
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2012 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Nation's Largest Planning Agency Approves a Plan in Preparation of 4 Million New Residents by 2035

Los Angeles, CA – April 4, 2012 – The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) convened the 47th Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly and, without objection, adopted the 2012 – 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and certified the Program Environmental Impact Report.

The 25 year plan is an investment plan for our region's economic viability that provides people with transportation and housing options that meet their professional and life style choices while supporting the business community's need to compete nationally and internationally. "Today's approval of the 2012 – 2035 RTP/SCS was a historic decision made by Southern California elected officials on SCAG's Regional Council. This action establishes a roadmap to welcome four million new residents and 1.7 million new jobs into our region by 2035," commented Pam O'Connor, SCAG President.

"Our agency is responsible for long term, strategic planning to prepare for population growth in a region that is already the size of the fifth largest state in the nation. The business community needs to know that their employees can travel safely to work and businesses can operate effectively and efficiently to maximize profits and hire new workers. We have a clear strategy and plan that reduces air pollution, makes our communities more livable, gets goods to market, and commuters to work. We now look forward to working with our community partners to successfully implement the plan so Southern California remains globally competitive," said O'Connor.

"This year's theme is *"Towards a Sustainable Future in Southern California."* Sustainable has many meanings; providing for a future where the population will grow but we can expect a reduction in per capita emissions, supporting the construction of new homes and businesses but with a plan to connect the dwellings with multiple transportation options, preserving the natural beauty of the California landscape for today's recreation and our future generations enjoyment, and ensuring that businesses remain in the Golden State and prosper," said Hasan Ikhata, SCAG Executive Director.

Tomorrow's (April 5) agenda is highlighted by panels addressing the region's transportation needs into the fourth decade of the 21st century, the economic and health benefits of the RTP/SCS, the important link between infrastructure investment and global competitiveness and how regional transportation leaders can work together to successfully complete the projects that will move California into a prosperous future.

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NOTE: The 2012 Regional Conference and General Assembly will be held April 4 -5, 2012 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles at 404 S. Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA, 90071. For more information, visit www.scag.ca.gov/ga2012.

News personnel wishing to attend the conference may check-in onsite at the Media Check-in table on the second floor of the Bonaventure Hotel. A media room is also available on the Lobby level in room Beaudry A for reporters who wish to file stories or conduct interviews onsite.

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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.