
**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COUNCIL AND POLICY COMMITTEES
(COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE;
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE; AND THE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MARCH 3, 2016**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND/OR DISCUSSIONS THAT OCCURRED AT THE JOINT MEETING. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT <http://scag.ca.gov/NewsAndMedia/Pages/SCAGTV.aspx>

A Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) was held at the SCAG Los Angeles Office. There was a quorum.

TC Members – Present:

Chair*	1.	Hon. Alan Wapner	<i>Ontario</i>	SANBAG
	* 2.	Hon. Barbara Messina	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
	* 3.	Hon. Michael D. Antonovich		Los Angeles County
	* 4.	Hon. Sean Ashton	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
	* 5.	Hon. Rusty Bailey	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
	6.	Hon. Ben Benoit	<i>Wildomar</i>	WRCOG
	7.	Hon. Russell Betts	<i>Desert Hot Springs</i>	CVAG
	* 8.	Hon. Art Brown	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
	9.	Hon. Diana Lee Carey	<i>Westminster</i>	OCCOG
	* 10.	Hon. Jonathan Curtis	<i>La Cañada/Flintridge</i>	District 36
	* 11.	Hon. Gene Daniels	<i>Paramount</i>	District 24
	* 12.	Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
	* 13.	Hon. Jeffrey Giba	<i>Moreno Valley</i>	District 69
	14.	Hon. Bert Hack	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
	* 15.	Hon. Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
	* 16.	Hon. Jan Harnik	<i>Palm Desert</i>	RCTC
	* 17.	Hon. Carol Herrera	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
	* 18.	Hon. Steve Hofbauer	<i>Palmdale</i>	District 43
	* 19.	Hon. Jim Hyatt	<i>Calimesa</i>	District 3
	20.	Hon. Linda Krupa	<i>Hemet</i>	WRCOG
	* 21.	Hon. Randon Lane	<i>Murrieta</i>	District 5
	22.	Hon. Severo Lara	<i>Ojai</i>	VCOG
	* 23.	Hon. Clint Lorimore	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4

* 24.	Hon. Ray Marquez	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
* 25.	Hon. Michele Martinez	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
* 26.	Hon. Ryan McEachron	<i>Victorville</i>	SANBAG
27.	Hon. Marsha McLean	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	North L.A. County
* 28.	Hon. Dan Medina	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
* 29.	Hon. Keith Millhouse	<i>Moorpark</i>	VCTC
30.	Hon. Carol Moore	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
* 31.	Hon. Gene Murabito	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
* 32.	Hon. Kris Murray	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
* 33.	Hon. Frank Navarro	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
34.	Hon. Micheál O’Leary	<i>Culver City</i>	WCCOG
* 35.	Hon. Sam Pedroza	<i>Claremont</i>	District 38
36.	Hon. Teresa Real Sebastian	<i>Monterey Park</i>	SGVCOG
* 37.	Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
* 38.	Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
39.	Hon. David Spence	<i>La Cañada/Flintridge</i>	Arroyo Verdugo Cities
* 40.	Hon. Karen Spiegel	<i>Corona</i>	District 63
* 41.	Hon. Michelle Steel		Orange County
42.	Hon. Cynthia Sternquist	<i>Temple City</i>	SGVCOG
* 43.	Hon. Jess Talamantes	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
44.	Hon. Brent Tercero	<i>Pico Rivera</i>	GCCOG
* 45.	Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
* 46.	Hon. Chuck Washington		Riverside County
47.	Mr. Randall Lewis	<i>Lewis Group of Companies</i>	

CEHD Members – Present:

Chair*	1.	Hon. Bill Jahn	<i>Big Bear Lake</i>	District 11
Vice-Chair*	2.	Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
	3.	Hon. Dante Acosta	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	SFVCOG
	4.	Hon. Carol Chen	<i>Cerritos</i>	GCCOG
*	5.	Hon. Steven Choi	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
	6.	Hon. Rose Espinoza	<i>La Habra</i>	OCCOG
	7.	Hon. Kerry Ferguson	<i>San Juan Capistrano</i>	OCCOG
*	8.	Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
	9.	Hon. Bob Joe	<i>South Pasadena</i>	Arroyo Verdugo Cities
*	10.	Hon. Barbara Kogerman	<i>Laguna Hills</i>	District 13
	11.	Hon. Paula Lantz	<i>Pomona</i>	SGVCOG
	12.	Hon. Joe Lyons	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG

* 13.	Hon.	Victor Manalo	<i>Artesia</i>	District 23
14.	Hon.	Charles Martin		Morongo Band of Mission Indians
15.	Hon.	Joseph McKee	<i>Desert Hot Springs</i>	CVAG
* 16.	Hon.	Carl Morehouse	<i>Ventura</i>	District 47
17.	Hon.	Ray Musser	<i>Upland</i>	SANBAG
* 18.	Hon.	Steve Nagel	<i>Fountain Valley</i>	District 15
19.	Hon.	Edward Paget	<i>Needles</i>	SANBAG
* 20.	Hon.	Erik Peterson	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
21.	Hon.	Jim Predmore	<i>Holtville</i>	ICTC
* 22.	Hon.	Rex Richardson	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
23.	Hon.	Sonny R. Santa Ines	<i>Bellflower</i>	GCCOG
24.	Hon.	Becky Shevlin	<i>Monrovia</i>	SGVCOG
* 25.	Hon.	Tri Ta	<i>Westminster</i>	District 20
26.	Hon.	Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	SBCCOG
27.	Hon.	Frank Zerunyan	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG

EEC Members – Present:

Chair*	1.	Hon.	Deborah Robertson	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
	2.	Hon.	Denis Bertone	<i>San Dimas</i>	SGVCOG
	* 3.	Hon.	Ross Chun	<i>Aliso Viejo</i>	TCA
	* 4.	Hon.	Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
	5.	Hon.	Larry Forester	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
	6.	Hon.	Mike Gardner	<i>Riverside</i>	WRCOG
	7.	Hon.	Sandra Genis	<i>Costa Mesa</i>	OCCOG
	8.	Hon.	Ed Graham	<i>Chino Hills</i>	SANBAG
	9.	Hon.	Diana Mahmud	<i>South Pasadena</i>	SGVCOG
	10.	Hon.	Thomas Martin	<i>Maywood</i>	GCCOG
	* 11.	Hon.	Judy Mitchell	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	District 40
	* 12.	Hon.	Mike Munzing	<i>Aliso Viejo</i>	District 12
	13.	Hon.	Jim Osborne	<i>Lawndale</i>	SBCCOG
	* 14.	Hon.	Linda Parks		Ventura County
	15.	Hon.	David Pollock	<i>Moorpark</i>	VCOG
	16.	Hon.	Meghan Sahli-Wells	<i>Culver City</i>	WCCOG
	17.	Hon.	Betty Sanchez	<i>Coachella</i>	CVAG
	18.	Hon.	Diane Williams	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	SANBAG
	19.	Hon.	Edward Wilson	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
	20.	Mr.	Steve Schuyler	<i>Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIASC)</i>	

*Regional Councilmember

Staff Present

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director
Debbie Dillon, Deputy Executive Director, Administration
Joe Silvey, General Counsel
Joann Africa, Chief Counsel
Basil Panas, Chief Financial Officer
Huasha Liu, Director, Land Use and Environmental Planning
Darin Chidsey, Director, Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs
Naresh Amatya, Acting Director, Transportation Planning
Tess Rey-Chaput, Office of Regional Council Support

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and asked Mark Baza, Executive Director, Imperial County Transportation Commission, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Viegas-Walker announced that Public Comments related to Agenda Item Nos. 6 and 7 would be entertained after the items were presented.

Councilmember Joe Lyons, City of Claremont, emphasized the importance of solar energy and the benefits in reducing energy consumption for by 13% in 2015 and 20% by 2020 in the City of Claremont and to recognize this for the region as a whole.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

- 1. Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Regional Council and Policy Committees, April 2, 2015

A MOTION was made (Choi) to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Motion was SECONDED (Richardson) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Acosta, Bailey, Benoit, Bertone, Betts, Buscaino, Carey, Chen, Choi, Chun, Clark, Curtis, Daniels, Espinoza, Ferguson, Finlay, Forester, Gazeley, Genis, Graham, Hagman, Harnik, Herrera, Hofbauer, Hyatt, Jahn, Joe, Kogerman, Krupa, Lane, Lantz, Lara, Lorimore, Lyons, Mahmud, Manalo, Marquez, M. Martinez, T. Martin, McCallon, McEachron, McKee, McLean, Messina, Mitchell, Moore, Morehouse, Murabito, Murray, Musser, Nagel, Navarro, O’Leary, Osborne, Paget, Parks, Pedroza, Pollock, Predmore, Richardson, Robertson, Sahli-Wells, Sanchez, Santa Ines, Real Sebastian, Shevlin, Simonoff, Spence, Spiegel, Steel, Sternquist, Talamantes, Tercero, Viegas-Walker, Wapner, Waronek, Washington, Williams, Wilson and Zerunyan (80).

NOES: None (0).

ABSTAIN: Gardner, Giba, Peterson and Ta (4).

2. Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees, November 5, 2015

Councilmember Russell Betts, Desert Hot Springs, CVAG, asked to amend page 12 of the Minutes, referring to the comment he made, to replace the word “*insufficient*” to the word “*inefficient*.”

Councilmember Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita, District, North L.A. County, commented that she was the “City of Santa Clarita’s Mayor at the time,” and proposed that her position be reflected in the Minutes when referencing her name.

A MOTION was made (Morehouse) to approve Agenda Item No. 2, as amended. Motion was SECONDED (Finlay) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Acosta, Bailey, Benoit, Bertone, Betts, Buscaino, Carey, Chen, Choi, Chun, Clark, Curtis, Daniels, Ferguson, Finlay, Forester, Gardner, Gazeley, Genis, Giba, Graham, Hagman, Harnik, Herrera, Hofbauer, Hyatt, Jahn, Joe, Kogerman, Lane, Lantz, Lara, Lorimore, Lyons, Mahmud, Manalo, Marquez, M. Martinez, T. Martin, McCallon, McEachron, McKee, McLean, Messina, Mitchell, Moore, Morehouse, Murabito, Murray, Musser, Nagel, Navarro, O’Leary, Osborne, Paget, Parks, Pedroza, Peterson, Pollock, Predmore, Richardson, Robertson, Sahli-Wells, Sanchez, Santa Ines, Real Sebastian, Shevlin, Simonoff, Spence, Spiegel, Steel, Sternquist, Talamantes, Ta, Tercero, Viegas-Walker, Wapner, Waronek, Washington, Williams, Wilson and Zerunyan (82).

NOES: None (0).

ABSTAIN: Espinoza and Krupa (2).

Receive and File

3. Letters of Support for Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program Grants
4. 2017 Active Transportation Program (ATP) Guidelines and Application
5. SCAG Sustainability Planning Grants Program – Monthly Update

A MOTION was made (Richardson) to Receive and File Agenda Item Nos. 3 through 5. Motion was SECONDED (Navarro) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Acosta, Bailey, Benoit, Bertone, Betts, Buscaino, Carey, Chen, Choi, Chun, Clark, Curtis, Daniels, Espinoza, Ferguson, Finlay, Forester, Gardner, Gazeley, Genis, Giba, Graham, Hagman, Harnik, Herrera, Hofbauer, Hyatt, Jahn, Joe, Krupa, Lane, Lantz, Lara, Lorimore, Lyons, Mahmud, Manalo, Marquez, M. Martinez, T. Martin, McCallon, McEachron, McKee, McLean, Messina, Mitchell, Moore, Morehouse, Murabito, Murray, Musser, Nagel, Navarro, O’Leary, Osborne, Paget, Parks, Pedroza, Peterson, Pollock, Predmore, Richardson, Robertson, Sahli-Wells, Sanchez, Santa Ines, Real Sebastian, Shevlin, Simonoff, Spence, Spiegel, Steel, Sternquist, Talamantes, Ta, Tercero, Viegas-Walker, Wapner, Waronek, Washington, Williams, Wilson and Zerunyan (83).

NOES: Kogerman (1).

ABSTAIN: None (0).

Councilmember Clint Lorimore, Eastvale, District 4, announced that his votes were not reflected on the screen when the votes were displayed apparently as a result of a technical problem with his electronic voting machine. He confirmed that he voted “Yes” on Agenda Item Nos. 1 through 5. With advice from the General Counsel, President Viegas-Walker asked staff to note for the record, Councilmember Lorimore’s “Yes” vote for Agenda Item Nos. 1 through 5.

The total votes reflected above for Agenda Item Nos. 1 through 5 include Councilmember Lorimore’s “Yes” vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Overview of Draft 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) Comments and Revision Approach

President Viegas-Walker introduced the item. She thanked the members for their participation in and support of the meeting and she also thanked the individuals and organizations who took the time to review the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS and provide comments. President Viegas-Walker also thanked SCAG staff who compiled the public comments and emphasized that these comments are very helpful in finalizing the Plan. She announced that the meeting today would be dedicated solely to a discussion of the draft Plan and associated draft PEIR. At the March 24, 2016 Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees, President Viegas-Walker announced that the members of the Policy Committees will be asked to consider a recommendation to the Regional Council to approve the Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS and the associated Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS – PEIR.

As Chair of the Transportation Committee, Councilmember Alan Wapner, SANBAG, provided background information on the RTP/SCS, which represents a vision for the Southern California region and the policy strategies and projects needed to improve mobility, economy and sustainability. He explained the Plan must meet federal requirements, demonstrate air quality conformity and meet financial constraints. Chair Wapner also explained the Plan is required to meet greenhouse reduction goals as set forth by the California Air Resources Board. He emphasized that the Plan allows for coordination of regional projects and the critical compliance in environmental conformity. He summarized the RTP/SCS process leading up to the release of the Plan for the public review and comment period. Chair Wapner reported that elected officials’ briefings, Public Hearings and workshops were held throughout the region. He reported that over a thousand comments were received from more than 150 organizations, agencies and individuals.

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, stated that today’s presentation would focus on the comments received. At the March 24 Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees, the members will have an opportunity to hear the staff responses to the comments received. Mr. Ikhata emphasized the Plan respects the bottom-up approach and local control. While there may be disagreements on some components of the Plan, Mr. Ikhata stated the Plan was presented with policy options.

Mr. Ikhrata introduced Naresh Amatya, Acting Director, Transportation Planning, to provide a presentation on the 2016 RTP/SCS proposed approach to Plan revisions. Mr. Amatya announced that on March 14 SCAG will provide all comments received for the members to review, prior to the scheduled March 24 Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees. He noted that over a thousand comments were received and the comments from the Building Industry Association (BIA) were inadvertently overlooked in the printed tabulation. He assured the members that the BIA comments were noted and taken into account. Mr. Amatya reported that the comments were divided into fifteen (15) major categories, namely: Active Transportation; Aviation; Congestion Management; Environmental Justice; Goods Movement; Housing; Natural/Farm Lands; Mobility Innovations; Passenger Rail; Public Health; Sustainable Communities Strategy; Transit; Transportation Finance; Individual Projects; and Other.

As Chair of the Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Committee, Councilmember Bill Jahn, Big Bear Lake, District 11, provided information on three (3) major categories of CEHD-related comments, namely: Sustainable Communities Strategy; Housing; and Natural/Farm Lands. There were a total of 220 comments received and several required clarification. Councilmember Jahn introduced Huasha Liu, Director, Land Use and Environmental Planning, to provide a presentation. Ms. Liu reported that the development of the RTP/SCS was a true bottom-up process, coupled with an extensive dialogue and the use of the growth forecast conformed to local control and input. Ms. Liu also discussed each of the major comment categories.

The Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC), Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, reported that there were a number of EEC-related comments that were received. These comments addressed public health; expanded data and analysis; air quality; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; environmental justice; gentrification and displacement; affordable housing; and active transportation options. Councilmember Robertson expressed concern that there were no comments received from the transit agency group, for example, Foothill Transit, Omnitrans, etc. In closing, Councilmember Robertson thanked SCAG staff and the EEC members for their effort in the process. Huasha Liu, Director, Land Use and Environmental Planning, described two federal requirements for the RTP/SCS, namely; air quality conformity and environmental justice. She further explained that after the adoption of the Plan SCAG is committed to continue to collect data and develop a tracking system to follow the movement of households in transit-oriented (TOD) areas while being cognizant of privacy issues. With respect to public health, Ms. Liu stated that SCAG will continue to enhance its evaluations of the linkage between investments and land use and public health.

President Viegas-Walker opened the Public Comment period.

Julie Clark De Blasio, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter – California Native Plant, conveyed support for the inclusion of Natural/Farm Lands component in the Plan; expressed thanks for the collaborative approach in the process; and encouraged the incorporation and implementation of the Natural/Farm Lands appendix as a planning policy tool in the Plan.

Celia Kutcher, Orange County Chapter – California Native Plant Society, expressed support for the Natural/Farm Lands appendix in the Plan.

Harry Huggins, Board Member, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. expressed support for the inclusion of Natural/Farm Lands component in the Plan; commented regarding wildlife corridor awareness and thanked SCAG for supporting a Resolution on the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor.

Melanie Schlotterbeck, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, expressed support for the Natural/Farm Lands component in the Plan; acknowledged SCAG staff in creating an open-space work program in the 2012 RTP/SCS and for allowing continued growth in urban areas in the 2016 RTP/SCS while simultaneously protecting important habitat lands. Ms. Schlotterbeck noted a letter sent to SCAG asking that it replicate, with minor adjustments, the Bay Area Program of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) which allows for local jurisdictions to designate priority development areas for residential, commercial infill projects.

President Viegas-Walker closed the Public Comment period.

President Viegas-Walker announced that she would open the meeting to members who wished to offer comments or ask questions and she asked staff to collect all the comments and questions and ensure that each would be addressed or responded to during the finalization of the RTP/SCE and the PEIR.

Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, WSCOG, inquired about “complete streets” approach as mandated by the state; and the fact that the Plan indicated it was “technology-neutral” while voicing support for CNG or natural gas. She also inquired whether SCAG is taking into account the environmental impact of natural gas extraction and inclusionary housing.

Councilmember Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita, North L.A. County, acknowledged the incorporation of the current and projected population figures due to the significant growth in the city. She also acknowledged the response to the comment submitted by the City of Santa Clarita relative to the insertion of clarifying language regarding the CA High-Speed Rail.

Supervisor Chuck Washington, Riverside County, expressed concerns with respect to portions of the meetings conducted by the Aviation Technical Advisory Committee and sought clarification on the Aviation Demand Forecast and methodology process for the Los Angeles Airport (LAX). He stated that the Ontario Airport is a regional benefit for Southern California and economic benefit in the Inland Empire and encouraged more aggressive promotion of Ontario Airport.

Councilmember Joseph McKee, Desert Hot Springs, CVAG, commented regarding the Transportation Finance component of the Plan, specifically funding for modern and well-maintained transportation system.

Councilmember Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates, District 40, inquired about the timeline of the approval process for the 2016 RTP/SCS and associated PEIR and asked about the inclusion of any additional changes into the Plan.

Councilmember Sam Pedroza, Claremont, District 38, inquired whether Metrolink submitted any comments on the Plan and the “complete streets” approach. He also suggested addressing the nexus of transportation impacts on stormwater.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, District 32, expressed concerns regarding vehicle miles travelled and the privacy issue with respect to driving a certain number of miles and the unintended consequences of penalizing low-income people and asked for the addition of some language in the Plan to address this issue.

Councilmember Joe Lyons, Claremont, SGVCOG, echoed the concerns expressed regarding Aviation and emphasized the importance of the Ontario Airport and support for its growth.

Councilmember Art Brown, Buena Park, District 21, expressed concern that the City of Buena Park's comments were excluded from the staff report and presentation and, therefore, not available for discussion at the joint meeting. He asked SCAG staff to meet with the OCCOG Executive Director before the March 24 Joint Meeting to discuss those issues.

Councilmember Russell Betts, Desert Hot Springs, CVAG, commented regarding certain groups who propose to increase funding for Active Transportation. He also inquired about the timeline for the approval of the 2016 RTP/SCS and associated PEIR.

Councilmember Brent Tercero, Pico Rivera, GCCOG, suggested an aggressive approach in housing, not only the affordability aspect, but the availability of housing and provided an example of the new housing development in the City of Pico Rivera.

Councilmember Frank Zerunyan, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, inquired whether the comments received are catalogued and if the data is available for researchers or for public viewing to ensure that comments have been actually received.

Councilmember Michele Martinez, Santa Ana, District 16, commented regarding the opportunity and integration of transportation options by creating an equitable system while providing a safe transportation choice for all.

President Viegas-Walker commented regarding measuring the effectiveness of evidence-based outcomes in Public Health and ensuring that an appropriate outreach is accomplished to the public health agencies.

In closing, President Viegas-Walker thanked the members for their polite and professional discussion.

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, thanked the members for their thoughtful comments and indicated that he will ensure that staff addresses each of those concerns.

Mr. Ikhata stated that the law requires cities to consider "complete streets" in the development of its General Plan. He cited the City of Los Angeles as an example where there was discussion in combining bicycle lanes with car lanes. Mr. Ikhata emphasized that it is not SCAG's purview to dictate to the cities how they should address "complete streets."

With respect to "technology-neutral," Mr. Ikhata emphasized the importance of meeting a performance objective of reaching almost zero- or near-zero emissions.

Mr. Ikhata reminded the members that many corporations are investing in autonomous cars with a projection to make these cars available within the next five (5) years.

Mr. Ikhata discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), SCAG and its partner agencies. Upon learning that the first segment of the rail will be built in Northern California, Mr. Ikhata stated he organized a meeting with CHSRA Chair Dan Richard, with the goal to confirm the commitment and understanding that one billion dollars will be

invested in Southern California. On March 18, 2016, Mr. Ikhata stated he will provide a testimony regarding the CHSRA Business Plan.

Mr. Ikhata discussed the Aviation component of the Plan and the importance of the Ontario Airport in the region and its expansion to serve the six million residents of the Inland Empire. With regard to the aviation demand methodology and forecast for LAX, Mr. Ikhata stated the Plan used a market-based approach.

In terms of transportation funding, Mr. Ikhata stated the nexus is, “If you use something, you pay for something.” He stated that 17% of the sales tax in the region goes to transportation funding and maintenance. Mr. Ikhata emphasized the “return to source” principle in the Plan and that the monies are used for the intended purposes. He mentioned that SCAG will continue to actively participate in efforts to make transportation funding more sustainable.

On March 24, 2016, a Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees will be held for the consideration of a recommendation to the Regional Council the approval of Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS and the associated Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS – PEIR. Mr. Ikhata also stated that on March 14, SCAG will be posting both the 2016 RTP/SCS and PEIR responses to comments which will include all of the comments received throughout the public comment period and the respective staff responses.

Mr. Ikhata stated that the Metrolink system is an important component of the future transportation system and the linkage of the potential rail system. The CHSRA MOU which calls for one billion dollar in investments in Metrolink and LOSSAN systems in California will be very useful in ensuring the Metrolink system is improved as we move forward.

With respect to vehicle-miles travelled and privacy issues, Mr. Ikhata reiterated the very specific language in the Plan as recommended by the members regarding mileage tracking and privacy. He explained that as indicated in the Road Charge Pilot Program, the language ensures an individual’s privacy rights are protected.

Mr. Ikhata stated support for connecting airports with rail and is pleased to know there is discussion about connecting the Gold Line and the airport. He emphasized the importance of rail connectivity and transit ridership.

Mr. Ikhata responded to the comments made regarding approval or rejection of the Plan. He clarified that the members are policy makers and, therefore, tasked to make a decision regarding the Plan.

With respect to housing affordability, the cities will decide their growth. Mr. Ikhata emphasized that it is responsible for cities to consider affordable housing when looking at development even for cities that are already ‘built-out.’ SCAG is committed to working with local jurisdictions to ensure that housing elements are in compliance with the state housing law.

In closing, Mr. Ikhata thanked the members for all of the thoughtful comments and assured the members that their comments will be taken into account as all have local and national impact.

7. Overview of Draft 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Comments, Revision Approaches and Summary of Contents of the Proposed Final PEIR

Huasha Liu, Director, Land Use and Environmental Planning, reported that SCAG received 250 comments on the Draft PEIR and responses to the comments are currently being prepared. Ms. Liu also reminded the members that at the April 7 meeting, action will be taken first for the Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS-PEIR because it has to be certified prior to taking action on the Proposed Final 2016 RTP/SCS.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Viegas-Walker adjourned the Joint Meeting of the Regional Council and Policy Committees at 12:14 p.m.