2020/21 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP)
Program Guidelines + Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations
Call for Applications

SCP Overview

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) announces the Call for Applications for the 2020 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) – Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations (SCMI). Since 2005, SCAG's various sustainability planning grant programs (Compass Blueprint, Sustainability Planning Grants, Sustainable Communities Program) have provided resources and direct technical assistance to jurisdictions to complete important local planning efforts aligned with and to enable implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), which today is called Connect SoCal.

The SCP allows SCAG to strengthen partnerships with local agencies who are responsible for land use and transportation decisions. Projects selected will allow local agencies to facilitate coordination and integration of transportation planning with active transportation, housing production, safety, smart cities, mobility innovation, transportation demand management, green region initiatives and sustainability. The SCP also serves as the primary funding vehicle where SCAG partners with local agencies to implement the goals, objectives and strategies of Connect SoCal and achieve an integrated regional development pattern that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Applicants are encouraged to review strategies promoted in Connect SoCal to align project applications with regional planning priorities and concepts.

The SCP provides local jurisdictions with multiple opportunities to seek funding and resources to meet the needs of their communities, address recovery and resiliency strategies considering COVID-19, and support regional goals. SCAG will release multiple Calls for Applications throughout Fiscal Year '21 to select projects across different program areas and funding categories, including active transportation and safety, housing and integrated land use, and smart cities innovations. SCAG may bundle similar projects together in a common contract.

SCP Goals

The SCP aims to:
- Provide needed planning resources to local jurisdictions for active transportation and multimodal planning efforts, sustainability, land use, and planning for affordable housing;
- Promote, address and ensure health and equity in regional land use and transportation planning and to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color;
- Encourage regional planning strategies to reduce motorized Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly in environmental justice communities where there is the highest need for air quality improvements;
- Develop local plans that support the implementation of key strategies and goals outlined in Connect SoCal and the Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- Develop resources that support the Key Connections as outlined in Connect SoCal, including Shared Mobility and Mobility as a Service, Smart Cities and Job Centers, Accelerated Electrification, Go Zones, and Housing Supportive Infrastructure;
- Support a resilient region that looks to climate adaptation and public health preparedness as key strategies to address community prosperity, safety and economic recovery and sustainability;

- Increase the region's competitiveness for federal and state funds, including, but not limited to the California Active Transportation Program and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.

Moreover, the SCP seeks to advance Connect SoCal's "Core Vision," which prioritizes maintaining and better managing Southern California's transportation network 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 Core Vision includes policies and investments that support sustainable development; system preservation and resilience; demand management strategies and intelligent transportation systems; a regional transit backbone; complete streets; and goods movement.

On July 2, 2020, the SCAG Regional Council adopted a resolution reaffirming the agency's commitment to working toward a fair and just society and toward systemic change to eliminate all barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared values and ability to thrive. SCAG affirmed its commitment to meaningfully advance justice and equity; and SCAG declared its intent to strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the region. The SCP aims to prioritize resources where there is a demonstrated need, guided by the Connect SoCal Goal, "to support healthy and equitable communities." SCAG is committed to advancing equity through addressing systemic disparities in the SCAG region, and to center communities most impacted by economic, social, and environmental injustices towards the goal of creating healthy and equitable communities.

Considering COVID-19, applicants should identify public engagement strategies that provide flexibility and focus on engagement with the most impacted communities, including low income, communities of color, transit-dependent, and people with disabilities, among others. Strategies should allow for a diverse range of engagement and outreach methods to engage hard to reach populations and nontraditional stakeholders, including in-person with safe physical distancing measures, online, and low-tech strategies, considering the COVID-19 environment.

Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations (SCMI) Call for Applications

Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Overview

The Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call supports the implementation of three Connect SoCal Key Connections: Smart Cities & Job Centers, Go Zones, and Shared Mobility/Mobility as a Service. These Key Connections focus on **advancing expanded mobility ecosystems and management strategies using innovative policy and/or technology to realize regional planning goals**. Resources through this Call for Applications will support local jurisdictions to use technology and innovation to improve the efficiency and performance of the transportation system by implementing curb space management measures that **encourage shared modes, manage parking effectively, and support commerce and the growth of housing and employment in job centers**.

Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Goals and Purpose

With a general rise in vehicle ownership, disruptive technologies like Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and dockless electric scooters, and e-commerce demands, curb space has become one of the most contested spaces in a city. Cities have been struggling with issues related to on- and off-street parking, congestion, and first-last mile connections, among others. Increased reliance on delivery services and the

shifting of commercial activities to the sidewalk during COVID-19 have further highlighted the need to better manage curb uses. Data and the reliable assessment of curb use have become essential to finding solutions to these growing issues in the region.

Leveraging SCAG's forthcoming curb space management study, the SCMI Call for Applications seeks to develop best practices in curb space management that support sustainable mobility while simultaneously enhancing public space and supporting small businesses and the local economy. The SCMI Call prioritizes emerging equity issues such as the relationships between the use of transit and transportation network companies (as evidenced by curb space activity within disadvantaged communities), enhancements for transit and bike networks at the curb, and the potential for optimizing curb space management through asset valuation.

Mobility challenges extend beyond the curb, especially due to the increasing complexity of our transportation systems and connected technologies. Innovative methods and management practices are needed to inventory and understand the interconnected nature of smart city technologies, communication infrastructure, and mobility systems. Broader technology assessments or adoption plans can help achieve this need while focusing on emerging topics such as connected vehicles, V2X communications, public rights-of-way management, dynamic parking, and curb space management, among others.

The SCMI Call for Applications seeks to implement strategies and technologies encouraged in Connect SoCal, the long-range vision for transportation and land use planning for the region. Connect SoCal focuses on the implementation of multiple regional mobility strategy areas. All applicants are encouraged to review and align proposals with the recommended strategies found in the Connect SoCal Key Connections (outlined in Chapter 3), Emerging Technology Technical Report, Goods Movement Technical Report, Congestion Management Technical Report, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Toolbox, and Transportation Finance Technical Report.

By directing resources toward projects that implement Connect SoCal mobility strategies and technologies, SCAG aims to achieve the following goals:

- To encourage jurisdictions to partner with SCAG to find innovative solutions to challenges associated with the ever-changing nature of parking, freight and last mile deliveries, and commerce at the curb;
- To create dynamic, connected, built environments that support multimodal mobility, reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles, and reduce VMT;
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality by reducing driving alone, idling, or searching for parking;
- To support healthy and equitable communities by allocating public resources like curb space more equitably;
- To encourage shared modes, manage parking effectively, and support commerce and the growth of housing and employment in job centers;
- To employ strategies to mitigate negative community impacts associated with congestion, GHGs and others, that stem from inflexible, inefficient, inequitable or outdated parking systems.

Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Project Types

The SCMI Call for Applications prioritizes planning projects that aspire to integrate and align Southern California's mobility strategy, technology, and management opportunities with Connect SoCal, the region's adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Applicants are encouraged to review strategies included within Connect SoCal to align project applications with regional planning priorities and concepts. The most competitive applications will advance multiple planning goals, prioritize practical context-based need, utilize innovative or creative planning practices, and result in planning products or programs that are clearly tied to encouraging shared modes, managing parking effectively, making curb space allocation more equitable and/or supporting commerce and the growth of housing and employment in job centers, and can serve as "best practices" for jurisdictions in the region. Impacted communities, including low income, communities of color, transit-dependent, and people with disabilities, among others, must be central in the development of public engagement plans and take a leading role in implementing engagement activities. This Call contains four different project types that will further regional mobility and policy goals. Eligible projects will address one or more of the following:

1. **Curb Space Data Collection & Inventory**
2. **Technology Assessment or Adoption Plan**
3. **Parking Management Plan**
4. **Permitting Process Evaluation**

These project types are discussed in depth below. Required project components include (but are not limited to) how a planning project will result in the transformation of parking management, curb space management or allocation, last mile delivery, or another related program area, into a more efficient, innovative, flexible, sustainable or equitable system. Projects must have a strong nexus with the primary goals of reducing driving alone, VMT, GHGs or inequities, as well as advance one or more previously described program goals. Please quantify desired results and outcomes where possible.

Note: SCAG encourages applicants to assess jurisdictional priorities and apply for only one project type, however jurisdictions are allowed to submit more than one application. SCAG staff is available to support applicants in determining the most appropriate project type. If submitting more than one application, jurisdictions must indicate priority of applications.

Scoring Rubric & Criteria

The overall application scoring rubric for each project type will be the same. Each application includes three main scoring criteria – 1) Project Need, 2) Scope of Work and Project Outcomes and 3) Partnerships and Engagement. Application questions vary by category within each topic area depending on the types of projects eligible. Further clarification regarding how points are awarded are provided in the project application forms.

Scoring Criteria		
Topic 1	Project Need	55 Points
Topic 2	Scope of Work and Project Outcomes	30 Points
Topic 3	Partnerships and Engagement	15 Points

Funding

Funding for the 2020 SCP will be provided through a combination of federal, state, and local sources. SCAG will allocate funding for project applications based on the eligibility of each funding source and the applicant's readiness. Awards and projects will be managed by SCAG and implemented through its consultants only. Hosting a Call for Applications to award funds through multiple funding streams is intended to simplify the application process and achieve efficiencies in program administration.

Due to the inclusion of Senate Bill 1 (SB1) funding, at the time of award notice an applicant, sub-applicant, and/or jurisdiction is required to have a housing element in substantial compliance with State housing element law, and must be current with submitted updated housing element Annual Progress Reports.

Period of Performance and Time Extensions

A project initiation schedule and expectations regarding period of performance will be determined within sixty days of project award announcements, and will be based on project complexity, funding source, and agency capacity. Once the project schedule has been established, extensions will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances, on a case-by-case basis. Extensions and scope changes must be requested in letter format. All requests must include an explanation of the issues and actions the agency or local jurisdiction has taken to correct the issues. All extensions will be contingent on funding availability and the program requirements of the funding source assigned. Program completion is based on statutory provisions and SCAG intends all selected projects to be completed in a timely manner and requires that applicants coordinate internal resources to ensure timely completion of the projects.

Schedule

The following schedule outlines important dates for the SCMI Call for Applications.

SCP-Smart Cities and Mobility Innovations Milestones	Date
Call for Applications Opens	February 8, 2021
Application Workshops	March 8, 2021 April 5, 2021
Call for Applications Submission Deadline	April 23, 2021 (5:00 p.m.)
Regional Council Recommendation	July 1, 2021
Final Work and Invoices Submitted	June 30, 2023

Contact Information

Questions regarding the SCP - SCMI application process should be directed to:

> Marisa Laderach
> Senior Regional Planner
> Telephone: 213-236-1927
> Email: laderach@scag.ca.gov

Submittal Information

Applications are due Friday, April 23, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. using the instructions provided in the application. Questions regarding submitting applications for each category should be emailed to the contact person listed above. Applications should include all supporting documents in the online application. Applicants are not required to demonstrate that a governing body has taken official action in order to apply, but a supporting resolution from the governing body or a letter of intent in support of the project from the appropriate executive officer will be required prior to project initiation. Files should be labeled in the following format:

Phase Category_City Name_Application Category_Project Name

For example:

SCMI_Plannersville_ ParkingManagementPlan_CitywideDynamicParkingPricing

Regional Distribution

Efforts will be made so that SCMI projects are awarded in each county within the SCAG region.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities, within the SCAG region, are eligible to apply for SCP-SCMI resources:

- Local or Regional Agency - Examples include cities, counties, councils of government, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and County Public Health Departments.
- Transit Agencies - Any agency responsible for public transportation that is eligible for funds under the Federal Transit Administration.
- Natural Resources or Public Land Agencies - Federal, State, or local agency responsible for natural resources or public land administration.
- Tribal Governments - Federally-recognized Native American Tribes.

Prioritizing Stakeholder Engagement Across Project Types

Partnerships and community engagement is essential in developing any SCP project. SCAG encourages each applicant to partner with relevant stakeholders to maximize project impact and further collaborative policy goals. Applicants must develop engagement plans prioritizing impacted communities and other relevant stakeholders during the project, to help achieve equitable project outcomes.

Project Types

1. Curb Space Data Collection & Inventory Applications submitted for this project type should include a focus on expanding or updating the curb space data inventory through innovative data collection methods. The data collection should aim to advance plans, studies, and activities in the city and across the region. To understand the growing curb use and regulate the curb space, it is essential to keep up with the data demand beyond an annual or more static inventory. Leading edge data collection methods that are easily scalable for updating inventory will bring consistency across various departments and agencies to efficiently track and respond to the rapid changes happening at the street level.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to the following:
- Complete inventory of curb space
- Parking inventory (in a business district, all on-street and off-street, etc.)
- Digitization/automation/visualization of curb space records
- Real-time data collection and monitoring

2. Technology Assessment or Adoption Plan This project type includes technology frameworks and demonstrations related to curb space management, curb regulating, on-street and off-street parking management, last mile delivery solutions and other curb and mobility challenges. There is a need to find innovative methods to handle the growing complexity of the transportation system and enhance both transportation and communications infrastructure to prepare for an increasingly connected world.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to the following:
- Pilot program for last mile delivery hub or common carrier locker system
- Technology plan for piloting zero emission delivery zones
- Assessment of technology solutions for curb space challenges (such as sensors/cameras or apps)
- Technology plan for piloting connected vehicle or vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications and management on public rights-of-way
- Technology plan for broadband deployment supporting dynamic parking and curb space management, V2X communications, or public wi-fi for wayfinding
- Assessment of technology solution(s) with plan to roll out implementation of a solution

3. Parking Management Plan Applications for this project type will focus on advancing parking management in a selected site or multiple sites within a city. Projects can include pilots, studies, or plans. Parking management is a major need for cities and strategies can potentially help achieve a balanced transportation system. It can be used to regulate supply, reduce street congestion through pricing, and encourage transit use.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to the following:
- Parking management in business district
- On-street parking management
- Dynamic parking pricing strategies
- EV parking/charging
- Micromobility and/or carshare parking
- Rideshare and/or retail/food drop-off and pick-up management

4. Permitting Process Evaluation This project type looks at evaluating existing and/or developing new permitted uses for the curb space to improve safety and efficiency equitably for all users. This can include development of plans and studies for permitted uses that support transit riders and people who walk and bike (including seniors and people with disabilities), business owners, schools, street vendors, delivery and rideshare services, among others. Applications will focus on permitting processes in various contexts such as business districts, commercial areas, and schools.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to studies, assistance plans, and needs assessments for the following:
- Outdoor dining permit plan
- Street vendor permitting programs, assistance plans, and needs assessment
- Parklets plan
- Accessibility plans and ADA compliance needs assessments

Match Requirements
There are no local match requirements for projects proposed through the SCP SCMI Program.

SCP – SCMI Scoring Rubric & Criteria
Each application includes three scoring criterion – 1) Project Need, 2) Scope of Work and Project Outcomes, and 3) Partnerships and Engagement. Application questions vary by project type. The potential points to be awarded for responses to each question, by project type, are noted in each application. Further clarification regarding how points are awarded will be provided in the project application forms.

Scoring Criteria	
Focus Area 1: Project Need	**55 Points**
Mobility Need	25
SCS Implementation Need	15
Disadvantaged Community Need	15
Focus Area 2: Scope of Work and Project Outcomes	**30 Points**
Project Benefits and Scope of Work	15
Supports SCS Implementation	10
Use of Innovative Technology or Policy	5
Focus Area 3: Partnerships and Engagement	**15 Points**
Partnerships for Planning and Implementation	5
Inclusive Diverse and Equitable Stakeholder Engagement	10

Application Process

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply to the SCP by completing an application specific to one of the Project Types described above that prioritizes jurisdictional goals. While one application is recommended, jurisdictions may submit multiple project applications. Please contact SCAG staff if support is needed to identify the proper application category. **Applicants must complete and submit their application by Friday, April 23, 2021 by 5:00 p.m.**

Evaluation Process

An evaluation team for each project type will review the applications. Each evaluation team will be made up of internal and external representatives, related to the specific categories. Recommendations will be made to the Regional Council in July 2021. Following project award announcements, unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to talk with SCAG staff to obtain feedback on opportunities to improve their applications for future program cycles.