



CONNECT SOCAL

What is Connect SoCal 2024?

Connect SoCal 2024 – The 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy will be a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic and environmental and goals. Connect SoCal 2024 is currently in development and will embody a collective vision for the region’s future based on input from local governments, county transportation commissions (CTCs), tribal governments, non-profit organizations, businesses and local stakeholders within the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.

Connect SoCal 2024 will be an important planning document for the region, allowing project sponsors to qualify for federal funding. In addition, Connect SoCal 2024 will identify a combination of transportation and land use strategies that help the region achieve state greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and federal Clean Air Act requirements, preserve open space areas, improve public health and roadway safety, and support our vital goods movement industry.

Ready for 2024

In order to create a plan for the future, among the first steps is the development of growth projections for employment, population, and households at the regional, county, city, town and neighborhood levels. These projections take into account economic and demographic trends, as well as feedback reflecting on-the-ground conditions from SCAG’s jurisdictions. Similar to what’s happening at a national level, the population growth rate has slowed and an increasing share of Baby Boomers are retiring. At the same time, California is in the midst of a long-term structural housing shortage and affordability crisis. As our communities continue to expand, vital habitat lands face severe development pressure. See the February 2022 Joint Policy Committee Staff Reports for more details on the Preliminary Regional and County Growth Projections.

As this region continues to grow in age and population, in an environment already experiencing significant challenges, it is crucial that land use and transportation strategies are integrated to achieve regional goals. Connect SoCal 2024 will identify a number of land use and transportation strategies that can provide residents more choices in how they can reach their destinations reliably and reduce congestion on roadways in our region through 2050 and beyond.

Local Data Exchange

In preparing the Connect SoCal 2024, the Southern California Association of Governments will engage in the Local Data Exchange process to gather the most updated information available from local jurisdictions covering land use and growth to help understand how the region is developing and the extent to which we are meeting our climate goals.

This page is for local jurisdictions in Southern California to access and review SCAG's data sets that are part of the Local Data Exchange.

Over the course of 2022, SCAG plans to meet one-on-one with all 197 local jurisdictions to discuss these maps in their local context, provide background on the development of Connect SoCal 2024, and provide training of tools available to local jurisdictions.

For an overview of how to access the LDX system and how to provide input, please watch the tutorial video below. The LDX System presentation starts at 56:04.

Outreach & Engagement

As SCAG works to prepare Connect SoCal 2024, there will be several ways to participate. Throughout the development process, SCAG engages directly with stakeholders through various Technical Advisory Committees and Working Groups. SCAG will also be engaging more broadly with members of the public through various activities and formal workshops in late 2022 and early 2023, respectively. More information on those activities and workshops will be posted here as information becomes available.

Drafts & Documents

During the Connect SoCal 2024 development process, several presentations and draft materials will be made and provided to the SCAG Regional Council, Policy Committees, Technical Advisory Committees and Working Groups. Relevant reports and materials are available below.

Implementation

Implementation of Connect SoCal depends on partnerships with our local jurisdictions and County Transportation Commissions (CTCs).

SCAG supports the implementation of the plan in three key ways:

1. Local Technical Assistance Resources
 2. Regional Studies and Programs
 3. Transportation Funding and Programming
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Adopted Final Connect SoCal

On September 3, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council unanimously voted to approve and fully adopt Connect SoCal (2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy), and the addendum to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

Connect SoCal is a long-range visioning plan that builds upon and expands land use and transportation strategies established over several planning cycles to increase mobility options and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern. It charts a path toward a more mobile, sustainable and prosperous region by making connections between transportation networks, between planning strategies and between the people whose collaboration can improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

Connect SoCal outlines more than \$638 billion in transportation system investments through 2045. It was prepared through a collaborative, continuous, and comprehensive process with input from local governments, county transportation commissions, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, businesses and local stakeholders within the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.

Certified Final Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as Lead Agency, has prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (SCH#2019011061) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for Connect SoCal (2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy). The PEIR serves as a programmatic document that conducts a region-wide assessment of potential significant environmental effects of Connect SoCal.

The Draft PEIR was released December 9, 2019 for a 45-day public review and comment period, which ended January 24, 2020. A public workshop took place at SCAG's Los Angeles Office located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 on Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Following a cooperative and comprehensive planning process with stakeholders, SCAG has

made available a Proposed Final PEIR. SCAG sincerely thanks everyone who provided feedback during this process. Public input was incorporated into the proposed Final PEIR through corrections and additions and all comments were responded to. The proposed Final PEIR is a continuation to the Draft PEIR and is comprised of the following: Complete Draft

PEIR, Chapter 8.0, Introduction, Chapter 9.0, Response to Comments, and Chapter 10.0, Corrections and Additions, and Appendices.

The complete Connect SoCal PEIR is available for download by chapter or as one file. Please note that due to the large file size of the complete report, we strongly recommend that you download it onto your computer before opening the file. All files are in the PDF format.

The Final PEIR was certified on May 7, 2020 by the Regional Council.

Frequently Asked Questions

Connect SoCal Plan (2020 RTP/SCS)

WHAT IS SCAG?

Founded in 1965, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is an association of local governments and agencies that voluntarily convene as a forum to address regional issues. Under federal law, SCAG is designated as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and under state law as a regional transportation planning agency and a council of governments.

The SCAG region encompasses six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura) and 191 cities in an area covering more than 38,000 square miles.

The agency develops long-range regional transportation plans that include sustainable communities strategies and growth forecasts, regional transportation improvement programs, regional housing needs allocations, and a portion of the South Coast Air Quality management plans.

WHAT IS CONNECT SOCAL?

The Connect SoCal plan (also known as the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy or RTP/SCS) represents the vision for Southern California's future, including policies, strategies, and projects for advancing the region's mobility, economy, and sustainability through 2040. The plan details how the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and opportunities in

the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and opportunities in order to achieve its regional emissions standards and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets.

The components of Connect SoCal are required by federal and state legislation and is an important planning document for the region, allowing project sponsors to qualify for federal funding. SCAG is required to update this long-range planning document every four years.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN CONNECT SOCIAL?

Connect SoCal contains the following core components:

- Vision, policies, and performance measures: Contains an overarching vision, policies, a list of regional transportation goals, and measures for evaluating our performance in achieving those goals.
- Forecasts: Future distribution of population, households, employment, land use, and housing needs.
- Financial plan: Identifies reasonable expected revenues over the 25-year plan horizon.
- List of projects: Includes projects that are anticipated to be initiated and/or completed by 2045.
- Analysis of the following focus areas: active transportation, aviation, environmental justice, goods movement, highways and arterials, land use, open space farm and natural lands conservation, passenger rail and transit, public health, transportation demand management, and transportation safety and security.

HOW ARE PROJECTS SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN CONNECT SOCIAL?

Early on in the planning process, SCAG asks that each of the six county transportation commissions (CTCs) submit updated project lists for inclusion. The CTCs are responsible for adding, removing, or updating projects from the 2016 RTP/SCS based on jurisdictional needs. These projects are then considered for inclusion in Connect SoCal.

WHAT IS SCAG'S ROLE IN DEVELOPING CONNECT SOCIAL?

SCAG is the lead agency in facilitating the development of the region's long-range transportation planning. SCAG understands the importance of input and consensus, and utilizes a collaborative process to create Connect SoCal. Throughout the

development of Connect SoCal, SCAG staff are guided by its Policy Committees, CTCs, subregions, local governments, several state and federal agencies (including Caltrans), environmental and business communities, tribal governments, non-profit groups, as well the general public. The end result of this collaborative process is a

collaborative and comprehensive document that reflects public consideration and addresses the region's needs.

HOW DOES THE CONNECT SOCIAL AFFECT ME?

Given the geographic diversity and size of the SCAG region, a coordinated transportation system that is well integrated with land uses and operates efficiently is imperative to the mobility and quality of life of Southern California residents. By employing a regional focus to transportation and land use planning, SCAG seeks to improve the region's mobility, economy, and sustainability.

And although it doesn't commit funds to specific projects, Connect SoCal does set the framework for how transportation tax dollars will be spent in the SCAG region over the coming years and decades. The future of the SCAG region will be shaped by the goals and policies set forth in Connect SoCal.

WHY DO WE NEED CONNECT SOCIAL?

Our region is expected to add nearly four million people in the next 25 years. Connect SoCal lays out a vision for accommodating that growth, while at the same time maintaining our quality of life and protecting our environment.

WHO WILL APPROVE CONNECT SOCIAL?

Various elements of Connect SoCal will be brought before SCAG's Policy Committees for review, and then before SCAG's 86-member Regional Council for approval. The Regional Council is made up of elected representatives from the region's cities and counties as well as one representative of the Southern California Native American Tribal Governments.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC INVOLVED?

As the plan is being developed, SCAG will host a number of interactive community workshops, elected official briefings, and public hearings. Feedback shared will help

workshops, elected official briefings, and public hearings. Feedback shared will help shape the final plan. Nearing the end of the plan's development, SCAG will release a draft of Connect SoCal for a 78-day public review and comment period. SCAG is required to respond to or address all comments and responses received during the

public review and comment period. The final plan will include a Public Participation & Consultation Sub-Appendices to catalogue and archive comments received.