of the sub-committees. Following the results of this survey, SCAG will work with the President and Executive Officers establish the sub-committees and prepare a more detailed policy committee agenda outlook for each of the Committees to illustrate the progression of policy discussions leading up to plan analysis and production in summer 2023.

Later this year, SCAG will be onboarding a consultant to assist with Public and Stakeholder Engagement for the plan. Early deliverables from that work will include educational materials to help stakeholders better understand the regional planning and policy development process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 21-22 Overall Work Program (310.4874.01: Connect SoCal Development).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024
2. PowerPoint Presentation - Policy Development Framework

Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

Connect SoCal 2024, the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), will be prepared by SCAG over the next two years, in anticipation of an April 2024 adoption date. Prepared in response to direction by the Regional Council, this Policy Development Framework presents the Draft Plan Vision and Goals and the Policy Priorities to be expanded and refined through the planning process to advance the vision and goals, and a policy development leadership structure and outlook to foster policy education, engagement, consensus building and decision-making.

DRAFT PLAN VISION AND GOALS

In January 2022, staff began engaging with stakeholders through the Regional Planning Working Groups and the Technical Working Group on the draft Goals & Vision for Connect SoCal 2024. Their feedback informed the updated draft Vision and Goals below.

The draft Vision is meant to capture what we want the region to be by 2050 and is supported by four draft Goals, each centered around a key theme (Mobility, Communities, the Environment, and the Economy). These goals are each further defined by supporting sub-Goals.

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

A healthy, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

DRAFT GOALS

Mobility: Build and maintain a robust transportation network.

- Support investments and programs that are well-maintained and operated, coordinated, and resilient, and result in improved safety and air quality.
- Ensure reliable, accessible, affordable, and quality travel options while striving to enhance equity in transportation resources offered in underserved communities.
- Plan for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Communities: Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving.

- Reinforce vibrant, human-centered communities in urban, suburban, and rural settings to increase mobility options and reduce travel distances.
- Produce and preserve a diversity of housing types to improve affordability, accessibility, and choices for all.
- Foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity, and actively seek to reduce racial and economic disparities.

Environment: Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.

- Develop communities that are resilient and can mitigate, adapt to, and respond to chronic and acute stressors and disruptions, such as climate change.
- Integrate the region's development pattern and transportation network to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Conserve and restore the region's natural and agricultural resources.

Economy: Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all.

- Provide physical and digital infrastructure to improve access to education, vocational training, jobs, financial systems, and to foster the growth of small businesses in underserved communities.
- Advance a resilient and efficient goods movement system that supports the economic vitality of the region, attainment of clean air, and quality of life for our communities.
- Improve regional multimodal transportation system infrastructure and efficiency to enhance the region’s global economic competitiveness.

POLICY PRIORITIES

The Draft Policy Priorities are based upon policy direction established in Connect SoCal 2020 and recent Regional Council actions to address three of the emerging issues facing the region. The pillars of Connect SoCal 2020—the *Core Vision* and *Key Connections*—are outlined below followed by a summary of the emerging issues and related actions.

CORE VISION

Rooted in the 2008 and 2012 RTP/SCS plans, Connect SoCal’s *Core Vision* centers on maintaining and better managing the transportation network we have for moving people and goods, while expanding mobility choices by locating housing, jobs and transit closer together and increasing investment in transit and complete streets.

- Sustainable Development
- System Preservation & Resilience
- Demand & System Management
- Transit Backbone
- Complete Streets
- Goods Movement

Many of the policies and strategies summarized as the *Core Vision* of the plan are reflective of the policies and projects developed at the local level and gathered by SCAG through the plan development process (through the Local Data Exchange with Local Jurisdictions and Project List submissions from County Transportation Commissions). The Core Vision strategies will be discussed during plan development to identify barriers to implementation and opportunities for enhancement.

KEY CONNECTIONS

Connect SoCal 2020 introduced *Key Connections* that build on the *Core Vision* to leverage technology or advance policy needed to accelerate reaching plan goals. Key Connections identify critical regional strategies to “close the gap” between what could be accomplished through intensification of core planning strategies alone, and what must be done to meet increasingly aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals. The Key Connections lie at the intersection of land use, transportation and innovation, aiming to coalesce policy discussions and advance promising strategies for leveraging new technologies and partnerships to accelerate progress on regional planning goals. The policies and strategies identified as *Key Connections* became the focal point for SCAG implementation efforts in directing research priorities and local technical assistance.

- Smart Cities & Job Centers
- Housing Supportive Infrastructure
- Go Zones
- Accelerated Electrification
- Shared Mobility & Mobility as A Service (MaaS)

In developing both the Core Vision and Key Connections, SCAG works with stakeholders, identifies trends and data in the region, assesses local best practices and researches the efficacy of different strategies. SCAG also needs strategic input and direction from Policy Committee members and the Regional Council.

EMERGING ISSUES

There are three salient and interconnected challenges facing our region: equity, resilience, and the economy. Actions by SCAG's Regional Council over the past year and a half provide a policy foundation for work on the next plan development and expanded policy focus on these emerging issue areas.

Equity

On July 2, 2020, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 20-623-2¹ on Racial and Social Justice, affirming SCAG's commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and establishing the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to advance social justice throughout the agency.

On May 6, 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan², the purpose of which is to guide and sustain SCAG's regional leadership in service of equity and social justice. It reflects discussions and feedback provided to the Special Committee on the definition of equity and overarching goals and strategies to advance racial equity through SCAG's policies, practices and activities.

Resilience

On January 7, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-628-1³ on Climate Change Action that affirms a climate change crisis in Southern California and identifies actions for SCAG to undertake, including: developing a regional resilience framework, initiating a regional climate planning network, and developing a regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP).

Economy

On July 1, 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS) Final Report and Recommendations⁴, which identifies five core principles to drive SCAG's work and to act as a lens for identifying recommendations:

1. Center the economic recovery strategy on racial and gender equity; focusing in reducing the racial wealth gap;
2. Focus on rebuilding the middle class with high road employment;
3. Ensure that all strategies contribute to a climate ready region;
4. Tailor strategies to the needs of both industry sectors and geographic subregions; and
5. Bring new and diverse voices to the table.

On February 4, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2⁵ to establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide. The Broadband Action Plan includes incorporating

¹ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc070220agn01.pdf?1602368143>

² <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc050621fullpacket.pdf#page=91>

³ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc010721fullpacket.pdf#page=12>

⁴ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc070121fullpacket.pdf#page=13>

⁵ <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc020421fullpacket.pdf#page=13>

broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs and future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT: LEADERSHIP & OUTLOOK

Policy discussions that occur during SCAG’s Policy Committee meetings provide valuable direction to staff on areas for further research, potential strategies to address regional challenges, and priorities for what to include in the proposed plan.

Staff will bring forward informational and discussion items related to the relevant *Core Vision* and *Key Connections*; highlighting context and data from staff research; perspectives from academics, researchers or policy experts; and insights from local practitioners. Presentations may also focus on current subregional efforts and best practices to address the Connect SoCal 2020 Key Connections, as well as emerging trends and new issues related to each *Core Vision* or *Key Connection*. The plan issue areas organized by Policy Committee are outlined in the table below.

MAIN POLICY COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
<i>Core Vision</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Preservation & Resilience • Demand & System Management • Transit Backbone • Complete Streets • Goods Movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development
<i>Key Connections</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go Zones • Shared Mobility & MaaS • Smart Cities & Job Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart Cities & Job Centers • Housing Supportive Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated Electrification
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1016 1428 1430 1474" style="text-align: center;"><i>Environmental Compliance</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1016 1474 1430 1673"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • Transportation Conformity • Environmental Justice • SB 375 Technical Methodology </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>
<i>Environmental Compliance</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • Transportation Conformity • Environmental Justice • SB 375 Technical Methodology 		

JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

The issues facing the region are intersectional and often do not neatly fit within one committee. For that reason, it is occasionally necessary to hold a Joint Policy Committee meeting of members from all three Policy Committees (Transportation; Community, Economic, Human Development; and Energy and

Environment) to share pertinent information, discuss key plan development issues or seek coordinated actions or recommendations.

SPECIAL CONNECT SOCAL 2024 SUB-COMMITTEES

As discussed at the February 2022 Joint Policy Committee Meeting, there are a number of trends disrupted by the pandemic and emerging issues setting the context for the next Connect SoCal. To help dive deeper into key areas for Connect SoCal, SCAG will establish three new sub-committees.

These three sub-committees will be comprised of members from each county with participation from invited business or civic leaders and practitioners with unique and valuable perspective on the given sub-committee focus area.

These sub-committees will prepare and make recommendations to SCAG Policy Committees on how to address these emerging issues within Connect SoCal 2024.

NEXT GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE	RESILIENCE & CONSERVATION	RACIAL EQUITY & REGIONAL PLANNING
<p><i>Purpose:</i> Build on the recommendations for the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy to identify ways Connect SoCal can ensure opportunities for all; and explore solutions for making the most of existing infrastructure to maintain and improve levels of service such as through innovations in Broadband and System Demand Management.</p>	<p><i>Purpose:</i> Advance the direction set in the SCAG Regional Council Resolution on Climate Change Action to consider opportunities for enhanced conservation and how can Connect SoCal support our communities in adapting to changing conditions or mitigating risks to become more resilient.</p>	<p><i>Purpose:</i> Identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal and guide how our planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in SCAG’s environmental justice communities.</p>



Policy Development Framework

SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

April 7, 2021

www.scag.ca.gov



Policy Development Framework Overview

- **Draft Vision and Goals**
 - Mobility, Communities, Environment, Economy
- **Policy Priorities**
 - Core Vision
 - Key Connections
 - Emerging Issues
- **Policy Development: Leadership & Outlook**

Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Vision and Goals

- **Vision Statement** to capture what we want the region to be
- Four simplified Goals
 - Themes: **Mobility, Communities, Environment,** and **Economy**
 - Further defined through sub-goals
- Overarching through lines to integrate into the 2024 cycle: **Equity** and **Resilience**

Policy Priorities

CORE VISION

- Sustainable Development
- System Preservation & Resilience
- Demand & System Management
- Transit Backbone
- Complete Streets
- Goods Movement

KEY CONNECTIONS

- Smart Cities & Job Centers
- Housing Supportive Infrastructure
- Go Zones
- Accelerated Electrification
- Shared Mobility & Mobility as A Service (MaaS)

EMERGING ISSUES

- Equity
- Resilience
- Economy

Policy Development: Leadership & Outlook

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, HUMAN DEV COMMITTEE

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CORE VISION

- System Preservation & Resilience
- Demand & System Management
- Transit Backbone
- Complete Streets
- Goods Movement
- Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development

KEY CONNECTIONS

- Smart Cities & Job Centers
- Shared Mobility & Mobility as a Service (MaaS)
- Go Zones
- Smart Cities & Job Centers
- Housing Supportive Infrastructure
- Accelerated Electrification

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- PEIR
- Transportation Conformity
- Environmental Justice
- SB 375 Technical Methodology

Special Connect SoCal 2024 Sub-Committees: Overview

NEXT GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE

RESILIENCE & CONSERVATION

RACIAL EQUITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

Purpose: Dive deeper into key areas for Connect SoCal and provide recommendation to SCAG Policy Committees on how to address this issues in the plan.

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

Duration: 3- 4 meetings between August 2022 and February 2023

Special Connect SoCal 2024 Sub-Committees: Next Steps



Summer 2022

Survey to all members soliciting interest in serving on sub-committees

President and Executive Officers establish sub-committees and prepare agenda outlooks

Sub-committee meetings begin

Spring 2023

Sub-committees prepare recommendations for Policy Committees

Summer 2023

Policy Committees incorporate recommendations into decision making for Connect SoCal 2024



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