



2024-25

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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# Overview

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This report outlines SCAG's accomplishments during the fiscal year 2024-2025. Under the leadership of Regional Council President Curt Hagman, the Executive/Administration Committee convened a strategic planning session in June 2024 to integrate high-level goals and priorities into SCAG's work planning for the year. The accomplishments outlined in this report highlight SCAG's work toward those priorities:

- Goods movement and technology
- Clean transportation technology
- Transit recovery and technology

Following adoption of the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy in April 2024, President Hagman also directed SCAG's plan implementation work, including work to further establish programs consistent with SCAG's implementation roles of collaboration, funding administration, research, and resources.

# Presidential Priority: Goods Movement & Technology

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## SCAG Joins Goods Movement Summit

SCAG Regional Council President Curt Hagman and Deputy Planning Director Annie Nam participated in the Inland Empire Economic Partnership's Logistics and E-Commerce Summit in May 2024. Nam presented a SCAG white paper on the state of goods movement in the region. Following the presentation, President Hagman spoke on a panel discussing data on truck routes, the role technology will play in improving the industry, and how SCAG can support collaboration in this space.

## SCAG Board Officers Tour Port Hueneme

In August 2024, SCAG Regional Council officers, along with Regional Council members from Ventura County, attended a tour of the Port of Hueneme. A vital economic engine, the Port of Hueneme is a vibrant West Coast port with high productivity, low congestion, and big impact. The port is among the top 10 in the United States for produce and automobile imports, including around five billion bananas every year. As part of the mobile workshop, attendees visited the BMW processing facility and produce distribution center.

## SCAG Nominates 13 Projects, Totaling Over \$323 Million, for Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Funding

On Nov. 7, 2024, the SCAG Regional Council approved project nominations for Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funding. SCAG received 15 project nominations for the SCAG region, two project nominations are led by Caltrans, and six are in partnership with Caltrans, with a TCEP state funding request of over \$154 million. The total TCEP regional funding request is over \$323 million. The 2024 TCEP will provide two years of programming in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 for an estimated total of more than \$1 billion, as provided by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

By nominating these projects, SCAG confirmed their consistency with the adopted [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and the adopted regional freight plan. In addition, SCAG provided individual consistency letters to include in the applications as part of the new process for 2024 TCEP to confirm that the proposed nomination is included in Connect SoCal 2024.

The TCEP funds freight infrastructure improvements on federally designated Trade Corridors of National and Regional Significance, on California's portion of the National Highway Freight Network, as identified in the California Freight Mobility Plan, and along high freight volume corridors as determined by the California Transportation Commission. For more information on the TCEP and SCAG's project nominations, read the [staff report](#).

## SCAG Hosts First 'Freight Industry Forum' to Prepare for the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games

On Nov. 20, 2024, SCAG hosted the first Freight Industry Forum to gather a diverse set of participants—including the Games Mobility Executive partners, SCAG regional partners, industry stakeholders, and other agency representatives—to discuss the upcoming 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The meeting included overviews of logistics planning for the LA28 Games and lessons learned from past games in Paris and London. SCAG's Freight Industry Forum will continue to advise in the preparation leading up to the LA28 Games.

## Transportation Committee Receives Zero Emission Truck Infrastructure Study Preliminary Findings

At the December 2024 Transportation Committee meeting, SCAG staff provided preliminary findings from the "[Southern California Zero Emissions Truck Infrastructure \(ZETI\) Study](#)." The [staff report](#) focused on the methodology and initial findings of baseline simulations for 2030, 2035, and 2040 based on the California Air Resource Board's Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Fleets regulations.

The ZETI study will create a phased blueprint and action plan toward a regional network of zero-emission charging and fueling infrastructure, and answer questions about how stations in the region may operate to serve different truck markets and business functions. Since the December meeting, SCAG staff has worked on completing post-processing of alternative scenario simulation runs and 24 site assessments, representing a variety of charging and hydrogen fueling locations that vary based on size, built environment, and type of charging activity. SCAG staff has also been doing quality assurance on a parcel prioritization tool.

## April Regional Council Features Goods Movement and Clean Technology Discussion

The April 3, 2025, Regional Council meeting featured a discussion with guest speakers on clean technologies in goods movement systems and infrastructure.

Representing the private and nonprofit sectors, Joost de Vries, chief executive officer of ZM Trucks, and Matt Petersen, president and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, discussed the importance and continued need for advancement of clean technologies in goods movement.

SCAG staff also shared progress on plans and programs that advance this priority, most recently with the [Last Mile Freight Program](#) and the "[Southern California Zero-Emission Truck Infrastructure Study](#)."

## SCAG Receives Funding to Expand Last Mile Freight Program to Support Clean Goods Movement

During the 2024-25 fiscal year, SCAG's [Last Mile Freight Program](#) (LMFP) received two funding actions to further work to reduce emissions from goods movement. The program is implemented through a partnership with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC).

On June 20, 2024, MSRC took action on more than \$2.6 million in funding for the LMFP. First, MSRC approved reallocation of \$1.4 million from canceled projects to New Bern Transport Corporation (a subsidiary of PepsiCo Inc.), allowing New Bern to expand their project in Buena Park from 10 class 8 electric vehicle tractors to 20. Second, MSRC approved a scope change request by Zeem Solutions to

reallocate \$1.2 million from canceled projects, redirecting it to fund deployment of 42 direct current fast chargers at their Long Beach depot, which will support drayage operations at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and 42 zero-emission trucks at the company's depots in Inglewood and Long Beach. SCAG staff worked diligently with both companies, MSRC staff, and Regional Council Member Mark Henderson, representing SCAG on the MSRC, to advocate for these changes with clear environmental and economic benefits for the SCAG region.

SCAG's total awards through MSRC under the first phase of the program amount to \$16.5 million, which funds projects focused on commercial deployment of zero-emission or near-zero emission heavy- and medium-duty on-road trucks to be completed by June 2026.

In July 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a \$500 million grant for Southern California as part of \$4.3 billion in investments under the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. The grant resulted from a collaborative application led by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, with \$50 million earmarked for the LMFP. The SCAG Regional Council authorized SCAG to receive these funds at its April 2025 meeting, which will support deployment of up to 746 medium- and heavy-duty trucks through a second phase of the program to be released in summer 2025.

# Presidential Priority: Clean Transportation Technology

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## SCAG Represents Southern California at ITS Dubai

Executive Director Kome Ajise and Regional Council President Curt Hagman represented SCAG at the ITS World Congress in Dubai in September 2024. Organized by ERTICO (ITS Europe) and hosted by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority, this year's World Congress united international professionals from mobility, technology, and policy sectors to discuss and showcase advancements in smart mobility. With 20,000 attendees, 200 sessions, 850 international speakers, and 500 exhibitors, the event covered mobility driven by intelligent transportation systems. President Hagman and Executive Director Ajise spoke on panels about leveraging connected and automated vehicles and electrification, and highlighted SCAG's work, as well as state and regional priorities and projects.

## SCAG Joins California Delegation for European Study Trip on Transportation Innovation

SCAG was honored to participate in a professional field study trip in September 2024, co-hosted by California Air Resources Board Chair Liane Randolph and Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator Chief Executive Officer Matt Petersen. SCAG Regional Council First Vice President Cindy Allen and Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer Javiera Cartagena joined a California delegation to London, Oslo, and Munich to explore innovative policies, technologies, and business models to inspire and inform California's transportation and clean energy infrastructure. The study trip focused on passenger vehicle electrification, multi-modal transit expansion, and electrification of goods movement through meetings with European policymakers, businesses, and organizations committed to transportation electrification, climate, and air quality goals.

## SCAG Joins Electric Car Discussion at the League of California Cities Annual Conference

SCAG Regional Council Member and Immediate Past President Jan Harnik moderated the "Are Cities Ready for an Electric Future" panel at the League of California Cities – Annual Conference and Expo, Oct. 16-18, 2024. The panel included experts from the University of California, Riverside; Southern California Edison; and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, who explored challenges and opportunities in the clean energy transition.

During the panel, Harnik summarized SCAG's role as a regional convener and discussed SCAG's supports of local electrification efforts, including publication of the "[Clean Technology Compendium](#)," a resource for local governments to establish policies that foster clean technology adoption. SCAG Regional Council members Wendy Bucknam, Mike Judge, Ray Rhodes, Jeff Wood, and Frank Yokoyama, were also in attendance to support the discussion, along with policy committee members Bridget Lewis and Ali Taj.

## SCAG Visits North America's First Hydrogen-Powered Home

A SCAG delegation gathered in Los Angeles County on Nov. 22, 2024, to participate in a mobile workshop under the leadership of SCAG Regional Council President Curt Hagman. Members received an exclusive tour of the "Hydrogen Home" created by the SoCalGas [\[H2\] Innovation Experience](#), North America's first clean, renewable, hydrogen-powered microgrid and home.

The SCAG delegation broadened their understanding of hydrogen's role in helping the state achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. SCAG Regional Council President Curt Hagman, Executive Director Kome Ajise, and Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey were among those in attendance.

## SCAG Updates Clean Cities Coalition Strategic Plan

At the April 2025 Regional Council meeting, SCAG [staff presented](#) an update on the 2025 Southern California Clean Cities Coalition Strategic Plan, a multi-year roadmap outlining specific activities for coalition stakeholders, aligning with SCAG's Clean Transportation Technology Policy (Resolution No. 23-654-5), the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Clean Technology Program, as well as federal, state, and regional objectives. The 2025 Strategic Plan advances clean transportation technologies, emphasizing a commitment to environmental sustainability.

The U.S. Department of Energy requires all Clean Cities and Communities Coalitions to establish and maintain a strategic plan. The 2025 Strategic Plan will be revised again in fiscal year 2025-26 as part of SCAG's annual responsibilities under the Clean Cities and Communities Program, offering another opportunity to align with future federal priorities.

# Presidential Priority: Transit Recovery & Technology

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## SCAG Advances Regional Transit Priorities in Transit Transformation Task Force

On Aug. 29, 2024, SCAG hosted the fifth meeting of the California State Transportation Agency's [Transit Transformation Task Force](#) at the SCAG offices in downtown Los Angeles. At the meeting, SCAG highlighted its regional approach to transit planning; the task force's larger discussions focused on policies and programs to improve transit operator workforce recruitment, retention, and development. Task force members joined SCAG, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Metrolink, and Move LA for a ride-along to experience Los Angeles transit. The transit tour highlighted Los Angeles' public transportation systems—both opportunities and challenges—and recent improvements along the Metro A Line.

[Senate Bill 125](#) established the task force to develop statewide recommendations to grow transit ridership, improve transit customer experiences, and address long-term operational needs. The Task Force includes 25 members, including a cohort from Southern California—SCAG, Metro, Move LA, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, and the UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies. The task force's work aligns with the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) vision of a future in which public transit functions as the backbone of the mobility ecosystem, enabling seamless and efficient mobility without using an automobile.

The task force is developing policy recommendations for a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the State Legislature on or before Oct. 31, 2025.

## September Regional Council Features Transit Technology Panel

In support of the Presidential Priorities and the work of the Transit Transformation Task Force, the Sept. 5, 2024, Regional Council meeting included a panel discussion on transit recovery and technology. The panel featured Metrolink Chief Executive Officer Darren Kettle, who shared efforts to implement operations changes to optimize service, and Riverside Transit Agency Chief Executive Officer Kristin Warsinski and Riverside Transit Agency Planning Director Jennifer Nguyen, who highlighted efforts to implement technological innovations that address changing customer needs. Video of the panel discussion is available on the [Regional Council video archive](#).

## Calexico Intermodal Transportation Breaks Ground with SCAG REAP Funding Support

The Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) held a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of the long-awaited Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC) on Feb. 28, 2025. This project will create a much-needed multimodal mobility hub in downtown Calexico, improving transit service and pedestrian safety near one of the busiest transit lines and international ports of entry in the state and creating opportunities for economic development.

SCAG funded approximately \$1 million of the project's \$19 million total cost through the [County Transportation Commission Partnership Program](#)—a program included in SCAG's Regional Early Action Planning Grants program, also known as [REAP 2.0](#). Earlier in 2014, SCAG funded the feasibility study that resulted in the project. Additionally, ICTC was awarded \$1.1 million through the state's Active Transportation Program.

SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise spoke at the groundbreaking on the importance of regional collaboration and leveraging creative fund sources to support important projects. Other speakers included Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Palm Desert), ICTC Executive Director David Aguirre, and representatives from the offices of State Senator Steve Padilla (D-San Diego), and State Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez (R-Indio). The project is scheduled for completion in early 2026 to support service of numerous public transit routes, taxi services, microtransit, Greyhound buses, and farm labor buses to support downtown growth, safety, and economic vitality.

## SCAG Publishes 'Mobility Hubs Design and Implementation Guide'

On March 13, 2025, SCAG published the "[Mobility Hub Design and Implementation Guide](#)" to equip jurisdictions and potential partners with resources to conceptualize, design, and implement mobility hubs. The guide discusses how to locate and prioritize candidate mobility hub sites, design and optimize sites, secure funding, and explore partnership opportunities. The guide includes four mobility hub site conceptual design examples in a variety of contexts in the region. SCAG hosted a mobility hubs-focused [Toolbox Tuesday](#) training on March 18, 2025, which is available to [watch online](#), to further the reach of the guide.

## SCAG and Metrolink Partner on Open Payment Pilot

As part of its [Regional Pilot Initiatives](#) (RPI) program, SCAG partnered with California Integrated Travel Project and Metrolink to develop a Contactless Open Loop Fare Payment pilot on the San Bernardino Line. The one-year pilot will begin in 2025.

The RPI program demonstrates innovative, next generation technologies, and models of regional significance to guide the region toward a more sustainable and prosperous future. RPI projects build on SCAG studies and plans. The Regional Council approved SCAG's RPI Framework in 2023 to include four program areas: big data research, accelerating active transportation, mobility hubs, and mobility wallets and universal basic mobility.

# Legislation & Advocacy

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## SCAG Attends Annual California Congressional Transportation Reception

Regional Council President Curt Hagman led a delegation of SCAG leaders to Washington, D.C., for the agency's annual federal advocacy trip in May 2024. First Vice President Cindy Allen, Second Vice President Ray Marquez, and Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee Vice Chair José Luis Solache were part of the group, which met with SCAG's Congressional delegation and key federal agency leadership to share relevant agency updates, including the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing grant program, the Active Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Program, the Healthy Streets Program, the Affordable Connectivity Program, and the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Delegation members also attended SCAG's annual California Congressional Transportation Reception, co-hosted with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, convening more than California transportation leaders and stakeholders to network and discuss issues of key importance to California's transportation and infrastructure needs. Guest speakers at the event included California Senator Alex Padilla, House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rick Larsen, and Federal Highway Administration Administrator Shailen Bhatt. Additional special guests in attendance included representatives Judy Chu, Kevin Kiley, Linda Sanchez, and Norma Torres.

Members of the SCAG delegation also participated in the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors Annual Meeting, with the nation's foremost freight policy leaders, to discuss the next iteration of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, supply chain issues, and current and future funding cycles.

## Final State Budget Secures \$480 Million for REAP 2.0 Program; Restores More Funding

The California State Legislature approved the [Budget Act of 2024](#) in June 2024, taking a major step forward in addressing the housing crisis by restoring funding to the Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP 2.0) program and other funding programs crucial to Southern California's collective goals.

The state budget retained \$560 million for REAP 2.0, \$480 million of which is dedicated to the formula component for metropolitan planning organizations, just five weeks after the governor's May budget revision [proposed \\$300 million funding reduction for the program](#).

Before the proposed budget cuts first, SCAG had awarded more than \$192 million in REAP 2.0 funds to 100 transformative projects. Following budget approval, SCAG initiated work to restart these projects.

## SCAG Advocates for Planning on the June 2024 Mobility 21 D.C. Trip

SCAG Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey attended Mobility 21's annual Washington, D.C., trip from June 3-5, 2024, where a coalition of public and private partners advocated for regional transportation solutions in Southern California. The delegation met with U.S. Senate Banking Committee staff and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-Washington) to advocate for various regional priorities, including the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Contingency Measure Plan, increased funding for goods movement, and streamlining and providing additional flexibility for successful implementation of "Build America, Buy America" provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The delegation also advocated for prioritization of investments to support regional projects and programs related to the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, especially regarding infrastructure and transit.

## SCAG-Sponsored Assembly Bill 2485 Held in Committee

The SCAG-sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 2485 (J. Carrillo) was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee in August 2024. The bill did not move off the suspense file and will not move forward.

AB 2485 aimed to increase transparency measures in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment determination process. The bill would have established procedures for the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to publish data sources, analyses, and methodology used in the development of a given region's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) determination on its website and would have required HCD to convene a panel of experts to advise HCD on those data sources, analyses, and methodology used in the development of a given region's RHNA determination.

The Senate and Assembly appropriations committees hurtle through hundreds of bills with new spending attached, passing or holding them in rapid fire with no explanation and with no opportunity for public comment. The Senate Appropriations Committee held 34 percent of its 515 measures, including AB 2485. The typical hold rate is about 25 percent.

SCAG's Legislation Department focused on this bill during the year's legislative session, reviewing input from members, creating the initial bill concepts and presenting them to the Regional Council for approval, securing a sponsor in Sacramento, and working AB 2485 through the processes in the capitol. SCAG thanks members of the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee, bill sponsor Juan Carrillo, as well as numerous partners who helped AB 2485 on its journey.

## SCAG Tours the Imperial County on Mobile Workshop

In September 2024, SCAG Regional Council President Curt Hagman joined other Regional Council members for a tour of Imperial County, beginning with the California League of Cities Imperial County Division Dinner, where President Hagman reinforced his and SCAG's commitment to collaborating with Imperial County and regional partners.

On Sept. 27, 2024, SCAG received a tour from the Imperial County's Natural Resources Office to highlight the county's ongoing efforts to develop "Lithium Valley." The Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) around the Salton Sea is one of the most lithium-rich areas on the planet. Imperial County is working with industry sectors, academia, and governments to support this potential industry cluster to create a comprehensive development opportunity to spur strong economic growth and competitive advantage in the region. The tour included stops at areas around the KGRA to highlight this opportunity, concluding at the Brawley Stockmens Club, with lunch hosted by Regional Council member and Imperial County Board of Supervisors Chairman Luis Plancarte.

## SCAG Addresses Assembly Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions

The Assembly Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions, chaired by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena), held a hearing on improving and expanding regional transportation options in California in October 2024. Sarah Dominguez, manager of SCAG's Planning Strategy Department, provided testimony and an update on the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, sharing key strategies and programs from the plan, such as siting new housing near jobs, amenities, and transit. Dominguez also discussed the [Last Mile Freight Program](#), which is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the goods movement sector. SCAG will continue collaborating with state legislators and regional and local partners to support Southern California's implementation of regional transportation solutions toward a world-class transportation system.

## SCAG Attends Organizational Session in Sacramento

On Dec. 2, SCAG's Legislation Department and Executive Director Kome Ajise traveled to Sacramento to represent SCAG while the California State Legislature conducted its "Organizational Session" and swearing-in ceremony.

Of the assemblymembers and senators sworn in, 33 are brand new to the legislature. The next year will be important for building relationships and providing education on the needs of our region.

During this trip, the team met with Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas), who is working to prioritize state funding for the LOSSAN line; Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton), who played a central role in protecting the REAP program; and Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Fairfield), chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee.

## 'Big 4' State Metropolitan Planning Organizations Gather for SB 375 Discussion

In November 2024, the California Association of Councils of Government hosted a meeting for executive directors of the state's "Big Four" metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and key members of leadership teams to discuss shared goals for Senate Bill (SB) 375 reform and priorities for the upcoming legislative sessions.

The group also met with executive officers from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the California Transportation Commission, and Caltrans to discuss next steps in working together on SB 375 implementation and potential reform.

MPO representatives emphasized commitments to climate goals and improving the process without abandoning SB 375 and discussed technical challenges in the current SB 375 process, including modeling, data, and metrics. MPO representatives also expressed concern over the growing cost of these activities and a desire to simplify plan submittal processes to put more funding toward implementation.

The meeting concluded constructively with an agreement to continue discussions and a commitment from CARB to follow up on next steps regarding a pause in sustainable community strategy guidelines.

## Regional Council Adopts 2025 State and Federal Legislative Platforms

The Regional Council adopted SCAG's 2025-26 State Legislative Platform in February 2025 and SCAG's 2025-26 Federal Legislative Platform in April 2025.

The 2025-26 state and federal platforms update the adopted 2024 platforms, streamlining language and aligning with the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities strategy, newly implemented laws, and other changes to the political landscape. Both the [2025-26 State Legislative Platform](#) and the [2025-26 Federal Legislative Platform](#) are available online at the [SCAG website](#).

## SCAG Hosts 17th Annual LA Biz Fed Board of Directors Meeting

SCAG hosted partners from the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) for its 17th Anniversary Board meeting and Officer Installation and Swearing in Ceremony on Jan. 21, 2025. Executive Director Kome Ajise delivered welcome remarks, thanked BizFed for its advocacy on behalf of the region's businesses and affirmed SCAG's commitment to further improve the regional economy by working with partners, identifying solutions, and advocating for a more sustainable business climate. SCAG Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer Javiera Cartagena was formally sworn in as the newest BizFed co-chair of the Goods Movement, Mobility, and Transportation Committee for the 2025 term.

## SCAG Joins Mobility 21's Sacramento Delegation Trip

SCAG's Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey participated in Mobility 21's Sacramento Delegation Trip, where he and other regional leaders met with state elected officials, department secretaries, and staff to discuss the region's transportation priorities. During the trip, Chidsey met with Toks Omishakin, secretary for the California State Transportation Agency; Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose), chair of the Senate Transportation Committee; Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), chair of the Senate Budget Committee; and several other assemblymembers and senators.

SCAG staff emphasized Southern California priorities during the trip, including the extension of California's Cap-and-Trade Program, solutions for meeting the region's transportation safety targets, and the protection of vital transportation funding in the upcoming state budget. The trip concluded with a legislative reception featuring members of SCAG's state legislative delegation, including Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas), Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Senator Rosilicie Ochoa-Bogh (R-Yucaipa), Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles), Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine), and others.

## SCAG Hosts Sacramento Summit

On March 18-19, 2025, SCAG held its annual Sacramento Summit to convene a group of SCAG board officers, board members, staff, and partners in the state capital to advocate for the agency's top legislative priorities. These priorities included dedicated funding for continued housing work in the region, extending the expenditure deadline for the REAP 2.0 program, and supporting the governor's transportation budget commitments. Additionally, SCAG advocated for various funding priorities, including technical assistance to help communities establish climate resilience districts, a wildlife crossing study, and resources to support efficient goods and passenger movement during the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Sacramento Summit began with a panel session, where the SCAG delegation heard from various speakers via three panels. The first panel, titled "A Builder's Perspective," featured Matthew Hargrove, chief executive officer of the California Business Properties Association; Jeff Montejano, president of the

Building Industry Association of Southern California; Mark Stivers, legislative director of the California Housing Partnership; and Kiana Valentine, executive director of Transportation California. These speakers offered perspectives on what laws and ideas are, and aren't, working to address the state's housing crisis.

Later, Robert Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable, shared a business perspective on top issues being discussed in Sacramento. Finally, State Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Redlands) and Assembly Republican Floor Leader Heath Flora (R-Ripon) joined the group to offer perspectives on top legislative issues, such as public safety, cap-and-trade, a proposed \$10 billion housing bond, and more.

Next, the group reconvened for the Alumni Dinner, joined by various members of the State Legislature who formerly served as SCAG Regional Council members. SCAG alumni who joined the dinner included Senator Steven Choi (R-Irvine), and assemblymembers Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton) and José Luis Solache (D-Lynwood). Additionally, Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) greeted the group. The following day, the group heard from California State Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin at breakfast before the delegation made its way to the capitol to attend 24 advocacy meetings with state elected officials or their staff.

During the Sacramento Summit, SCAG attendees met with various members of legislative leadership, including Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas), and Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland). The SCAG delegation also met with California State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. Additionally, the group met with senators Monique Limon (D-Santa Barbara) and Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Redlands), as well as assemblymembers Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel), Corey Jackson (D-Riverside), Mark Gonzalez (D-Los Angeles), Blanca Pacheco (D-Downey), Pilar Schiavo (D-Chatsworth), Mike Fong (D-Alhambra), José Luis Solache (D-Lynwood), and Tri Ta (R-Westminster). Former SCAG Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) Chair Assemblymember Solache invited the delegation to join him on the Assembly floor.

SCAG Regional Council members in attendance included Regional Council President Curt Hagman, First Vice President Cindy Allen and Second Vice President Ray Marquez; LCMC Chair Patricia Lock Dawson and Vice Chair Margaret Finlay; as well as Regional Council members Ryan Balius, Wendy Bucknum, Jenny Crosswhite, and Gil Rebollar, Thomas Wong, policy committee member Tanya Doby, and SCAG partner Rich Lambros, managing director of the Southern California Leadership Network.

## **SCAG Attends ACCESS D.C. with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

SCAG's Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer Javiera Cartagena traveled to Washington, D.C., in March as a member of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's ACCESS D.C. delegation. During the trip, Cartagena met with Rep. Julia Brownley (D-Thousand Oaks), who serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to discuss SCAG's priorities for the next Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

# Awards

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## WTS International Presents Honorable Ray LaHood Award to SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise

WTS International honored SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise with the 2024 WTS Recognition Award–Honorable Ray LaHood Award at the Awards Gala during the 2024 WTS Annual Conference in New Orleans in May 2024. This award honors male leaders in transportation for outstanding commitments to the advancement of women and diversity in transportation and elevating the reputation of professionals in the field. WTS International specifically recognized Kome's leadership and vision during SCAG's Connect SoCal 2024 planning process.

Kome received the WTS-Los Angeles (WTS-LA) chapter's Honorable Ray LaHood Award in November 2023. WTS-LA then nominated Kome for the international award alongside transportation leaders nominated by WTS chapters all over the United States and Canada. Read more about this prestigious award on the [SCAG website](#).

## SCAG Go Human 2023 Community Hubs Grantees Win 2024 APA California Planning Award

The California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) awarded the TWIGY Bikey Summer program, the [Bicycle Tree](#), and [Santa Ana Active Streets](#) with the [2024 California Planning Award of Merit in the Grassroots Initiative category](#). The TWIGY Bikey program promoted an innovative approach to inclusive community planning, demonstrating grassroots community impact by directly engaging and empowering impacted communities as a mobility justice strategy in Orange County.

The award was presented at the [2024 APA California Conference in Riverside](#) in September 2024. The project previously won the APA Orange County Section Award of Excellence in the Grassroots Initiative category. Find more information about the Bicycle Tree, Santa Ana Active Streets, and other *Go Human* Community Hubs grantees on the [SCAG website](#).

## Southern California Clean Cities Coalition Awarded for Climate Progress

The [Southern California Clean Cities Coalition](#), administered by SCAG since 2010, received two first-place awards at the September 2024 Clean Cities and Communities Training Workshop. The awards are for the greatest percentage increase in gasoline gallon equivalents (GGEs, i.e., an alternative fuel source equivalent to one gallon of fossil fuel) and the largest reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). More than 75 coalitions in the national network of clean cities coalitions were eligible for the awards.

To earn the award, the Southern California Clean Cities Coalition achieved a 129 percent increase in GGEs reduced and an 814 percent increase in GHG emissions reduced compared to 2022. In second place: Houston-Galveston, with a 59 percent increase in GGEs reduced, and Minnesota, with a 105 percent increase in GHGs reduced. More details about how the Southern California Clean Cities Coalition is leading the nation on clean cities action can be found on the [SCAG News](#).

The awards were based on data reported in the coalition's "[2023 Clean Cities Annual Report](#)." The report is a required annual submission to the U.S. Department of Energy, which, together with the National

Renewable Energy Laboratory, analyzes the data for energy use impact, GHG emissions reduction, and other metrics to show the progress of individual coalitions and the network. The report includes data on the sales of alternative fuels, deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, idle-reduction initiatives, fuel economy activities, and efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled within the coalition's region.

## **SCAG *Go Human* Receives CALCOG's Eureka! Award for Regional Excellence**

In March 2025, the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) recognized SCAG's active transportation safety and engagement program, *Go Human*, with the Eureka! Award for Regional Excellence. The award recognizes *Go Human's* creative leadership to develop and implement new ideas that serve as best practices for others to follow.

The award celebrates *Go Human* for crafting resources to address regional priorities by amplifying locally identified solutions, creating unique, innovative offerings, representing a model of success for effective community engagement strategies, and supporting hyper-local community challenges and needs as a regional convener.

## **Regional Council Members Recognized at 2025 BizFed Bizzi Awards**

SCAG sponsored the 2025 BizFed Bizzi Awards in March 2025, where Regional Council First Vice President Cindy Allen received an award for the Los Angeles County Supervisor District 4 Elected Official of the Year and Regional Council Member Thomas Wong received the Los Angeles County Supervisor District 1 Elected Official of the Year. SCAG Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey and Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer Javiera Cartagena also attended the event, which convenes business leaders, industry champions, and policymakers to celebrate the power of political advocacy and economic impact across Los Angeles County. SCAG values its long-standing partnership with the private sector and looks forward to working with BizFed to further improve the regional economy.

## **Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Review Receives Award**

SCAG received an award for "Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document" in April 2025 from the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) for the Program Environmental Impact Report for the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

This is the first time SCAG has received state recognition for its environmental analyses for an RTP/SCS. SCAG staff attended the AEP Conference in Oxnard on April 7, 2025, to receive the award. SCAG won a 2023 AEP award for its [Regional Early Action Planning \(REAP\) 1.0](#) Development Streamlining project, which developed a series of guidance materials on streamlining options or exemptions under CEQA and other state laws as part of SCAG's efforts to accelerate housing production.

The AEP is one of the largest and most well-respected organizations for public- and private-sector environmental planners and California Environmental Quality Act practitioners in the state of California. The AEP comprises nine local chapters and over 2,000 members throughout the state, publishing the "[CEQA Statute and Guidelines](#)" each year.

# Other Notable Accomplishments

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## SCAG Awards \$280 Million in STBG/CMAQ/CRP Funding

In June 2024, the SCAG Regional Council [approved \\$280 million](#) in funding for projects through federal fiscal year 2026 via Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) programs. Eligible project sponsors submitted nominations through their respective county transportation commissions and were scored according to criteria outlined in the STBG/CMAQ and CRP guidelines.

With Regional Council approval, project sponsors may now program projects into the [Federal Transportation Improvement Program](#) and begin the funding obligation process. For more information on STBG/CMAQ/CRP funding and award lists, visit SCAG's [STBG/CMAQ](#) and [CRP](#) websites.

## SCAG Receives \$1 Million in Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants from Caltrans

In July 2024, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced \$76.1 million in fiscal year 2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Awards, including two \$500,000 grants for SCAG in the Strategic Partnerships funding category.

With the first grant, SCAG will conduct a survey and study airport passenger surface transportation behaviors and attitudes in the SCAG region. SCAG anticipates launching the study later this year and completing it in late 2027. The proposed airport passenger surface transportation study will explore and explain the perspectives and behaviors of passengers and employees traveling to and from the SCAG region's airports, including developing actionable recommendations for ground transportation and alternative connections to airports.

With the second grant, SCAG will partner with Caltrans Districts 7, 8, 11, and 12, as well as local jurisdictions, on the "Planning for Main Streets" project, conducting planning work to enable improvements on state highways in the SCAG region that double as main streets given existing and planned land uses, related projects, and community priorities. This work will develop conceptual plans and associated cost estimates for sustainable transportation improvements to position these corridors for future funding opportunities or incorporation into future workplans to implement improvements. The "Planning for Main Streets" project is anticipated to kick off in spring 2025 and be completed in summer 2027.

## Agreement Avoids Highway Sanction Clocks for South Coast Air Quality Management District

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the California Air Resources Board, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) [published a joint statement](#) in July 2024 committing to a sustained collaboration across local, state, and federal levels to reduce emissions from all sources. This shared effort includes withdrawal of the South Coast AQMD's 2019 Contingency Measure Plan, which the U.S. EPA proposed disapproving in February 2024. This withdrawal avoids potential highway sanctions that could have impacted federal transportation approvals and funding in the South Coast Air Basin, an area that includes all of Orange County as well as the urban areas of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San

Bernardino counties. SCAG has been engaging with the U.S. EPA and the South Coast AQMD for much of 2024 toward a solution to improve air quality and avoid highway sanctions.

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Decision Ends Potential for South Coast Highway Sanctions

On Aug. 15, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) proposed a finding of failure of the South Coast region to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone standards. This finding of failure will not trigger highway sanctions and will not affect the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, the [Federal Transportation Improvement Program](#), nor any regional transportation projects. In addition, the finding will not trigger new air quality planning requirements for the South Coast region because the 1997 federal ozone standard has been revoked and has been replaced by more stringent standards, namely the 2008 and 2015 federal 8-hour ozone standards.

A previous U.S. EPA proposed disapproval in the South Coast region was [collectively resolved in July](#) by the U.S. EPA, the California Air Resources Board, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and SCAG.

## 2024 Southern California Demographic Workshop Navigates the 'New Growth Reality'

More than 460 people attended the 2024 Southern California Demographic Workshop on Sept. 24, 2024, for a fact-based discussion about how to plan for the future of Southern California as demographic trends diverge from the rapid population growth of past decades. The 35th annual event was hosted by SCAG and the USC Price School of Public Policy.

Highlights of the 2024 Southern California Demographic Workshop included the presentation and publication of a [new report by SCAG demographers](#) providing insight into American Community Survey data released earlier in September by the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year data released on Sept. 12, 2024, provide comprehensive data on Southern California's social, demographic, economic, and housing conditions, capturing the region's recovery following the pandemic.

The 2023 ACS data shows that real household income growth in Southern California outpaced national growth over the past year and last decade, reflecting long-term economic well-being for the region's median household. The new ACS data also reveal population growth stabilizing in Southern California—counter to the prevailing media narrative about the decline of California's population—which will require new thinking from local and regional planners to expand the economy and improve quality of life for all Southern Californians.

The event also included two panels; keynote speaker Bill Fulton, FAICP; and a series of roundtables for participants to consider how the demographic trends of the past decade, including the historic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, will impact the economic realities of the region and day-to-day considerations like mobility and public health.

## SCAG Receives \$2.28 Million in Grants for Traffic Safety Programs

The SCAG Regional Council approved a resolution to accept \$2.28 million in grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to improve regional transportation safety during its November 2024 meeting.

The funding includes \$922,456 to support continued development of a new regional safety data analysis and modeling platform. The platform will predict and analyze safety risks on Southern California's multimodal transportation system to help reduce the number and severity of roadway collisions in the region by leveraging innovative technologies and safety data resources, such as in-vehicle information systems and newly available collision modeling capacities.

OTS also granted \$1.36 million to continue SCAG's *Go Human* program, which launched in 2015 to reduce collisions and improve safety for people walking and biking. The newly awarded OTS grant will fund continued *Go Human* activities through Sept. 30, 2025, and support implementation of *Go Human*'s new traffic safety advertising campaign as the program enters its 10th year. The funds will also support the development of an accessibility assessment of *Go Human* programs for improved accessibility and equitable distribution of traffic safety resources across the region.

OTS-funded activities in 2025 will leverage a five-year, \$12 million grant from the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. The SS4A grant will expand the reach of SCAG's *Go Human* work, such as the Kit of Parts Lending Library technical assistance program, co-branded safety messaging, and the [Community Streets Grant Program](#), which has distributed more than \$1.7 million to community-based organizations since 2018.

## SCAG Receives \$6 Million for Transportation Safety During the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games

In November 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded SCAG a \$6 million Safe Streets and Roads for All grant to help the region prepare for the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The grant will fund a partnership between SCAG and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to create safe street reconfigurations along corridors on the high injury network that will also expect high volumes of travel during the LA28 Games. This demonstration project will prioritize safety for walking, biking, and riding transit and will allow SCAG to establish regional best practices for permanent projects in the future.

## December Regional Council Features '2024 Southern California Economic Update'

SCAG's December Regional Council meeting included a presentation of the "2024 Southern California Economic Update," featuring SCAG's annual economic reporting, presentations from SCAG's Economic Roundtable, and in-depth discussion about the state of the economy among Regional Council members.

SCAG Regional Council President and San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman delivered the opening remarks to the presentation. Kate Gordon, chief executive officer of California Forward, moderated the event, with members of the [SCAG Economic Roundtable](#) presenting reports on the overall regional economy and each of SCAG's six counties. In addition, David Roland-Holst, managing director of Berkeley Economic Advising and Research, gave a presentation on regional sustainability, and Beth Tamayose, research director at the University of California, Riverside, School of Public Policy, gave a presentation on economic equity. A round of questions from members of the Regional Council followed the presentations.

SCAG also published the ["2024 Southern California Economic Update"](#) during the event. SCAG publishes this annual economic update with analysis covering the entire region as well as providing specific insight into the economies of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The "2024 Southern California Economic Update" reviews the past year and highlights economic trends to watch for in the coming year to assist Southern California policymakers in planning for the next 30 years. To read more about the update and download the full report, visit [SCAG News](#).

SCAG hopes to continue the spirit of this discussion while working toward the implementation of the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy in the coming months and years.

## **SCAG Announces 2024 Sustainable Communities Program – Active Transportation and Safety Awards**

On Dec. 5, 2024, the Regional Council approved the 2024 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) – Active Transportation and Safety Project List and Contingency Project List. The 2024 SCP – Active Transportation and Safety awards include active transportation-related plans and quick-build projects that support the implementation of mobility policies included in the [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Projects will be funded through the state's Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 7 regional funds, a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant, and SCAG matching state funds (to address the ATP Cycle 7 budget cuts). A total of 40 applications were evaluated, and 13 projects were selected for funding. To read more about the 2024 SCP – Active Transportation and Safety awards, visit [SCAG News](#).

## **2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Receives Federal Approval**

The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration officially approved the [2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program \(FTIP\)](#) in December 2024. This approval supports over 1,100 transportation projects in the SCAG region, totaling more than \$38.8 billion in investments over the next six years. These include highways, transit, rail, bus, and active transportation projects align with SCAG's [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. SCAG continues to collaborate with local, state, and federal partners to deliver these vital investments in support of the region's long-term transportation goals.

To share more about the projects, SCAG created the [FTIP Interactive Project Search \(eFTIP\)](#) tool with an interactive map and details for transportation projects programmed in the current FTIP.

## **SCAG to Participate in Transportation Access Pilot Program**

SCAG was among several regional and state agencies selected in late 2024 to participate in the Federal Highway Agency's (FHWA) new Transportation Access Pilot Program (APP), funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, for state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional transportation planning organizations to improve accessibility measures and data, including modeling and analysis. The APP cohort will receive technical assistance, engage in peer reviews and critiques, publish and promote methodologies and results through the FHWA, and inform future data and analysis practices.

Through APP, SCAG will explore improvements to accessibility metrics in a testing environment with input from practitioners familiar with the barriers to this work. The scope of SCAG's APP project includes

expanding accessibility measures in the equity analysis for the [Connect SoCal](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to include access to healthy and fresh foods. SCAG will also develop methods to assess project-level impacts of transportation investments on access to everyday destinations for the Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

## Updated Housing, Environment, and Land Use Parcel Tool Update Released

SCAG released an update to its Housing, Environment, and Land Use Parcel Tool (HELPR), offering a site-specific interactive mapping tool for land use, environmental planning, and sustainable development, on Feb. 3, 2025. Built on SCAG's [Regional Data Platform](#), HELPR 3.0 provides the latest parcel-level data from [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, enabling cities, planners, and stakeholders to make better-informed decisions about housing site selection and land use planning.

Key features include a housing statistics dashboard for quick insights, wildfire risk screening using CalFire data, and tools to align local plans with regional policies. HELPR 3.0 allows users to download datasets for further analysis but does not assess development capacity or suitability.

## SCAG Receives 'Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection' Grant

In early 2025, the Federal Highway Administration awarded SCAG a federal Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection grant to test how a mileage-based user fee can work in tandem with existing revenue collection mechanisms, including tolling. While the growing adoption of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) advances regional air quality and climate goals, the transition to ZEVs is rapidly diminishing traditional gas tax revenue as a source for transportation funding. The [Connect SoCal 2024](#) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy addresses the urgency of this transition by supporting a road user charge to maintain a state of good repair for the transportation system while establishing a more sustainable and equitable funding model to support the region's growing needs.

With this grant, SCAG, in partnership with NextMove by Cintra, will test a concept for transportation revenue collection technology to capture the full picture of drivers' transportation fees while evaluating policy parameters to holistically address inequity in transportation. This project will help determine viability of a mileage-based user fee at the regional level and uncover how a user-based mechanism can coexist with existing tolling infrastructure.

## Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Call for Project Nominations Opens

The federal fiscal year 2026-27 and federal fiscal year 2027-28 Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) SCAG [online application](#) opened for all eligible applicants on March 31, 2025.

The call for project nominations will make available an estimated \$1.2 billion for eligible transportation projects in the SCAG region in federal fiscal year 2026-27 and federal fiscal year 2027-28. Award recommendations will be presented to the SCAG Regional Council by December 2025.

SCAG hosted two general program workshops and co-hosted five additional county-level program workshops in March 2025 to support eligible applicants in learning about program requirements. Workshop materials are available for reference on the [SCAG STBG/CMAQ webpage](#).

These Federal Highway Administration programs fund transportation projects and programs based on unique eligibility criteria. The STBG program supports transportation projects that preserve and improve conditions and performance of highways, bridges, and public roads; pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure; and transit capital projects. The CMAQ program supports transportation projects and programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (e.g., nonattainment areas) and for former nonattainment areas that are now in compliance (e.g., maintenance areas).

## Regional Council Approves 2025 Active Transportation Program

In April 2025, the Regional Council approved the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP), comprising 15 projects, totaling \$35 million, and 113 contingency projects, totaling \$972.2 million, that support walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transportation in the region. SCAG partnered with the region's six county transportation commissions to develop the program according to the statewide [2025 ATP Guidelines](#) and 2025 ATP Regional Guidelines, the latter of which were [adopted by the Regional Council](#) in April 2024.

At its March 6, 2025, meeting, the SCAG [Transportation Committee recommended](#) the 2025 Regional ATP for Regional Council approval. SCAG staff will submit the 2025 Regional ATP for adoption by the California Transportation Commission on June 26, 2025. More information about the 2025 Regional ATP is available in the April [staff report](#).

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