
Press Release

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SCAG Council Releases 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy for Public Review

Plan identifies \$555.4 billion in needed transportation improvements across six counties

Los Angeles – The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) today agreed to release for public review a \$555.4 billion plan to fix aging infrastructure and improve the region’s transportation network.

Fully implemented, the Draft 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) would close critical gaps in Southern California’s transportation network and meet the mobility needs of a population that is expected to grow by 3.8 million people during that period. In addition, the plan would add 188,000 jobs per year from construction, operations and maintenance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22 percent.

“Our transportation network is in dire need of improvement, and as our region grows, so too does the cost of doing nothing. We have to invest now if we’re to have any chance of sustaining economic viability and our quality of life,” said Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President of SCAG and a Council Member from El Centro.

Today’s Regional Council action puts into motion a 60-day public review period for both the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS and the accompanying Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). An update to the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, the 2016 plan follows more than 370 public meetings, workshops and open houses throughout the six-county region.

Among the highlights of the 2016 RTP/SCS:

- The region will be home to 22.1 million people in 2040, up nearly 21 percent from 2012. In addition, the population is aging, with the number of people ages 65 and older expected to increase by 2.73 million people during that period.
- The region is trending towards more multifamily housing. The Plan includes strategies for more infill development in urban areas and greater integration of land use, housing and transportation planning. These strategies will significantly reducing energy and water consumption. Electricity usage will drop by 740 trillion BTUs – enough to serve 133,000 people annually from 2012-2040. Water usage will drop by 860,000 acre-feet – enough for 151,000 people annually from 2012-2040.
- Approximately half of the Plan’s expenditures will go towards preserving the region’s infrastructure - \$274.9 billion – which includes transit, passenger rail, state highways and regionally significant local streets and roads.

- Other investments include:
 - \$56.1 billion for capital transit projects including expansion of the Metro subway and light rail transit system
 - \$38.6 billion for passenger rail projects, including improvements to Metrolink, the LOSSAN rail corridor and in support of California High Speed Rail
 - \$54.5 billion in capital improvements to the state highway system and regionally significant local streets and roads throughout the region – closing gaps in the system and adding capacity as needed
 - \$8.1 billion in new active transportation capital projects, including a planned 2,220 mile Regional Bikeway Network
- Goods movement is a major economic driver for Southern California, representing – directly or indirectly – one-third of all jobs and economic activity in the region. The plan identifies \$74.8 billion in strategies to facilitate freight movement and reducing associated environmental impacts.
- In addition to jobs directly attributable to transportation projects, network improvements will generate an additional 375,000 jobs per year from congestion relief, increased labor mobility and efficient movement of goods.

The release of the 2016 RTP/SCS comes as Congress closes in on its first long-term transportation funding program in more than a decade.

“Years of deferred maintenance have taken a toll on our transportation system, not just here in California, but nationwide,” said Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director of SCAG. “The United States now ranks 16th in the world in terms of highway infrastructure, which not only impacts our quality of life but threatens our global competitiveness. The fact that we’re now seeing a long-term commitment to fixing that problem is a very encouraging sign.”

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 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.