

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 3, 2018

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held its August meeting. The Committee was provided updates on the retirement benefit study, the 4th quarter financial report and the upcoming joint legal services request for proposal. The Committee acted to approve the authorization to execute a Project Baseline Agreement and other agreements needed to implement the State Route 57-60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Project. Metro staff indicated that the agreement must be authorized by August 10, which necessitated immediate action by the SGVCOG's Board officers. The agreement, as well as the assignment of the project to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee will be affirmed at the August 16 Governing Board meeting.
- **Meeting with Phil Ansell:** On Tuesday, I met one-on-one with Phil Ansell, Director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, to discuss partnership opportunities and to address the concerns identified by cities at the Homeless Summit. This was an extremely productive meeting, and there were several positive outcomes. With regards to the contracts that are administered on a countywide or SPA-level, the County is committed to working on an ongoing basis to facilitate closer working relationships between the SGV cities and service providers and outreach workers. This will allow for improved bi-directional communication on contact that has been made with homeless individuals and identification of hotspots. This will ensure that this work is responsive to the specific needs of each community and will address several of the strategies that cities had in their plans. In the near-term, SGVCOG staff will be working with LA County staff to facilitate a meeting between County department leads, service providers, outreach staff, and city staff to kick-off this effort. Additionally, I provided Mr. Ansell with the COG's recently adopted Homeless White paper, and I discussed the importance of local preference to ensure that cities that commit to housing are able to directly assist homeless individuals in their community. He was receptive to the concerns of cities, and we will continue working together to develop program guidance that addresses this issue. We also discussed funding to support the implementation of cities' homeless plans. I reiterated the importance of securing an ongoing source of funding. We will be working with Supervisors Solis and Barger to develop a motion that addresses both funding and the local preference issue. I will provide additional information on the status of that motion as it becomes available.
- **Consortium / LACoC Meeting:** LAHSA held its quarterly SPA 3 meeting at the SGV Consortium on Homelessness meeting this week. The Agency reported a downward adjustment of the 2018 Homeless Count report. The Count total has been adjusted to 52,765, a 4% decrease from last year. The city and community level data has been released and includes sheltered/unsheltered, Youth Count, and vehicle, tent, and makeshift shelter totals. Cities can view their data, down to the census tract, level at <https://www.lahsa.org/dashboards?id=13-count-by-city-community>. Click on the "Select a City/Community" drop-down menu and select city name. LAHSA staff also provided the Board with an overview of FY 2018 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition with updates on new information for this Fiscal Year. New program funds have been made available this year for Dedicated Plus which is Rapid Rehousing tied to Transitional Housing for victims of Domestic/Intimate Partner violence, a Bonus Funding opportunity, and Domestic Violence Bonus Funding.

- **City Managers' Steering Committee:** On Wednesday, the City Managers' Steering Committee held their monthly meeting. The Committee took action to appoint Sergio Gonzalez (Azusa) to the Steering Committee as Representative of the Northeast region. The Committee also received an overview presentation from the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control.
- **San Gabriel Trench Event Reminder:** On September 10th, the ACE Project, SGVCOG and City of San Gabriel will be hosting the San Gabriel Trench Dedication Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. in Plaza Park adjacent to the San Gabriel Mission, 428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91776. Parking will be available in the Mission parking lot. The event will be followed by a celebratory luncheon at the Grapevine Arbor Park, 324 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, located one block north of the ceremony. Construction began on the \$313 million project in 2012, and took nearly five years to complete. To view a time lapse video of the construction, please click [here](#).
- **LACBOS Meeting - Homeless Funding:** On Tuesday, 16 staff from Baldwin Park, Claremont, Duarte, Glendora, Pomona, West Covina and the SGVCOG join Mayor John Fasana and Councilmember and Homeless Committee Chair, Joe Lyons at the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting. They were there to voice support for the County CEO's recommendation that \$9,000,000 in Measure H funding be allocated for the implementation of the cities' homeless plans. The recommendation also called for an additional \$3,000,000 in Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds to be allocated by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority for cities' homeless plan implementation for a total of \$12,000,000. In light of the initial motion last May for only \$3,000,000, this recommendation was strongly supported by the SGVCOG and participating cities. The increased recommendation was a direct result of proactive advocacy by member cities and a strong position for increased funding held by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Kathryn Barger. The two Supervisors were standard-bearers for the increased funding for cities and spoke persuasively from the dias for local funding and programs. The recommendation carried with a 5-0 vote, four of the five Supervisors providing encouraging, supportive comments and no dissenting remarks. These funds will help cities implement homeless initiatives such as expanding rapid-rehousing units, hiring dedicated homeless coordinators and engagement and diversion specialists, increasing crisis housing beds, and increasing access centers and outreach. It is expected that the Request for Proposals for these funds will be released in the coming weeks. SGVCOG staff will work with cities to secure and manage grant writing services to pen strong competitive proposals.
- **SCAG Sustainability Planning Grants:** On this upcoming Monday, September 10, SCAG will be opening its Call for Applications for its 2018 Sustainability Planning Grants. There are three main project categories for these grants: Active Transportation projects, Integrated Land Use (ILU) projects, and Green Region Initiative (GRI) projects. Eligible types of Active Transportation projects include:

 - Community-wide and Area plans,
 - Regional Corridors plans,
 - Infrastructure Demonstration Quick-Build Projects, and
 - Safety Strategic Plans.
 - Eligible ILU and GRI projects include:
 - SB 743 Implementation Assistance,
 - Parking Pricing, Reduction, and Management Strategies, and
 - Livable Corridor & Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning,
 - Heat Island Reduction and Cool Streets projects, and

- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Planning projects.

Eligible applicants for the SCAG Sustainability Planning Grants include cities, counties, and transit agencies, while Councils of Government are able to apply as a sub-applicant. Applications will be due to SCAG on Thursday, November 15, which gives local agencies a little over two months to complete their respective applications. The SGVCOG will help interested cities apply for these grants. SCAG staff will present detailed information about these sustainability planning grants at the COG's Planning TAC later this month.

- **Safe, Clean Waters Outreach:** The L.A. County Board of Supervisors placed the Safe Clean Water Program before voters on the November 6, 2018 ballot. If approved by local voters, this Program will provide local, dedicated funding to increase local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health. The County has offered to conduct informational presentations for residents and/or city councils in SGV communities. To schedule a presentation, contact Jolene Guerrero, Head of Community and Govt Relations (JGUERRER@dpw.lacounty.gov).



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 17, 2018

- **San Gabriel Trench Celebration:** On September 10th, more than 150 officials and community leaders gathered at the San Gabriel Mission to dedicate the San Gabriel Trench – a 1.4 mile railroad trench that is the largest project in the \$1.7 billion Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) program of 19 roadway-rail grade separations in eastern Los Angeles County. The freight railroad trench is spanned by four new roadway bridges and was completed following four years of construction. To date, a total of 14 of the 19 grade separations in the ACE program have been completed. The last, two final grade separations, located in the City of Montebello and in the City of Industry/Hacienda Heights, are scheduled to start construction in three years, contingent on \$78 million programmed from the state trade corridor program established under the SB 1 transportation measure. To view photos from the dedication ceremony, please [click here](#)
- **Homeless Convenings Reminder:** The SGVCOG and County of Los Angeles are jointly convening the County Departments that provide homeless services and the cities in the San Gabriel Valley. The purpose of the convening is to provide cities with an understanding of the services provided by the County and how to connect with them. At the same time, the County would like city input into:
 - What's working well,
 - What could work better
 - Opportunities that may be available to strengthen the Homeless Services Delivery System, and
 - Strengthening the relationship between providers and cities

The convening is designed for city managers, or the designee, and the City homeless point person. To take advantage of this opportunity to connect with County services and provide your input, please RSVP this weekend to Toni Vega at tvega@ceo.lacounty.gov and jcicco@sgvcog.org. The same meeting will be offered at 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Baldwin Park Arts and Recreation Center, 14403-B East Pacific Avenue Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held its September meeting. The Committee received reports from the SGVCOG's Treasurer for the 3rd and 4th Quarter, with no inaccurate or inadequate findings reported. To respond to the Board of Supervisors recent action to allocate funding to cities to implement homeless plans and associated strategies, the Committee acted to authorize the execution of grant writing contract(s) for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 in preparation for city applications for homeless funding opportunities. Additionally, the Committee directed staff to outreach to the three member water districts to inquiry on interest in serving as individual members to the SGVCOG Governing Board.
- **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the Water Policy Committee and Water TAC held their monthly meeting. David Pedersen, General Manager of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District presented on Phase 2 of the White Paper titled "Tapping into Available Capacity in Existing Infrastructure to Create Water Supply and Water Quality Solutions." The purpose of the White Paper is to explore the opportunity for controlled and strategic integration of the region's existing stormwater and wastewater systems to achieve multiple benefits, such as enhancing the quality of receiving waters in Los Angeles County, and increasing water

supplies available for recycling. The Committee and TAC were also briefed on a summary of stormwater/water legislation for the 2017-2018 legislative cycle.

- **Autonomous Vehicle Conference:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff attended an all-day autonomous vehicle (AV) policy conference. The conference brought together local and regional governments, as well as stakeholders to learn about the policy issues facing the advent of AV technology. The conference covered areas where AV technology can address transportation in terms access, equity, and greenhouse gas reduction. Additional topics included how AV technology can lead to decreased traffic congestion, and increased safety. The conference organizer, Transpo Group, hosts one-day workshops for cities to learn how they can prepare and implement AV policy. For more information or to book a workshop, contact Ryan Snyder (ryan.snyder@transpogroup.com).
- **Congestion Management Plan (CMP) Opt-Out Workshop:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff attended LA Metro's CMP Opt-Out Workshop. The CMP is a state-mandated program which attempts to link transportation and land use decisions in order to mitigate congestion. The CMP defines transportation deficiencies using a level of service standard, and provides guidelines for cities to follow to ensure reduced Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMTs) through their respective jurisdictions. On June 28, 2018, the Metro Board approved an action to initiate the process to opt out of the CMP. The next step in this process involves Metro opening up a dialogue with LA County local public agencies on this matter. If a majority of local jurisdictions representing a majority of the county's population formally adopt resolutions to opt out of the State's CMP, then the cities in that county may opt out of the CMP requirement without penalty. Metro is seeking feedback from local agencies in LA County about the CMP's elements and impacts on the cities, and these comments and input from cities are due to Metro by September 27. Additionally, Metro staff will give a CMP Opt-Out implications presentation to the COG's Public Works TAC on October 15. If cities wish to opt out of the CMP, they must send their Council-adopted resolutions to LA Metro by this upcoming May, and Metro can provide cities with a resolution template. If your City has questions about the CMP requirements or about opting out, then please direct your inquiries to Paul Backstrom of LA Metro at backstromp@metro.net or at 213-922-2183. You can also view Metro's Staff report to the Metro Board here: https://www.metro.net/projects/congestion_mgmt_pgm/.
- **Pride of the Valley Event Reminder:** This coming Sunday from 9 AM to 2 PM, the Pride of the Valley Open Streets event will take place in the City of Baldwin Park and the City of Irwindale. The route will span 4.6 miles and will have two activity hubs. Activity hubs will be located on Arrow Hwy and Azusa Canyon Rd. in Irwindale and on Maine Ave and Ramona Blvd. in Baldwin Park. Participants will easily be able to walk, bike, or skate along the route while enjoying all the festivities. For more information, please click here.
- **Reminder - No September Transportation Committee:** As a reminder, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee will NOT meet in the month of September, so there will be no meeting on September 20th. We look forward to seeing all of our Transportation Committee voting members in attendance next month at our October Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, October 18, which will have a full and substantive agenda. Thank you!
- **Reminder - No Governing Board:** As a reminder, the SGVCOG Governing Board will NOT be meeting in September. Then next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 18th.
- **Notice - No September Homelessness Committee meeting:** The Homelessness Committee meeting date and time is changing to the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00

a.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 3rd. More information will be forthcoming in the next two weeks.

➤ **State HEAP Funding Application Information:** LA CoC Board members reviewed and approved the allocation parameters for the State Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds this week. The allocations are:

- Strategies A1/A5, Prevention \$16M (20%),
- Strategy B3, Rapid Rehousing \$12M (15%),
- E7, Strengthening the Coordinated Entry System \$8M (10%)
- E8, Enhance the Emergency Shelter System, \$45M (10%)

In order for a city to receive HEAP funds, it must make an Emergency Shelter Declaration by October 31st. SGVCOG staff will send out an email with a template Shelter Declaration and the pertinent State Code again this week. Cities that make an Emergency Shelter Declaration and have created a homeless plan may apply for funds under all priorities. LAHSA has not identified which Strategies will be included in the Request for Proposal as some programming will be implemented by LAHSA directly. The RFP to apply for HEAP funds is expected to be released in December.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 17, 2018

- **Measure H Request for Proposal Released:** The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative and the Home For Good Funders Collaborative have released the competitive funding opportunity for cities. In addition to \$9,000,000 in Measure H funds for cities homeless plan implementation, the Funders Collaborative is making available \$1,000,000 in private funds for cities that have not yet created a homeless plan. The RFP can be downloaded at <http://homeforgoodla.org/our-work/funders-collaborative/grantseekers/>.
Upcoming technical assistance opportunities are as follows:
 - Monday, September 24th, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Register at Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6651549861679343107>
 - Tuesday, September 25th, 1:00 - 2:30, SGV Cities Bidders Conference Call. (877) 336-1829, Participant Access Code: 9732215
 - Wednesday, September 26th, 1:00 - 2:00, SGVCOG Cities RFP Strategies Call, Call in number: 605.468.8030, Pin: 1016462#. Please RSVP to jcicco@sgvcog.org.
- **Pride of the Valley:** On Sunday, thousands of cyclists, runners, skaters, and people on foot enjoyed more than four miles of car-free streets at the Pride of the Valley open streets festival hosted by the cities of Irwindale and Baldwin Park. The route included commercial, residential, and industrial areas, as well as connections to nearby rail stations and bike trails. The SGVCOG co-hosted a community resource fair as a component of the Baldwin Park hub, which featured over 10 different community services, including environmental/energy, education, job, and health programs.
- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, September 17, the Public Works TAC held its September meeting. First the TAC heard a on the “California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment 2018” study. The study found that, on average, LA County’s roads are in the “At-Risk” category, with many roads in “Poor” condition. Additionally, the total pavement needs across California total \$61.7 billion over the next 10 years, and LA County has only met 40-60% of its pavement improvement needs. Cities and counties will lose out on about \$1 billion in annual funding for road repairs if SB 1 is repealed. Also, the main Action Item that the Public Works TAC considered was the proposed projects list for the first Measure M MSP 5-Year Programming plan. \$31,827,287 of MSP funds are available in the SGV subregion for the first 5-Year MSP cycle, and cities submitted projects which totaled \$142,703,919 in aggregate cost. COG staff proposed funding the top priority active transportation, first-last mile, or complete streets project of each local agency which submitted a project. The Public Works TAC unanimously recommended approval of this approach. Additionally, COG staff asked the TAC to consider whether or not cities which are awarded funding should have to provide a 10% match. The TAC approved a motion which stipulated that no local funding match should be required for MSP awards.
- **Homeless Convening:** On Monday, the SGVCOG and the County of Los Angeles co-convened meetings to build bridges of understanding between the cities of the San Gabriel Valley and the County. Homeless Initiative Director, Phil Ansell, was joined by the SGVCOG Homelessness Committee Chair, Joe Lyons, LAHSA Executive Director, Peter Lynn, and the COG’s Executive Director in leading the meeting. The County dedicated significant resources as leaders from every County department that provides services to

those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness were in attendance. Cities, too, dedicated high-level staff including mayors, council members, city managers and department directors were present and actively engaged. Leadership from the Coordinated Entry System were also present to inform and provide information on how cities can effectively link to services. The primary focus of the meeting was identifying gaps in the homeless services system that can be addressed. Cities were forthcoming regarding concerns they have and the disconnect that can occur between planning and implementation. The County was open to this input and made note of several challenges that were brought to light. Amongst the identified gaps were a lack of city level data, linking families to shelter until they can be assisted. Other gaps include:

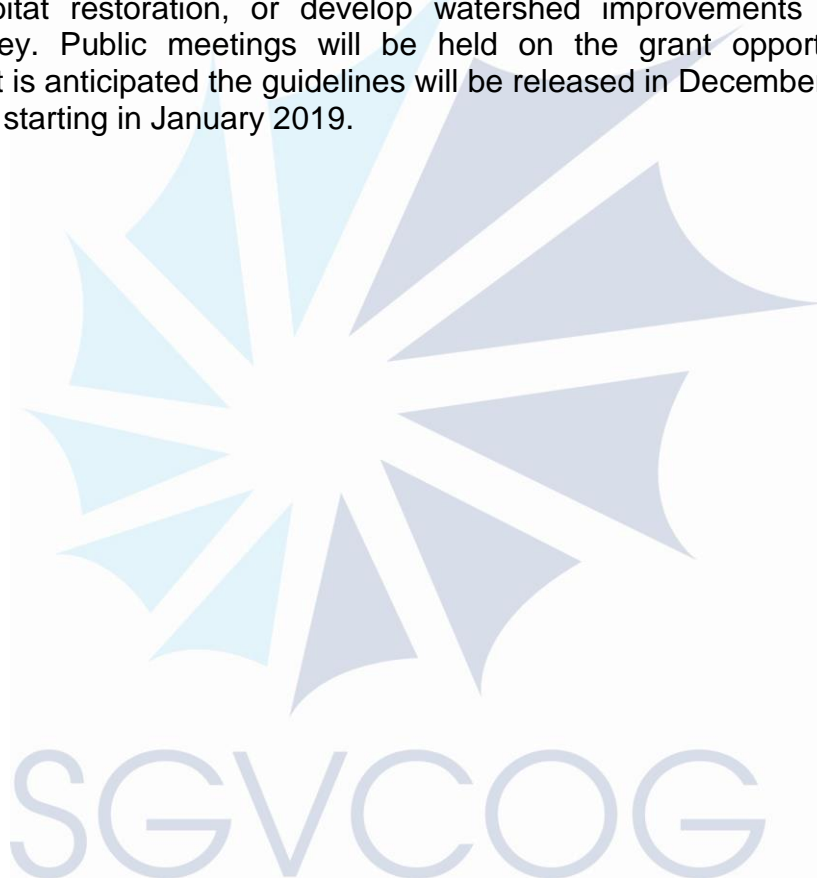
- A lack of affordable housing;
- A lack of interim housing;
- Financial ability to implement homeless plans and an imbalance in funding; and
- An insufficient number of service providers receiving funding and with capacity to run complex programs and administer government funding.

The COG and the County would like to continue the County/cities conversation through the city cohort groupings. Cohort groups are self-identified by the cities and were developed when the cities completed their plans so that they could share ideas and discuss strategies subregionally. To facilitate future convenings and strengthen applications for implementation funding, please confirm your cohort preferences by identifying the cities with which your city would like to connect. Please consider working relationships, geographic areas, and common school districts. Cities that have not yet created homeless plans are invited to engage in the city cohorts. Please email your preferences to tojicco@sgvcog.org by Thursday, September 27.

- **Electrify America Event:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended a meeting hosted by LA County and Electrify America on electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure opportunities. Electrify America was founded in late 2016 to plan, implement, and manage the \$2 billion zero emission vehicle (ZEV) Investment Commitment resulting from the settlement between the Volkswagen Group of America, the United States, and the State of California. LA County has also been coordinating with city officials throughout the region in partnership with Electrify America to identify priority locations for the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment. Cities that are interested in proposing an EV site can submit their proposals to the following link: <https://www.electrifyamerica.com/submissions>.
- **Active Transportation Working Group:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended SCAG's Active Transportation Working Group meeting. This meeting recapped the SCAG regional bikeway strategy, which identified 700 miles of new bikeways within the SCAG region (a 17% growth). SCAG also provided an update to the Sustainability Communities Program, which was previously known as the Sustainability Planning Grants Program, will now have three major focus areas: Active Transportation Projects, Integrated Land Use Projects and Green Region Initiative Projects. Cities are encouraged to explore these grants at the following link: <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/DemoProjApplication.aspx>. This meeting also provided updates on SCAG's Go Human program, as well as the 2019 Active Transportation Program Cycle 4 progress.
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The City of El Monte and its community partners, will be hosting its annual walk to end domestic violence on Thursday, October 25th, from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at El Monte City Hall. This year's event will feature a family friendly one-mile walk, resource fair, and a forum to share critical information for shelters and services for survivors of domestic violence. For

more information, please contact Sheila Crippen at SCrippen@elmonteca.gov.

- **EENR Committee:** The Committee received two presentations from Mark Stanley, Executive Director of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and Joseph Gonzales, Project Development Analyst for the RMC. The presentations revolved around the East Fork Improvement Plan, which will begin implementation in the fall of 2019 with the construction of a stairway access point. A total of \$240,000 in private grants will be used for the construction of access stairway. Also, the committee received an update on Prop. 68, which provides \$30 million in funding for the region, and will be distributed via a competitive grant process. The grants will be awarded to projects that will preserve open space, conduct habitat restoration, or develop watershed improvements throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Public meetings will be held on the grant opportunities beginning in November. It is anticipated the guidelines will be released in December and applications will be accepted starting in January 2019.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 24, 2018

- **Open Streets Grants:** On Thursday, the Metro Board approved funding for Cycle 3 of Metro's Open Streets Competitive Grant Program, which is a county-wide program to fund open streets events throughout the region. All four applications submitted in the SGV region were awarded funding. The total amount awarded to these four projects was \$1,272,000, which represent 28.6% of the funding. Projects were funded as follows:
 - 626 Golden Streets - Arroyo Fest (City of South Pasadena and Caltrans): \$420,000
 - 626 Golden Streets - Mission to Mission (Cities of South Pasadena, Alhambra and San Gabriel): \$332,000
 - 626 Golden Streets - SGV Streets and Treats (Cities of El Monte and South El Monte): \$170,000
 - Heart of the Foothills (Cities of San Dimas, La Verne, and Pomona): \$350,000

The SGVCOG will be co-planning 2 of the 4 events (SGV Streets & Treats and Heart of the Foothills).

- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, the Planners TAC held its September meeting. The TAC first heard a presentation from COG staff regarding the COG's recommended projects list for the first cycle of Measure M MSP Subregional fund programming. The TAC unanimously approved a motion to concur with the recommended project list, and recommended that COG staff work with jurisdictions that have been recommended for funding to confirm that they'll be able to execute their projects and that the COG make a commitment to work with Gold Line Phase 2B cities to find ways to secure funding for their required 3% local match. COG staff also provided a short presentation on the SB 1 Sustainable Communities Competitive Grants and encouraged cities to apply for this planning grant opportunity. Additionally, SCAG's Director of Planning, Kome Ajise, provided a thorough presentation on both SCAG's Bottom-Up Local Input and Envisioning Process for the RTP/SCS and RHNA, and their Sustainable Communities Program. COG staff offered to assist with multi-jurisdictional applications for projects such as regional corridor planning efforts and electric vehicle infrastructure planning. If your city is interested in such a project, please contact Katie Ward (kward@sgvcog.org).
- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee:** The Capital Projects and Construction Committee met on September 24th and approved a contract amendment for CH2MHi in the amount of \$492,307 for support services and design revisions to the Fairway Drive grade separation project. The Chief Engineer acknowledged challenges with the project and assured the committee this amount would carry the contract through the end of the project. The new contract total for design services is \$8.3M. The Committee also approved a contract in the amount not to exceed \$249,494 to CWE for preliminary engineering and final design services for the Load Strategy Projects for the Rio Hondo River and Tributaries. The contract is subject to future amendments from partnering agencies. There were four Amendments to previously approved Resolutions of Necessity for the Fairway Drive project which the Committee moved to the October meeting due to lack of the number of members present.

- **Twitter Chat:** On September 24th, the SGVCOG hosted another successful Twitter Chat. The discussion topic for this chat revolved around First/Last mile connectivity to transit and funding resources. This time 7 agencies participated in the chat, as well as various individuals, and provided some great comments and resources on First/Last mile implementation. This was one of most successful chats and those who are interested can review the conversation by inputting #FLMconnectingtheSGV in your twitter browser.
- **Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan Workshop:** On Wednesday, I participated in a workshop hosted by the Los Angeles County of Sustainability focused on the Transportation Chapter of the Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan, which is currently under development. This workshop was specifically for local governments and transit providers, with a separate workshop previously held for the non-profit sector. At this meeting, stakeholders provided feedback on the draft goals included in the Transportation Chapter. Currently, they are as follows:
 - Enhance communities and lives through mobility and equitable access to jobs and economic opportunity
 - Improve transportation system reliability, accessibility, user experience, and resilience to support high-quality mobility options that enable people to spend less time traveling
 - Improve transportation-related health and safety outcomes.
 - Decarbonize freight corridors.
 - Reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions by transportation sector.
 - Amplify regional efforts to achieve a sustainable transportation system.

More information about the County's planning effort is available at <https://ourcountyla.org/>.

- **Environmental Justice Conference:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff attended the 4th Annual Environmental Justice Conference in Los Angeles. Hosted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the conference attracted hundreds of individuals from all over the region to discuss and learn about technology's role in the future of environmental justice initiatives. Key topics included how the health effects of air pollution disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities and efforts to address air pollution using various green transportation initiatives.
- **NextGen Bus Study Working Group:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff attended Metro's 4th NextGen Bus Study External Working Group Meeting. At this meeting, Metro presented on service trade-offs, such as frequency vs. more routes and frequency vs. reliability. Metro also provided a detailed presentation on different types of bus service (i.e. Bus Rapid Transit, Metro Rapid, Metro Local, Commuter Bus, etc.), and then explained which types of bus services make the most sense along certain routes, corridors, neighborhoods, and arterials. There was also a workshop portion of the meeting during which meeting participants completed an interactive feedback activity in which they identified different types of transit corridors throughout LA County and then provided suggestions about which types of service tools and bus service types should serve those corridors. At the next working group meeting on December 4th, Metro will review draft service concepts for the designed bus system.
- **SB 1 Sustainable Communities Grants:** On Wednesday, COG staff attended Caltrans' SB 1 Sustainable Communities Grants workshop. The purpose of this grant program is to fund planning projects which further the region's RTP/SCS, contribute to the State's GHG reduction targets, and will improve environmental justice. Eligible projects for this grant include: studies that assist in creating sustainable communities and TOD, safe routes to school plans, complete streets plans, active transportation plans, updates to a general plan

land use element or zoning code, corridor enhancement studies, station area planning, first/last mile planning, and many other project types. For this grant cycle, there will be \$12.5 million in available funds. Cities must provide an 11.47% local match, and staff time can count for this match. The guidelines for this competitive grant will be released on October 5, and Caltrans will host an application-specific workshop for the Sustainable Communities Competitive Grant, Sustainable Communities Formula Grant, and Adaptation Planning Grants on October 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the SCAG office in downtown LA. Grant applications are due to Caltrans via email by November 30, 2018.

