

Special Meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee  
of the  
Southern California Association of Governments  
October 26, 2015

*Minutes*

**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) held its meeting at the SCAG Los Angeles Office. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. Deborah Robertson, Chair. There was a quorum.

**Members Present**

Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	District 32
Hon. Larry Forester, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG

**Video Conference**

Hon. Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo	TCA
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake	WRCOG
Hon. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa	OCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Mike Munzing, Aliso Viejo	District 12
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto ( <b>Chair</b> )	District 8
Hon. Betty Sanchez, Coachella Valley	CVAG
Mr. Steve Schuyler, Ex Officio	Building Industry Association
Hon. Jack Terrazas	Imperial County
Hon. Bonnie Wright, Hemet	WRCOG

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Denis Bertone, San Dimas	SGVCOG
Hon. Mitchell Englander, Los Angeles	District 59
Hon. Laura Friedman, Glendale	Arroyo Verdugo Cities
Hon. Mike Gardner, Riverside	WRCOG
Hon. Ed Graham, Chino Hills	District 10
Hon. Steve Hwangbo, La Palma	District 18
Hon. Thomas Martin, Maywood	GCCOG
Hon. Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates	District 40
Hon. Jim Osborne, Lawndale	SBCCOG
Hon. Linda Parks	Ventura County
Hon. Greg Pettis, Cathedral City	District 2
Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark	VCOG
Hon. Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )	District 45
Hon. Eric Schmidt, Hesperia	SANBAG
Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City	WCCOG
Hon. John Sibert, Malibu	District 44
Hon. Diane Williams, Rancho Cucamonga	SANBAG
Hon. Edward Wilson, Signal Hill	Gateway Cities

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Hon. Deborah Robertson, Chair, Rialto, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - None

## **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. 2016-2040 Draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) – Public Health Focus Areas

Sarah Jepson, SCAG Staff, stated that the main goal staff was seeking to accomplish in the 2016 RTP/SCS was to implement the direction received from SCAG’s Public Health Subcommittee after the adoption of the 2012 Plan. The direction from the Subcommittee was to provide more robust public health data, to better inform regional policy, and support greater stakeholder participation in the process. In November 2014 staff developed a Public Health Work Program to better articulate ways that SCAG was going to implement the direction of the Subcommittee. In April 2015, SCAG released the Public Health Analysis Framework which specifically addressed the strategies that staff would use to integrate and provide better public health data for the 2016 RTP/SCS.

Ms Jepson further stated that the main purpose of the Public Health Focus Areas is to provide an organizing framework for presenting performance measures in the Public Health Appendix. The Public Health Appendix is envisioned as a communication tool to bring together all the information that relates to public health into one area so stakeholders can easily understand all the ways in which the plan will impact public health. When the focus areas were developed there were three (3) main areas that were looked at: 1) strong research to support the impact of the focus area on public health, 2) how SCAG would be able to influence the areas through land use and transportation planning in the RTP/SCS, and 3) whether the focus area was aligned with one or more of the goals of the 2016 RTP/SCS. There were various social determinants that the focus areas were based on, the primary one being neighborhood and built environment. The preliminary focus areas included air quality, transportation safety, physical activity, economic wellbeing, climate resiliency and access.

Based on the feedback provided by the EEC at the October 8, 2015 meeting, affordable housing has been added as a focus area for the plan. The term “Climate Resiliency” was changed to “Climate Adaptation.” The term “Economic Well-Being” has been changed to “Economic Opportunity” to better reflect the outcomes that will be reported in this focus area, which included jobs created by the plan and household savings resulting from reduced transportation and utility costs.

Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, asked if the focus area “Economic Opportunity,” other than within the health concentration of the plan, captures economic development in any other chapters of the RTP. Ms. Jepson responded in the affirmative that the metrics reported on today are being reported in other areas of the plan. In the Public Health section all the information has been compiled in one area for public health stakeholders. There is another section of the plan that is focused on performance measures in general, economic opportunity and economic

impacts are reported in that section of the plan. Hon. Diana Mahmud referred to Page 11 of the PowerPoint handout “Economic Opportunity Examples: Related Planning Policies”, and suggested that the second bullet point example be phrased more strongly than “preserving the environment,” instead say “without adverse effects to health outcome or the environment.” Staff agreed to explore modifications to this wording.

Hon. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa, asked if access to health care was something that would be in the purview of the plan or would it be too speculative. Where would the open spaces and parks be addressed in the plan? Ms. Jepson responded with regard to health care staff did not have the ability to project health care into the future in terms of plan benefits, but staff can talk about it in the section and the importance of access. Staff has current data on health care facilities access that can be shared. Staff will look into ways the physical activity section of the plan can be made more robust. With regard to open space, staff does not know where parks will be located in the future. Existing conditions can be addressed on the number of people who have access to parks and open spaces.

Hon. Mike Munzing, Aliso Viejo, asked if cellular infrastructure of tele-communications is acknowledged in the plan. Ms. Huasha Liu responded yes, staff does recognize, encourage, and promote tele-work.

Hon. Sandra Genis asked where water quality and adequate water supply enter into the plan. Ms. Jepson responded staff looked into this area as a result of land use and transportation planning.

Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake, asked how increased funding for transportation safety will be included in the plan. Specifically, what happened to the DMV vehicle code for truck lanes only that enforced trucks and trailers could not travel more than 50 MPH and had to stay in the designated outer right hand lane? Ms. Liu responded that in the proposed draft plan there are currently ten to twelve chapters, each chapter outlines a specific subject related to how the components work together. With regard to truck lanes there is a chapter on goods movement, freight section, in which truck lanes are addressed. The observation is that there will be continued increase with international trade into the region through its two ports. The two ports will continue to carry more than fifteen (15) percent of in-and-out international trade for the country. Staff has observed that there is a lot of congestion on the 710 and 60 that continues to the 15. One of the proposed investment strategies is to build designated truck lanes along the 70 and 60 to separate the traffic of the trucks from other vehicles.

Hon. Jim Osborne, Lawndale, asked with regard to health concerns did the plan include an analysis of recreational facilities and park space adjacent to transportation corridors. Ms. Liu responded that as one of the newly proposed advisory policy considerations, SCAG would like local jurisdictions to be cognizant when they consider developing new housing, senior or child care facility within a five-hundred (500) foot buffer area. This is consistent with the guidelines issued by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). The way to measure the 500 foot buffer is from the center of the freeway and outward in distance- elevation is not specifically accounted for.

Hon. Deborah Robertson asked how staff is coordinating with local transit agencies to be consistent with the objectives the region would like to see in the subregions with regard to High Quality Transit Areas (HQTAs) and fifteen (15) minute headway. Ms. Liu responded that 15 minute headway is being defined as part of SB 375 implementation activities. This is the way to

capture the key transit service that will adequately provide the commute hours service within the state and the SCAG region.

Hon. Deborah Robertson asked how transportation safety is being addressed with regards to existing corridors especially the freeway median and shoulders. Ms. Jepson responded that the metric which staff will report on is data on collision and accident rates by severity for all modes of transportation, not just active transportation. Ms. Liu added that as part of MAP- 21, national transportation authorization law, the most recent new component in MAP- 21 is a performance measure that is required for MPOs to incorporate into their regional plans. One of the proposed performance measures is the safety of all transportation modes. Staff is in process of writing this chapter under “Transportation Investments and Highway Materials,” specifying the importance of safety in all modes.

Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead, asked with regard to dedicated truck lanes on the 710, 60, and 15, whether SCAG is proposing that a dedicated lane be for truck use only. Ms. Liu responded that the proposed investment strategy is to add extra lanes, not use existing lanes.

Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, asked with regard to economic opportunity, for additional jobs supported by improving competitiveness, what metrics or factors will staff consider? Ping Chang, staff, responded that this related to additional jobs supported by transportation investments. Because of the improvement of the system the region could have a greater efficiency for business operations. As a result of the efficiencies businesses will be able to expand and be more competitive. Ms. Liu added that one of the metrics being used to quantify the economic benefits as a result of increased compatibility is the time savings for individuals and businesses, which translates into the financial benefit with the increase of productivity.

2. 2016-2040 Draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) – Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR): Updated Schedule

Lijin Sun, SCAG staff, informed the committee that at the October 8, 2015 EEC meeting, the PEIR team provided the committee with a revised Draft PEIR schedule which showed that staff will seek action by the EEC at the December 3rd meeting to recommend that the Regional Council (RC) authorize the release of the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS PEIR for a 55-day public review and comment period (instead of the minimum 45-day comment period under CEQA). Since the October 8, 2015 meeting, the schedule has been further revised. The further revised schedule presented at the October 26, 2015 meeting shows that staff will seek action by the Joint Policy Committees at the November 5, 2015 meeting to recommend that the RC at its December 3, 2015 meeting authorize release of the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS PEIR for a 55-day public review and comment period concurrent with the 55-day public review and comment period for the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS. At the November 5, 2015 Joint Policy Committees meeting, staff will present the draft PEIR contents, framework, and approaches to major components of the Draft PEIR before seeking a joint recommendation from the Policy Committees. One of the major components of the Draft PEIR is the framework and guiding principles for the performance standards-based mitigation measures which the EEC took action to support at its October 8, 2015 meeting.

**CHAIR’S REPORT** - None

**STAFF REPORT** - None

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hon. Deborah Robertson adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee (EEC) will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the SCAG Los Angeles office.