

2021 Regional Plan: Putting the Pieces Together

Overview

On February 22, 2019, the Board of Directors unanimously approved an action plan to develop a bold new vision for San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan, a vision that will serve the San Diego region for generations to come.

On April 26, 2019, SANDAG staff introduced the 5 Big Moves, the key strategies being used to develop a bold new transportation system for the region that is safe, convenient, considers all users of the system, and meets state climate mandates. The presentation showed how Complete Corridors, Transit Leap, Mobility Hubs, Flexible Fleets, and the Next Operating System, when combined, could deliver a fully-integrated, world-class transportation system, providing compelling alternatives to the private automobile and freeing up space on roadways for goods movement, commerce, and those who need to drive.

On July 12, 2019, SANDAG staff presented more detail on the 5 Big Moves to the Board for discussion. The presentation showed how key employment and commute data was being used to develop new solutions to long-standing commute challenges. The Board directed staff to continue public outreach and development of the 2021 Regional Plan, focusing on the 5 Big Moves and conforming to all state and federal requirements, while also prioritizing specific corridors using the Complete Corridors model for State Routes 78, 52, 67, and 94/125.

On September 27, 2019, the Board took action to advance planning on the 5 Big Moves by allocating \$593.4 million over the next five fiscal years for 12 Complete Corridors and a Central Mobility Hub with transit connectivity to the airport. The Board action also included funding to meet immediate needs for new Trolley and COASTER vehicles, work on the Del Mar Bluffs, and new regional programs (Regional Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Program, Flexible Fleets Pilot, and Smart Center Concept of Operations).

On October 8, 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1730 (Gonzalez) into law which, in effect, keeps the region in compliance with state laws to ensure important state funds continue to flow to the region while the 2021 Regional Plan is being developed.

On October 25, 2019, the Board approved the Federal Regional Transportation Plan to keep important federal funding coming to the region while the vision is being developed.

Key Considerations

Based on these Board actions, staff is using a data driven approach to develop the 2021 Regional Plan. This started with understanding how and where people travel in the region and critical connections to jobs, education, services, and places of recreation.

Action: Information

Staff is using a data-driven approach to help identify the appropriate transportation solutions to meet the region's needs. An overview of the data and analysis that is driving development of the 2021 Regional Plan will be presented.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding for development of the 2021 Regional Plan is included in Overall Work Program Element No. 3102000 in the FY 2020 Program Budget.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

The next major milestone is the spring 2020 presentation of the conceptual framework of the unconstrained transportation networks and policies for the Board's discussion.

Using empirical and location-based data (cellular), staff has identified the most significant origins and destinations for work trips and other key destinations across the region. Additionally, staff has been reviewing detailed trip information-- average daily traffic, peak hour delay, and vehicle miles traveled on major corridors throughout the region--to help inform planning decisions for improvements to existing corridors in the county. This detailed analysis provides insight about where most daily travel is occurring so the appropriate transportation solutions can be identified, and the 5 Big Moves applied to holistically balance the transportation system.

In addition to observed data, staff has continued to integrate public feedback and input received over the past two years as part of the initial development of the Regional Plan, in addition to input gathered as part of the 2019 Federal Regional Transportation Plan. Staff is using input from residents, employers, and stakeholders across the region to understand the challenges that they face to shape solutions that address those challenges. Types of feedback include resident interviews, focus groups, public meetings, webinars, employer workshops, a borders workshop held in Tijuana, a SANDAG working group forum, and a Vision Advisory Panel that is composed of leading industry and technology experts in the private sector and academia.

As planning for the new vision continues, this data continues to be used to inform planning decisions.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to provide the Board with regular updates on the 2021 Regional Plan. Staff is preparing a series of informational agenda items to bring to the Board over the next two months, leading up to a presentation on the 2021 Regional Plan in spring 2020. The next agenda item to be presented during a joint meeting of the Board, Transportation Committee, and Regional Planning Committee is a primer on our local economy, which will highlight how key employment sectors in the region contribute to regional economic growth, and also explore future opportunities and challenges. Following this presentation, staff will provide updates to the Board about Big Data and how data can improve transportation planning and operations, along with an overview of transportation modeling and regulatory requirements related to air quality, vehicle miles traveled, and greenhouse gas emissions.

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