TABLE 2.1 Continued Sustainable Communities Program Projects Approved Since 2020

COUNTY	PROJECT TYPE	AGENCY	PROJECT NAME
Housing & Sustainable Development continued			
Los Angeles	Workforce Housing	Palmdale	Central Palmdale Workforce Housing Project WHAR12
Los Angeles	EIFD	Heart of Hollywood (City of LA)	Heart of Hollywood Infrastructure Financing District
Los Angeles	EIFD	One San Pedro (HACLA)	One San Pedro
Riverside	Objective Development Standards Bundle	Coachella	Objective Design and Development Standards
San Bernardino		Grand Terrace	Permitting Software For Expediting Housing Opportunities
Los Angeles		Montebello	Streamlining Permitting Procedures
Orange		Newport Beach	Newport Beach Objective Development Standards
Los Angeles		Santa Fe Springs	Objective Design Standards and Design Manual
Los Angeles		Santa Monica	Objective Development Standards
Los Angeles		South Pasadena	Housing Application & Materials Streamlining and Training
Orange		Westminster	Westminster Objective Development Standards
Los Angeles	Specific Plan	San Dimas	San Dimas Downtown Specific Plan
San Bernardino	Specific Plan	Rialto	Foothill-Riverside Specific Plan Updates
Los Angeles	Specific Plan	Burbank	Media District Specific Plan Update
Los Angeles	Objective Zoning Standards	South El Monte	South El Monte Zoning Code Comprehensive Update for Housing Streamlining
Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations			
Los Angeles	Curb Space	Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation	Curb Zone Data Inventory for Digital Curb Management
Los Angeles		City of Long Beach	Long Beach Curb Space Management Study
Orange		City of Stanton	Stanton Citywide Curb Management Plan
Los Angeles	Technology	San Gabriel Valley Council of Govts	GoSGV Engagement & Evaluation
Riverside	Parking	City of Desert Hot Springs	Downtown and Light Industrial Parking Plan
Orange		City of Garden Grove	Garden Grove Curb Data Study
Orange	Technology	City of Laguna Woods	Laguna Woods Mobility Technology Plan
San Bernardino	Technology	City of Rialto	Smart Cities Plan for Warehousing & Logistics

CONNECT SOCAL 2024: LOOKING FORWARD

Creating an Equitable Future

SCAG has made a commitment and, in some cases, has the legal obligation to analyze and address the inequities that the government and planning profession, and others have created by systemically driving and perpetuating societal differences along racial lines. These inequities have resulted in vastly different living and social conditions, as well as reduced access to opportunities.

As part of Connect SoCal development, SCAG convened the Racial Equity & Regional Planning Subcommittee, which recommended that Connect SoCal 2024 function as a vehicle to promote racial equity. In this way, it can serve to address the historic impacts of systemic racism and coordinate and implement equity-centered activities across the region. SCAG aimed to consistently apply an equity lens while developing the Plan—and the Technical Reports, too, which address specific equity issues relevant to their respective topics.

While SCAG considers potential impacts on people of color and low-income households in our regional growth, transportation and economic development planning and analysis, SCAG recognizes that more affirmative approaches that seek to counter the effects of historic practices are needed to advance equity and social justice across the region. It is imperative that SCAG approach this work with a keen understanding of the diversity of the region—including sovereign Tribal Governments and Communities—to ensure that efforts to advance racial equity are inclusive and responsive to the needs across the region. Some key strategies for improving equity in the region include:

Priority for Equity Communities: Prioritization of historically marginalized communities is a key focus for SCAG and state and federal funding programs, which is why it was elevated as a priority by the Subcommittee. Prioritized capacity-building and funding efforts support historically marginalized communities—often communities of color— to develop programs that respond to community-identified needs and advance community-driven solutions.

Reconnecting Communities: Historic physical and economic segregation was caused by some U.S. housing and transportation policies and led to decades of inequalities. We are now planning policies and projects that involve removing, retrofitting or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including mobility, access or economic development.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: Our goal is to take meaningful actions that address significant disparities in housing needs and access to opportunity, replace segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transform racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

To further these strategies, SCAG develops studies and programs focused on creating more equitable outcomes for the region, including the following examples:

A VISION FOR 2050

Looking Toward the Future

The Vision and Goals for Connect SoCal 2024 are rooted in the direction set forth by Connect SoCal 2020, reflecting both SCAG's statutory requirements and the emerging trends and persistent challenges facing the region. SCAG then engaged with stakeholders and members of the public on a draft vision for Connect SoCal in 2050 and a set of draft goals. Reflecting that input, SCAG's vision for Southern California in the year 2050 is "A healthy, prosperous, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future." The following goals and subgoals will help the SCAG region to achieve this vision:

Mobility: Build and maintain an integrated multimodal transportation network

- Support investments that are well-maintained and operated, coordinated, resilient and result in improved safety, improved air quality and minimized greenhouse gas emissions
- Ensure that reliable, accessible, affordable and appealing travel options are readily available, while striving to enhance equity in the offerings in high-need communities
- Support planning for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds

Communities: Develop, connect and sustain livable and thriving communities

- Create human-centered communities in urban, suburban and rural settings to increase mobility options and reduce travel distances
- Produce and preserve diverse housing types in an effort to improve affordability, accessibility and opportunities for all households

Environment: Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow

- Develop communities that are resilient and can mitigate, adapt to and respond to chronic and acute stresses and disruptions, such as climate change
- Integrate the region's development pattern and transportation network to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable more sustainable use of energy and water
- Conserve the region's resources

Economy: Support a sustainable, efficient and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all people in the region

- Improve access to jobs and educational resources
- Advance a resilient and efficient goods movement system that supports the economic vitality of the region, attainment of clean air and quality of life for our communities

SCAG's vision for Southern California in the year 2050: A healthy, prosperous, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

Regional Planning Policies

SCAG developed a set of Regional Planning Policies to guide decision-making in the region that aligns with the Plan's vision and achievement of our goals. These policies carry forward priorities that have been refined over several planning cycles to promote a multimodal transportation system and sustainable land use and development. The policies listed in the Regional Planning Policies section near the end of this chapter incorporate recent discussions and direction from SCAG's Regional Council, Policy Committees and special subcommittees. The categories covered by these policies are detailed in each of the following sections.

Connect SoCal 2024 represents our most up-to-date understanding of the region, along with the policies, strategies and projects to advance the region's mobility, economy and sustainability through 2050.

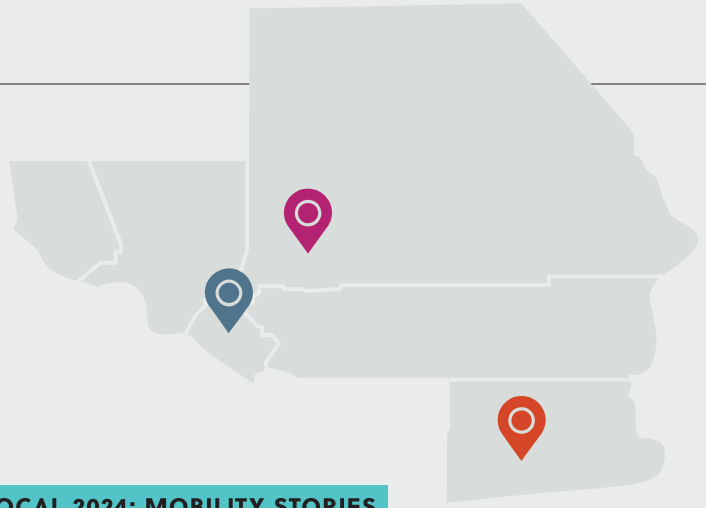
MOBILITY IN 2050

The Future of Movement

How will we move and increase access to opportunities in 2050? Transportation and its corresponding technologies connect us to places and allow us to move between home and important destinations like work, school or the grocery store. Our community's land use pattern determines the distribution of these destinations which, when combined with available transportation options, either support or negatively impact our ability to meet our needs. Historically, patterns such as racial segregation, gentrification and displacement have limited mobility and access for communities of color. These historic inequities have present-day impacts that surface in a variety of ways, including increased exposure to air pollution, noise and traffic collisions. Ensuring mobility and accessibility is important, especially in the region's Priority Equity Communities, which are census tracts with a greater concentration of populations that have been historically marginalized and are susceptible to inequitable outcomes based on several socioeconomic factors. Additionally, it is critical that SCAG and our partner transportation agencies work in collaboration with communities most impacted by socioeconomic, environmental and transportation burdens. For people across the region to thrive, a healthy mobility ecosystem needs to exist, one where various modes of transportation work in tandem to meet the needs of the community.

In spring 2023 public outreach survey, SCAG asked thousands of people across the region what would be the ideal mode to access various activities. About 30 percent or more of respondents would prefer to walk/bike/roll when traveling to school or childcare, for errands and to social activities. In contrast, for work trips, about 25 percent would prefer to take transit and 25 percent would prefer to drive alone. The mismatch between the expressed preference of these survey respondents and the data on how we move today in Chapter 2—where 66 percent of commute trips are made by driving alone—indicates that there is pent-up demand for more options.

Connect SoCal 2024 includes investments, policies and programs for improving access to a robust multimodal transportation system that is reliable and safe for all users. Achieving the Plan vision requires ensuring that the current network is well-maintained and that policies are in place to support an efficient and coordinated operation of the system. This section highlights the investments and areas of focus for ensuring a robust transportation network in the region.



CONNECT SOCAL 2024: MOBILITY STORIES

Traveling in the Region Tomorrow

Santa Ana, CA: A freshman at Santa Ana College rents a room close to school so that she can walk to class. When she needs to get to her internship in Corona, she takes Metrolink. For other trips, she relies on her Mobility Wallet to make the best choice, depending on cost and speed. Sometimes this means taking the OC Streetcar for local trips, a dockless shared bike for some extra exercise or renting a shared electric vehicle to make a longer trip.

San Bernardino, CA: A senior citizen lives in an assisted living facility. He can no longer safely operate a vehicle but still maintains an active social and civic life. He uses an app to reserve paratransit rides that transport him to appointments and community meetings. For shorter trips, he uses his motorized scooter on neighborhood sidewalks but plans his routes through streets with the most trees to keep cool in the shade.

El Centro, CA: A mom uses her electric car to drive her son to daycare and to get to work. She lives in an apartment that only has one charger, but she is able to rely on the robust public charging infrastructure to always have enough charge to get where she needs to go. She likes to ride her bike with her son to visit family on the weekends and feels safe doing so, thanks to the new bike paths.

Mobility Policies and Strategies

The following list provides a brief description of the categories that Connect SoCal 2024 uses to frame the Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies detailed below.

- **System Preservation and Resilience:** Maintaining the operational efficiency of our transportation system is crucial. Unfortunately, demand on the system has increased over the decades without sufficient maintenance reinvestment. This has greatly influenced the number of roadways and bridges that have fallen into an unacceptable state of disrepair. Part of the challenge is to ensure that projects in the Plan follow a "fix-it-first" principle and that life-cycle costs, such as maintenance and preservation expenses, are considered and planned for during the development of infrastructure projects. Another part of the challenge is securing sufficient revenue to maintain both existing and new infrastructure in a state of good repair. This is a significant concern for our local streets and roads because every trip begins with them and, regardless of mode, we all rely upon a well-maintained local street and road system to support other critical mobility and safety goals.

- **Complete Streets:** Complete Streets are roadways designed to support the safety, comfort and mobility for all road users. They are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are driving, walking, bicycling, using micromobility devices, or riding transit/rail.

- **Transit and Multimodal Integration:** Strategies for improving the transportation system are dependent on integration with our growth and land use patterns. The availability, access and efficiency of different modes, including transit/rail, walking, bicycling and other forms of active transportation—including driving—all depend on a close relationship with how our region uses land and how we grow. This is particularly true when it comes to improving and building a transit/rail system that can best serve people in communities throughout our region. Encouraging shifts in the modes people use also depends on the implementation of strategies supporting more seamless connections across modes, especially via first/last mile connection, those occurring between transit/rail and biking, walking, or rolling, and ensuring platforms exist to facilitate trip planning and payments.

- **Transportation Systems Management (TSM):** TSM is a series of techniques, including transportation demand management, designed to maximize the functional capacity and efficiency of the existing transportation system. Effective TSM strategies reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and safety, and reduce or eliminate the need to construct new and expensive transportation infrastructure. Many TSM strategies seek to optimize the operation of the existing transportation system through use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). An example of this would be transit signal prioritization or advanced technologies that can anticipate changing traffic conditions and provide real-time information to drivers, allowing them to make more informed decisions.

- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** TDM strategies and investments can reduce the demand for roadway travel, particularly during peak times or on congested routes. Shifting trips to less congested times, such as through congestion pricing, can optimize the use of existing roadway capacity. Shifting trips from single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) to other modes often costs significantly less than roadway or transit capital expansion projects. TDM strategies add transportation choices that improve sustainability, public health and quality of life by reducing congestion, air pollution and GHG emissions. When transit ridership, carpooling, bicycling and walking increase, the efficiency of the entire transportation system improves, bringing many benefits to the region.

- **Technology Integration:** Emerging technology has the potential to expand transportation choices and equity throughout the region. By providing more options for local and regional trips, emerging technologies may shift trips to less environmentally damaging modes, minimize negative environmental impacts associated with current vehicle use, increase system efficiency, improve safety and reduce auto-related collisions and fatalities. However, realizing these potential benefits (and avoiding potential negative impacts) is dependent on the rate of technology development and adoption of a wide range of public and private sector innovations. Some of these technologies, such as alternative fuel and powered vehicles, micro-mobility, bike sharing and microtransit, have a mitigating influence on GHG emissions. Others, such as ride-hailing and automated vehicles, will likely increase VMT and GHG emissions if their business models do not adapt to eliminate or reduce single-passenger rides and "deadheading," where vehicles are driven with zero passengers. Therefore, it is vitally important to adopt strategies and policies that encourage shared rides.

- **Safety:** Maintaining the safety of all people who travel in our region is important at the local, regional, state and federal level. SCAG develops targets for safety that are updated every two years. Improving safety directly impacts the well-being and confidence of people who are walking, biking and rolling, as well as their willingness to choose active transportation. This is particularly pronounced for certain groups, such as children, older adults and individuals with disabilities who may need extra time and specific information to navigate and cross roads safely and securely. Additionally, returning transit/rail riders may be more likely to resume using transit/rail services in a safe and secure environment.

- **Funding the System/User Fees:** The cost of a multimodal transportation system that will serve the region's projected growth in population, employment and demand for travel surpasses the projected revenues expected from existing sources, including the gas tax, our historic source of transportation funding. The purchasing power of our gas tax revenues is decreasing and will continue on a downward trajectory while transportation costs escalate. Projected revenues will continue to decline as fuel efficiency improves and the number of alternative-fuel and alternative-powered vehicles continues to grow. To backfill limited state and federal gas tax revenues, our region has continued to rely on local revenues to meet transportation needs. In fact, 61 percent of the region's core revenues are from local sources. Efforts are underway to explore how we can transition from our current system based on fuel taxes to a more direct system based on user fees. In addition to generating revenues, user fees are among the most impactful VMT and GHG reduction strategies for the transportation sector. However, a sensible system of user fees must be designed with policies that address fairness and equity concerns.

LET'S GET TECHNICAL

Review the Mobility, Congestion Management and Transportation Finance Technical Reports for further discussion of these critical aspects of transportation planning.

for developing a regional network of dedicated bus lanes and other transit priority treatments. The regional transit priority network is intended to enable enhanced transit services, improved mobility, accessibility and sustainability.

Zero-Emission Bus Acceleration: All transit agencies are required to transition to 100 percent zero-emission bus fleets by 2040 (Innovative Clean Transit regulation), a decade before the horizon year of Connect SoCal. Many agencies have already begun to transition their fleets, including the Antelope Valley Transit Authority, which became the first all-electric transit agency in North America in 2022. Due to this significant undertaking and given both the higher upfront costs and supportive infrastructure, additional funding is needed to support the transition.

Mobility Hubs: Mobility hubs are places where we can seamlessly connect with multiple modes of transportation in a safe, comfortable and accessible environment. Mobility hubs include a range of transportation options—but, typically, at least two—that connect and interact with one another (e.g., transit/rail, car share, bike share, etc.). They typically improve connectivity to transit/rail and are the infrastructure foundation for multimodal trip planning and promoting mode-shift. They are considered essential for a safe and convenient transfer between transportation modes. SCAG's strategy is to focus targeted investments in a set of prioritized mobility hubs distributed across the region.

Metrolink SCORE Buildout: This transformation of Metrolink, from a service profile primarily oriented to downtown Los Angeles peak-period commuters, to one that also serves a broader set of trips with more options to better align with changing travel patterns, such as more trips to activity centers throughout Southern California (including medical facilities, educational institutions and cultural centers), more non-work trips, and fewer peak-hour commuters due to work-from-home and hybrid work schedules.

Complete Streets: Planning for All Users

Planning for a future where everyone has safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable transportation options requires additional transportation investments.

Complete Streets: These streets are designed to support safety, comfort and mobility for all road users. They are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are driving, walking, bicycling, rolling or riding transit/rail. The approaches vary based on community context, but elements often include comfortable sidewalks, bicycle lanes, transit priority lanes and signals, high-quality transit stops, frequent and safe crosswalks, median islands, accessible signals, curb extensions, modified vehicle travel lanes, streetscape and landscape treatments. They may also accommodate and optimize new technologies and micromobility devices, first mile/last mile connections to transit/rail and curbside management strategies including last-mile deliveries. SCAG's strategy is to focus targeted investments on corridors on the High Injury Network (HIN), where safety issues are concentrated and improvements to eliminate these issues would encourage mode shift.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS): The primary goal of these programs is to encourage and facilitate active transportation options while enhancing the safety and accessibility of routes used by people walking, biking or rolling. These programs often involve a combination of infrastructure improvements, educational campaigns and policy changes to create safer environments for traveling via active transportation. SCAG's strategy is to focus targeted investments on corridors within the High Injury Network (HIN) and located in close proximity to K–12 schools.

- **15-Minute Communities:** A 15-minute community is one in which you can access all of your basic, day-to-day needs, services and amenities within a 15-minute walk, bike or roll from your home. This is where people are able to make fewer and/or shorter trips due to the proximity of activity centers and destinations. For SCAG's purposes, this represents a framework for making our jurisdictions more inclusive, more equitable and more efficient by providing a range of mobility options and overall reduction in single-occupant vehicle trips.
- **Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making:** Fostering strong and resilient communities depends not just on our built environment but also on our social networks. Striving for more equitable engagement and decision-making can ensure that our communities reflect the priorities of the people within them.

Forecasted Regional Development Pattern

As part of developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy per Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), SCAG must include a "forecasted development pattern for the region, which, when integrated with the transportation network and other transportation measures and policies..." will enable SCAG to reach its per capita passenger vehicle GHG emission reduction target of 19 percent below 2005 levels by 2035, if feasible. This Forecasted Regional Development Pattern (see Map 3.3) details where people, households and employment will be located through 2050, the horizon year of the Plan.

LET'S GET TECHNICAL

For further discussion of critical aspects of regional planning, review the Land Use and Communities Technical Report.

To develop this forecast, SCAG first prepared a Regional Growth Forecast to understand how many people, households and jobs we needed to plan for. Then SCAG developed a preliminary Forecasted Regional Development Pattern based on local general plans and known development entitlement agreements. RHNA allocations, to the extent that they had been embedded into certified housing elements, were taken into account. In addition, regional sustainability strategies from the final, adopted Connect SoCal 2020, including priority growth and environmentally constrained areas, were embedded into the forecast. These are detailed further in the Priority Development Area and Green Region Resource Area sections. Then SCAG met with local jurisdictions across the region to verify that our understanding of the future matched with local planning efforts. This input from local jurisdictions was integrated into the Forecasted Regional Development Pattern for Connect SoCal 2024. Details about forecast data and consistency with the SCS can be found in the Supplementals section of this document.

The Regional Growth Forecast assumes the region is successful in alleviating much of the latent housing demand that has built up over past decades by projecting 30 percent higher household growth during the 2020s than Connect SoCal 2020. This reflects changes to state- and local-housing-supportive policy as well as stronger housing production numbers in recent years, including ADUs, which are historically undercounted. In contrast to past cycles in which local review usually yields lower household growth and higher job growth, the locally reviewed Connect SoCal 2024 household forecast was actually 2.3 percent higher than the preliminary version developed with a demographic panel of experts. This accelerated production reflects the optimism on the part of local jurisdictions to meet the housing needs of today and tomorrow. In addition to far more near-term household growth, the Forecasted Regional Development Pattern also demonstrates housing growth in generally more sustainable locations within the region than the prior Plan. The share of household growth in Connect SoCal 2024 in more than one priority area and outside environmental constraint areas is 39 percent compared to only 36 percent in Connect SoCal 2020.

Priority Development Areas

Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are areas within the SCAG region where future growth can be located to help the region reach Plan goals. Generally, this means that people in these areas have access to multiple modes of transportation or that trip origins and destinations are closer together, allowing for shorter trips. PDAs are a technical tool to facilitate Plan development and analysis, and are used for different purposes, such as growth visioning, performance measurement or grant applications. However, as a general principle, development in overlapping PDAs indicates a greater alignment with Plan goals. PDAs in Connect SoCal 2024 include Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMAs), Transit Priority Areas (TPAs), Livable Corridors and Spheres of Influence (SOIs) (in unincorporated areas only), see Map 3.4 Priority Development Areas.

PDAs follow the principles of center-focused placemaking, providing locations where many Connect SoCal strategies can be fully realized. Additionally, PDAs assist with guiding the Forecasted Regional Development Pattern. Connect SoCal's PDAs—NMAs, TPAs, Livable Corridors and SOIs—account for 8.2 percent of the region's total land area. However, implementation of SCAG's recommended growth strategies will help these areas accommodate 66 percent of forecasted household growth and 54 percent of forecasted employment growth between 2019 and 2050. This more compact form of regional development, if fully realized, can reduce travel distances, increase mobility options, improve access to workplaces and conserve the region's resource areas.

From May to December 2022, jurisdictions were tasked with reviewing the PDA layers and the Forecasted Regional Development Pattern to ground regional strategies at the local level. This local feedback helps ensure our regional PDA strategies are best reflected at the local level and produce the strongest regional outcome.

Although the region will see benefits from infill development, jurisdictions are encouraged to actively acknowledge and plan for potential impacts, including displacement for both residents and small businesses. Production and preservation of permanent affordable housing to complement infill strategies is essential for achieving equitable outcomes. These priorities are reflected in Regional Planning Policies.

- **Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMAs)** include four elements that reflect potential to improve, restore and enhance safe and convenient connections to schools, hospitals, shopping, services, places of worship, parks, greenways and other destinations. The four elements of an NMA are: 1) intersection density, 2) low-speed streets, 3) land use diversity, and 4) accessibility to amenities within one-mile using street network distances. NMAs exist in each county and throughout the region, and can vary in their specific form, regardless of whether the NMA is located in a dense urban neighborhood or a historic business district. SCAG developed a region-wide map of neighborhood mobility to help further strategies and policies within Connect SoCal 2024.

- **Livable Corridors** are areas where local jurisdictions can plan and zone for increased density at nodes along key corridors and redevelop single-story underperforming retail with well-designed, higher-density housing and employment centers. Growth at strategic nodes along key corridors, many of which are within High Quality Transit Corridors (HQTCs), will make transit a more convenient and viable option. The Livable Corridors network is developed utilizing select variables from past plans like HQTCs and input from local jurisdictions during the Local Data Exchange process. Additionally, this strategy integrates certain transit improvements, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), other features improving bus performance and user experience, and certain active transportation improvements to support safe bicycling and walking.