

FACTS ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANS

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

Regional Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) help California meet its climate goals and the requirements of Senate Bill 375.

SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS Plan

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region comprises about half the state's population and is projected to add 4 million residents and 1.7 million jobs by 2035. The 2012-2035 RTP/SCS plan is the region's transportation and sustainability investment strategy for protecting and enhancing the region's quality of life and economic prosperity through this period. Plan implementation is expected to result in regional benefits to mobility, economy, health and sustainability. SCAG's plan is also expected to help California reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals, with reductions in per capita transportation emissions of 9% by 2020 and 16% by 2035.



Key Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies in SCAG'S SCS

The suite of strategies adopted as part of SCAG'S 2012-2035 RTP/SCS have the potential to significantly change the region's land use and travel patterns to achieve greenhouse gas reductions by 2020 and 2035.

- Compact growth in areas accessible to transit
- Half of all new development on three percent of the region's land area
- More multi-family housing; jobs and housing closer to transit
- New housing and job growth focused in High Quality Transit Areas (HQTAs)
- Expanded HQTAs through transit infrastructure and service improvements
- Expanded passenger rail network and transit investment representing 20% of total Plan budget
- Invests in biking and walking infrastructure to improve active transportation options, transit access
- Innovative finance mechanisms that incentivize reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

SCAG'S Approach to Developing SCS Strategies

SCAG's process for development and adoption of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS was inclusive and collaborative, and applauded by local government, environmental, public health, and business stakeholders.

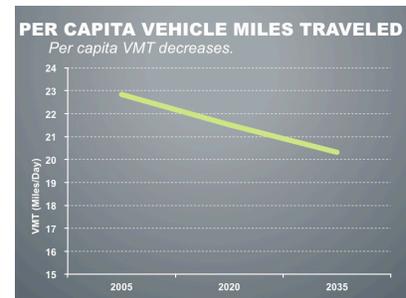
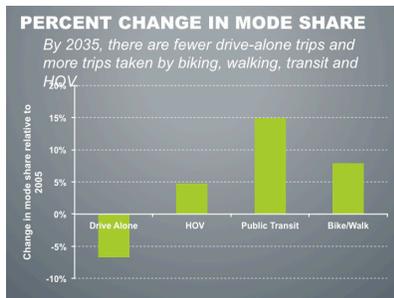
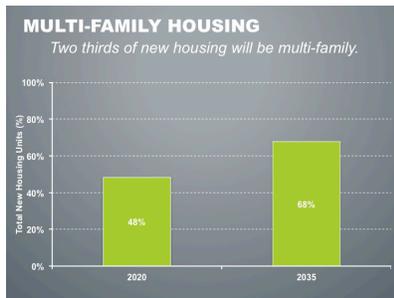
- Collaborative process with over 190 local governments to identify local development policies and growth projections
- Extensive public participation: 3 year public process, dozens of workshops
- Effective use of visioning tools to enable the public to compare differences among policy choices
- Development of multiple scenarios and alternatives analysis
- Analysis of key issues: environmental justice, health risk assessment
- Travel modeling data and assumptions readily available and understandable for the public
- Testing of the travel model to determine sensitivity to changes in land use and transportation strategies
- Use of additional tools for quantifying greenhouse gas reduction benefits of land use strategies
- Incorporation of 2 independently developed sub-regional SCSs (Gateway Cities & Orange County)

Measuring the Greenhouse Gas Benefits of the SCS

SCAG used its travel model and land use models to help predict the outcomes from implementing new land use and transportation strategies in the region. In addition to using these tools to quantify the impact on greenhouse gas emissions, SCAG identified performance metrics and trends that help to explain and confirm the greenhouse gas reduction benefits of their plan:

- Two thirds of new housing will be multi-family by 2035
- Over 60% of all jobs will be within HQTAs by 2035
- Over half of new homes and jobs will be within walking distance of transit
- Fewer drive-alone trips and more transit use, biking and walking, and HOV(high occupancy) trips
- Average auto trip length decreases through 2035
- Per capita VMT decreases through 2035

Below are charts from ARB staff's technical evaluation of SCAG's SCS that reference the above metrics.



SCAG will monitor changes in these key indicators as the SCS is implemented in order to track the region's progress towards meeting its sustainability goals.

Other Regional Benefits of the SCS

SCAG also developed a number of quantitative and qualitative tools to characterize other benefits that SCS implementation would bring to the region.

- Savings of \$5 billion in cumulative infrastructure costs to local governments
- Savings of \$1.5 billion per year in health costs
- Contribution to the creation of over 500,000 jobs per year
- Return on investment of \$2.90 for every dollar invested in infrastructure
- 24% reduction in health incidences related to regional air pollutant emissions

For More Information

On June 4, 2012, ARB accepted SCAG's quantification of greenhouse gas emission reductions from its 2012 2035 RTP/SCS. For further information on ARB's Technical Evaluation of SCAG's plan, contact:

Terry Roberts at (626) 450-6182 or email troberts@arb.ca.gov

ARB's Sustainable Communities Program www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm

SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS scag.ca.gov/rtp2012

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