

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

**JOINT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (RC);
 COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD);
 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC); AND THE
 TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (TC) OF THE
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
 FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND/OR DISCUSSIONS THAT OCCURRED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING. AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING/VIEWING AT www.scag.ca.gov/scagtv.

The RC, CEHD, EEC and TC held its Special Meeting at SCAG’s Los Angeles Office.

Regional Councilmembers Present

President Pam O’Connor	<i>City of Santa Monica</i>	District 41
2 nd Vice President Greg Pettis	<i>City of Cathedral City</i>	District 2
Imm. Past President Larry McCallon	<i>City of Highland</i>	District 7

CEHD Members Present

* Hon. Bill Jahn (Chair)	<i>City of Big Bear Lake</i>	District 11
* Hon. Paula Lantz (Vice Chair)	<i>City of Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Carol Chen	<i>City of Cerritos</i>	GCCOG
* Hon. Ginger Coleman	<i>Town of Apple Valley</i>	SANBAG
Hon. Laurie Ender	<i>City of Santa Clarita</i>	SFVCOG
* Hon. Margaret Finlay	<i>City of Duarte</i>	District 35
* Hon. James Gazeley	<i>City of Lomita</i>	District 39
* Hon. Jon Harrison	<i>City of Redlands</i>	District 6
* Hon. Steven Hofbauer	<i>City of Palmdale</i>	District 43
* Hon. Sukhee Kang	<i>City of Irvine</i>	District 14
* Hon. Darcy Kuenzi	<i>City of Meniffee</i>	District 63
* Hon. Joel Lautenschleger	<i>City of Laguna Hills</i>	District 13
* Hon. Ron Loveridge	<i>City of Riverside</i>	District 4
* Hon. Bryan A. MacDonald	<i>City of Oxnard</i>	District 45
* Hon. Kris Murray	<i>City of Anaheim</i>	District 19
* Hon. Ray Musser	<i>City of Upland</i>	SANBAG
* Hon. Ed P. Reyes	<i>City of Los Angeles</i>	District 48
Hon. Bob Ring	<i>City of Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
* Hon. Deborah Robertson	<i>City of Rialto</i>	District 8

EEC Members Present:

* Hon. Margaret Clark (Chair)	<i>City of Rosemead</i>	District 32
* Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker (Vice Chair)	<i>City of El Centro</i>	District 1
* Hon. Lisa Bartlett		TCA
Hon. Brian Brennan	<i>City of San Buenaventura</i>	VCCOG
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz	<i>City of Canyon Lake</i>	WRCOG

EEC Members Present: continued

Hon. Larry Forester	<i>City of Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
* Hon. Keith Hanks	<i>City of Azusa</i>	District 33
* Hon. Jack Terrazas		Imperial County
Hon. Mark Waldman	<i>City of La Palma</i>	OCCOG

TC Members Present:

* Hon. Bruce Barrows	<i>City of Cerritos</i>	District 23
* Hon. Stan Carroll	<i>City of La Habra Heights</i>	District 31
Hon. Jeff Cooper	<i>City of Culver City</i>	WCCOG
* Hon. Mary Craton	<i>City of Canyon Lake</i>	RCTC
* Hon. Frank Gurulé	<i>City of Cudahy</i>	District 27
* Hon. Jim Hyatt	<i>City of Calimesa</i>	District 3
Hon. Trish Kelley	<i>City of Mission Viejo</i>	OCCOG
Hon. James C. Ledford	<i>City of Palmdale</i>	North L.A. County
* Hon. Michele Martinez	<i>City of Anaheim</i>	District 16
Hon. Marsha McLean	<i>City of Santa Clarita</i>	North L.A. County
* Hon. Barbara Messina	<i>City of Alhambra</i>	District 34
* Hon. Leroy Mills	<i>City of Cypress</i>	District 18
* Hon. Brett Murdock	<i>City of Brea</i>	District 22
* Hon. Gary Ovitt		San Bernardino County
* Hon. Frank Quintero	<i>City of Glendale</i>	District 42
* Hon. Ron Roberts	<i>City of Temecula</i>	District 5
* Hon. Mark Rutherford	<i>City of Westlake Village</i>	District 44
Hon. David A. Spence	<i>City of La Cañada/Flintridge</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Karen Spiegel	<i>City of Corona</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Tim Spohn	<i>City of Industry</i>	SGVCOG
* Hon. Jeff Stone	<i>City of Temecula</i>	Riverside County
Hon. Jess Talamantes	<i>City of Burbank</i>	SFVCOG
* Hon. Donald Voss	<i>City of La Cañada/Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Alan Wapner	<i>City of Ontario</i>	SANBAG
* Regional Council Member		

Staff Present

- Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director
- Joann Africa, Chief Counsel
- Wayne Moore, Chief Financial Officer
- Debbie Dillon, Deputy Executive Director, Administration
- Sharon Neely, Deputy Executive Director, Strategy, Policy & Public Affairs
- Douglas Williford, Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Programs
- Huasha Liu, Director of Land Use & Environmental Planning
- Rich Macias, Director of Transportation Planning
- Sylvia Patsaouras, Interim Director of Regional Services and Public Affairs
- Deby Salcido, Officer to the Regional Council
- Tess Rey-Chaput, Office of Regional Council Support

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica, District 41, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Ms. Fran Inman, California Transportation Commission Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Pam O'Connor opened the Public Comment Period for items not listed on the agenda. No public comment was received.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Overview of 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Comments and Revision Approach

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, informed the members that SCAG released the Draft PEIR on December 30, 2011 for a 45-day Public Review and Comment Period that closed on February 14, 2012. He noted that over a thousand comments were received on the RTP and PEIR and that these comments will be posted on the SCAG RTP/SCS website for viewing. Mr. Ikhata provided a presentation on the basics of the PEIR; its mitigation strategies; the original approach and rationale; clarifications requested; the revision approach to the proposed Final PEIR; the introductory language for the appendix of example measures; and the benefits of the proposed approach. Mr. Ikhata further stated that SCAG is required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to record and respond to each individual issue raised in the comments, and based upon these comments will make appropriate adjustments in the Final PEIR. He reiterated that in order to adopt the RTP/SCS, an EIR must be certified first. Mr. Ikhata stated that the PEIR provides a thorough and detailed body of example mitigation measures and noted that SCAG has no authority or desire to require local agencies to implement project-specific mitigation measures. In closing, Mr. Ikhata thanked the members and business and government partners for their collaboration in this process.

President O'Connor asked for public comments from each of the SCAG satellite offices. There was no public comment received. However, the following Regional and Policy Committee members participated via video-conference at the: San Bernardino County–Hesperia office: Councilmember Ginger Coleman, Town of Apple Valley, District 65; Orange County office: Councilmember Sukhee Kang, Irvine, District 14; Palmdale: Councilmember Jim Ledford, Palmdale, District 43; Riverside County: Councilmember Jim Hyatt, Calimesa District 3; Councilmember Mary Craton, Canyon Lake, RCTC; Councilmember Jordan Ehrenkranz, WRCOG; Councilmember Ron Roberts, Temecula, District 5; and Councilmember Jeff Stone, Riverside County; San Bernardino office: Councilmember Bill Jahn, Big Bear Lake, District 11; Councilmember Alan Wapner, Ontario; Supervisor Gary Ovitt, San Bernardino County; and Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8; Ventura County: Councilmember Bryan MacDonald; Oxnard, District 45; Councilmember Brian Brennan, Ventura, VCCOG; and Imperial office: Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1.

Councilmember Mark Rutherford, Westlake Village, District 44, requested an example of a SCAG mitigation measure and clarification of requirement. Joann Africa, Chief Counsel, responded and cited as an example of a SCAG mitigation measure which she noted the EEC approved and asked to be included as part of the RTP PEIR related to the impacts upon biological resources. Ms. Africa stated in this particular measure, SCAG shall develop a conservation strategy in coordination with local jurisdictions and agencies including California Transportation Commissions (CTCs) to determine priority conservation areas and develop regional mitigation policies.

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, stated that SCAG is required to meet air quality standards, environmental justice requirements and implement policy direction from the Policy Committees and the Regional Council. Mr. Ikhata noted that for a particular impact that is determined to be significant, SCAG, as the lead agency, has to define measures to mitigate the impact.

President O'Connor announced that there are fifteen (15) Public Comment Speakers and that each speaker will be limited to ninety (90) seconds to comment.

Harvey Liss, a resident of Irvine, commented that one of the most important contributors to air pollution is the lack of traffic signal synchronization outside of rush hours to improve traffic flow. Mr. Liss cited the City of Irvine as an example and how it benefited from the implementation of traffic signal synchronization only during the rush hour period and its stark contrast with other cities' traffic signal timing.

Reina Fukuda, East Los Angeles Community Corporation, commented that residents in Boyle Heights and East L.A. make up the core transit ridership in the East Los Angeles region and will maintain increased ridership if the RTP ensures that gentrification and displacement are captured in the environmental justice analysis; requested increased funding for the Compass Blueprint Program to back-up anti-displacement in Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas; stated support for public health as part of the Goods Movement in the RTP; and requested removal of the East-West Freight Corridor in the Plan.

Patricia Ochoa, Environment and Health Coordinator, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles, thanked SCAG for its work on the RTP/SCS and for including Active Transportation in the Plan; suggested to consider the quality of life and health effects in the community for its transportation projects; and asked for the removal of the planned East-West Freight Corridor in the RTP.

Alexis Lantz, Planning and Policy Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, commented regarding the RTP's investment for Active Transportation and the availability of its funding until after 2026 while there is an immediate need to address its effects on public health in the region and suggested investment in the transit system to ensure injury reduction is achieved.

Rye Baerg, Southern California Regional Policy Manager, Safe Routes to School, thanked SCAG for its work on the RTP; echoed Ms. Lantz's comments on Active Transportation funding; recommended efficient funding and planning for these modes of transportation by creating a regional streets plan, Safe Routes to School Plan, and Active Transportation funding plan to target areas that will need aid the most.

Pauline Chow, Southern California Regional Policy Manager, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, urged SCAG to continue to support Active Transportation while enhancing safety and increased connectivity of public transportation.

Jerard Wright, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Transportation Committee Co-Chair, complimented SCAG on the RTP and the Compass Blueprint Program funding; commented on the expansion of transportation funding, pedestrian connectivity, and Active Transportation; and stated support of Goods Movement.

Deny Zane, Executive Director, Move LA, announced that a new organization, Move SoCal, is forthcoming and commented regarding the success of the Metrolink System in the San Bernardino line with enhanced express service and investment in high-speed rail system.

Andrew Henderson, Vice President & General Counsel, Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIASC), thanked SCAG staff for the development of the Draft 2012 RTP/SCS and Draft PEIR; was pleased to see the proposed changes to be incorporated on the Draft PEIR; and commented on the concerns and policy implications of the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) maps.

Richard Lambros, Managing Director, Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC), appreciated SCAG staff for its efforts and response to comments regarding honoring local control in the Draft PEIR.

John Longville, Board of Trustees, San Bernardino Community College District, shared his perspective as former SCAG President (1992-1993); stated appreciation of what SCAG has achieved to date; and encouraged SCAG to continue to be bold and visionary.

Joyce Green, President, Associated Student Government of San Bernardino Valley College, commented regarding the benefits the region will obtain from the RTP; requested to increase transit-bicycle-pedestrian improvement; and urged to find local funding mechanism and investment to allow all students to have access to education.

Ezequiel Gutierrez, Attorney-at-Law, commented regarding affordable housing needs tailoring a “jobs-housing fit” balance as a mitigation strategy while analyzing industrial needs that will shape residential development.

Luis Cabrales, Coalition for Clean Air, thanked SCAG staff for its efforts in the development of the RTP; however, expressed concerns on the lack of emphasis of short-term projects in the Constrained Plan to achieve clean air technology goals to obtain a zero- or near zero-emissions Goods Movement system; expressed concerns on the growth of the Panama Canal and the potential impacts it could have in the region; and urged SCAG to work with regional, state and national agencies to fund projects.

Marnie Primmer, Executive Director, Mobility 21, thanked SCAG staff for its efforts in the development of the RTP; commented that the RTP is a compilation of voter-approved sales tax measures and programs that are in place and that SCAG needs to uphold and deliver those plans approved by the voters. Ms. Primmer stated that any changes to the Plan should be brought back to the voters in their respective counties.

President Pam O'Connor closed the Public Comment period.

Councilmember Frank Quintero, Glendale, District 42, echoed some of the comments made in regard to Active Transportation funding in the RTP and suggested that funding be distributed evenly across the 25-year plan and noted that the City of Glendale wrote a letter to SCAG to this effect. Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, clarified that 65% of the funding in the RTP has been dedicated to transit and is also committed to maintain the existing system. Therefore, Mr. Ikhata stated that 1% of Active Transportation funding is actually higher when taken into account the maintenance and operation for the Plan. In regard to the growth forecast and TAZ maps comments, Mr. Ikhata emphasized that the RTP does meet State and Federal requirements.

Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita, North Los Angeles County, asked how detailed are the responses to the comments will be? Mr. Ikhata responded that every comment received will be read and categorized based on the topic; staff will respond to each of these comments as appropriate; and these comments will be available on the SCAG RTP/SCS website prior to the Joint Policy Committees' Special Meeting on March 21, 2012.

Councilmember Trish Kelley, Mission Viejo, OCCOG, appreciated the quick and comprehensive response to the concerns outlined in the letter submitted by the City of Mission Viejo and the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) and acknowledged the challenges faced in developing the RTP in meeting SB 375 requirements and the incorporation of a new element in the Plan, the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Councilmember Don Voss, La Cañada/Flintridge, District 36, expressed concerns that the RTP continues to refer to one particular project—the SR-710 Tunnel—that is inconsistent with the present information. Councilmember Voss stated that Metro is pursuing a solution to address congestion and pollution problems in the northern terminus of the 710 Freeway and is evaluating a wide variety of solutions which presupposes the conclusion that Metro has not yet reached. Councilmember Voss emphasized that while it is appropriate to include a solution to the problem, it is inappropriate to presuppose a conclusion. Mr. Ikhata responded that for modeling purposes, there is a need to specify whether a particular project is for a highway capacity, toll facility, or a bus route; and noted that the Plan is a reflection of the regional priorities.

The following Regional Council members, participating via video-conference, expressed appreciation and thanked SCAG staff for a comprehensive report and work in the development of the Draft 2012 RTP/SCS; appreciated all public comments made and the approaches and responses to these comments; and the commitment to credibility and transparency in the entire process: Regional Councilmembers Ginger Coleman, Sukhee Kang, Deborah Robertson, and Cheryl Viegas-Walker.

Councilmember Mary Craton, Canyon Lake, RCTC, thanked SCAG staff for addressing concerns and echoed the public comment made earlier regarding voter-approved sales tax measures and programs.

Councilmember Jim Hyatt, Calimesa, District 3, commented that school bus transportation has ceased in Calimesa and has resulted in an increased number of trips a day to and from school and asked if the RTP could address this problem. Mr. Ikhata responded that although the RTP does

not address school bus transportation issues because it is not within the purview of the RTP, the Regional Council could discuss and address safe routes to school.

Councilmember Mark Rutherford, Westlake Village, District 44, commented that because of the current California law, there had been an increased number of sixteen-year old licensed drivers driving to schools individually, which also poses safety issues.

Councilmember Alan Wapner, Ontario, SANBAG, commented that SCAG has included all projects submitted by the CTCs; however, the RTP cannot include everything and will need to make certain that projects meet environmental conformity. Councilmember Wapner reiterated that an RTP Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2012 to receive all comments and seek policy direction for a recommendation to the Regional Council for the Joint Special Meeting scheduled for March 21, 2012.

Councilmember Barbara Messina, Alhambra, District 34, commented on the Active Transportation funding concerns and shared information that a number of cities have their own Bicycle Master Plan and are doing their part in the community in providing Active Transportation.

Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7, echoed Councilmember Messina's comments regarding Active Transportation funding in the RTP; cited an example of the City of Highland's active installation of bike lanes in the city; commented regarding a collaborative and bottoms-up approach in the development of the RTP/SCS; and thanked Hasan Ikhata for his leadership and commitment.

Councilmember Steven Hofbauer, Palmdale, District 43, expressed concerns and recommended including a supplemental report update on the Aviation and Airport Ground Access section of the RTP regarding the reinforcement of a high-speed rail alignment through the Antelope Valley route and not the Grapevine. Hasan Ikhata responded and noted that the CHSRA took action to this effect.

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, Los Angeles, District 48, thanked Hasan Ikhata and SCAG staff for their efforts in the development of the Draft 2012 RTP/SCS while considering a delicate balance of priorities of the various stakeholders and interest groups. Councilmember Reyes asked if there is a way to address all the specific comments made while understanding the dense pockets of the region—poverty-stricken pockets vs. pockets of opportunities—and how this will change the future. Mr. Ikhata responded that the TAZ maps analysis are aggregated to the region and that the RTP responds to the rules and regulations and policy direction received from the Regional Council.

Councilmember Michele Martinez, Santa Ana, District 16, echoed Hasan Ikhata's response that the policies set forth by the Regional Council for the RTP are very important to the environment and communities and are in the best interest of the region; and provided support for Active Transportation.

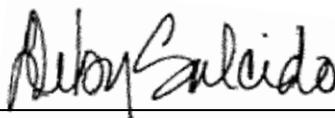
Councilmember Kris Murray, Anaheim, District 19, commented regarding a collaborative approach in the development of the subregional SCS; thanked SCAG staff, Hasan Ikhata, and the Regional Councilmembers; and announced the City of Anaheim's recent adoption of the Orange County-based Bike Nation, a program for the operation of bicycle sharing systems.

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, announced that the California Air Resources Board will hold a public workshop on SCAG's Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy immediately after the meeting.

President Pam O'Connor announced that a Joint Regional Council and Policy Committees meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012, with a focus on the Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and PEIR Comments and Revision Approach. Hasan Ikhata also announced that a Special Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees is scheduled for March 21, 2012. At this meeting, Mr. Ikhata stated that the Policy Committees will recommend that the Regional Council certify the Final RTP/SCS PEIR and adopt the Final RTP/SCS at the April 4, 2012 Regional Council meeting. Due to the voluminous material on the comments and responses, Mr. Ikhata informed that a SCAG weblink will be emailed to the members and materials will also be posted on the SCAG website on March 15, 2012. He also announced that hard-copies will be available, if requested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting of the Joint Regional Council and Policy Committees adjourned at 1:28 p.m.



Deby Salcido, Officer to the Regional Council