

2021 Regional Plan: Aligning State, Regional, and Local Planning

The 2021 Regional Plan reimagines our transportation system and puts forth policies, programs, and a land use pattern for the future to address many interrelated challenges, including economic and social inequities, climate resilience, housing affordability, and congestion and safety on our roadways. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration across federal, state, regional, and local governments, each having a unique role to play. State laws related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle-miles traveled aim to influence regional and local planning to change how communities and transportation systems are planned and built based on the latest climate science. The regional transportation network and land use pattern envisioned in the Regional Plan set a foundation for local jurisdictions and their planning efforts. SANDAG also implements programs and provides data and analytics that support local planning.

Key Considerations

The 2021 Regional Plan must comply with specific state and federal mandates, including a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), per Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), that achieves GHG emission reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board; compliance with federal civil rights requirements (Title VI); and air quality conformity, environmental justice considerations, and a public participation process. SB 743 required changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines that bring focus to VMT in analysis of transportation impacts and streamlines CEQA review for infill development in transit priority areas (TPAs).

An important component of the SCS is the land use pattern, or subregional allocation, of forecasted growth and development. SB 375 requires the SCS land use pattern to contribute toward the regional GHG reduction targets, accommodate the Cycle 6 Regional Housing Needs Assessment determination, and utilize the most recent planning assumptions. For the 2021 Regional Plan, the SCS land use pattern is based on the Series 14 Regional Growth Forecast and focuses future housing and job growth primarily in the regional Mobility Hub network, which also align with TPAs. This would provide more people access to mobility options, employment opportunities, and other key destinations while preserving open space, habitat areas, and a more resilient future.

Action: Discussion

SANDAG staff will be joined by a panel of representatives from state and local governments, and local research institutions to describe how the 2021 Regional Plan supports state policy and local planning across land use, climate, mobility, and equity.

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 by the Board of Directors for public review and comment in spring and summer 2021, respectively.

Implementation of the proposed transportation network projects and SCS land use pattern rely on SANDAG and local jurisdictions working together. As such, the Regional Plan includes a package of policies and programs focused on transportation technologies, sustainable growth and development, and innovative demand management. Local programs would provide technical resources and grants for member agencies and tribal nations while regional programs would provide incentives for residents and businesses to implement strategies of the Regional Plan. Implementation of the Regional Plan strategies helps local, regional, and state agencies achieve their goals across several policy areas. Program and policy areas considered in the 2021 Regional Plan include the following:

- Climate Action Planning
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Curb Management
- Electric Vehicles
- Fix It First
- Housing
- Land Use and Regional Growth
- Parking Management
- Pricing
- Transportation Demand Management
- Transportation System Management and Operations
- Vision Zero

Summaries of the policy and program areas are available online at: <https://sdforward.com/mobility-planning/programs-and-policies>

Next Steps

In the coming months the Board will be asked to:

- Release the Draft 2021 Regional Plan for public review and comment (May 2021)
- Release the draft EIR for public review and comment (summer 2021)
- Consider adoption of the 2021 Regional Plan and certification of the final Environmental Impact Report (fall 2021)

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