SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

FINAL SCAG FUTURE COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

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FINAL SCAG FUTURE COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

CONTENT

Executive Summary	1
Overview	4
Stages of Readiness	5
Summary of Committee Discussions	6
Supporting Outreach	8
Committee Recommendations	12
Appendix A	16
Appendix B	19

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NEW TECHNOLOGIES
ARE POISED TO TRANSFORM
AND DISRUPT TRADITIONAL
POLICY MAKING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Big Data and the rapid proliferation of new technologies are poised to transform and disrupt traditional policy making and planning within our local communities and across the Southern California region as a whole. Through improvements in data collection, analysis, and technology applications, governments have the opportunity to be more efficient, innovative, and transparent.

To ensure that public agencies and communities in Southern California not only keep up with the pace of innovation, but lead the nation, SCAG hosted an Open Data/Big Data – Smart and Connected SCAG Region Committee (Committee) from June to November of 2017. This report provides a summary of the Committee, its work and outcomes, including a set of policy recommendations, Future Communities Framework, and a short-term work plan, Future Communities Initiative, which will implement the framework.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Committee was comprised of elected officials, local agency chief information officers, private sector representatives, and university partners. The Committee had three goals:

- Review SCAG's current data initiatives and tools within the context of big and open data;
- Determine an appropriate role for SCAG in addressing the challenges and opportunities that big data, open data, and new technologies provide; and
- Develop strategic recommendations for the agency that can add value and accelerate the adoption of innovative policies and programs across the region.

To support the work of the committee, SCAG staff conducted both internal and external outreach to understand the needs of the region related to data and technology. These efforts included conducting a Regional Data Survey, hosting a

Consultant Roundtable, coordinating an Internal Evaluation, and researching Regional Readiness.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on committee presentations, discussions and feedback received from the extensive information gathering activities described above, the Committee has recommended SCAG's Regional Council adopt the following Future Communities Framework, including policies and strategies, to guide SCAG's activities related to accelerating the adoption of innovative policies and programs across the region.

POLICIES:

- Promote data-driven decision making, government transparency, and data as a public engagement tool to accelerate progress toward achieving regional planning goals.
- Increase the availability of civic data and information to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of public services.
- Facilitate regional collaboration to ensure regional and local public data governance structures are in place to protect our data systems and people.
- Champion fairness and social equity in the deployment of new technologies within the region.
- Use data and data tools to increase opportunities for public engagement and advocacy to inform local and regional policy.
- Stimulate a wider conversation among public agencies in our region and among planners across the world on the future of cities.
- Model best practices within SCAG by committing to be a data-driven agency and upgrading administrative and business practices to increase operational efficiencies.

STRATEGIES:

- **Provide Guidance:** Conduct studies and develop strategies for local cities and counties that outline the steps needed to become smart communities.
- **Support Coordination and Standardization:** Develop a process for identifying data sets that could benefit from regional standardization and create processes for coordinating data collection.
- **Expand Partnerships:** Explore opportunities for engagement with supportive initiatives and build partnerships that magnify impact.

- **Provide Resources:** Pursue resources for planning and implementation of open data, big data, and new technology initiatives.

PROPOSED WORK ELEMENT

In addition to the policy framework, the Committee has reviewed and endorsed the Future Communities Initiative, a short-term work program prepared by SCAG staff to facilitate early-actions, in partnership with other regional stakeholders, to implement strategies in the framework.

- **Regional Data Platform:** SCAG will develop a Regional Data Platform (Platform) to serve as a clearinghouse of public sector demographic, land-use, transportation, and public opinion data updated on a transactional basis through bridging applications, data standardization, and local-use applications.
- **Policy Lab/Tool Builder:** SCAG will develop a Policy Lab (Lab) that fosters research opportunities in partnership with regional universities and international partners on common issues.
- **Data Science Fellowship:** SCAG will partner with regional fellowship programs to provide fellows to regional and local agencies to initiate open data programs, conduct data analysis, and accelerate the adoption of new technologies.
- **Future Communities Pilot Program:** SCAG will develop a new grant program to conduct research and support the deployment of new and smart technologies to reduce transportation demand and improve government service provision.
- **Future Communities Forum:** SCAG will develop or partner on an annual event to showcase research, data tools, and lessons learned from regional and international partners related to data and technology.
- **Advisory Committee:** SCAG will develop an Advisory Committee consisting of elected officials and technical/policy experts on the topic to provide ongoing input and governance on Future Communities Initiative activities.

OVERVIEW

Big Data and the rapid proliferation of new technologies are poised to transform and disrupt traditional policy making and planning within our local communities and across the Southern California Region as a whole. Through improvements in data collection, analysis, and technology, governments have the opportunity to be more efficient, innovative, and transparent.

Efficiency: As service providers, governments strive to provide efficient and timely services to their residents. By collecting data related to transportation, energy use, or park use, city services can be tailored to the needs of local residents in ways that reduce the cost of services and allow scarce resources to go further. For example, through the use of shared data platforms, agency workers always know where to go to find the most up to date data for their analysis. This reduces duplication of data sets, errors based on outdated data, and fewer hours spent searching for data sets.

Innovation: New technologies will transform how basic city services are provided as well as how governments communicate and interact with their residents. Improvements in sensors will lead to resources being more effectively distributed for things like trash pickup, park maintenance, energy use by street lighting, etc. In addition, the internet of things will allow data to be processed and analyzed to understand behaviors and adjust resources accordingly.

Transparency: As our society becomes more complex, it is important for governments to make data available to ensure accountability. Open data can range from utility data, budget data, or even planning level data that can be used to engage residents. Open data allows for additional analysis to be performed by universities, journalists, and citizen researchers who may discover patterns that can lead to innovative solutions.

STAGES OF READINESS

Cities and regions vary greatly in terms of where they are on the pathway to becoming "smart and connected." While many cities have been taking steps to become leaders in this area, some have adopted much more advanced technologies, practices, and programs. Characteristics of cities and regions which have reached a level of being comprehensive and integrated include:

- Leveraging real-time mobile sensor data and geographic information from distributed digital devices that improve data operations and service delivery
- Utilizing enterprise-level data portals which seamlessly integrate updates to official record data across divisions, offices, or levels of government
- Providing Open APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) which enable developers and researchers within and outside the organization to contribute to advanced analysis
- Adopting a comprehensive guiding document behind their digital transformation. Examples include Smart Dubai 2021, the 2020 Estonia Smart City Cluster, and the finalists for the US Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge
- Providing a data infrastructure sufficient for the ISO 37210 Sustainable Cities Standard, which uses government open data to comparatively evaluate socioeconomic outcomes, environmental justice, and democratization

While the above-listed characteristics may be aspirational, another class of cities and regions can be described as emerging leaders in the world of "Smart and Connected" cities. These cities:

- Are amongst the roughly 100 US cities which have open data portals for distributing their most commonly requested records
- Have selected mapping applications on their websites, allowing citizens and stakeholders to visualize service delivery and policy outcomes
- Allocate resources for data-driven projects and technical staff
- Provide various services online such as business license registration, tax bill payment, and parcel data lookup

Becoming an emerging leader, and subsequently achieving the level of comprehensive and integrated agency requires time, resources, a knowledgeable staff, and leadership. Often times legacy systems and longstanding workflows involving paper trails and hard-copy records make transition more difficult.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

To ensure that the public agencies in Southern California not only keep up with the pace of innovation, but lead the nation, SCAG announced the creation of the Open Data/Big Data – Smart and Connected SCAG Region Committee (Committee) in March of 2017. The Committee was comprised of elected officials, chief information officers, private sector representatives, and university partners. The Committee met five times between June and November of 2017 to review important issues related to open data, big data and new technologies. The goals of the committee were to:

- Review SCAG's current data initiatives and tools within the context of big and open data;
- Determine an appropriate role for SCAG in addressing the challenges and opportunities that big data, open data, and new technologies provide; and
- Develop strategic recommendations for the agency that can add value and accelerate the adoption of innovative policies and programs across the region.

During the first three meetings the Committee focused on specific informational items (listed below). Committee members provided feedback to SCAG staff about how SCAG might be able to engage on each of the items as well as providing input on additional efforts for SCAG to investigate across the region. A more detailed overview of each item is provided in Appendix A.

- Open Data vs. Big Data
- Internet of Things
- Data Analytics
- Smart Communities
- SB 272 Enterprise Data Systems
- Developing an Open Data Program
- Social Change Data Commons
- Technology Issues for Local Government
- Data Loss Prevention and Cybersecurity
- South Bay Net Fiber Backbone Network
- Transitioning to a Clean Energy Future

Throughout the Committee's discussion of these topics several key themes surfaced that informed the development of the policies and strategies that SCAG should pursue. Committee members repeatedly stressed that technology and data should not be pursued in and of themselves but were tools to help solve larger problems. Likewise, Committee members emphasized that a lot of work has already been done around engaging local governments on the issues of data and technology and they encouraged SCAG to use existing best practices and programs rather than reinventing the wheel. Finally, Committee members repeatedly noted that the greatest value added that SCAG could provide would be to develop systems that help local governments standardize existing data through common platforms.

The Committee suggested that SCAG's role will be to help cities in their technological transformations to become emerging leaders, and subsequently to help emerging leaders become comprehensively integrated. SCAG can accomplish this by providing technical assistance, leading by example through its own data and analytics infrastructure, and by providing resources and grant funding programs.

The Committee also noted that SCAG will need to support low resourced communities to ensure they can access the funding and technical assistance needed to be successful. Without equitable access to resources, winners and losers will develop. Communities who fail to provide the infrastructure needed to attract investment and retain businesses that rely on information technology systems will struggle to compete. This will be especially important due to cyber security threats that can threaten the ability of agencies to function and provide services.

SUPPORTING OUTREACH

In addition to the work of the committee, SCAG staff have conducted both internal and external outreach to understand the needs of the region related to data and technology. These efforts have included a Regional Data Survey, a Consultant Roundtable, an Internal Evaluation, and research on Regional Readiness.

REGIONAL DATA SURVEY

In order to provide the Committee with a broad understanding of the current needs of local jurisdictions and how SCAG may be able to support innovation across the region, SCAG has conducted a Regional Data Survey (Survey). The Survey was open from August 15th to September 8th and was sent to city managers, elected officials, local stakeholders, and regional data officers for their input.

The Survey was sent to a total of 1,581 contacts and was completed by 223 respondents (15% response rate). The majority of respondents were city and county planning staff, but there were a sizable number of city managers (39) and elected officials (27) that completed the survey as well. Below is a summary of the key findings from the survey:

- **Access to Data:** Survey respondents in general reported being able to access sufficient land use, transportation, demographic, open space, and housing data. They reported that it was challenging to obtain data on climate adaptation, environmental, energy, and health data. In general, this mirrored the types of data that these agencies are collecting. Of note, 93 percent of respondents would be willing to share data with SCAG.
- **Capacity for Analysis:** Approximately 72 percent of respondents reported having less than optimal staff resources to analyze and process data. Needed skills included: modeling, data collection, statistical, database development, and coding/data science. Over half of respondents noted the need for financial resources as well as support in developing tools to allow improved analysis and communication of results. Approximately 43 percent of respondents indicated that they had no "in-house" GIS services. Alarmingly, 84 percent reported that they share data through direct communications such as email, indicating a lack of enterprise systems for the coordination and management of data.
- **SCAG Data:** Approximately 31 percent of respondents use SCAG data monthly or more often. Transportation, housing, and economic data were the most desired data sets. Respondents indicated that data provided at a city level or through GIS platforms would be the most useful.

- **SCAG's Role in Supporting Innovation:** Survey responses indicate there is widespread support for SCAG to take a major role in improving data resources across the region. For example, 78 percent responded that SCAG should take a major role in hosting regionally significant data, 62 percent responded that SCAG should take a major role in providing best practices, and 60 percent responded that SCAG should take a major role in standardizing data sets across the region. Respondents suggested that the three best ways for SCAG to promote innovation would be to provide online resources, host webinars, and conduct an annual forum.

CONSULTANT ROUNDTABLE

SCAG understands that some of the most frequent users of agency data are private consultants who access agency datasets as part of initiatives, projects, and programs that benefit local jurisdictions. As heavy-users of SCAG's data, it was recognized that these consultants could offer meaningful insights into SCAG's data practices that may not have been captured through the Regional Data Survey. To gather their input, staff held a meeting with external consultants in the region to discuss their perspectives on SCAG's data and opportunities for innovation and improvement within the context of big data/open data. Staff worked closely with the SCAG Contracts department to identify potential participants, and ensure proper protocols and procedures were followed.

Many of the same issues that were raised as part of the Committee meetings and through the Regional Data Survey emerged during the consultant roundtable including inventorying existing data, improving accessibility to and security of existing data, providing standardization of data sets across the region, and developing a more open framework for data sharing. Recommendations included:

- SCAG should act as a data broker and central repository of regionally significant data.
- SCAG should operate as conduit for raw data, where possible and appropriate, and thereby encourage new and innovative uses of data to address regional planning challenges.
- SCAG should identify clear goals and an accompanying timeline for its data initiatives with the recognition open data/big data requires ongoing improvement and continuous improvement.
- SCAG should pursue opportunities to make more of its existing rich GIS data library available through its open data portal.

SCAG staff intends to make the committee report available to the participating consultants and involve them in the future as open data/big data initiatives advance.

INTERNAL EVALUATION

SCAG staff conducted a number of efforts to ensure that any actions the agency may take related to data and technology innovations would build off of existing efforts and have support across the agency. These included coordinating with the strategic planning update, hosting internal meetings with department managers, and a peer evaluation.

STRATEGIC PLAN COORDINATION

SCAG is currently updating its Strategic Plan to ensure that the agency is ready to meet the challenges of the next decade. The Strategic Planning effort will produce a new mission, vision, values, and goals for the agency. To support the strategic planning effort SCAG has conducted extensive outreach both internally as well as among its stakeholders. One of the themes that has consistently risen to the top in this process is the need for SCAG to be a leader through innovative planning and data sharing. This involves identifying initiatives that increase the use of data and analytics in regional and local planning. SCAG's new Strategic Plan is being developed consecutively to this report and will incorporate recommendations and lessons learned from the activities covered by the Committee.

DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS

To better understand the ability of SCAG to address the policies and strategies suggested by the committee and to ensure that SCAG can fulfill the promise of its new mission and vision, SCAG staff conducted a series of meetings with internal staff from all departments. The following is a list of suggestions received related to actions the agency could take to ensure it has the internal resources necessary to addresses the goals of the committee.

- SCAG should prioritize the continuous improvement of its technology resources and the sharing of information through the adoption of interactive, automated, and state of the art information tools.
- Expand SCAG's ability to address local and regional planning needs by prioritizing regular engagement with regional stakeholders to develop innovative data-driven platforms for better serving the information needs of the region.
- Conduct ongoing research to expand SCAG's data tools and programs to support the adoption of promising initiatives.
- Prioritize the democratization of information by supporting enterprise-wide data tools and their agency-wide adoption. Promote the frequent/regular release of publicly-facing data products and monitor the region's use of SCAG's data.

- Increase internal analytics capabilities through staff training, and monitor use/adoption of information tools in SCAG's work products and local initiatives.

Develop comprehensive data governance structures with input from external stakeholders to ensure SCAG data is useful, secure, and accurate.

PEER EVALUATION

SCAG staff conducted a review of other similar sized agencies from across the country to understand how we compare in terms of our current capabilities. Staff found that SCAG is generally ahead of the curve in relation to other MPOs. SCAG currently excels at the development of State-of-the-Practice data analysis tools and procedures including static/interactive maps and reports, and GIS shapefiles. SCAG is also beginning to use State-of-the-Art data practices such as providing an Open-Data portal, enterprise data systems, and bi-directional data tools. Continued advancement in State-of-the-Art practices will ensure that SCAG can continue to be a national and international leader in the use of data an analytics.

Below is a list of SCAG's most popular data tools. More details on each tool can be found in Appendix B.

- GovClarity Property Database
- REVISION Tool
- Southern California Plug-In Electric Vehicle Atlas
- Green Region Indicators Tool
- EIFD/CRIA Technical Assistance Tool
- SCAG Open Data Portal
- FreightWorks Portal
- Sustainability Planning Grant Projects
- Transit Priority Areas Overlay with Specific Plans
- LEED Certified Buildings
- AB 93 Qualified Areas
- SCAG Economic Viewer
- SCAG Demographic Viewer
- Scenario Planning Model
- Active Transportation Database

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on feedback received from the extensive information gathering activities described above, SCAG staff developed draft policy and strategy recommendations for the Committee to review. The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft Policies, Strategies, and Future Communities Initiative and provided feedback to staff on how to improve and refine each item. Staff then developed a Draft Future Communities Framework and provided it to the Committee for additional feedback at the final meeting.

Recommendations fall into three distinct categories:

- **Policies:** The Policies are designed to help SCAG and its members understand the rationale and need for engaging around the topic of data and technology.
- **Strategies:** The Strategies implement the policies and include categories of actions that can guide SCAG efforts to support the region in adapting to new technologies and accelerate innovative efforts designed to improve the quality of life for the region's residents.
- **Future Communities Initiative:** The Future Communities Initiative outlines an initial three year, $8-10 million initiative that will leverage public and private funding to engage the region and support the implementation of the Future Communities Framework policies and strategies.

POLICIES

- Promote data-driven decision making, government transparency, and data as a public engagement tool to accelerate progress toward achieving regional planning goals.
- Increase the availability of civic data and information to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of public services.
- Facilitate regional collaboration to ensure regional and local public data governance structures are in place to protect our data systems and people.
- Champion fairness and social equity in the deployment of new technologies within the region.
- Use data and data tools to increase opportunities for public engagement and advocacy to inform local and regional policy.
- Stimulate a wider conversation among public agencies in our region and among planners across the world on the future of cities.
- Model best practices within SCAG by committing to be a data-driven agency and upgrading administrative and business practices to increase operational efficiencies.

STRATEGIES

Provide Guidance: Conduct studies and develop strategies for local cities and counties that outline the steps needed to become smart communities.

- Provide guidance on the most commonly requested types of public data for open data portals.
- Provide guidance on how to address liability issues related to releasing data through open data portals.
- Analyze the possible benefits of open data and digital transformations related to reduced costs and improved efficiency.
- Provide guidance on best practices related to data security and provide information on the costs of inaction related to threats.
- Provide analysis guidance on needed technology and hardware necessary to support smart communities.

Support Coordination and Standardization: Develop a process for identifying data sets that could benefit from regional standardization and create processes for coordinating data collection.

- Conduct research into transportation and land use data sets commonly collected by cities and develop strategies for standardization of common fields and metadata to allow innovations to span across agency boundaries.
- Develop a process for building tools that can support regionally significant data sets and support agencies in managing their data.
- Conduct research into common platform development and applications for data collection, visualization, and analysis to reduce burdens on local cities and reduce duplication of efforts.

Expand Partnerships: Explore opportunities for engagement with supportive initiatives and build partnerships that magnify impact.

- Develop a formal process for engaging with universities to support research needs related to local and regional policy issues.
- Develop opportunities for regional data scientist and planning staff to network and share best practices.
- Coordinate with regional agencies around key policy issues (e.g. as safety, water, heath) to identify the necessary technology and data tools needed to improve service provision and analysis.

Provide Resources: Pursue resources for planning and implementation of open data, big data, and new technology initiatives.

- Support the democratization of data by partnering with communities to identify needed data and analysis tools that support advocacy on regionally significant policy topics.
- Provide common purchasing agreements for private data sets to reduce contracting burden on local cities and leverage cost savings.
- Support local agency access to technology platforms (e.g. GIS, cloud based computing, etc.), training, and expertise needed to conduct local planning analysis.
- Provide resources to local jurisdictions through grants and partnerships that enable smart communities planning related to open data, technology, and smart infrastructure.
- Serve as a data warehouse of regionally significant data sets to support planning by local agencies and stakeholders

FUTURE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Regional Data Platform: SCAG will develop a Regional Data Platform (Platform) to serve as a clearinghouse of public sector demographic, land-use, transportation, and public opinion data updated on a transactional basis through bridging applications, data standardization, and local-use applications. The Platform will be developed over time to respond policy use-cases such as general plan updates, local input processes, active transportation studies, etc. The Platform will utilize a scalable "Open", cloud-based, GIS portal populated using flexible and simple data upload processes. Initially, data is expected to be primarily provided through local input from cities and county transportation commissions. The platform will allow secure access to the platform for a variety of stakeholders (including universities, local agency staff, registered stakeholders, etc.) and will allow for a variety of analysis to be performed with the assistance of cloud based platforms that support data visualization and machine learning.

Policy Lab/Tool Builder: SCAG will develop a Policy Lab (Lab) that fosters research opportunities in partnership with regional university and international partners on common issues. The Lab will provide information services to local and county agencies that contribute data to the Regional Data Platform such as maps, dashboards, and research for planning, policy, and advocacy. In addition, the Lab will develop information services to support regional planning/dialogue.

Data Science Fellowship: SCAG will partner with regional fellowship programs to provide fellows to regional and local agencies to initiate open data programs, conduct data analysis, and accelerate the adoption of new technologies. SCAG will seek private and foundation funding to support resources for the fellowship.

Future Communities Pilot Program: SCAG will develop a new grant program to conduct research and support the deployment of new and smart technologies to reduce transportation demand and improve government service provision. Grants may develop programs for the testing of AI, robotics, predictive analytics, etc. to increase efficiency of city/county operations. The grant program will be designed to maximize data collection and the analysis of pilots to inform regional plans and policies.

Future Communities Forum: SCAG will develop or partner on an annual event to showcase research, data tools, and lessons learned from regional and international partners related to data and technology. The event will support ongoing data sharing and partnership development between international and regional partners to understand trends and solutions related to data and technology. Invitees will include elected officials, local government leaders, private sector representatives, and SCAG's international research partners. It is expected that the inaugural event will be held in conjunction with SCAG's General Assembly.

Advisory Committee: SCAG will develop an Advisory Committee consisting of elected officials and technical/policy experts on the topic to provide ongoing input and governance on Future Communities Initiative activities. It is expected the Advisory Committee would meet on a quarterly or Ad Hoc basis.

APPENDIX A: TOPICS DISCUSSED

Open Data

Open Data refers to efforts to make government data freely available for everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patent or other mechanisms of control free of charge. Government agencies generally open the most requested data sets to the public first.

Big Data

Big Data is defined by the 3 V's: velocity, volume, and variety. Typically, it can only be analyzed by machines. Examples of big data include: sensor-based information (velocity), social media data (variety), and raster analytics – solar analysis (volume).

Internet of Things (IOT)

The Internet of Things is the network of physical objects that contain embedded technology to communicate and interact with their internal states or the external environment. IOT has been around for a very long time but the technology is now more accessible allowing for the development of new applications.

Data Analytics

Analytics is the discovery and communication of meaningful patterns in data. One example is the development of dashboards that allow users to make sense of large datasets easily.

Smart Communities

There is not a standard definition of a Smart Community, but characteristics commonly attributed to these communities include: sustainable, livable, efficient, resilient, and safe. A Smart Community is constantly innovating and trying to improve service delivery as technology changes and community needs change.

APPENDIX A: TOPICS DISCUSSED

SB 272 Enterprise Data Systems

Senate Bill 272 added a section to the California Public Records Act that requires local jurisdictions to create a catalog of Enterprise Systems. This is intended to improve transparency by allowing the public to understand the types of data that local governments collect. SB 272 defines an Enterprise System as a software application or a computer system that collets, stores and analyzes information that an agency uses. The catalog must be made publically available upon request and be prominently posted on the agency's website. The City of Garden Grove and the Municipal Information Systems Association of California partnered to develop an online platform to help agencies standardize and post the required data to their websites.

Developing an Open Data Program

Staff from the City of Pasadena presented on their municipal big/open data efforts. The City has evolved its data and analysis practices using open/big data at the city level over the last decade. For example, Pasadena started collecting performance measurement data and performance monitoring data over ten years ago. Until recently, Pasadena posted its data on a daily basis. However, Pasadena recently migrated to a new central system and is working to reopen the data again to make the data accessible to various vendors and open data sources. Data collected and used by Pasadena includes traffic counts (including pedestrian and bicycle counts), performance monitoring data, traveler information (origin and destination), real time operations data, and data flows that require inter-agency coordination.

Social Change Data Commons

The California Community Foundation (CCF) briefed the ODBD-SCSRC on how their organization is defining, measuring, and communicating the most significant needs of Los Angeles communities through the creation of a Social Change Data Commons platform. The Social Change Data Commons establishes Los Angeles County's first comprehensive public library of open data which will allow data researchers and users to conduct research. CCF hopes this will help inform policy and initiatives designed to meet the unmet and underserved needs of Los Angeles County. There are currently over 2,000 plus catalogued datasets, searchable by a powerful search tool.

APPENDIX A: TOPICS DISCUSSED

Technology Issues for Local Government

Supervisor Curt Hagman, County of San Bernardino, provided an overview of current technology legislation, including SB 649. SB 649 relates to telecommunication and would affect the rights of local governments to control small cell deployment in their jurisdictions. Additionally, Supervisor Hagman pointed out why Smart Communities Initiatives matter to jurisdictions in the region. He suggested that SCAG can support its members by supporting standardization, developing best practices, avoiding duplication effort, and addressing possible liability issues. SCAG could also help with security, privacy, transparency, data sharing, and coordination of regional applications between members and other entities.

Data Loss Prevention and Cybersecurity

George Khalil, City of Riverside, Information Security Officer, provided an overview of the types of threats governments face related to data security and how local governments can better respond. Mr. Khalil described current threats to public sector data and the types of data that are often targeted by a variety of criminals. He also outlined the possible consequences for local governments such as ransoming of data and disruption of vital services.

South Bay Net Fiber Backbone Network

Aaron Baum, South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), Mobility and Technology Analyst, provided a presentation on a new planning effort by SBCCOG to insure their cities are competitive for future business placement and to retain existing businesses. He stated that Commerce in the digital economy routes over fiber optics. The demand for network services is growing, cloud storage continues to grow and applications continue to be developed and expanded. With an inadequate infrastructure, a city has the inability to grow and attract modern businesses. SBCCOG sees fiber optic network infrastructure as a strategic asset for its cities to take advantage of moving forward.

Transitioning to a Clean Energy Future

Eric Takayesu, Southern California Edison (SCE), Director of Electric System Planning, provided a presentation on how the 'Internet of Things' can transform energy use to a clean energy future and how it can be supported by governments. The presentation included what the technology changes are, what the drivers are behind them, and some of the challenges and opportunities associated with using the data.

APPENDIX B: SCAG DATA TOOLS

SCAG maintains a number of interactive data tools that aim to put information in the hands of stakeholders and decision makers with the goal of promoting local economic development, sustainability, alternative modes of transportation, among others. Here is a summary of SCAG's most popular data tools:

NAME	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
GovClarity Property Database	Real Estate, Land Use	This application displays proprietary information on recent real estate transactions, property details, and ownership data. Access to the website is available to SCAG, local jurisdictions, and regional partner agencies. Data is searchable, and results are displayed as an interactive map. Users can also search for property owners within a given buffer distance from a designated location, and results can be exported as an excel sheet or address labels
REVISION Tool	Land Use, Demographics, Transportation, Sustainability	In partnership with The Lewis Center at UCLA, SCAG developed a public-facing data and mapping tool that features neighborhood level information on land use, livability, mobility/accessibility, and trend factors for all of Southern California
Southern California Plug-In Electric Vehicle Atlas	Transportation, Sustainability	Also in partnership with UCLA, SCAG developed an interactive mapping tool that helps to identify areas in the region that are "PEV ready" as indicated by the density of charging stations, PEV vehicle registrations, and areas with concentrated destinations often visited by PEV owners
Green Region Indicators Tool	Sustainability	This site was developed with assistance from SCAG's AmeriCorps Civic Spark Fellows and details locally adopted sustainability practices and programs at the jurisdictional level
EIFD/CRIA Technical Assistance Tool	Real Estate, Economic Development	Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) and Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIAs) are California's tax increment financing tools that allow local communities to capture and re-invest the economic impacts of public investments within a given neighborhood. This tool helps the general public and local decision makers to see if their community could benefit from the establishment of an EIFD or CRIA – including an interactive map with property tax data at the parcel level

APPENDIX B: SCAG DATA TOOLS

NAME	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
SCAG Open Data Portal	General	SCAG's most requested geospatial data is available for viewing and download on this website, which is also searchable by public users of ArcGIS Online
FreightWorks Portal	Goods Movement, TransportationDevelopment	Upcoming goods movement supportive transportation projects are displayed here in a dynamic web mapping portal. Users can search projects by type, county, and completion term
Sustainability Planning Grant Projects	Sustainability	This mapping website allows users to view and obtain more information on SCAG's sustainability planning grant projects, which offer funding resources to local jurisdictions to pursue transit supportive plans and sustainability programs
Transit Priority Areas Overlay with Specific Plans	Transportation, Land Use, Economic Development	Senate Bill 743 provides reduced CEQA requirements for certain development projects within areas well served by transit. This interactive webpage allows users to identify locations by address, and also provides details on local specific plans in the SCAG region, which carry special consideration under SB 743 as well
LEED Certified Buildings	Sustainability	Buildings certified by the United States Green Building Council are mapped on this website, which allows users to view structures by silver, gold, or platinum LEED ratings
AB 93 Qualified Areas	Economic Development	Assembly Bill 93 created a new economic development tool for local jurisdictions in California and reformed regulations for existing Enterprise Zones – focusing on areas with high unemployment and poverty levels
SCAG Economic Viewer	Economic Development	This tool displays economic data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Jurisdiction boundaries are also depicted, allowing users to identify and access information within their community

APPENDIX B: SCAG DATA TOOLS

NAME	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
SCAG Demographic Viewer	Demographics	Users can access population, race, ethnicity, and poverty information from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey
Scenario Planning Model	Land Use, Sustainability	This tool allows local jurisdictions to provide feedback on the base land use and demographic data that feed into the development of SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
Active Transportation Database	Active Transportation	This tool will allow for the collection and storage of bicycle and pedestrian volume data that will be used for a variety of planning and modeling purposes.

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