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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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SPECIAL MEETING

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

Remote Participation Only
Thursday, February 25, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To Participate on Your Computer:
https://scag.zoom.us/j/941139378

To Participate by Phone:
Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 941 139 378

Please see next page for detailed instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Given recent public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Peter Waggonner at (213) 630-1402 or via email at waggonner@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1402. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.

Instructions for Public Comments

You may submit public comments in two (2) ways:

1. **Submit written comments via email to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.**

   All written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

2. **If participating via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.**

   If unable to connect by Zoom or phone and you wish to make a comment, you may submit written comments via email to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

In accordance with SCAG's Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is "willfully interrupted" and the "orderly conduct of the meeting" becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

Instructions for Participating in the Meeting

SCAG is providing multiple options to view or participate in the meeting:

To Participate and Provide Verbal Comments on Your Computer

1. Click the following link: https://scag.zoom.us/j/941139378
2. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click "Download & Run Zoom" on the launch page and press "Run" when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
3. Select "Join Audio via Computer."
4. The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, "Please wait for the host to start this meeting," simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
5. During the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function located in the participants' window and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

To Listen and Provide Verbal Comments by Phone

1. Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully.
2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 941 139 378**, followed by **#**.
3. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing **#** to continue.
4. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
5. During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

ETC - Emerging Technologies Committee
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1. **Sup. Curt Hagman**
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2. **Hon. Sean Ashton**
   Downey, RC District 25

3. **Hon. Drew Boyles**
   El Segundo, RC District 40

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   Caltrans District 7, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member

10. **Hon. Carol Moore**
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11. **Hon. Frank Navarro**
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    CA Road Charge TAC, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member

13. **Sup. Luis Plancarte**
    Imperial County

14. **Hon. David Pollock**
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15. **Hon. Deborah Robertson**
    Rialto, RC District 8

16. **Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker**
    El Centro, RC District 1

17. **Hon. Alan Wapner**
    SBCTA Representative

18. **Hon. Edward Wilson**
    Signal Hill, GCCOG

19. **Hon. Frank Zerunyan**
    Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
Thursday, February 25, 2021
10:00 AM

The Emerging Technologies Committee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
(The Honorable Curt Hagman, Chair)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments by sending an email to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. Such comments will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to verbally address the Emerging Technologies Committee will be allowed up to 3 minutes to speak, with the presiding officer retaining discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting. The presiding officer has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of comments received and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Municipal Asset Inventory — 60 Mins.
(Steven Peloso, President, NxTgen Infrastructure Services)

2. SCAG Sustainable Communities Program — 20 Mins.
(Marisa Laderach, Senior Regional Planner)

3. SCAG Equity Early Action Plan — 25 Mins.
(Tom Bellino, Senior Regional Planner)

4. SCAG's Broadband Resolution — 15 Mins.
(Tom Bellino, Senior Regional Planner)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S

ANNOUNCEMENT/S

ADJOURNMENT

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 25, 2021

To: Emerging Technologies Committee (ETC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

From: Thomas Bellino, Senior Regional Planner,
(213) 236-1830, bellino@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Municipal Asset Inventory

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
Steven Peloso, President of NxTgen Infrastructure Services, based in Orange County, will present to the Emerging Technologies Committee about two projects. The first is an effort in San Diego, in cooperation with Verizon, to audit and document the city's streetlights and traffic signal poles. The other is a model for public asset monetization, with streetlights as one asset type, as they are property that a city can leverage for income. Mr. Peloso will then take questions and participate in a discussion with the members of the Committee.

BACKGROUND:
NxTgen performed work for the City of San Diego in cooperation with Verizon, as part of a public-private partnership, to create and present a municipal asset inventory. They audited and presented, via a service platform, 60,000+ streetlights and traffic signal poles in high detail. The goal was to provide current, trusted information source upon which cities and their technology partners (i.e. carriers, Smart/IOT, broadband fiber providers, etc.) can rely. The outcomes include improvements to planning and deployment of 5G and other technologies using public assets. It works equally as well for any technology requiring pole top deployments. The same model could also capture other assets in the right of way (i.e. manholes, control boxes, curb making, signage, etc.).

NxTgen also developed a model for public asset monetization, using streetlights as one asset type. The benefit of this lies in leveraging streetlights as real property in return for the Opex-based delivery of capital or capital and services. The latter could be used to deliver things like wholesale infrastructure improvements (i.e. broadband deployment, migration to LEDs, electrical infrastructure upgrades, pole replacements, utility buybacks, etc.). In essence, it can act as a

foundation for public-private partnerships regarding technology service delivery.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None.

ATTACHMENT(S):
1. PowerPoint Presentation: Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments

February 25, 2021

NXTGEN infrastructure services + BROOKFIELD

Who Are We

NXTGEN infrastructure services

A municipally-focused, infrastructure services company. Irvine-based

Our Mission: Helping cities deploy broadband and “Smart”/IOT tech that relies on publicly-owned assets

How: By maximizing the value municipal ROW asset as real property; critical to technology deployment

Cloud-based, Life-cycle Management Solutions Including:

- High-detail Audits, Databasing, Mapping And Management Of Municipally-owned Vertical Assets

Pole-top Management Solutions Including:

- Carrier Reservation Management (Q2 2021)
- Carrier/3rd party Performance Status For Applications, Permitting, Construction And Certification Reporting

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments (Municipal Asset Inventory Management)

Broadband as The 4th Utility

Approaching parity with water, electricity, sanitation

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND SERVICES ARE NO LONGER OPTIONAL

- Critical For Growth – A "Must Have"
- Enables And Drives Economic Growth
- Improves Educational Services At All Levels
- Facilitates Public Safety
- Delivers New & Enhanced Public Services
- Presents Revenue And Cost Reduction Opportunities
- Necessary For The Adoption Of IOT (Both Publicly And In-Home)

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IS VITAL TO BROADBANDS SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT

Hurdles and Complexities

Municipal Challenges

BARRIERS TO PROGRESS

1. Carriers, 3rd Party Providers Rely Heavily On Publicly-owned Assets. Consequently, They Rely On Cities For Information
2. Very Few Cities Maintain Current, Accurate Data For ROW Assets
3. Unmanaged Pole Top Real Estate Is Problematic
4. Absence Of Data And Processes Negatively Affect Financial Performance and Service Delivery

Unintended Consequence:

Unsuccessful RFPs, Ongoing Carrier Challenges (5G), Overvalued/nderutilized Assets

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments (Municipal Asset Inventory Management)

INDUSTRY	TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT
Cellular	Small cells; 5G, distributed antenna systems (DAS)
Utilities	Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI); Smart Grids
Cable	Wi-Fi hotspots
Transportation	Intelligent transportation systems; driverless cars
Municipal	Traffic systems, Public Safety Systems, Parking Enforcement
Future IoT	Future technologies

NXTGEN infrastructure services + BROOKFIELD

Case Study:
City of San Diego

Inventory Management
"Best Practice" Planning

CITY OF SAN DIEGO/PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

GOAL:

- AN ACCURATE, TRUSTED INVENTORY AND MANAGE OF ITS EXISTING STREETLIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE

REQUIREMENTS:

- PHYSICAL AUDIT OF 60,000 CITY-OWNED STREETLIGHT AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES
- CLOUD-BASED ACCESS TO A SHARED DATABASE (PHOTOS INCLUDED), WITH THE ABILITY TO SORT AND FILTER ACROSS ALL (34) ATTRIBUTES.
- ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ITS CARRIER AND IOT PARTNERS
- FOCUSED ON 5G AND POLE TOP TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT MANAGEMENT
- COMPLETED IN SIX (6) MONTHS

DELIVERABLES INCLUDED:

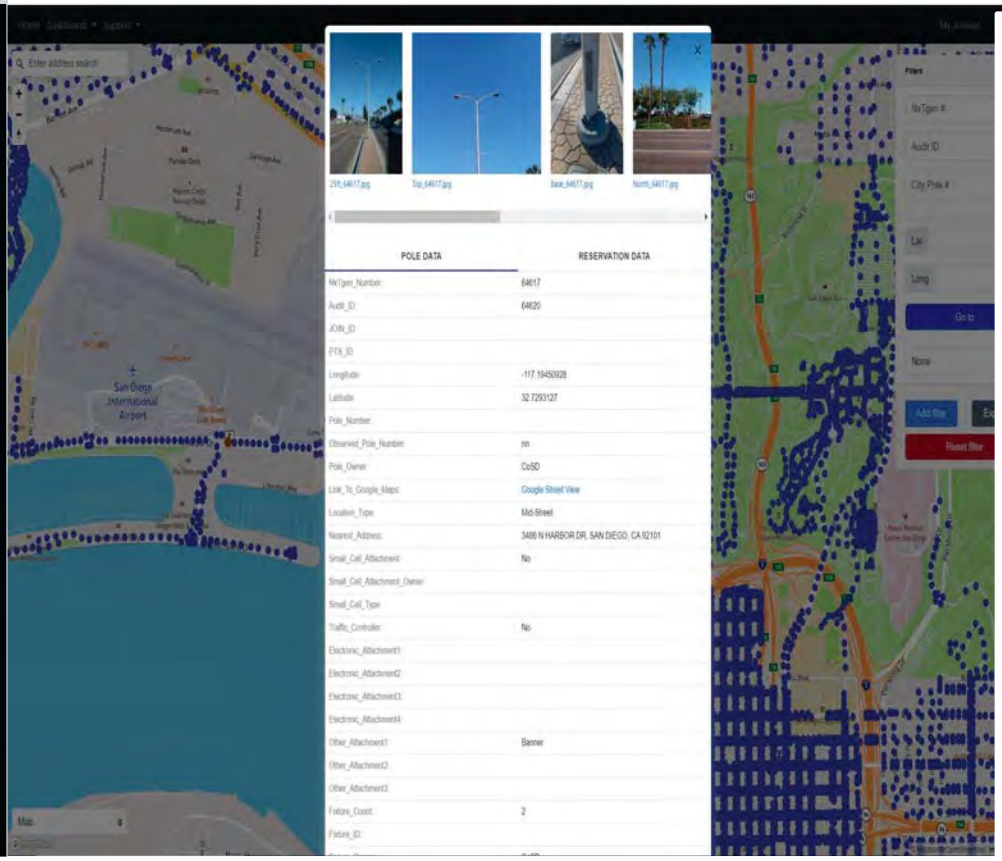
- AIMS PLATFORM SERVICES DEPLOYMENT TO CITY AND CARRIER USERS INCL:
  - o MULTI-YEAR PLATFORM SUBSCRIPTION
  - o 100 SEAT USER LICENSE
- API-DRIVEN CARRIER STATUS UPDATE CAPABILITIES

ROADMAP:

- CARRIER RESERVATION MANAGEMENT READY

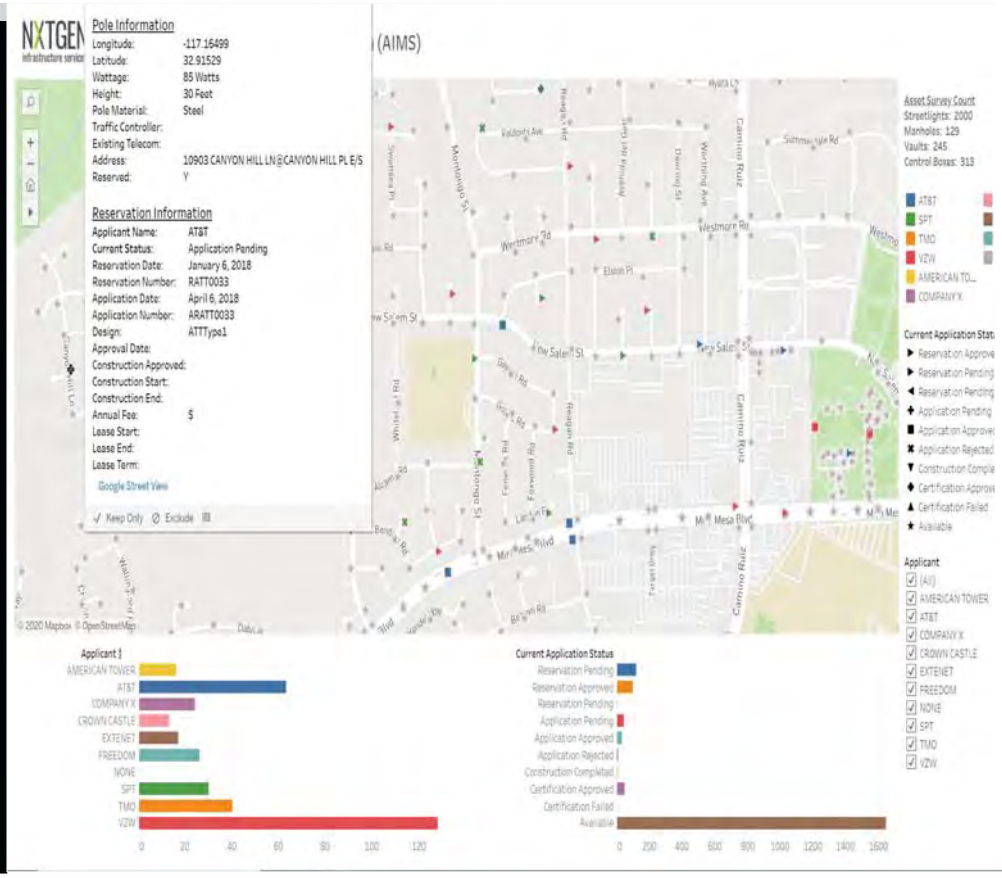
Case Study:
City of San Diego

Asset Information and Mapping



Case Study:
City of San Diego

Pole-top Application Status



Pole-top Management 5G Deployments

Reservation Management

Carrier Reservation Application Form

Applicant	Verizon Wireless
Applicant Contact	John Doe
Type of Attachment	Small Cell
New or Existing	Existing
Carrier Site Name/ID	VZW00SDC8781
NxTgen ID	29759
Pole ID	SDC0041694
Observed Pole ID	None
Longitude	-117.15753861
Latitude	32.71161943
Pole Type	Standard
Pole Owner	City of San Diego
Link to Google Maps	https://www.google.
Location on Street	Intersection
Nearest Address	782 MARKET ST, SAN
Traffic Signal Equipment	Yes
Attachments	Traffic Light, Sign
Light Fixture Count	1
Pole Height	25
Pole Material	Cast Iron
Pole Color	CCDC Blue
Mast Arm Count	2
Light Fixture Height	24'

Dnload Required Documents

Doc1		Browse...
Doc2		Browse...

City Approval:	☑ Conditions?
Approve/Deny*	10-03-20
Reviewer	John Doe
City SL ID	XXXXX
Approval #	XXXXX
Reservation Expires	XXXXX

Asset Inventory Management

Municipal Infrastructure as the Foundation

WHAT'S KNOWN ABOUT YOUR CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS?

1. Asset Type, In Detail
2. Condition, Age, Remaining Useful Life
3. Location
4. Availability
5. Quantity
6. Who Owns What (Departmentally)?
7. Capacity For Growth?

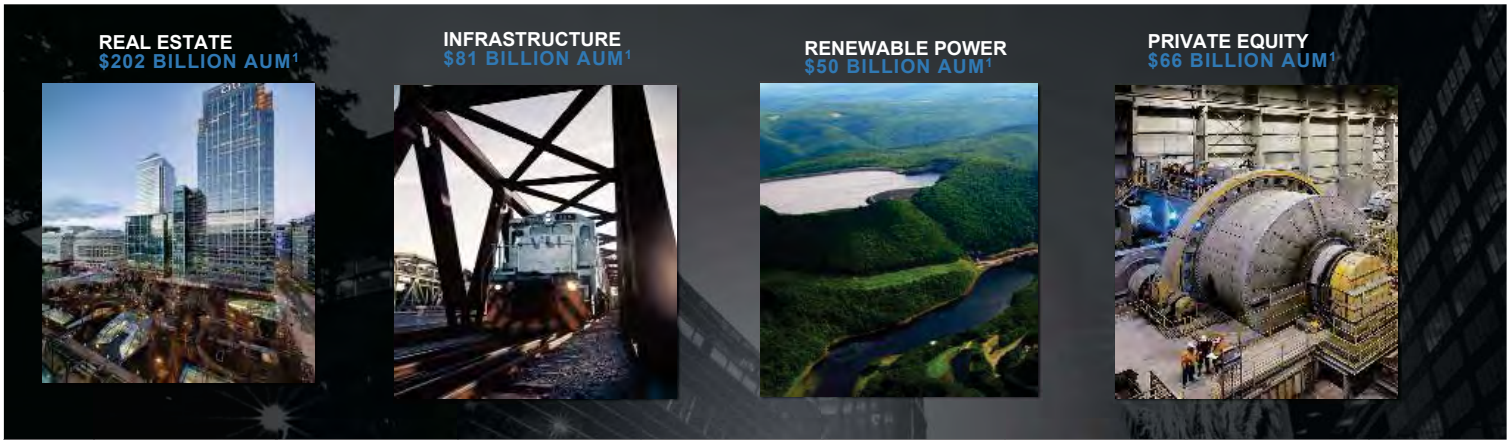
Proactive Approaches To Inventory Management Support:

- Improved Budgeting Efforts
- Create Revenue Opportunities
- "Shared" Opportunities For Partners

Who Are We

BROOKFIELD

- A 120-year-old alternative asset manager with $515B+ in assets under management.
- Invests in long-life, high-quality assets in more than 30 countries around the world.
- Focused on infrastructure, real estate and renewable power



ASSET MONETIZATION

Monetizing Existing Infrastructure Provides A Budgetary Alternative and a Complement To Shorter-Term Tools

MONETIZATION - HOW DOES IT WORK?

Leverages The Inherent Value In Public Assets

- Upfront capital is provided in exchange for a long term, real property interest
- Funding or funding + services (O&M) determined
- Real estate interest model (i.e., Sale, lease, rent, IRU, etc.)
- Term (20, 40, 50 yr.+, Renewals, etc.)

Why Monetize Streetlights as Collateral

- Long-lived, fixed assets
- Height, power, fiber
- Located in the ROW
- Essential for public lighting and technology siting

Offers An Option Or Complement To The Typical Options **

- General Obligation or Revenue Bonds
- General Funds
- Grants
- 3rd Party Debt

** Affected by appetite/capacity for debt, impact on credit rating, political environment, competing priorities

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments (Municipal Asset Inventory Management)

FUNDING OR FUNDING + SERVICES

Streetlighting-As-A-Service

TWO VERSIONS:

- Standalone Funding
- Funding + Services to deliver "Streetlighting-as-a Service"

Standalone Funding

- Provided as Lump-sum capital
- Leverages the streetlight inventory as collateral
- Funds can be applied in any manner, at the city's discretion

Funding + Services

- Provides capital + program services (city-defined) including:

✓ Smart/LED migration, infrastructure and physical pole upgrades, etc.
✓ SLA-based Operations & Management
✓ Pole-top Management

Delivered via a Master Services Agreement

MONETIZATION

Brookfield Delivers Capital In Exchange For The Agreed-to Long Term Real Property Interest

KEY ELEMENTS

- Not Typically Treated As Debt
- No Impact On Municipal Credit Rating
- Provided Without The Usual Lender Covenants
- Voter Approval Not Typically Required
- No Operational Oversight Required by the City
- Assets Are Returned At The End Of The Term

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments (Municipal Asset Inventory Management)

STREETLIGHTING-AS-A SERVICE

Delivers an Opex-based, customizable, turn-key approach to managing streetlights as "vertical real estate"

THE BENEFITS

- No Upfront Capital Outlays Required To Deploy Solutions
- Offers Future-proofing & Lifecycle Management Options
- Leverages Inherent Operational And $$ Efficiencies In Proven Technologies
- Cost-effective, SLA-based Operations & Maintenance
- Fully Customizable
- Delivered Via A Master Services Agreement
- One Monthly Payment

NXTGEN
infrastructure services

THANK YOU

Steve Peloso Pres./Founder
Stevep@nxtgeninfra.Com

Ed Gentile COO/Co-founder
Edg@nxtgeninfra.com

4199 Campus Drive Suite 550
Irvine, CA 92612 949-887-2633

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Technology Deployments (Municipal Asset Inventory Management)

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 25, 2021

To: Emerging Technologies Committee (ETC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

From: Thomas Bellino, Senior Regional Planner,
(213) 236-1830, bellino@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG Sustainable Communities Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy. 7: Secure funding to support agency priorities to effectively and efficiently deliver work products.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
SCAG is now accepting applications for the third cycle of the 2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP), which is targeted for projects relating to Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations. Senior Regional Planner Marisa Laderach will present to and answer questions from the Emerging Technologies Committee about the program, how it relates to the work of the Committee, and how Committee members' communities can apply and benefit.

BACKGROUND:
The SCP is one of SCAG's most important sources of project assistance for our member agencies and was noted by President Richardson as one of the best ways that communities and their representatives can benefit from and work with SCAG. This round of the program provides resources for projects that support the implementation of three Connect SoCal key connections, focusing on smart cities and job centers, go zones, and shared mobility/mobility as a service, to expand upon our mobility ecosystems and advance the region's vision.

Cities can apply through Friday, April 23, for any of these SCP Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations project types:

- Curb Space Data Collection & Inventory
- Technology Assessment or Adoption Plan
- Parking Management Plan
- Permitting Process Evaluation

When applying, cities can take advantage of webinars and one-on-one coaching to answer questions and assist in submitting a competitive application. These resources and the application can be found at https://scag.ca.gov/scp.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None.

ATTACHMENT(S):
1. PowerPoint Presentation: 2020-21 SCP Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications

2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program

Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications

Marisa Laderach
Senior Regional Planner, Mobility Planning and Management

February 25, 2021

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2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP)

- Supports implementation of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), *Connect SoCal*
- SCP provides **multiple opportunities** to seek funding and resources to meet the needs of communities, address recovery and resiliency strategies considering COVID-19, and support regional goals
  - **Active Transportation & Safety (AT&S)**
  - **Housing & Sustainable Development (HSD)**
  - **Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations (SCMI)**
- Successful applicants receive technical assistance from SCAG.

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: 2020-21 SCP Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications (SCAG Sustainable Communities

2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP): Program-Wide Goals

- Provide needed **planning resources** to local jurisdictions for **active transportation** and **multimodal planning efforts, sustainability, land use,** and **planning for affordable housing**;
- **Promote, address and ensure health and equity** in regional land use and transportation planning and to **close the gap of racial injustice**;
- Encourage regional planning strategies to **reduce motorized Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)** and **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, particularly in environmental justice communities where there is the highest need for air quality improvements;
- Develop local plans that **support the implementation of key strategies and goals** outlined in Connect SoCal's Sustainable Communities Strategy;

2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP): Program-Wide Goals (continued)

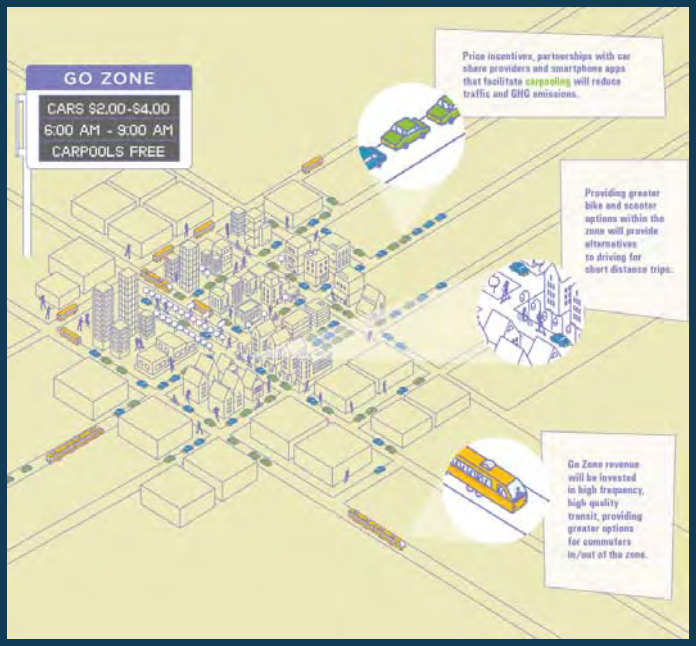
- Develop resources that **support the Key Connections** as outlined in Connect SoCal, including:
  - Shared Mobility and Mobility as a Service
  - Smart Cities and Job Centers
  - Accelerated Electrification
  - Go Zones
  - Housing Supportive Infrastructure;
- **Support a resilient region** that looks to climate adaptation and public health preparedness as key strategies;
- **Increase the region's competitiveness for federal and state funds.**

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: 2020-21 SCP Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications (SCAG Sustainable Communities

2020-2021 SCP: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations

- The Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call seeks to explore implementation of three **Connect SoCal Key Connections**:
  - Smart Cities & Job Centers
  - Go Zones
  - Shared Mobility & Mobility as a Service

- The funding will be directed towards local jurisdictions that seek to **use technology and innovation** by implementing curb space management measures.



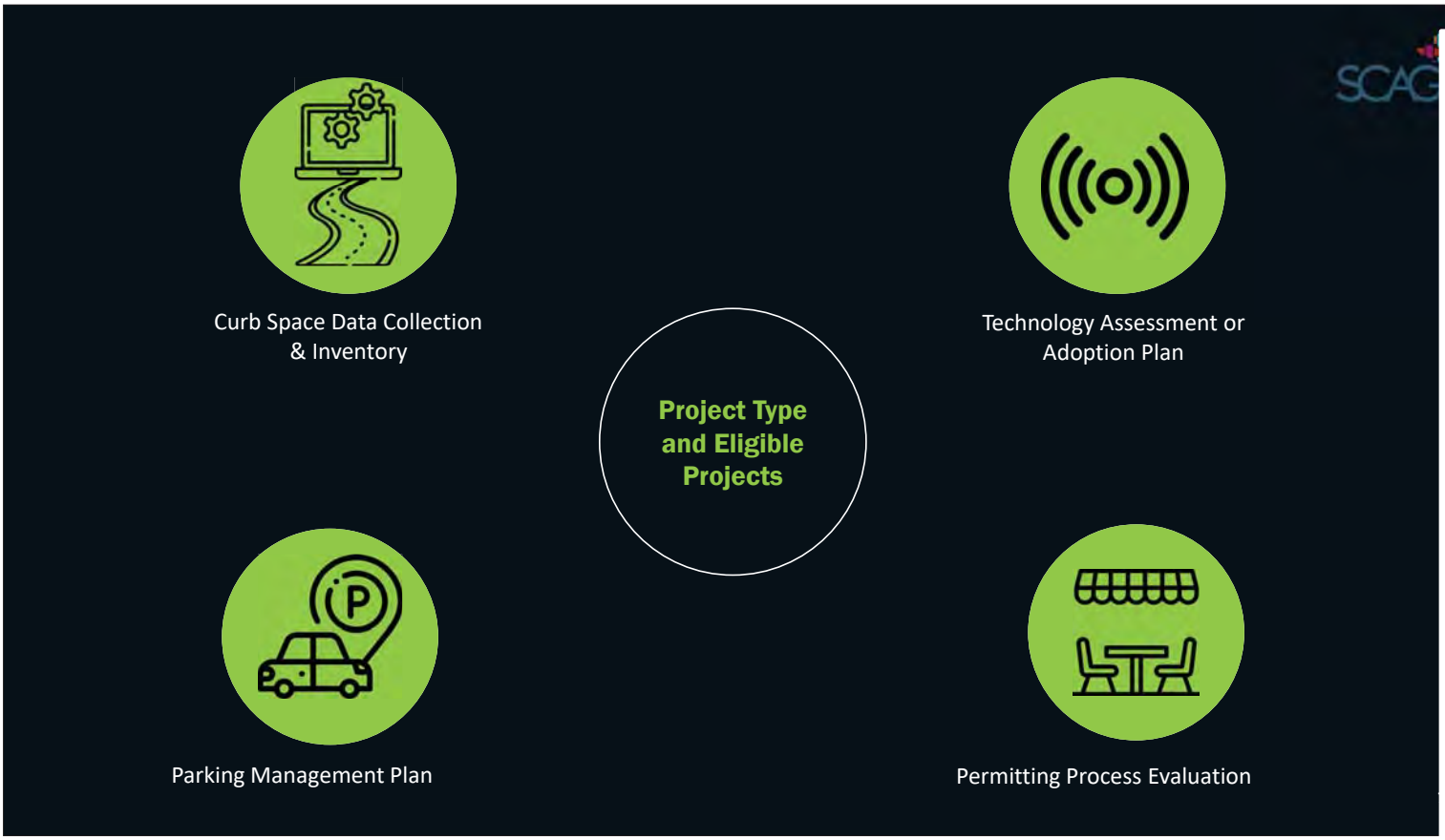
2020-2021 SCP: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations

- Cities have been struggling with issues related to on-and off-street parking, congestion, first-last mile connections, etc. Data and **the reliable assessment of curb use** have become essential to finding solutions to these growing issues in the region.

- SCP Call for Projects seeks to **develop best practices** in curb space management that support sustainable mobility while simultaneously enhancing public space and supporting small businesses and the local economy.

- SCP Call for Projects considers **emerging equity considerations** such as the relationships between the use of transit and transportation network companies (as evidenced by curb space activity within disadvantaged communities), enhancements for transit and bike networks at the curb, and the potential for optimizing curb space management through asset valuation.

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: 2020-21 SCP Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications (SCAG Sustainable Communities



Eligible Applicants

The following entities, within the SCAG region, are eligible to apply for SCP-SCMI resources:

- **Local or Regional Agency** – Examples include cities, counties, councils of government, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and County Public Health Departments.
- **Transit Agencies** – Any agency responsible for public transportation that is eligible for funds under the Federal Transit Administration.
- **Natural Resources or Public Land Agencies** – Federal, State, or local agency responsible for natural resources of public land administration.
- **Tribal Governments** – Federally-recognized Native American Tribes.

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: 2020-21 SCP Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications (SCAG Sustainable Communities

Schedule

SCP-Smart Cities and Mobility Innovations Milestones	Date
Call for Applications Opens	February 8, 2021
Application Workshop	March 8, 2021 April 5, 2021
Call for Applications Submission Deadline	April 23, 2021 (5:00 p.m.)
Regional Council Recommendation	July 1, 2021
Final Work and Invoices Submitted	June 30, 2023

Questions?

Marisa Laderach

laderach@scag.ca.gov

(213) 236-1927

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Southern California Association of Governments
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February 25, 2021

To: Emerging Technologies Committee (ETC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

From: Thomas Bellino, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1830, bellino@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG Equity Early Action Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
On July 2, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-623-2, affirming its commitment to meaningfully advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern California. The resolution called for the formation of an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice throughout the agency's activities and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. To provide a framework for incorporating racial equity into the agency's internal and external work, staff have developed a draft Early Action Plan (EAP). Staff presented the draft EAP (Attachment 1) to the Special Committee at its January 27, 2021 meeting for review and discussion. Staff seeks feedback on the draft EAP from the Emerging Technology Committee, particularly on early actions to pursue that advance the identified goals and strategies as it relates to emerging technology issues.

BACKGROUND:
In adopting Resolution 20-623-2, the Regional Council declared its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve the region's communities of color.

Equity Definition
SCAG staff first tackled developing a definition of equity. In formulating a working definition of equity, an internal cross-functional working group of staff undertook a data and research driven approach, utilizing best practices of equity definitions and related terms from across the region,

state, and nation. After the collection and review of definitions and related terms, staff drafted an initial working definition, which then went through multiple rounds of review and feedback from the Special Committee, SCAG staff via an agency-wide survey, and through stakeholder feedback from SCAG's regional planning working groups. Informed by research, best practices, peer agency review, and guided by input from the Special Committee, SCAG staff, and stakeholders, SCAG identified leading with ***racial*** equity as a focal point in addressing the pervasive and deep inequities faced by people of color across the region. SCAG recognizes that challenging racism is essential to support the creation of a just and equitable society. Though all dimensions of equity will not be advanced at the same time, SCAG staff will develop the skills needed to address other facets of equity, and through sustained effort, SCAG will build capacity to apply this work to other inequities. The updated working definition of equity for the Planning Division is as follows:

> **"As central to SCAG's work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life."**

Early Action Plan

The draft Early Action Plan (EAP) is a critical step in ensuring that SCAG's equity-related work continues to advance and that it endures for years to come, beyond the convening of this Special Committee. The EAP is intended to include a range of internally and externally focused actions, with the understanding that actions could be taken over a period of time, since they may take considerable time and effort. Staff anticipate that actions will be categorized as short-, medium-, and long-term, and that they will necessitate discussion and engagement with and support from internal and external stakeholders. The actions proposed in the EAP will be informed by an internal inventory of SCAG's planning activities as well as stakeholder input. Staff understand that the work of advancing equity requires continual listening and learning, and that developing the EAP will be an iterative process, with opportunities to identify new actions and commitments going forward. SCAG will need to partner with other agencies and institutions, across sectors, always putting community in the center of efforts.

The framework of the EAP was informed by a publication from Equity in the Center, *Awake to Woke to Work: Building a Race Equity Culture*,[1] which provides insights, tactics, and best practices to shift organizational culture and operationalize equity, and by consultation with Professor Charles Brown of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The framework of the draft EAP **(Attachment 1)** includes three strategies:

- Listen & Learn: Develop a shared understanding of our history of discrimination and the structural barriers that continue to perpetuate the inequities experienced today.

[1] *Awake to Woke to Work*: https://equityinthecenter.org/aww/, (accessed 13 January 2021).

- Engage & Co-Power: Create an environment where everyone is included, able to share their experiences, and equipped to talk about racial equity and inequities.
- Integrate & Institutionalize: Focus on systems change to improve racial equity. Center racial equity in all aspects of work. This involves internal and external systems change.

These three strategies apply across SCAG's core areas of focus and influence:

- Shift the Organizational Culture, which is focused on SCAG's internal work and practices.
- Center Racial Equity in Regional Policy & Planning, which refers to SCAG's regional planning functions.
- Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning Practices, referring to how SCAG can influence local elected officials and planning professionals with which it works and partners.
- Activate and Amplify, in which SCAG commits to communicating more broadly its commitment to racial equity and joining with others in different fields and sectors to amplify impact.

Discussion

To facilitate a discussion on the draft EAP, SCAG staff will review the framework of the EAP and provide examples of current work underway that aligns with goals and strategies. Staff seeks the Emerging Technology Committee's feedback on the following:

1. Does the framework for the draft EAP capture the goals and strategy areas SCAG should prioritize in advancing racial equity in Southern California? Committee members should consider the specific connections to emerging technology issues and early actions SCAG should consider as part of the EAP.
2. Where do members of the Emerging Technology Committee see opportunities for partnership with their cities and organizations or others working to advance racial equity in Southern California in their communities?

SCAG staff understand that development and implementation of the EAP will create opportunities for reflection and learning. Staff recognize that mistakes may be made. However, as the Government Alliance for Race and Equity advises, it is important that an agency and its staff provide a model of reflection and learning for others to emulate.

Next Steps

SCAG staff will incorporate feedback on the EAP from the Emerging Technology Committee as well as feedback from internal and external stakeholders, including but not limited to SCAG Divisions and Departments, Technical Working Groups, Regional Planning Working Groups, and Policy Committees. The final recommended EAP will be presented at the Special Committee's March meeting as part of a draft report for SCAG's Regional Council on the work and recommendations of the Special Committee. In addition, staff will present the findings and recommendations from the Equity Inventory, which may be integrated into the EAP.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Project 21-050.0169.08.

ATTACHMENT(S):
1. PowerPoint Presentation: Racial Equity Framework & Action Plan

Racial Equity Framework & Early Action Plan

www.scag.ca.gov

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SCAG's Commitment to Racial & Social Justice

- On July 14, SCAG Board adopted resolution on its support for racial & social justice.
- SCAG's policy for a regional discussion and Action on Equity and Social Justice with core deliverables, including:
  - Establishing a working definition of equity
  - Completing an equity inventory
  - Developing an equity framework
  - Developing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work plan
  - Reviewing the Public Participation Plan
- Directs staff to regularly report back on the work of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

Staff report on board action available here

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice website

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Racial Equity Framework & Action Plan (SCAG Equity Early Action Plan)

Update on Defining Equity

- Informed by research, best practices, peer agency review, and guided by input from the Special Committee, SCAG staff, and stakeholders.
- Leading with ***racial*** equity to address the pervasive and deep inequities faced by people of color across the region.

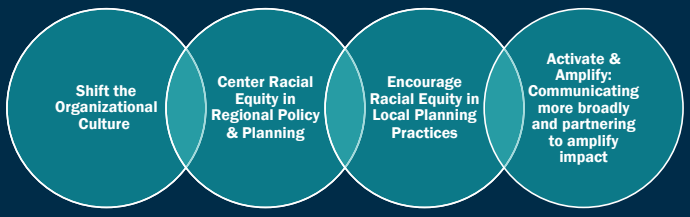
> "As central to SCAG's work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life."

Equity Framework & Early Action Plan (EAP)

- Ensuring work advances beyond life of Special Committee
- Includes internal and external short, medium & long-term actions

Strategies

Strategies apply across SCAG's core equity goals



Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Racial Equity Framework & Action Plan (SCAG Equity Early Action Plan)

FOCUS: YEARS 1 – 3

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Framework for the Early Action Plan to advance racial equity.

Overarching goals:

1. **Shift** organizational culture
2. **Center racial equity in** regional policy and planning
3. **Encourage racial equity in** local planning
4. **Activate and amplify** community

	GOALS			
	GOAL 1: SHIFT ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE	GOAL 2: CENTER RACIAL EQUITY IN REGIONAL POLICY & PLANNING	GOAL 3: ENCOURAGE RACIAL EQUITY IN LOCAL PLANNING PRACTICES	GOAL 4: ACTIVATE & AMPLIF
STRATEGIES				
LISTEN & LEARN — Develop a shared understanding of our history of discrimination and the structural barriers that continue to perpetuate the inequities experienced today	Strengthen individual and collective understanding, knowledge, and skills regarding racial equity, diversity, and inclusion to build a more equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist organizational culture, resulting in more equitable plans and outcomes	Expand understanding among SCAG's elected leadership and decision-makers of regional racial inequities and the land use and transportation policies and practices that contributed to and perpetuated the inequities experienced today	Expand understanding across the region among elected officials and planning professionals of regional racial inequities and the land use and transportation policies and practices that contributed to and perpetuated the inequities experienced today	Increase cultural consciousness among the general public regarding regional racial inequities resulting from land use and transportation policies and practices that contributed to and perpetuated the inequities experienced today
ENGAGE & CO-POWER — Create an environment where everyone is included, able to share their experiences, and equipped to talk about racial equity and inequities	Foster an organizational culture around equity, diversity, and inclusion	Establish just and equitable processes at SCAG for engaging and co-powering people of color in land use and transportation policymaking at SCAG	Support partners in establishing local planning processes for engaging and co-powering people of color in land use and transportation planning and decision-making	Center racial equity by supporting communities of color in understanding and shaping the communication and context for regional transportation and land use planning work
INTEGRATE & INSTITUTIONALIZE — Focus on systems change to improve racial equity. Center racial equity into all aspects of work. This involves internal and external systems change	Integrate and align equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with organizational strategies through our DEI Work Plan, and internal policies and procedures	Update SCAG regional plans, policies and practices to properly address racial and social inequities in the region	Encourage and support the development of local plans that seek to address inequities in the region	Broadly communicate commitment to racial equity and join with others in different fields and sectors to amplify regional impact

Regional Council Adopts Resolution To Establish A Broadband Action Plan

- Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide and increase broadband access in underserved communities throughout Southern California which includes:
  - Develop model resolution and policy paper for local jurisdictions
  - Grant funding opportunities and partnerships
  - Working group to facilitate rapid deployment of broadband technology

ENGAGE & CO-POWER

- Increase broadband access to underserved communities
- Partnerships and funding opportunities with local communities

INTEGRATE & INSTITUTION-ALIZE

- Support local policies that address broadband inequities in the region

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Racial Equity Framework & Action Plan (SCAG Equity Early Action Plan)

Sustainable Communities Program – Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations

- $15M in technical assistance to local jurisdictions to implement Connect SoCal
- Calls for Applications in multiple categories:
  - Past: Active Transportation, Housing
  - **Feb 2021: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations**
  - June 2021: Under Development

ENGAGE & CO-POWER

- Targeted outreach, coaching, listening sessions, evaluation criteria for underserved communities
- Community Based Organizations on Evaluation Panel

INTEGRATE & INSTITUTION-ALIZE

- Support local plans that address inequities in the region

Questions & Next Steps

What early actions would you recommend SCAG consider in the draft EAP?

Where do you see opportunities for working with partners?

February
- Internal Feedback

March
- External Feedback
- Working Groups, Joint Policy Committee, Special Committee

May
- Regional Council considers EAP

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Racial Equity Framework & Action Plan (SCAG Equity Early Action Plan)

Comments & Questions

www.scag.ca.gov

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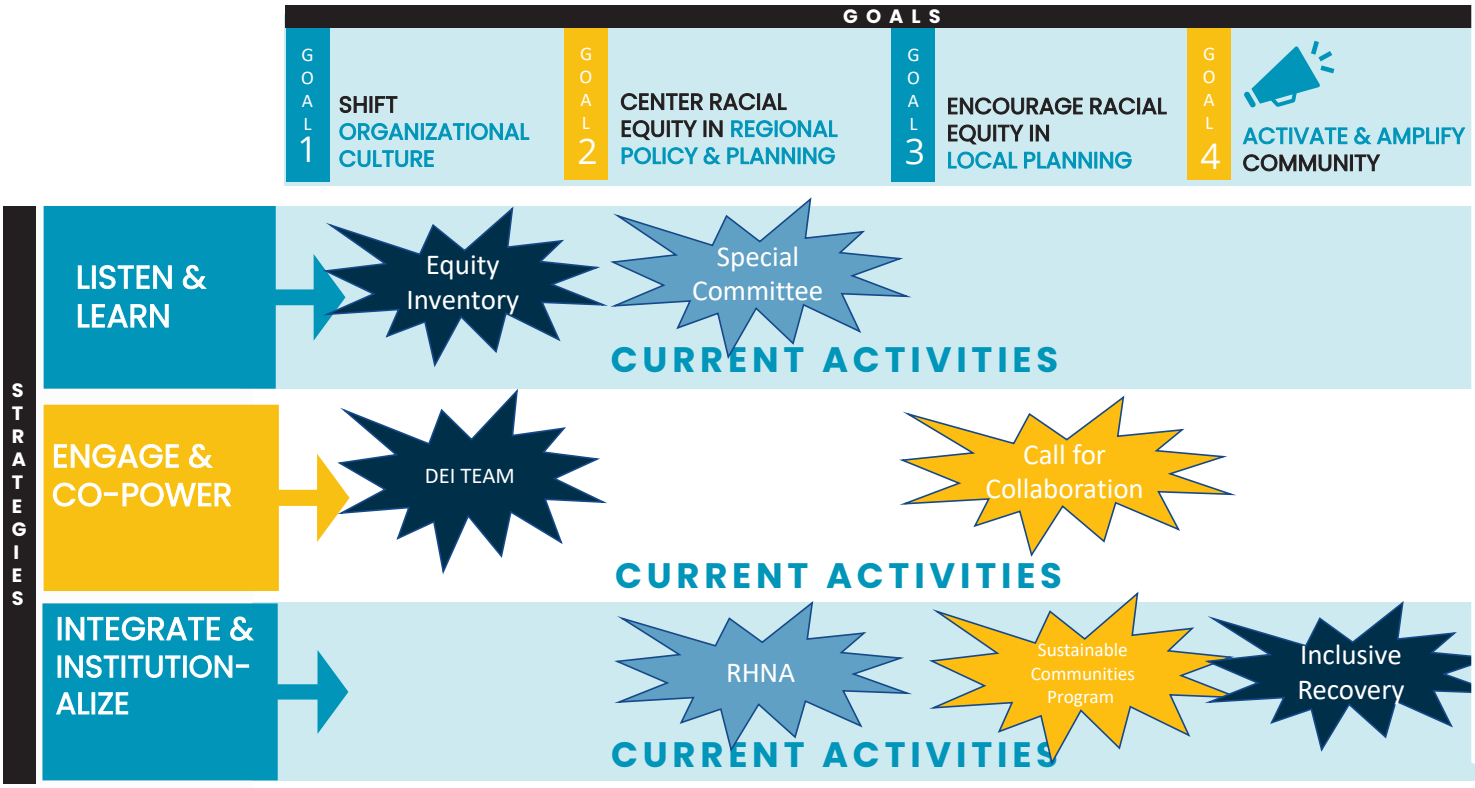
EARLY ACTION PLAN: EXAMPLES OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES



Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation: Racial Equity Framework & Action Plan (SCAG Equity Early Action Plan)

AGENDA ITEM 4
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 25, 2021

To: Emerging Technologies Committee (ETC)

From: Thomas Bellino, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1830, bellino@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG's Broadband Resolution

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide in underserved communities, including communities of color, rural communities and senior citizens, more apparent as work, commerce, health and other economic services have moved online. Residents in underserved communities are struggling to participate in the digital landscape as broadband services are unavailable to them due to lack of affordability or infrastructure. As such, there is a need to expedite broadband infrastructure deployment and provide connectivity at an affordable rate to underserved communities. On February 4th, 2021, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2 which establishes a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide.

BACKGROUND:
The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has implemented several initiatives regarding Emerging Issues and Trends for Future Planning to address matters regarding the digital divide and matters of equity within underserved communities (including communities of color and rural communities). Schools, offices, retail and governments all rely on online platforms, offering people significant time savings and a digital avenue for economic prosperity. Additionally, digital skills are increasingly necessary for a growing number of jobs. However, broadband can only deliver benefits to those who have access to connect, can afford to connect, and know how to use it. By these measures, broadband is still far from a universal service in American cities. Over 2,000,000 Californians do not have access to high-speed broadband service at benchmark speeds of 100 megabits per second downloads, and as of December 2018, 23 percent of California housing units, housing 8.4 million residents, do not have broadband subscriptions.

The adopted resolution and the forthcoming Broadband Action Plan will aid in the work SCAG and its member agencies will do to remedy this problem and bring opportunity to all in the SCAG region. SCAG staff will be seeking direction and input from the Emerging Technologies Committee in the development and implementation of the Action Plan, and staff will initiate the discussion with a review of the elements identified in the resolution and potential next steps.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None.

ATTACHMENT(S):
1. Broadband Resolution Adoption Press Release
2. Resolution No. 21-629-2 - Support to Increase Broadband Access

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2021

Contact: Steve Lambert, The 20/20 Network
(909) 841-7527/ steve@the2020network.com

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SCAG commits to developing a Broadband Action Plan to help cities, counties address the digital divide

Los Angeles – The nation's largest metropolitan planning organization on Thursday committed to helping its 191 cities and six counties bridge the digital divide and increase broadband access in underserved communities throughout Southern California.

Within the SCAG region alone, 10 percent of households do not have access to adequate internet speeds or have no internet access whatsoever. These households are disproportionately located in low-income or rural areas, where the population is predominantly Black, Latino or over 65 years old.

A resolution adopted by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is aimed at addressing a problem that has become even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic as schools, many jobs, healthcare and a significant number of government services have gone online. Without adequate broadband infrastructure, underserved communities find themselves at a bigger disadvantage, resulting in a widening of the equity gap.

The resolution adopted Thursday directs SCAG staff to develop a Broadband Action Plan, which would include:

- Developing a model resolution and policy paper for local jurisdictions, addressing the digital divide.
- Pursuing grant funding opportunities and partnerships to assist local jurisdictions with broadband implementation.
- Convening a working group to develop ways to facilitate rapid deployment of broadband technology such as streamlining the permit process, lowering fees to a reasonable level, and reducing the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems within underserved communities.
- Including broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies as part of SCAG's work in promoting an inclusive Regional Economic Recovery and Strategy.

"Closing the digital divide is critical to our commitment to addressing economic and social disparities within communities of color," said SCAG President Rex Richardson, Vice Mayor of Long Beach. "Broadband has become essential infrastructure for the 21st century, but as many as 10% of Southern California households – disproportionately located in low-income communities – continue to be left out in the cold."

Under Richardson's leadership, SCAG declared racism a public health crisis, established a special committee on equity and social justice, and focused its 2020 Southern California Economic Summit on developing an inclusive recovery strategy.

Those efforts have underscored just how onerous the digital divide has become, and the need to expedite the development of broadband infrastructure and prove connectivity at an affordable rate.

"It's a vicious cycle for residents in disadvantaged communities, who are struggling to participate in the digital landscape due to lack of affordability or infrastructure," said Kome Ajise, SCAG's Executive Director. "Our aim is to build regional cohesiveness and work with local municipalities to develop the framework and support they need to address this critical task."

###

About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 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.

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Rex Richardson, Long Beach

First Vice President
Clint Lorimore, Eastvale

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive/Administration
Rex Richardson, Long Beach

Community, Economic & Human Development
Jorge Marquez, Covina

Energy & Environment
David Pollock, Moorpark

Transportation
Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

RESOLUTION NO. 21-629-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SETTING FORTH SUPPORT TO INCREASE BROADBAND ACCESS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a Joint Powers Agency established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6502 et seq.;

WHEREAS, SCAG is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange and Imperial, pursuant to Title 23, United States Code Section 134(d);

WHEREAS, SCAG is responsible for bringing Southern California's diverse residents and local partners together with unifying regional plans, policies, and programs that result in more healthy, sustainable, and economically resilient communities;

WHEREAS, SCAG recognizes closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expands economic opportunities and bridges the economic divide;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within underserved communities and/or areas (which include people of color, low-income households, residents in rural areas, and senior citizens) more apparent;

WHEREAS, SCAG recognizes that lack of infrastructure, cost and household income are key barriers to broadband access;

WHEREAS, all residents, businesses and institutions need high speed broadband services where they work, live, learn and play;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables Work from Home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband is a "green technology" that reduces our impact on the environment, shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources, and saving energy;

Attachment: Resolution No. 21-629-2 - Support to Increase Broadband Access (SCAG's Broadband Resolution)

WHEREAS, high speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents throughout the region to access medical, behavioral, oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats such as COVID-19 and other diseases;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, helps improve public safety, and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient;

WHEREAS, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources, so decision makers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property;

WHEREAS, evaluating and/or developing strategies to bridge the digital divide would support SCAG's commitment to address equity issues throughout the SCAG region (Resolution 20-623-2);

WHEREAS, evaluating and/or developing strategies to bridge the digital divide would assist in implementing the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies (Connect SoCal);

WHEREAS, evaluating and/or developing strategies to bridge the digital divide would assist in the development of future Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments:

1. Declares that bridging the digital divide is integral to developing a healthy, resilient and economically competitive region;

2. Supports the FCC's (United States Federal Communications Commission) and CPUC's (California Public Utilities Commission) rules, regulations, programs and funding opportunities that support broadband deployment opportunities to bridge the digital divide;

3. Supports Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020 that seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks throughout California;

4. Supports collaboration with local jurisdictions within the SCAG region, broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband Consortiums, California Emerging Technology Fund, MPOs, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California;

5. Hereby directs staff to develop a Broadband Action Plan which may include but are not limited to the following:

    a. Develop a model resolution and policy paper addressing the digital divide, for local jurisdictions to adopt;

    b. Pursue grant funding opportunities and seek partnerships to assist local jurisdictions with broadband implementation, including a regional broadband needs assessment, to complement State efforts;

c. Convene a working group which would act as a venue for SCAG, local jurisdictions, broadband providers and stakeholders to develop solutions to allow for rapid deployment of broadband technology such as: streamlining the permit process, lower fees to a reasonable level, reduce the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems within underserved communities;

d. Include broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, as part of SCAG's efforts to ensure an inclusive Regional Economic Recovery and Strategy;

e. Incorporate broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs (Environmental Justice, Transportation Demand Management, Goods Movement, Sustainability, Resilience, etc.);

f. Based on SCAG's findings, utilize data as part of Scenario Planning Process for upcoming and future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

PASSED, **APPROVED**, **AND ADOPTED**, by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at its regular meeting this 4th day of February, 2021:

Rex Richardson
President, SCAG
Vice Mayor, City of Long Beach

Attested by:

Kome Ajise
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:

Michael Houston
Chief Counsel

Attachment: Resolution No. 21-629-2 - Support to Increase Broadband Access (SCAG's Broadband Resolution)