

Proposed FY 2022 Program Budget Amendment: 2021 Regional Plan – Public Involvement Plan

Overview

The Public Involvement Plan for the San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (2021 Regional Plan) aims to raise awareness of the 2021 Regional Plan; gain meaningful input; make proactive efforts to involve communities and members of the public that have traditionally been underserved or not participated in public planning efforts; meet or exceed public involvement guidelines and requirements; and deploy an inclusive process that leads to broad support for policies, projects, and programs outlined in the 2021 Regional Plan.

Key Considerations

SANDAG received more than 1,000 comments during the public comment period for the draft 2021 Regional Plan and currently is seeking public comments for the Environmental Impact Report through October 11, 2021.

While SANDAG has conducted a robust outreach program over the past two years, based on feedback from the community and ongoing questions from key stakeholder groups, staff has identified an important need to improve regional awareness of the 2021 Regional Plan and how it reflects the varied needs and interests of the San Diego region's residents and businesses.

Traditional strategies for SANDAG to engage the public in a meaningful way have been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will require a more focused and innovative outreach program to ensure the public is aware of and understands the costs and benefits of the 2021 Regional Plan. To address this need, \$2 million in cost-savings from FY 2021 has been identified to augment implementation of the Public Involvement Plan.

Among other activities, this funding will enable SANDAG to continue to:

- engage more actively with community members throughout the region in local forums, activities, and events (virtual and in-person)
- reach out to community members who have traditionally been underserved and underrepresented in the planning process and partner with Community-Based Organizations to engage stakeholders from low-income communities, limited-English-speaking populations, the disabled community, and seniors
- improve our digital platforms to make them more interactive and responsive to the public's questions
- increase the regional distribution of information through online, print, and in-person activities
- create communications products that more clearly describe and visualize the details of the 2021 Regional Plan, including the projects, programs and policies that are being proposed

Action: **Approve**

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the proposed FY 2022 Program Budget amendment, adding \$2 million in FY 2021 cost-savings to public outreach activities related to the 2021 Regional Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

This amendment would increase Overall Work Program Element No. 3102000 by \$2 million.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

This funding would enable enhanced public outreach activities to begin immediately.

Next Steps

Pending approval, staff will immediately take steps to implement an enhanced outreach program for the 2021 Regional Plan.

Hasan Ikhata, Chief Executive Officer

Key Staff Contact: Robyn Wapner, (619) 699-1994, robyn.wapner@sandag.org

Attachment: 1. Work Element Project No. 3102000 San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan

Work Element: 3102000 San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan
FY 2022 Budget: ~~\$3,397,413~~ \$5,397,413
Area of Emphasis: Sustainable Development: Planning and Funding Strategies

Amendment Title: Regional Plan Public Involvement Plan

Note: \$2 million budget amendment would support continued and enhanced public outreach activities for the 2021 Regional Plan.

	Prior	FY 2022	Total
Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) Program	\$4,352,992	\$619,452	\$4,972,444
TDA Planning/Administration	\$1,471,370	\$182,500	\$1,653,870
FTA (5307) Transit Planning	\$4,067,348	\$700,000	\$4,767,348
TransNet Administration	\$1,291,276	\$50,000	\$1,341,276
FTA (5303) MPO Planning	\$292,133	\$50,000	\$342,133
TransNet / FasTrak swap	\$7,238,886	\$1,795,461 \$3,795,461	\$9,034,347 \$11,034,347
Total	\$18,714,005	\$3,397,413 \$5,397,413	\$22,111,418 \$24,111,418

	Prior	FY 2022	Total
Salaries, Benefits, Indirect	\$11,739,451	\$2,528,928	\$14,268,379
Other Direct Costs	\$448,642	\$43,000 \$543,551	\$491,642 \$992,193
Contracted Services	\$6,525,912	\$825,485 \$2,324,934	\$7,351,397 \$8,850,846
Total	\$18,714,005	\$3,397,413 \$5,397,413	\$22,111,418 \$24,111,418

Objective

The objective of this work element is to complete the development of a regional transportation vision to serve as the foundation for the development of San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (2021 Regional Plan) with collaboration from the Board of Directors, stakeholders, and the community. Emphasis in FY 2022 will be on releasing the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), receiving and addressing public comments, and asking the Board to adopt the 2021 Regional Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

Previous AccomplishmentS

In FY 2021, the Vision for the 2021 Regional Plan was presented to the Board of Directors; network development, land use assumptions, modeling, and performance analysis was completed; project costs and revenue assumptions were developed; policies and programs defined; implementation strategies identified; EIR analysis underway, including alternatives analysis; several workshops and public outreach activities held in support of the Vision and Draft 2021 Regional Plan development; Draft 2021 Regional Plan writing, including chapters and technical appendices underway; coordination with state agencies, including the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is ongoing.

Project Manager: Wood, Allison
Committee(s): Regional Planning Committee, Transportation Committee
Working Group(s): Cities/County Transportation Advisory Committee, Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee, San Diego Regional Military Working Group, Regional Planning Technical Working Group, San Diego Region Conformity Working Group, Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues, Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group, Freight Stakeholders Working Group, Regional Energy Working Group, San Diego Traffic Engineers' Council, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities, Active Transportation Working Group, Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group

Products, Tasks, and Schedules for FY 2022

Task No.	% of Effort	Task Description / Product / Schedule
1	5	Task Description: Release Draft EIR for public review and comment Product: Draft EIR Completion Date: 7/30/2021
2	20	Task Description: Address draft 2021 Regional Plan comments for future preparation of the final 2021 Regional Plan and SCS Product: Comment matrix with response to comments on draft 2021 Regional Plan and SCS Completion Date: 10/1/2021
3	25	Task Description: Address Draft EIR comments and prepare Final EIR Product: Response to comments and Final EIR Completion Date: 12/10/2021
4	15	Task Description: Prepare final 2021 Regional Plan and SCS for acceptance by the Board of Directors Product: Final 2021 Regional Plan Completion Date: 12/15/2021
5	10	Task Description: Coordinate with CARB on SCS review, comments, and acceptance Product: CARB acceptance of SCS Completion Date: 3/31/2022
6	25	Task Description: Additional public outreach strategies to communicate the 2021 Regional Plan, projects, programs, and policies (supplements efforts in Work Element Project No. 3102006) Product: Roadshow presentations, educational webinars, and expert panel presentations Completion Date: 6/30/2022

Future Activities

The next update of the Regional Plan will be due in 2025. Other activities related to 2021 Regional Plan implementation and monitoring are covered in other work elements.