

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NO. M-008-14-00**

**BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)  
AND THE  
SAN BERNARDINO ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS (SANBAG)**

**CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN SANBAG AND SCAG TO IMPLEMENT  
THE 2012-2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
STRATEGY (RTP/SCS)**

Whereas, the development of a regional Sustainable Communities Strategy is required by state law under California's Sustainable Communities Strategy and Climate Protection Act, commonly referred to as Senate Bill 375, and is a critical element of achieving statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals established in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), commonly referred to as AB 32;

Whereas, a regional Sustainable Communities Strategy is a component of the Regional Transportation Plan that specifies how the GHG reduction targets established for a region by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will be achieved;

Whereas, on April 4, 2012, the Southern California Association of Governments Regional Council unanimously approved the region's first RTP/SCS;

Whereas, the adopted RTP/SCS includes land-use and transportation strategies that will support the region in meeting the established GHG reduction targets of 8% per capita by 2020 and 13% per capita by 2035;

Whereas the Air Resources Board on June 4, 2012, accepted the SCAG Sustainable Communities Strategy as having met the GHG target;

Whereas, by virtue of having met the state established GHG target, local governments in the SCAG region may choose to access a streamlined process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for certain types of qualifying development projects;

Whereas, the RTP/SCS provides additional co-benefits including reducing land consumption, infrastructure costs, household costs, health incidences as well as improving mobility and creating jobs;

Whereas, SCAG developed the RTP/SCS in collaboration with SANBAG, other County Transportation Commissions, and local governments from the six-county Southern California region through a bottom-up, collaborative process that engaged a wide range of stakeholder groups, elected officials, special interest groups, and the general public through a series of workshops and public meetings;

Whereas, the RTP/SCS addresses many challenges including projected growth, changing demographics, climate change adaptation, housing needs, and transportation demands;

Whereas, the RTP/SCS includes a land-use strategy and growth forecast that focuses growth in High-Quality Transit Areas and along main streets, downtowns and other appropriate infill locations; recognizes a shift in development from single-family toward multi-family residential development to reflect recent market trends; and promotes the implementation of Compass Blueprint Demonstration projects and other supportive land use implementation;

Whereas, the RTP/SCS includes transportation policies and investments that: reflect the investments being made by the County Transportation Commissions through 2035; triple the amount of funding available in the previous RTP to support Active Transportation; emphasize and provide additional resources for transportation demand management strategies and transportation systems management; maintain a focus on efficient goods movement; and establish a financial plan that addresses deferred maintenance and includes new revenue sources and innovative financing techniques to transition our fuel tax-based system to a more direct, user fee approach;

Whereas, while SCAG develops the RTP/SCS, the land-use and transportation changes within it are largely driven by the actions of local governments and County Transportation Commissions, like SANBAG, that program the majority of transportation funds flowing into the region;

Whereas, it is therefore critical that SANBAG be engaged in the implementation of the RTP/SCS in order for the RTP/SCS's benefits to be realized, as well as to ensure the region continues to make progress that can be reflected in the 2016 RTP/SCS;

Whereas, CARB through the AB 32 Cap-and-Trade Program may be providing funding for programs and projects throughout the state that reduce GHG emissions and help implement local climate action plans;

Whereas, SANBAG submitted a letter to SCAG dated February 14, 2012, supporting approval of the RTP/SCS by the April 2012 deadline and has committed staff support in the implementation of the RTP/SCS;

Whereas, SANBAG has demonstrated leadership and strong support for advancing sustainable transportation options in the region through a broad range of actions including: adopting the San Bernardino Countywide Vision (Countywide Vision), which includes multiple elements related to sustainability; investing in transit; preparation of the countywide Non-Motorized Transportation Plan; coordinating with local jurisdictions on land use strategies for transit corridors; participating in 14 local Compass Blueprint Projects since 2006; collaborating with the San Bernardino County Active Transportation Network; leading the effort to develop the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reduction Plan; programming federal funding for clean fuel buses; programming federal and State funding for bicycle infrastructure; advancing bicycle policies; supporting applications for sustainability grant programs; implementing the San Bernardino County HERO (Home Energy and Renovation Opportunity) program and joint Solar Power Purchase Agreement program; developing countywide public health framework; applying state and federal grants in partnership with a private fleet to deploy a clean fuel truck fleet; and adopting policies that reduce the agency's environmental footprint as well as promote

cleaner air, GHG reduction, healthier communities, and a stronger economy through transportation planning and programming, among others;

Whereas, to continue to demonstrate countywide leadership on sustainability issues, SANBAG will continue to implement the Countywide Vision in partnership with local jurisdictions and stakeholder groups. Five Vision Elements are pertinent to sustainability in varying degrees: the Environment, Housing, Infrastructure, Quality of Life and Wellness Elements. Although the Vision will not contain a stand-alone sustainability policy, sustainability principles will be integrated within the elements listed above. In addition, individual jurisdictions incorporate sustainability planning policies into their General Plans. The further development and sharing of this information will continue to occur through regular meetings of the SANBAG Planning/Community Development Directors and SANBAG policy committees;

Whereas, implementation of the Countywide Vision, in conjunction with the implementation of the RTP/SCS, will advance SANBAG's mission of creating a more efficient and effective transportation system in concert with a broad set of sustainability priorities that are increasingly important to SANBAG's member agencies and constituents; and

Whereas, SANBAG and SCAG currently collaborate on a broad range of initiatives to advance common transportation objectives, and it is in the interest of both agencies to continue to leverage resources toward achieving the common goals expressed in the RTP/SCS and the Countywide Vision and toward creating a more sustainable transportation system.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino Associated Governments that the Executive Director is authorized to initiate and/or continue the following RTP/SCS implementation activities, to be referred to collectively as the **RTP/SCS Joint-Work Program:**

#### **PLANNING WORK/PRODUCTS**

(1) Continue SANBAG's leadership role in the development and implementation of the San Bernardino Countywide Vision. The SANBAG role is to facilitate several of the Vision Elements and to serve as a convener of leadership and ideas for moving the county forward with Countywide Vision implementation. The Vision effort includes groups working in the following subject areas: education, environment, housing, jobs/economy, public safety, water, and wellness. SANBAG will be involved in all elements to link these subject specific groups to the elected leadership and policy makers from every city. SANBAG will also be the lead on the environment and jobs/economy groups.

(2) Initiate implementation of the recommendations in the Final Report entitled "Improvement to Transit Access for Cyclists and Pedestrians" to "extend" the station areas and expand the reach of transit in transit catchment areas and at transit stops in the Metrolink and E Street sbX corridors. The report documents processes, guidelines, and specific improvements that serve as a resource for local governments seeking to partner with the SANBAG, Omnitrans, and SCAG on bicycle/pedestrian improvements in

high-capacity transit station catchment areas. Additional funding will be sought to advance implementation of these improvements. Opportunities to optimize access through programmatic, technology and/or marketing solutions in the transit catchment areas will also be explored.

(3) Develop a Countywide Safe Routes to School Inventory to help local communities identify SRTS needs and to prioritize the most cost-effective and competitive projects. The Inventory will: document current SRTS efforts and needs; coordinate with agencies, organizations, and stakeholders for exchange of information and ideas; and identify options for pursuing additional funding sources to increase SRTS investment in San Bernardino County.

(4) Support SCAG in developing a Conservation Planning Policy, as recommended in the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. This policy is intended to build upon already-established programs that assist with more efficient transportation project delivery, including but not limited to, OCTA's Measure M Environmental Mitigation Program and Riverside County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plans (MSHCP). The policy will explore opportunities to optimize the use of transportation mitigation funds to support natural land restoration, conservation, protection and acquisition, and will offer GHG emissions reduction benefits. The deliverables will likely include identification of priority conservation areas and the development of regional mitigation policies or approaches for the 2016 RTP/SCS. SANBAG will coordinate with SCAG on the development of policies appropriate for San Bernardino County in conjunction with proposals for more comprehensive habitat preservation/conservation approaches undertaken within the Environment Element of the Countywide Vision.

(5) Explore opportunities, together with SCAG, to expedite Active Transportation funding planned in the RTP/SCS for local infrastructure to support the operation and expansion of the rail and Express Bus/Bus Rapid Transit systems and for improved bicycle/pedestrian connectivity county-wide. SANBAG will complete a bicycle system "Gap-closure Analysis" in conjunction with local jurisdictions, and will amend the San Bernardino County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) accordingly. SANBAG will develop a funding strategy for specific Active Transportation priority projects in the NMTP and identify specific funding opportunities for each project, such as grant applications, calls for projects, and allocation of Federal, State, and local formula funds, as appropriate. This will include pursuing funding for improvements identified in the study "Improvement to Transit Access for Cyclists and Pedestrians". A mobile bicycle map application will also be developed under the SCAG Sustainability Grant program, as funding becomes available.

(6) Support SCAG in conducting a High Quality Transit Area Study to review possible incentive programs that could be offered by SANBAG and SCAG to help realize the RTP/SCS vision for reducing GHG emissions and capturing growth in High Quality Transit Areas (as defined in the RTP/SCS). The study should document existing rules and practices, consider best practices, and provide recommendations for program modifications. The study will be initiated when additional SCAG funding or staff resources become available.

(7) Conduct the study “**Creating a Vision and Implementation Strategy for Sustainability in the San Bernardino Metrolink Corridor**” under the Caltrans Statewide or Urban Transportation Planning Grant program. The purpose of the effort is to provide focus on the corridor in San Bernardino County with the greatest near-term opportunities for transit-oriented development. The study will identify ways to overcome barriers to further TOD implementation in Metrolink station areas and will identify investment needs for additional transit infrastructure to stimulate the additional TOD planned for in the RTP/SCS.

(8) Continue collaborative efforts to improve **Performance Measurement and Monitoring** of the benefits and co-benefits (health, greenhouse gas reduction, etc.) of transportation projects and plans through efforts such as: monitoring of travel time on major highways through upgrades to the Congestion Management Program (CMP); monitoring of transit performance; collection of bicycle use data through the bicycle data clearinghouse; monitoring of milestones for the Countywide Vision; continuation of the San Bernardino County Community Indicators Reports, and preparation of the San Bernardino County Community Vital Signs Report.

(9) Support the SCAG RTP/SCS through the coordinated development of complete streets policies and implementable strategies by identifying the following: achievable opportunities for deployment of complete streets strategies in a way that recognizes the diversity of urban and rural contexts in San Bernardino County; principles for integration of “complete streets thinking” into arterial network and land use planning within the County; specific locations that could serve as opportunities for low cost “early action” complete streets projects; possible incentives for the planning and development of complete streets projects in the County.

## **ADVOCACY**

(10) Seek funding and support legislative initiatives to assist local agencies with planning, programming, and/or capital funds to implement Compass Blueprint projects or other innovative, multimodal approaches that exemplify the direction of the Countywide Vision and transit-oriented development (TOD).

(11) Pursue grant funding to incentivize additional freight vehicle conversion to clean energy sources and to support the installation of associated fueling stations, similar to the Ryder fleet conversion previously sponsored by SANBAG. SANBAG will track advancements in technology in the clean fuels arena and will work with public and private sector partners to marry funding opportunities with cost-effective fleet conversion opportunities.

(12) Work with state and federal representatives to **Develop Legislation** in support of the above activities and the broader goals of the RTP/SCS. Progress on these items shall be reported to the SANBAG General Policy Committee, or other appropriate ad hoc committee, and SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee on a quarterly basis starting January 2014. An interim report on the RTP/SCS Joint-Work Program shall be prepared by January 2015 and include recommendations to the SANBAG Board and SCAG Regional Council for inclusion in the 2016 RTP/SCS.

## COORDINATION

(13) Appoint a representative to the **Regional Sustainability Working Group**, an effort initiated by the CEOs of County Transportation Commissions and led by SCAG, to actively work on the implementation of the RTP/SCS, document and monitor progress, and develop recommendations for opportunities in the upcoming 2016-2040 RTP/SCS.

(14) Continue SANBAG's involvement in the San Bernardino Active Transportation Network (Network). The Network is a convening of county agencies, community organizations, residents and cities interested in improving the experience of and increasing facilities for walking and bicycling in San Bernardino County. In addition to SANBAG, some of the stakeholders include Omnitrans, San Bernardino County Public Health Department, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Partnership, American Lung Association and Inland Empire Bicycle Alliance. The Network aims to: expand on the region's multi-modal planning efforts, especially for bicyclists and pedestrians; improve safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians; assist in the county implementation of the RTP/SCS; and further improve the quality of life in the county, including economic development, air quality, public health and connectivity. It is also intended to create a space for cities, agencies, organizations and communities to collaborate, educate and impact local and regional policies as partners.

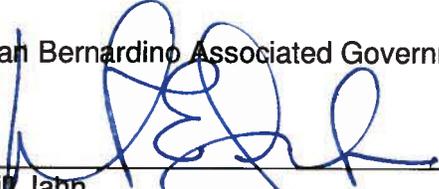
(15) Continue to support SCAG and collaborate with regional stakeholders on the Regional Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan, to identify the best locations for charging infrastructure based on market demand and travel patterns. The Regional PEV Readiness Plan will become part of a larger effort to support regional sustainability while promoting economic development within the green technology sector. SCAG will continue to work with a diverse group of stakeholders to serve as a clearinghouse for zero and near-zero emission vehicle resources and implementation strategies. The key deliverables include a Regional PEV Readiness Plan and two model Subregional PEV Readiness Plans (South Bay and Western Riverside COGs). This effort is funded with grants obtained from the California Energy Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy.

(16) Support local jurisdictions in developing Climate Action Plans (CAPs) that would serve as the local implementation and monitoring documents for the reduction of greenhouse gases in response to Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. SANBAG will collaborate with local jurisdictions to develop templates jurisdictions may use as starting points for incorporation of specific schedule, funding, and implementation action items into their CAPs. SANBAG is nearing completion on a 21-city partnership effort to develop a Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Reduction Plan and its associated Environmental Impact Report. The Plan and EIR will be used as the foundation for the local jurisdictions' CAPs.

**Be it further resolved** by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments that its Executive Director or his designee is authorized to lead the work effort of Items No. 4 (Conservation Planning Policy), No. 6 (High Quality Transit Area Study), No. 9 (Complete Streets policies and implementation strategies) and No. 15 (PEV Readiness Plan) of the above-referenced RTP/SCS Joint Work Program, and to work cooperatively with SANBAG on all other remaining Items as appropriate.

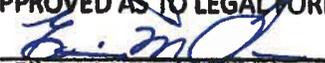
This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) No. M-008-14-00 is executed by duly authorized representatives of SANBAG and SCAG to memorialize the partnership of the two agencies in the RTP/SCS Joint Work Program, and shall be effective as of the last date signed below by the parties. This MOU may be amended only by the execution of the parties of a written amendment.

San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Jahn  
President

Date: 3-12-14

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen Monaghan Telchert  
General Counsel

Date: 3/15/14

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Pettis  
President  
Councilmember, Cathedral City

Date: 2/26/14