
Press Release

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SCAG Regional Council overwhelmingly approves 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Los Angeles, Calif. – The governing body of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) today formally adopted its 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS), a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental and public health goals for the six-county region over the next quarter century.

The newest RTP/SCS identifies \$556.5 billion in transportation-related investments during that period, which, fully implemented, would reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and attract more than 350,000 additional jobs a year through increased economic competitiveness.

“Today’s approval of the 2016 RTP/SCS is a historic step forward for our region,” said Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President of SCAG and a City Council member from El Centro. “Transportation is critical to our economy and quality of life. This plan provides the framework for how we as a region are going to accommodate the needs of 4 million additional people over the next 25 years.”

The nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, SCAG is required by state and federal law to produce a long-range transportation plan every four years for a 38,000-mile, six-county region comprised of 191 cities and 18 million people. The RTP/SCS does not implement funding, but lays out a comprehensive strategy for addressing the region’s current and future transportation challenges in compliance with clean air standards.

The plan approved today by SCAG’s 86-member Regional Council projects an 8 percent reduction in greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 as a result of the transportation projects and initiatives that have been identified. GHG reductions would reach 18 percent by 2035 and 21 percent by 2040 – all meeting or exceeding state requirements.

Several factors contribute to this, including a reduction in congestion, more efficient land-use patterns, and increased fuel efficiency, use of alternative-fuel vehicles, active transportation and mass transit.

Specific highlights of the plan include:

- A reduction in per capita traffic delays of 37 percent and heavy-duty truck delays of 39 percent.

- A reduction in per capita vehicle miles traveled of more than 7 percent – and a 17 percent reduction in average time spent on the roads – as a result of more efficient land use patterns and increased transit.
- \$70.7 billion in goods movement strategies. Freight, logistics and related industries represent one-third of all jobs and economic activity in the SCAG region.
- A “fix-it-first” investment of \$275.5 billion in our existing transportation and transit network.
- \$56.1 billion in capital projects and \$156.7 billion toward maintenance and operations to expand our regional transit system.
- \$12.9 billion in active transportation strategies to promote walking and bicycling.
- A projected return on investment of \$2 for every \$1 invested in transportation improvements.

“Investments in transportation are critical to our long-term economic viability, as the RTP/SCS clearly demonstrates,” said Hasan Ikhata, SCAG Executive Director. He noted that congestion reduction and improvements in regional amenities as a result of implementing the plan will increase Southern California’s competitiveness and economic performance, resulting 351,000 additional jobs each year.

A copy of the adopted 2016 RTP/SCS is available at: <http://scagrtpscs.net>.

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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, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov.