

**SAN DIEGO FORWARD: THE 2019 REGIONAL PLAN –  
DRAFT WHITE PAPER OUTLINES**

File Number 3102000

**Introduction**

For the development of the 2015 San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan (2015 Regional Plan) staff prepared a series of white papers<sup>1</sup>. They focused on new and emerging topic areas including Public Health, Economic Prosperity, Climate Change, and Emerging Transportation Technologies. SANDAG staff plans to update these white papers to help inform the development of the San Diego Forward: The 2019 Regional Plan<sup>2</sup> (2019 Regional Plan). These topics are consistent with the vision and goals approved by the Board of Directors for the 2019 Regional Plan, which are centered around a Vibrant Economy, Healthy Environment and Communities, and Innovative Mobility and Planning. The white paper topics also draw upon the 2019 Regional Plan’s interconnected policy objectives, which are detailed in Attachment 1.



***Vision: To facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods to support a sustainable and healthy region, a vibrant economy, and an outstanding quality of life for all.***

<sup>1</sup> White papers are documents that present objective information on particular issues and evaluate public opinion regarding those issues. They present facts, research, and ideas that can help form the basis for decisions on policy issues.

<sup>2</sup> The Emerging Transportation Technologies White Paper outline was discussed by the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees at their September 1, 2017, meetings.

This report is being presented to the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees for discussion. Feedback on the white paper outlines from both Committees will be addressed as staff develops the papers.

## **Discussion**

The following is an overview of the draft outlines of the proposed Public Health, Economic Prosperity, and Climate Change white papers with a focus on updates since they were developed for the 2015 Regional Plan.

### ***Public Health***

The Public Health White Paper, prepared for the 2015 Regional Plan, provided a comprehensive overview of public health and described how the built environment affects public health. The white paper also described existing regional and local planning efforts and included policy considerations that could be addressed in the Regional Plan and in other health-related planning efforts, such as investing in transportation infrastructure that maximizes public health benefits. The update of the white paper will focus on incorporating issues that have gained interest since 2015 (such as the aging of the population and homelessness) and reporting on planning efforts that have been initiated or implemented. Attachment 2 includes a draft outline for the Public Health White Paper.

### ***Economic Prosperity***

The objective of the Economic Prosperity White Paper is to help readers understand the complex interrelationship between the transportation system and the San Diego regional economy, and the role that SANDAG plays in both. The white paper will provide updated background information and summary data on the current economy, include a brief discussion of forecast trends, describe interrelationships between economic prosperity and transportation and other Regional Plan topic areas, and initiate discussion on key economic considerations and policies to be considered for inclusion in the 2019 Regional Plan. It also will include a description of the economic analysis to be conducted for the 2019 Regional Plan. Attachment 3 includes a draft outline for the Economic Prosperity White Paper.

### ***Climate Change***

The updated Climate Change White Paper will focus on new information that has become available since adoption of the 2015 Regional Plan, such as updated science, state laws and plans, new Senate Bill 375 greenhouse gas reduction targets<sup>3</sup>, and the status of local climate action plans. The white paper also will include descriptions of SANDAG plans and programs related to climate change as well as collaborative activities underway to address climate change in the San Diego region among public agencies, non-profits, academia, and other stakeholders. Attachment 4 includes a draft outline for the Climate Change White Paper.

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<sup>3</sup> The California Air Resources Board is anticipated to approve new greenhouse gas reduction targets for the San Diego region on December 14-15, 2017.

## **Next Steps**

The draft white papers, including the Draft Emerging Transportation Technologies White Paper, are anticipated to be available in spring 2018. Staff will solicit input on the white papers from the SANDAG working groups and return to the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees for additional discussion and feedback as needed.

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- Attachments:
1. 2019 San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan – Policy Objectives
  2. Draft Outline: Public Health White Paper Update
  3. Draft Outline: Economic Prosperity White Paper Update
  4. Draft Outline: Climate Change White Paper Update

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## 2019 San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan – Policy Objectives

The policy objectives for the 2019 San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan provide a broad context in which local and regional decisions can be made that foster a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and a high quality of life for all. They also provide a framework for specific actions that the region can take to achieve the plan's goals, realize its vision, and measure progress.



- Provide safe, secure, healthy, affordable, and convenient travel choices between the places where people live, work, and play.
- Take advantage of new technologies to make the transportation system more efficient and environmentally friendly.
- Ensure system preservation, asset management, and State of Good Repair.



- Invest in transportation projects that provide access for all communities to a variety of jobs with competitive wages.
- Build infrastructure that makes the movement of freight in our community more efficient and environmentally friendly.



- Create great places for everyone to live, work, and play.
- Connect communities through a variety of transportation choices that promote healthy lifestyles, including walking and biking.



- Focus growth in areas that are already urbanized, allowing the region to set aside and restore more open space in our less developed areas.
- Protect and restore our region's urban canyons, coastlines, beaches, and water resources.



- Collaborate with Native American tribes, Mexico, military bases, neighboring counties, infrastructure providers, the private sector, and local communities to design a transportation system that connects to the mega-region and national network, and works for everyone and fosters a high quality of life for all.
- As we plan for our region, recognize the vital economic, environmental, cultural, and community linkages between the San Diego region and Baja California.



- Make transportation investments that address climate change and result in cleaner air, environmental protection, conservation, efficiency, and sustainable living .
- Support energy programs that promote sustainability.

## **Draft Outline: Public Health White Paper Update**

### **A. Introduction**

Description of the interrelationships between regional policies and programs that guide transportation infrastructure investments and public health benefits and impacts.

### **B. History of Public Health and Urban Planning**

Description of historical changes in land use patterns, effects on travel patterns, and relationships to public health.

### **C. Why Public Health Matters**

An overview of health outcomes in the areas of chronic diseases, traffic fatalities, air quality, and cost implications. This section is proposed to be updated with additional reference to acknowledge the Hepatitis A outbreak in the chronic diseases section, and the addition of demographic trends and related needs focused on the aging population.

### **D. How the Built Environment Affects Public Health**

Overview of collaborative strategies in the following areas that improve community health and wellness through the design of the built environment.

- Active Transportation and Public Transit
- Access to Parks and Recreation
- Complete Neighborhoods
- Access to Affordable Housing (consider adding homelessness discussion)
- Environmental Quality
- Access to Healthy Food
- Access to Regional Food Systems
- Public Safety
- Consider adding Access to Healthcare Facilities

### **E. Existing Regional and Local Efforts**

An update of this section, focused on public health and planning efforts that have occurred since 2015.

## **F. Interrelationships to Other Policy Areas**

Proposed addition of a section detailing the interrelationships between public health and the other white paper topics, including:

- Economic Prosperity
- Climate Change
- Emerging Technologies

## **G. Policy Considerations**

An update of the table included in the current white paper that shows how public health policy issues can continue to be considered in regional and local planning efforts.

## **Draft Outline: Economic Prosperity White Paper Update**

### **A. Introduction**

The introduction will discuss the intersection between land-use and transportation planning and economic prosperity, including historical economic context. It also will explain how the San Diego Forward: The 2019 Regional Plan (2019 Regional Plan) will influence the region's economy. It will briefly introduce contents of the white paper.

#### ***Current Economic Conditions in San Diego***

*Existing Setting:* A brief, and not overly quantitative, discussion of the structure of the regional economy, and its strengths and weaknesses. Emphasis will be on sectors that drive the economy.

*Existing Plans, Programs, and Policies:* A listing of historical and current initiatives on economic development.

*Emerging Concepts:* A brief review of current research in regional planning and economics, with an emphasis on innovative transportation technology.

### **B. Interrelationships: How Transportation and Regional Planning Can Influence the San Diego Economy**

This section will present San Diego transportation infrastructure (transit, active transportation, freeways, airports, ports) as economic 'habitat', enabling economic activity, and providing essential freedom of choice for the movement of people, goods, and information. It will include an analysis of regional job and distribution centers, commuting patterns in San Diego, and housing challenges. It also will feature a discussion of the economic analysis SANDAG will conduct for the 2019 Regional Plan.

#### ***Equity Concerns in an Economic Perspective***

This section will present inequality as a threat to prosperity, particularly equity of opportunity, and discuss access to transportation as a requirement for economic prosperity in vulnerable populations.

#### ***Economy and Environment***

A short analysis of the environment as an economic asset, and how transportation and planning choices that benefit the environment also can benefit the economy, with a particular consideration of the legal requirements to address climate change.

### **C. Future Funding, Trends, and Possibilities**

This section will consider the SANDAG ability to influence San Diego economic prosperity, in light of long-term global and political trends, as well as emerging transportation technologies. There will be a brief mention of financing sources and opportunities for transportation.

## **Draft Outline: Climate Change White Paper Update**

### **A. Introduction**

#### ***Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the San Diego Region***

Description of total existing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the San Diego Region, and the relative contribution of each emissions category to total regional emissions.

#### ***Climate Change Projections and Impacts in the San Diego Region***

Description of ongoing and projected climate change effects in the San Diego region, and resulting effects to infrastructure, coastal resources, water management, public health, agriculture, biodiversity, and habitat.

### **B. Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Summary of the roles of state government, SANDAG, and local governments in reducing GHG emissions, including but not limited to:

- Significant state laws, regulations, plans, and programs, including Senate Bill (SB) 32, the 2030 Scoping Plan Update, and General Plan Guidelines
- The relationship among SANDAG and state GHG reduction goals
- SANDAG responsibilities under SB 375, including new SANDAG targets for GHG emissions reductions from passenger vehicles from the California Air Resources Board
- Status of local government climate action planning efforts
- Relationship among San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan (Regional Plan) and local climate action plans

#### ***Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies by Sector***

Discussion of the state framework; existing SANDAG programs to reduce GHG emissions and save energy, including continuing actions and mitigation measures adopted as part of the 2015 Regional Plan; and local GHG reduction strategies by sector: transportation, land use, electricity, natural gas, water/wastewater, and solid waste

### **C. Strategies to Prepare for Climate Change Impacts**

Description of the roles of state government, SANDAG, and local governments in preparing for climate change impacts (e.g. sea-level rise, wildfires, drought, storm surges, and extreme weather), including but not limited to significant state laws, regulations, plans, and programs; existing SANDAG programs; and the status of local government efforts.

## **D. Interrelationships to Other Policy Areas**

- a. Economic Prosperity
- b. Public Health and Social Equity
- c. Emerging Technologies

## **E. SANDAG Plans and Programs and Collaborative Regional Activities to Address Climate Change**

Descriptions of SANDAG plans and programs related to climate change as well as collaborative activities underway to address climate change in the San Diego region among public agencies, non-profits, academia, and other stakeholders.

### ***SANDAG Plans and Programs***

San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, Regional Energy Strategy, Climate Action Strategy, Regional Framework for Climate Action Planning, Energy Roadmap Program, plug-in electric vehicle and alternative fuel planning, active transportation plans and projects, transportation demand management/iCommute programs, *TransNet* Smart Growth Incentive Program and Active Transportation Grant Program, Regional Transit Oriented Development Strategy, Shoreline Management Program, and *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program.

### ***Regional Collaborations***

San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, San Diego Regional Energy Partnership, San Diego Bay Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Strategy, Regional Sea-Level Rise Working Group, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Resilient Coastlines Project, Climate Science Alliance, Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley – Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Climate Education Partners.