



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

DATE: April 4, 2024
TO: Governing Board
FROM: Dan Brotman, Council Member, City of Glendale
SUBJECT: SCAG Energy & Environment Committee Report for AVCJPA Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is being provided as information only.

BACKGROUND:

Below is a summary of the last few transportation meetings with Southern California Association of Governments Transportation Committee (TC) from November 2023 to February 2024.

MEETINGS OVERVIEW:

- February 1st
- January 4th
- November 2nd

February 1st Meeting Details:

- Quick Build Projects - Rachel Om (Senior Regional Planner, SCAG) and Margot Ocanas (Vision Zero, LADOT)
 - Rachel Om and Margot Ocanas presented a focus on quick build projects, including a slideshow presentation, with an emphasis on community engagement strategies. The importance of education and engagement for addressing traffic fatalities, were stressed while efforts to scale out design templates and boost valet lane usage were discussed.
 - Concerns were raised about valet lane efficiency, and Member Andrade-Stadler highlighted the project's alignment with Alhambra's needs. Member Nazarian sought outreach recommendations, while Member Najarian cautioned about lawsuit risks, with assurance of engineer-approved designs.
 - Member Wong inquired about how the \$250,000 budget was spent and Margo Ocanas answered that the cost passed down to a consultant on their pre-qualified bench, and 75% of the budget went to them, where they did all procurements. Overall, the discussion revolved around community engagement, budget allocation, safety, and risk management in quick build projects.

- Mobility Hubs – Lessons Learned Priscilla Freduah-Agyemang (Senior Regional Planner, SCAG) to introduce Grecia White (New Mobility Planner, City of Boston)
 - Member Saro asked how big of a concern bike use is for the pilot region (Boston). Grecia answered that depending on the city and the larger urban context, installing bike share stations didn't face very much pushback. People have gotten used to bikeshare station installations, compared to installation of bike lanes.
- Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Update: AAM 101 Hiroshi Ishikawa (Senior Regional Planner, SCAG) to introduce Ricky Sandhu (Founder and CEO, Urban-Air Port)
 - Member Moore asked who manages the air traffic for these types of operations. Ricky Sandhu said that they are working with regulators across districts, and the FAA, to ensure that it's managed and regulated in the safest and most effective way.
 - Member Lilienthal asked if they could speak to the advocacy of TSA security, drop off, pick up spaces, and range. Ricky answered that this will vary from 4-6 people per aircraft for the airport to be viable. It will be important to have multimodal connectivity that needs to be built into the infrastructure. Because of this compact solution, it affords extra space for these purposes. Security is dependent on regulations per country and per state, and what the regulators end up deciding. The range of these aircrafts will be 60-80 miles on a single charge and fly around 200mph, so timesaving is a big advantage.
- Metrolink Updates
 - Metrolink and Amtrak southbound into San Clemente has been closed
 - Metrolink track and engineering team to make sure right of way is safe to for repairs
 - OCT is currently working with consultants on South Coast infrastructure study
 - Metrolink will offer free rides on 2/4/24 to honor Rosa Parks transit equity.
 - Metrolink is launching the Student Adventure Pass offers free rides to students.
 - November 2, 2023, meeting updates on Metrolink initiatives, including the launch of the Student Adventure Pass, a grant for the Doran Street Grade Separation Project, and exploration of extending Metrolink service to Santa Barbara and Goleta.
- Transportation Committee Chair & Vice Chair Nominations
 - The April 2024 Meeting of the Transportation Committee will have an item on the agenda specifically dedicated to the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair for 2024-25. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone on the Committee, please reply to aguilarm@scag.ca.gov and submit name of individual(s) no later than 5PM on Thursday March 28, 2024.
 - If no nominations are received, the current Chair will accept nominations. The term of office for newly elected Chair and Vice Chair will commence upon adjournment of the General Assembly Business Meeting on May 2, 2024.

- SCAG Scholarship Program
 - Applications for the 2024 SCAG Scholarship Program are now open. The program offers \$4,000 scholarship award for seven high school or community college students from the SCAG region, particularly those interested in pursuing a planning and/or public service-related career. Two additional scholarship awards not tied to a specified county, could be recommended at the Committee's discretion for Regional Council approval. Applications are due electronically by March 22, 2024.
- Chair's Report
 - It was requested that the Chair's report be provided in writing in the minutes.
 - Welcome to new members: Jeanette Burns (Tribal Representative, Morongo Band of Mission Indians), Marlon Regisford (Deputy District Director, Planning and Local Assistance, Caltrans District 7)
 - We will have a Joint Policy Committee next month on March 04, 2024.
 - SCAG Equity Board Member Training: SCAG is hosting a virtual Equity training for the Regional Council and Policy Committee Members on February 22, 2024. Please reach out if interested.

January 4th Meeting Details:

- Go Human Community Streets Grant Program
 - The Committee approved the guidelines for the 2024 Go Human Community Streets Grant Program, aiming to enhance street-level community resiliency and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. A sixth round of funding is being developed through the 2024 Go Human Community Streets Grant Program. The maximum award for each project is \$30,000 and SCAG seeks to fund approximately 12 projects.
- Information Items
 - Updates on various programs and studies including National Motor Vehicle Per Mile User Fee Pilot Program, Connect SoCal 2024, Southern California Zero Emissions Truck Infrastructure Study, and SCAG's Affordable Connectivity Program.
- National Motor Vehicle Per Mile User Fee Pilot Program
 - Jack Opiola from FHWA presented on the pilot program aimed at testing a per-mile user fee to fund surface transportation infrastructure. Concerns about equity and data collection were raised during the discussion.
- Connect SoCal 2024 Implementation Strategies
 - Camille Guiriba provided a report on the implementation strategies for Connect SoCal 2024, and it was noted that SCAG does not implement infrastructure projects outlined by

the county transportation commissions but partners with agencies through the administration of funding, research and establishing a vision for regional goals and strategies. Major policy areas include mobility, communities, environment and the economy using a broader lens of equity and resilience. Transportation and mobility strategies include a focus on complete streets, transit, multimodal integration, funding the system and user pricing.

- Southern California Zero Emissions Truck Infrastructure Study
 - Jonathan Raspa updated the committee on the study's progress, emphasizing the challenges and opportunities in transitioning to zero-emission freight transport, particularly regarding charging infrastructure and operational feasibility.
- Update on SCAG's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Campaign
 - Javier Silva stated SCAG received a \$500,000 grant from the FCC to launch a campaign promoting awareness and enrollment in the ACP. He reviewed the campaign's progress including development of a toolkit for local jurisdictions and participation in state and regional working groups. Program enrollment activities such as public outreach events were detailed.
- Chair's Report
 - Hon. Art Brown discussed the closure of Union Station for renovation work and preparations for the 2028 Olympic Games, emphasizing the need for advance planning and coordination for a "car-free" event.
- Staff Report
 - David Salgado reported on the conclusion of 15 regional briefings on Connect SoCal 2024, providing details and strategies to local officials and stakeholders.
- Future Agenda Items
 - Requests were made for future agenda items on inductive charging and briefings on the 2028 Olympics and its regional implications.

November 2nd Meeting Details:

- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
 - Discussion and approval of the FY2023-FY2026 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Guidelines took place. reviewed the compliance issues and program guidelines established by Caltrans which prioritizes transit and passenger rail, active transportation, zero emission vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure as well as conversion of existing highway lanes to price managed lanes. He reviewed the key milestones and next steps. The guidelines were approved via a roll call vote.
- Information Items
 - Updates on various programs and studies including Federal Transportation Funding in the SCAG Region: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2023, Presentation on Smart Freeways – An Introduction to the Next Generation of Freeway Traffic Management Systems, SCAG’s Clean Transportation Technology Compendium. Go Human Safety Strategies Outcomes, SB 671 Clean Freight Corridor Efficiency Assessment Update, and Metrolink report.
- Chair's Report
 - Union Station closure and preparations for the 2028 Olympic games discussed.
- Staff Report
 - Announcement of the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing Pilot Program and the upcoming release of the Draft Connect SoCal, with public workshops scheduled.
- Future Agenda Items
 - Request was made for a presentation by the trucking industry.