

May 7, 2021

## 2021 Regional Plan: Social Equity

### Overview

The 2021 Regional Plan is being developed through a data-driven and informed process, along with input from our diverse community to develop a transportation system that is “Fast, Fair, and Clean” for all San Diegans.

Many people with low incomes, people of color, and seniors depend on transit as the primary mode of transportation, making access to transit critical both during and after the pandemic. Additionally, SANDAG must comply with federal civil rights requirements (Title VI) in developing the Regional Plan.

Understanding that we must meet the needs of our most underserved populations in order to achieve social equity and sustainability in our region, SANDAG integrated a Regional Social Equity Planning Framework in the core development of the 2021 Regional Plan. Staff presented key social equity components of the Draft Plan to the Board of Directors on April 23, 2021.

The report presented to the Board is attached (Attachment 1). Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees are asked to consider and discuss this information in preparation for the release of the Draft Plan in spring 2021.

### Key Considerations

Consistent with past practice and state and federal laws, SANDAG has conducted a social equity analysis on the draft 2021 Regional Plan transportation network to evaluate the distribution of benefits and burdens on social equity focused populations. The three social equity focused populations include: (1) all minorities<sup>1</sup>; (2) low-income populations; and (3) seniors.

Social equity has been considered throughout the development of the 2021 Regional Plan. Through a continuous learning process, SANDAG has proactively engaged with communities throughout the region with the help of the community-based outreach (CBO) network and used performance measures and data to make informed decisions. Staff integrated data regarding where our region’s social equity focused populations live and work with community feedback in developing projects and informing how to prioritize them for the 2021 Regional Plan phasing and implementation. Initial performance results show that the

### Action: Discussion

An overview of social equity data and draft social equity performance results that support the 2021 Regional Plan goals for a “fair” transportation system will be presented.

### Fiscal Impact:

Funding for development of the 2021 Regional Plan is included in Overall Work Program Element Nos. 3102000 and 3102005 in the FY 2021 Program Budget.

### Schedule/Scope Impact:

The draft 2021 Regional Plan and draft Environmental Impact Report are expected to be released for review by the Board of Directors and public comment in spring and summer 2021, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> Minority is defined as a person who is: Black (having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa); Hispanic or Latino (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); Asian American (having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent); or American Indian and Alaskan Native (having origins in any of the original people of North and South America and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment); or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands). Source: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1B – Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients.

proposed system could provide significantly increased access for all three social equity focused populations as compared to today.

In addition to the 2021 Regional Plan social equity analysis, SANDAG has identified transportation strategies to reduce pollution exposure for the region's disadvantaged communities, in accordance with California Assembly Bill 805 (Gonzalez, 2017) (AB 805).

### **Next Steps**

The Board will be asked to release the draft 2021 Regional Plan on May 28, 2021 and will consider adoption of the 2021 Regional Plan and certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report in fall 2021.

### ***Coleen Clementson, Director of Regional Planning***

Key Staff Contact: Tuere Fa'aola, (619) 699-1989, tuere.faaola@sandag.org

Attachments:

1. Agenda Item No. 14, Board of Directors Meeting, April 23, 2021
2. Results from Social Equity Analysis for the 2021 Regional Plan
3. California Assembly Bill 805 Strategies to Reduce Pollution Exposure in Disadvantaged Communities