



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**

**ACTION REQUESTED: DISCUSSION/
POSSIBLE ACTION**

SAN DIEGO FORWARD: THE 2019-2050 REGIONAL PLAN – File Number 3102000
PROPOSED TIMELINE EXTENSION

Overview

Over the past year, the Board of Directors has taken several actions to advance the development of San Diego Forward: The 2019-2050 Regional Plan (2019 Regional Plan). Consistent with the Plan of Excellence, considerable work has been done to ensure the integrity of the 2019 Regional Plan's forecasting models and data. In addition, significant public outreach is being carried out to inform and seek input from stakeholders about the Regional Plan's development. To continue to support these efforts, the Board of Directors is asked to consider an extension of the timeline for completing the 2019 Regional Plan by approximately four to six months, which would shift plan adoption from fall 2019 to spring 2020.

Discussion

The time it has taken to conduct quality assurance reviews as part of the 2019 Regional Plan development has resulted in a more compressed timeframe for plan adoption by next fall. In addition, a variety of stakeholders have requested that SANDAG allocate more time in the process for meaningful discussion regarding the transportation projects, policies, and programs that may be included in the 2019 Regional Plan.

Comprehensive public outreach efforts are being undertaken for each major phase of the preparation of the 2019 Regional Plan. In spring 2018, prior to development of the draft transportation network scenarios, SANDAG reached out and heard from thousands of people through a series of open houses, focus groups, an online survey, and social media engagement. Diverse input was received from individuals across the region (Attachment 1).

A proposed timeline has been developed that would allow this type of meaningful outreach to continue through the remainder of the 2019 Regional Plan development process. The updated timeline also would provide for additional Board deliberation and involvement in the development of the 2019 Regional Plan. In particular, the additional time would allow for the creation and review of one more set of transportation network scenarios to ensure distinct options are presented and explored before a final selection of the preferred network is made.

Key Considerations

The proposed timeline would provide direct and meaningful public involvement benefits to the development of the 2019 Regional Plan. However, there also are potential implications associated with the proposed extension, as outlined below.

State Funding and Deadline: The current Regional Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors on October 9, 2015, and the Plan and its Conformity Determination was subsequently approved by the

Federal Highway Administration on December 2, 2015. Under state law, SANDAG is required to adopt the 2019 Regional Plan by October 9, 2019. Several state grant programs require that projects be consistent with the Regional Plan in order to be eligible for funding. It is unclear if SANDAG (and other applicants for funding in the region) would be able to use the 2015 Regional Plan for purposes of consistency determinations between October 9, 2019, and when the 2019 Regional Plan is adopted. To mitigate this risk, SANDAG could pursue state legislation that would extend the current adoption deadline and make clear that the 2015 Regional Plan can be used for the purpose of funding eligibility in the interim.

Project Changes and Funding: Under federal law, SANDAG would have a 12-month grace period to adopt the 2019 Regional Plan in order to maintain air quality conformity. During the grace period, only administrative amendments could be made to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.¹ This means that prior to entering the grace period, SANDAG and local agencies would need to process any significant funding or project changes anticipated to occur during the grace period.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment: Local Housing Elements must be updated every eight years but no later than 18 months after adoption of the Regional Plan. If SANDAG delayed adoption of the RHNA Plan to correspond with the proposed Regional Plan extension, local jurisdictions would have less than the full 18 months to revise their Housing Elements to be consistent with the adopted RHNA allocation. The Board of Directors could finalize the RHNA allocation in October 2019 (as currently scheduled) “for planning purposes only” until the 2019 Regional Plan is adopted.² This approach would be consistent with preliminary feedback SANDAG has received from the local planning directors and allow the local jurisdictions the entire 18-month period to update their Housing Elements with the new RHNA housing allocations.

The longer SANDAG remains in the grace period, the more risk there could be for SANDAG, local jurisdictions, and Caltrans as it relates to the implications described above. By extending the 2019 Regional Plan deadline by four to six months (as opposed to using the entire 12-month grace period), SANDAG can mitigate some of these risks while still providing sufficient time for meaningful deliberation and development. In particular, this would reduce the time between finalizing the RHNA allocation and adopting the 2019 Regional Plan and help to maintain a reasonable window of time before the next required Regional Plan update is due in 2023.

KIM KAWADA
Chief Deputy Executive Director

Attachments: 1. Summary of Public Input on Network Themes (Spring 2018)
2. San Diego Forward: The 2019-2050 Regional Plan Proposed Updated Timeline

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¹ Prohibited amendments would include, but not be limited to, changes that equal more than 10 percent of the total project cost or \$40 million. Capacity-increasing projects that are not included in the 2015 Regional Plan also would not be able to receive National Environmental Policy Act approval or funding during the grace period.

² Accepting the RHNA allocation “for planning purposes only” would mitigate the risk of the RHNA Plan being considered a “project” subject to California Environmental Quality Act compliance.



Transportation Network Themes

We Heard You

Thank you for sharing your priorities for our region's future. Using the guiding question of what our transportation network should look like in 30 years, thousands of residents across the region provided their input on the network themes most important to them through open houses, focus groups, emails, online and print surveys, comment cards, and social media. We greatly appreciate all of the input and ideas regarding your big-picture vision for the future of transportation in the San Diego region. This input will be used to help develop network scenarios, which will be available for public input later this summer.



More than
3,000
surveys completed



60
outreach meetings held
by 13 Community Based
Organization partners



Nearly
450
people attended
one of seven
open houses



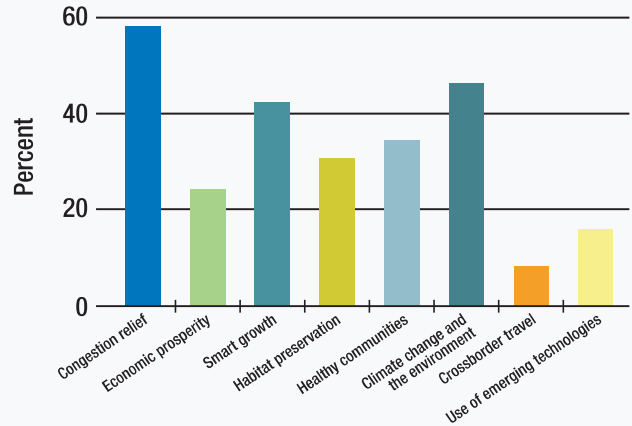
More than
800
comments and
emails received



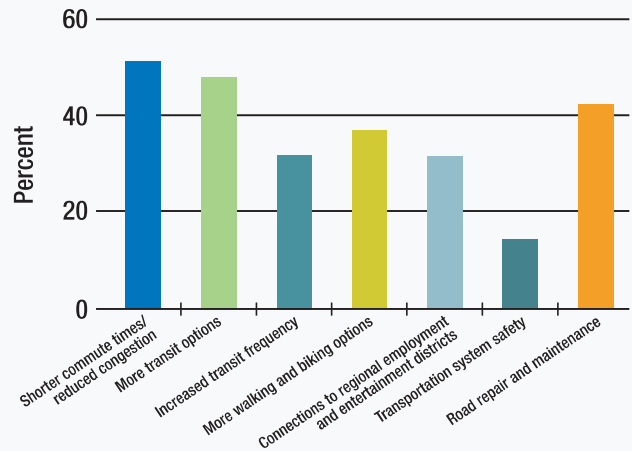
More than
67,000
people reached
on social media

Survey Results

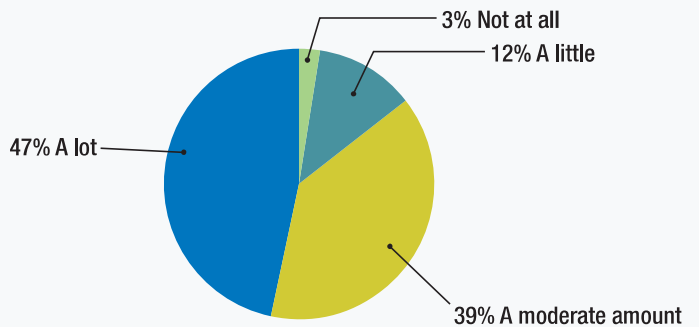
When it comes to our region's future, what is most important to you?



Given the reality of limited transportation funding, what transportation issues are most important to your quality of life?



How much do you think emerging and future technologies should be considered?



Visit SDForward.com/subscribe to receive updates about the development of the 2019 Regional Plan and how to get involved

Summary of Public Input

Transportation Network Themes

We've carefully reviewed the comments shared by residents. Some of the input and ideas we heard include:

Congestion Relief

- Expand the bus and Trolley system to employment centers
- Enhance frequency, efficiency, choices, and reliability of transit
- Expand and maintain highway infrastructure in highly congested areas
- Enhance cross border travel infrastructure and connections
- Incentivize employers providing transit passes
- Expand carpool and Managed Lanes
- Consider double-decker freeways

Climate Change and Environment

- Protect air quality
- Encourage production and support of alternative energy sources (solar, electric)
- Preserve open space and natural habitats
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging alternative transportation to help support local jurisdictions' Climate Action Plans
- Support electric vehicles and increase the number of charging stations
- Reduce transportation-related pollution levels in disadvantaged communities
- Use more electric or solar-powered buses

Emerging Technologies

- Create infrastructure to support autonomous and connected vehicles
- Use technology to help relieve congestion
- Support mobility hubs and the services/programs they contain
- Use real time phone alerts to enhance traffic flow

Healthy Communities

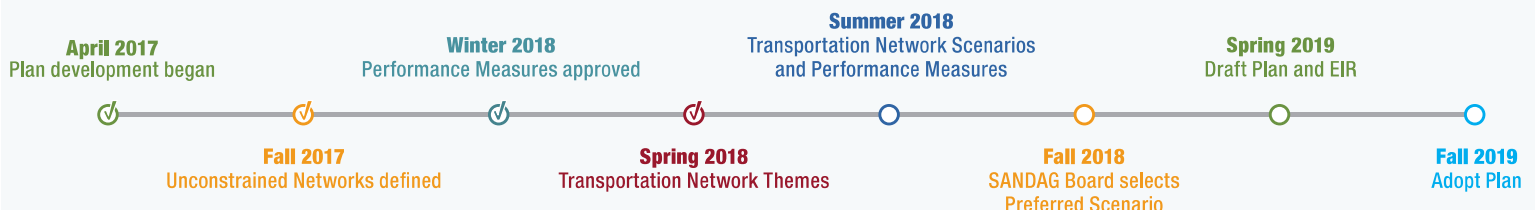
- Invest in infrastructure to support active transportation, such as protected bike lanes, transit connections, bike parking, and trails
- Increase safety for bike riders and pedestrians
- Enhance first mile/last mile connections
- Accommodate the travel needs of seniors and other vulnerable populations
- Reduce congestion to lower commute times and enhance quality of life
- Reduce transit fares to increase ridership

Housing, Jobs, and Economy

- Improve transportation connections between where people currently work and live, as well as where people will work and live in the future especially for disadvantaged communities
- Support more affordable, mixed-use housing along major transit corridors
- Increase mixed-use, smart growth development in the existing urban areas
- Improve transportation to improve the economy

2019 Regional Plan Development Timeline

San Diego Forward: The 2019-2050 Regional Plan will build upon the 2015 Regional Plan, which merged local planning efforts, emerging issues, and innovative concepts into an overall vision for the region's future, including specific actions to turn that vision into reality. The public input gathered during the network theme outreach phase will be used to inform development of transportation network scenarios. These draft networks will include a variety of projects, programs, and services that will be evaluated by performance measures approved by the SANDAG Board of Directors in March 2018. Later this summer, there will be several opportunities for the public to weigh in and provide input on these network scenarios. A preferred scenario, which will form the core of the 2019 Regional Plan, will be selected by the Board of Directors in fall 2018.



For more information, visit SDForward.com

2019 San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan – Proposed Schedule

Major Tasks	FY 2017				FY 2018				FY 2019				FY 2020		
	Q1 July - Sept 2017	Q2 Oct - Dec 2017	Q3 Jan - March 2018	Q4 April - June 2018	Q1 July - Sept 2018	Q2 Oct - Dec 2018	Q3 Jan - March 2019	Q4 April - June 2019	Q1 July - Sept 2019	Q2 Oct - Dec 2019	Q3 Jan - Mar 2020				
Update Regional Plan Work Program and Public Involvement Plan															
Conduct Public Outreach and Involvement															
Refine San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan Vision, Goals and Policy Objectives					●										
Approve Preliminary Regional Growth Assumptions														●	
Prepare Draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for the Sixth Housing Element Cycle															
Develop and Evaluate Alternative Multimodal Transportation Network Scenarios															
Select Preferred Transportation Network															
Perform Air Quality Analyses for Transportation Conformity															
Produce Draft Regional Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)															
Address Formal Public Comments on Draft Regional Plan and EIR															
Adopt Final Regional Plan, RHNA, Air Quality Conformity Determination, approve Regional Growth Forecast, and Certify Final EIR															

Legend: Major Task Completed Milestones