SCAG HOSTS MEETING ON REGIONAL HOUSING CRISIS

SCAG hosted the third and final housing convening, "Road to Recovery: Bold Housing Ideas for a Just Post-Pandemic Economy," on Tuesday, April 6. This virtual convening brought together a broad group of more than 70 stakeholders to discuss how addressing the regional housing crisis is a key part of a holistic, equitable economic recovery. The event was headlined by California State Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), who presented a variety of housing-related bills being debated in the current legislative session. In addition, a panel of housing experts discussed the Roadmap Home 2030 policy platform developed by Housing California and California Housing Partnership. The event also featured live polling and audience participants asked questions directly to panelists. The feedback and takeaways from this convening will inform SCAG's legislative agenda, targeted partnerships, and additional future convenings focused on post-pandemic economic recovery.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On April 13, staff joined President Rex Richardson, First Vice-President Clint Lorimore, Second Vice-President Jan Harnik, and Immediate Past President Alan Wapner for a virtual meet-and-greet with U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA). Regional Council Members Carmen Ramirez, Jose Solache, and Peggy Huang also participated in this meeting, which was intended to develop a working relationship with the Senator and his office, especially since he was appointed as the newest member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (which is responsible for crafting the transportation reauthorization bill) and the Senate Budget Committee. Senator Padilla is a former SCAG Regional Council member himself, having served during his time on the Los Angeles City Council. Our executive officers and Regional Council members had an excellent conversation with the Senator on infrastructure investment in the upcoming American Jobs Plan, broadband, water, and other critical infrastructure.

SOCAL GREENPRINT OUTREACH UPDATE

SCAG, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, continues to make progress in developing the SoCal Greenprint, a strategic web-based conservation tool that will provide the best available scientific data and scenario visualizations to help landowners, developers, cities, counties, and infrastructure agencies make better land use and transportation decisions and assist in the conservation of natural lands and farmlands. The development of the SoCal Greenprint is a mitigation measure in the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report and included in SCAG Resolution No. 21-628-1 as a means to support climate change action. Among other things, the tool can be used to evaluate land-use decisions that could enhance carbon sequestration in natural and agricultural lands, potentially offsetting carbon emissions from the transportation sector.

Since presenting the SoCal Greenprint to the policy committees in February, SCAG and The Nature Conservancy have continued to engage stakeholders in multiple forums to collect feedback on data, themes, and functionality. SCAG hosted the third meeting of the project's Advisory Committee, which included experts and stakeholders from the building industry, local governments, infrastructure and natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, community organizations, landowners, parks and open space districts, scientists, and academia. On April 29, the Emerging Technology Committee received a presentation on the SoCal Greenprint and other SCAG data tools. Committee members requested the project be brought back for discussion with the policy committees and the Regional Council. The Advisory Committee's final meeting is set to take place in Summer 2021 before the SoCal Greenprint's online launch.

For more information on the project, please visit the SoCal Greenprint webpage or contact India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov.

AJ2/EDMonthlyRCReport/2021.05.04

REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING PROGRAM UPDATES

Under the California 2019-20 Budget Act, SCAG is eligible for $47 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program funding to support the housing planning activities of local governments and stakeholders that accelerate housing production and meet the region's goals for producing more than 1.3 million new units of housing by 2029 as determined by the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

On April 1, the Regional Council approved a REAP procurement program to streamline contracts and accelerate project delivery, a major stride for the REAP program. The new procurement program allows for the development of on-call services contracts, sets new parameters for requiring approval of procurement contracts from the Executive/Administration Committee and Regional Council, and requires staff to make monthly informational reports to the Regional Council of procurement activities, contracts, and amendments related to procurements made pursuant to this program. SCAG staff is actively working to select pre-qualified firms and enter contracts for on-call services.

SCAG is launching a Housing Leadership Academy to empower decision-makers to say "yes" to housing and support the formation of coalitions that in turn can address the need for growth and anti-displacement strategies, and ultimately support equitable and successful pro-housing efforts. A request for proposals will be released next month to solicit proposals from firms pre-qualified for on-call services.

Apart from the 2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program Housing and Sustainable Development Call for Applications, which is funded through the REAP program, other programs include the Subregional Partnership Program and Call for Collaboration. These programs are well underway with subrecipients beginning their work programs. In mid-April, SCAG received approval from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to utilize the remaining REAP funds to implement other parts of the work program and will be working with HCD on executing the standard agreement in the coming months.

DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP WEBINARS EXPLORE LIFE IN "THE POST–PANDEMIC CITY"

SCAG and the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy will be hosting the 32nd Annual Demographic Workshop in two parts on **Tuesday, June 8**, and **Tuesday, June 15**. This year's program is focused on planning for "the post-pandemic city."

- **Part 1: Changing California Demographics.** A demographic check-up panel covers the latest trends in migration, fertility, and vaccination, as well as the new 2020 census counts due for release.

- **Part 2: The Post-Pandemic City.** A panel of experts will focus on myths and realities of California's mass exodus and declining mobility, and the new trends in workplace, travel, and residential locations.

The program will also include a keynote address and a series of expert-led roundtable discussions to build skills about topics discussed throughout the day. Register here to attend.

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY NEXT STEPS

To implement SCAG Resolution No. 20-623-2—SCAG's commitment to addressing racial and social equity—and President Rex Richardson's 2020-21 Work Plan, SCAG staff developed the Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS). Staff convened 20 focus groups from February – April 2021 to learn about ongoing efforts across the region and identify priorities and areas where SCAG can be most effective and impactful. Staff also continued to seek out best practices and data through a partnership with the University of California, Riverside Center for Social Innovation. Findings and draft recommendations were reviewed by the SCAG bench of economic advisors and the Global Land Use and Economics (GLUE) Council, as well as the stakeholders that participated in the convenings. With additional feedback, staff will finalize a more detailed report and web resource with related appendices. The final report and prioritized recommendations will be brought to the Regional Council in Summer 2021.

BROADBAND INITIATIVE UPDATE

On April 15, SCAG staff presented on SCAG's Broadband Program at the "Broadband for All" webinar series hosted by California Forward. The Broadband Program was authorized by the Regional Council in February 2021 to assist in streamlining the broadband permitting process, find opportunity areas for broadband development, and secure funding for broadband infrastructure projects. On April 20, SCAG and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) met with the Caltrans district and headquarters executives, and Director Toks Omishakin, to discuss Caltrans' potential leadership role, data and mapping efforts and funding opportunities for broadband. At the Subregional Councils of Government Executive Directors Meeting on April 21, SCAG provided an overview of its Broadband Program and informed the Subregional Councils of Government that a broadband survey for local jurisdictions and internet service providers was underway. Findings from the survey will assist SCAG in developing a Gap Assessment Report, a streamlined permit, and opportunity areas for development. Finally, SCAG and SANDAG are working with broadband stakeholders to draft a letter to the federal government, requesting approximately $8 billion for broadband funding. If successful, the money would go directly towards developing broadband infrastructure projects that seek to bridge the digital divide. For more information about SCAG's Broadband Program, please contact Roland Ok at ok@scag.ca.gov.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS UPDATES

As part of the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy, SCAG is providing $15 million in technical assistance to support local land use and transportation planning. Three of four Call for Applications have been issued as highlighted below:

HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HSD)

The project list was approved on April 8 at the Regional Council meeting. SCAG is providing technical assistance to 26 local agencies on projects focused on supporting housing production and implementing strategies outlined in Connect SoCal. Staff anticipates beginning procurement this summer.

SMART CITIES & MOBILITY INNOVATIONS (SCMI)

The Call for Applications closed Friday, April 23. Staff received 21 applications across four project types. Teams, including SCAG staff, stakeholders from county transportation commissions, county public health agencies, and local community-based organizations are currently evaluating applications. Staff anticipates seeking approval of the project list at the July Regional Council meeting.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY (ATS)

Staff is seeking approval at the May Regional Council meeting for the recommended project list. After approval, staff will submit the project list to the California Transportation Commission at their June meeting for approval. Staff anticipates seeking allocation for California Active Transportation Program funded projects after California Transportation Commission approval in June.

The final Call for Applications will be announced in the coming months. For more information on the Calls for Applications, please visit the Sustainable Communities Program webpage.

GO HUMAN UPDATE

GO HUMAN MINI-GRANT FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

In April, *Go Human* launched its Community Streets Mini-Grants Program and released its Call for Applications. The Mini-Grants Program funds creative, community-driven traffic safety projects that meet the needs of people most harmed by traffic injuries and fatalities. SCAG will award up to $10,000 to selected projects. Community-based organizations, non-profits, and social enterprises from across the SCAG region are eligible to apply. Applications are due by May 19 at 11:59 p.m. All projects will be implemented between June 14, 2021, and Aug. 20, 2021.

GO HUMAN'S COMMUNITY SAFETY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM NOW RECRUITING

In April, *Go Human*, alongside California Walks, launched recruitment for the Community Safety Ambassador Training Program for Imperial, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. The Ambassador Program is a community engagement and leadership development

opportunity working with 20 community members per county to complete a training program to build capacity and improve walking and biking safety. The Ambassador Program is a paid, pilot training opportunity that consists of educational and engagement strategies to improve safety through virtual interactive workshops and community activations. Recruitment will continue through May. For more information, please contact Dorothy Le Suchkova at suchkova@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG PARTNERS WITH WRCOG AND ALTCAR EXPO TO PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

SCAG partnered with the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) to host a virtual Drive Electric Earth Day event as part of the SoCal AltCar Expo on April 21. The event brought together fleet managers, sustainability directors, business owners, legislators, industry professionals, and the general public for two panels covering state agency updates and current best practices. SCAG moderated the first panel discussion on agency updates with staff from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and California Energy Commission. The event also included video field trips and vehicle demonstrations, a networking session that included information SCAG's Accelerated Electrification programs, and an electric bike raffle courtesy of Southern California Edison, Plug in America, and SCAG.

LOCAL INFORMATION SERVICES

As part of the development of the Regional Data Platform, SCAG has established a technical assistance team to support city and county staff in accessing data and visualization tools for local planning. Since February 2021, the Local Information Services Team (LIST) has provided General Plan technical assistance to more than 50 local jurisdictions and stakeholders in the SCAG region. Currently, the team is focusing on assisting local jurisdictions with the Housing Element updates by providing technical assistance services about the data and tools related to the SCAG Local Housing Data Reports and Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) Tool. To learn more or request technical assistance, please contact list@scag.ca.gov or Tom Vo at vo@scag.ca.gov.