Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

ITEM# IX A 3

DATE: November 2025

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Sheila Rossi – Mayor, City of South Pasadena

SUBJECT: SCAG CEHD Committee Summary (November 6, 2025)

BACKGROUND

The SCAG Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Committee advances regional policy related to housing, economic development, and implementation of the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). While CEHD is not SCAG's primary transportation committee, its work is increasingly relevant to AVCJPA given the integration of housing production, economic activity, and infrastructure investment, particularly where funding programs and implementation strategies directly affect transportation systems, utilities, and regional mobility outcomes.

The November 6, 2025 CEHD agenda included several items of direct relevance to AVCJPA member agencies, especially related to REAP 2.0 funding, Connect SoCal implementation, and downtown revitalization strategies that tie land use and economic activity to transportation infrastructure.

KEY AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. REAP 2.0 – PATH Program: Notice of Funds Available for Lasting Affordability (Round 2)

(Action Item – Recommended for Regional Council Approval)

The most consequential item for AVCJPA jurisdictions was the CEHD Committee's recommendation to approve $20 million in REAP 2.0 funding under the Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH) – Lasting Affordability, Round 2 (NOFA 2). The program is designed to strengthen regional housing trust funds and catalyst funds that support long-term affordable housing production, particularly in infill locations and Priority Growth Areas identified in Connect SoCal.

Key elements relevant to AVCJPA include:

- Strong emphasis on reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by aligning housing with transit and infrastructure investments.
- Explicit scoring criteria tied to Connect SoCal consistency, racial equity, and regional collaboration.
- Eligibility for joint powers authorities, cities, counties, and nonprofit entities, creating potential opportunities for subregional or multi-jurisdictional partnerships.

- Authorization for SCAG to issue additional awards from a contingency list if funds become available.

Relevance to AVCJPA:
While primarily a housing program, PATH funding directly supports transportation system performance by incentivizing infill development, transit-oriented housing, and utility coordination—core issues for the Arroyo Verdugo subregion where infrastructure capacity, transit access, and land constraints are tightly linked.

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2. Connect SoCal 2024: Implementation Strategies Update (November 2025)

(Information Item)

SCAG reported that 80 of 93 implementation strategies adopted under Connect SoCal 2024 have progressed since April 2024, with 56 strategies advancing between June and October 2025. The update highlights SCAG's expanding role beyond planning into implementation support, funding coordination, and technical assistance.

Items of particular interest to AVCJPA include:

- Collaboration with other MPOs on SB 375 reform and alignment of state transportation, housing, and climate policies.
- Participation in the Transit Transformation Task Force (SB 125) to improve transit ridership and service delivery.
- Implementation of Complete Streets, first/last mile strategies, and micromobility demonstrations.
- Advancement of goods movement and last-mile freight programs, including zero-emission vehicle infrastructure.
- Execution of MOUs under the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) program, which directly links utility infrastructure planning with housing development.

Relevance to AVCJPA:
These efforts underscore SCAG's increasing influence over transportation infrastructure investment priorities, including transit modernization, clean transportation technology, and regional goods movement—areas squarely aligned with AVCJPA's mission.

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3. Downtown Revitalization Strategies

(Information Item / Case Study Presentation)

CEHD received a multi-agency presentation on downtown revitalization strategies, including lessons learned from the City of Lancaster and regional economic analysis. The discussion emphasized:

- Coordinated land use, economic development, and transportation planning.
- The importance of early public engagement, pilot projects, and adaptive strategies.
- Recognition that not all interventions succeed, reinforcing the need for iterative planning.

Relevance to AVCJPA:
Downtown revitalization has direct implications for transportation demand, parking management, pedestrian safety, and transit access. These strategies provide useful policy context for AVCJPA cities pursuing economic development while managing infrastructure impacts.

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4. HCD Review of Housing Element High-Priority Non-Rezoning Programs

(Consent / Information Item)

SCAG briefed CEHD on HCD's intent to begin direct outreach to jurisdictions regarding uncompleted high-priority, non-rezoning housing element programs. Jurisdictions are encouraged to accelerate implementation of policy and procedural commitments tied to housing production and fair housing.

Relevance to AVCJPA:
While not a transportation item, this signals increased state scrutiny that may drive near-term development activity, with downstream impacts on local infrastructure, traffic, and transit systems.

RECOMMENDATION

That the AVCJPA Governing Board receive and file this summary, and direct staff to:

- Monitor REAP 2.0 PATH **funding** opportunities for potential subregional collaboration.
- Track Connect SoCal implementation initiatives that may influence future transportation funding, policy alignment, or infrastructure planning within the Arroyo Verdugo subregion.
- Consider how emerging housing and economic development programs may affect transportation demand and capital planning priorities.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATION

These agenda items advance regional objectives related to:

- Integrated land use and transportation planning
- Sustainable mobility and VMT reduction
- Economic vitality linked to infrastructure investment
- Leveraging state and federal funding aligned with regional strategies

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FISCAL IMPACT

None directly associated with this item. Potential future fiscal implications may arise from competitive grant opportunities and regional implementation programs.