Frequently Asked Questions about Critical Connections

Learn more at SDForward.com/data

Where can I learn more about the data presented in the webinar?
More information on the SANDAG employment centers analysis is available at SDForward.com/data. More information on data presented by the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation is available at sandiegobusiness.org/research-center.

How does SANDAG work with employers to promote alternative commute strategies and teleworking?
The SANDAG iCommute program provides assistance and tools to help employers design and implement customized commuter benefit programs (which can include transit, carpool, vanpool, active transportation, and telework). Commuter benefit programs help employers reduce drive alone trips to their workplace and support their financial and environmental goals. Participating employers receive specialized consulting services including customized marketing materials, promotional incentives, and on-site events tailored for each organization. Each year, SANDAG iCommute recognizes employers that make strides to promote alternative commute choices in the workplace through the agency’s Diamond Awards program. These employers are recognized at an annual SANDAG Board Meeting, in an agency press release, and in a local publication.

Is SANDAG considering pilot projects like the Carlsbad Connector for other parts of the region?
Yes, SANDAG has identified funding for other Flexible Fleet pilot projects. SANDAG will be working with stakeholders over the next few months to analyze and select one or more communities for Flexible Fleet pilots and will develop Flexible Fleet service parameters geared specifically to the characteristics of the selected community(ies). These Flexible Fleet pilots may have different service hours, different vehicle types, and different partners, giving SANDAG the opportunity to comparatively study the effectiveness of different transportation solutions in different communities through implementation and operation.

How will new transit options and Flexible Fleets work for people with off-peak commutes? Will they be accessible?
Transit Leap services and Flexible Fleets will be available in different vehicle types and provide a variety of personalized travel options with extended service hours – from vehicles outfitted with wheelchair lifts to accommodations for the visually impaired. Rather than requiring users to head to a nearby pick-up spot, the on-demand nature of rideshare and microtransit services allows people to take a trip from door-to-door at any time of the day. As we start to think about driverless Flexible Fleet services operating in our communities, public agencies and private service providers could enable mobility ambassadors to provide customer service and passenger assistance. Based on the mobility needs, Flexible Fleets can provide a solution that is suitable for all users. As new services are developed, public agencies can develop policy and incentive programs, such as the SANDAG Specialized Transportation Grant Program, to ensure private services work for everyone.
How can new transportation options address non-commute trips as well, such as school and retail trips?
The 5 Big Moves will create transportation options that consider non-commute travel, including:
- Dedicated high quality infrastructure and safe routes to school for people biking and walking
- Co-located services, such as daycare at employment centers, to reduce trips
- A transit system that works for all trips, not just commutes
- Providing options to driving alone so that roadways are less congested for people who must drive

How does SANDAG consider people living and/or working in Mexico and associated cross-border travel in the Regional Plan?
The SANDAG travel demand model projects cross-border travel based on surveys of residents in Mexico, including trips for work, shopping, school, and visits to friends and family.

How does SANDAG propose to encourage more people to live closer to their jobs?
Since 2005, SANDAG has offered competitive grants through the TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program for comprehensive public infrastructure projects and planning activities that facilitate compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented development and increase housing near public transit. Throughout development of the 2021 Regional Plan, SANDAG will consider ways to build upon this work, including the development of Mobility Hubs.