



Valley Voice

The official newsletter of the
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
May 2023

***626 Golden Streets - Heart of the Foothills: A
Community Celebration of Sustainable
Transportation***



The streets were alive with the sounds of laughter and the hum of activity at the 626 Golden Streets – Heart of the Foothills event on Sunday, April 23. Made possible by Metro Los Angeles' Open Streets program, this collaborative effort between San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, and Claremont, in partnership with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and ActiveSGV, aimed to promote sustainable modes of transportation, including biking, walking, and public transit.

Over 6.5 miles of road were sectioned off for community members to explore their city streets car-free, and the turnout was impressive. All people-powered transportation forms were welcome, from biking and skating to rolling and strolling. Participants were invited to walk and jog along the route, taking in the sights and sounds of their city without the noise and pollution of cars.



The day-long event was a true celebration of Earth Day, with visitors from all walks of life gathering to enjoy the festivities. Each city set up its activity hub, with vendors offering everything from food and drinks to games and entertainment. And with the sun shining bright, visitors could cool off and refuel before continuing their journey.

Pomona's Palomares Park was the center of the action, where dignitaries and elected officials kicked off the celebration in the morning. Here, the SGVCOG had a booth where visitors could participate in arts and crafts activities while learning about the many programs the SGVCOG offers. Nearby, ActiveSGV had a booth highlighting our bike rental program, GoSGV, offering visitors the chance to try out pedal-assist e-bikes for themselves.



626 Golden Streets – Heart of the Foothills was a great deal of fun, bringing people together while highlighting the benefits of sustainable transportation. As we look toward a greener, more sustainable future, events like these remind us

of the power of community and the importance of coming together to create positive change.

Engaging the Community: The San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study Goes On the Road



The San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study team has been out and about in the community, engaging with the public and gathering input on the future of public transportation in the region. On April 16th, the Tranist Study had an informational booth at the City of Monterey Park's Cherry Blossom Festival. We were thrilled with the positive response we received from the public.

As people stopped by our booth, we heard repeatedly about the need for public transportation to improve in the area. To encourage folks to share their thoughts on the Transit Feasibility Study's conceptual routes, we provided free mugs and swag to everyone who stopped by and provided feedback. The response was overwhelming, and we were invigerated with the level of engagement we received from the community.



But we didn't stop there. We also attended two earth day celebrations at Cal Poly Pomona. The first event was Cal Poly Pomona's Earth Day celebration on April 20th, followed by the Town & Gown Bike Ride event on April 21st. At both events, we joined the Cal Poly Pomona community in commemorating Earth Day while gathering more valuable information from attendees. We were delighted to see so many people interested in the future of public transportation in the San Gabriel Valley and eager to share their ideas with us.

As we continue our work on the Transit Feasibility Study, we want to thank everyone who has taken the time to engage with us and share their thoughts. Your input is invaluable and will help us create a better public transportation system for everyone in the San Gabriel Valley.

We encourage everyone to stay involved in the process and [continue sharing their ideas and feedback with us](#) as we progress. Together, we can create a public transportation system that meets the needs of everyone in the San Gabriel Valley!

SGVCOG Visits YWCA's Shelter for Domestic Violence Victims, Sees Impact of Food Insecurity Grant Program



On Tuesday, April 4th, members of the SGVCOG staff had the opportunity to visit the San Gabriel Valley YWCA's confidential shelter for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children.

The San Gabriel Valley YWCA is a recipient of the SGVCOG's Food Insecurity Grant Program, which provides funding to organizations working to address food insecurity among vulnerable populations. Through this program, the YWCA can provide free meals, snacks, and nutritional guidance to shelter residents. During the site visit, the SGVCOG staff had the opportunity to witness firsthand the impact of the Food Insecurity Grant Program on the lives of individuals and families in need.

The SGVCOG's Governing Board allocated \$250,000 to fund the Food Insecurity Grant Program, part of a broader effort to address food insecurity among persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) or at risk of homelessness. The program has been instrumental in providing much-needed support to organizations like the San Gabriel Valley YWCA, which are working tirelessly to address the needs of their communities.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce Hosts Successful Legislative Luncheon



On April 6th, The Pomona Chamber of Commerce held its Legislative Luncheon, an excellent opportunity for businesses, organizations, and community leaders to discuss local issues and exchange ideas. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) team was among the attendees, thanks to our good friends at Foothill Transit. The event was attended by local elected officials and regional business leaders, including SGVCOG 1st Vice President, Mayor Tim Hepburn of La Verne, and Claremont City Councilmember Corey Calaycay. The SGVCOG team had a fantastic time connecting with friends and learning about Pomona's economic development initiatives.

***San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust
Advocates for Affordable Housing Bill Before
Senate Committee***



On Wednesday, April 12th, Brielle Salazar, the Regional Housing Trust Manager, testified before the Senate Governance and Finance Committee in Sacramento in support of Senate Bill 20 (SB 20) by Senator Susan Rubio. Senate Bill 20 seeks to establish a state framework for regional housing trusts to fund housing for low-income and unhoused individuals and families. In addition, the bill aims to replicate the success of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) by providing guidance and clarity to local communities, allowing them to receive public and private financing and funds, while requiring transparency and accountability through annual financial reporting and auditing requirements.



The SGVRHT, created in February 2020 as a JPA, has successfully funded 690 affordable housing units and 105 interim housing beds in the last three years, supporting the Regional Housing Trust model. Brielle's testimony highlighted these successes and how the SGVRHT can serve as a model for cities attempting to solve the homelessness throughout California.

***Congresswoman Judy Chu Secures \$4 Million for
San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust's
Affordable Housing Project Pipeline***



On Tuesday, April 11th, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) attended a check presentation ceremony with Congresswoman Judy Chu. The event took place at the location of a former commercial site in the City of San Gabriel. This site's open space will be the future location of affordable housing development, which is anticipated to offer approximately 60 units for families.

The agency initially acquired the property during the construction of the San Gabriel Trench Grade Separation Project. After completion of the Project, the land was later declared surplus property and was recently purchased by the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) for the development of an affordable housing project, the first in the City of San Gabriel. Thanks to Congresswoman Chu's leadership, the SGVRHT secured an impressive \$4 million in community project funding. SGVRHT Chair Jed Leano and several members of the San Gabriel City City Council attended the check presentation event, including Vice Mayor John Wu and Councilmembers Eric Chan, Tony Ding and Denise Menchaca.

The San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust is grateful for the support and leadership of Congresswoman Chu in securing this critical funding. The \$4

million funding boost will go a long way in supporting the development of much-needed affordable housing in the San Gabriel Valley.

SGV Works Receives \$2 million in Funding from Congresswoman Napolitano at Serenity Homes



On April 14th, SGVCOG President Becky Shevlin, and First Vice President Tim Hepburn, had the pleasure of visiting Serenity Homes for a check presentation ceremony from Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. Thanks to her leadership in Washington, SGV Works, SGVCOG's workforce development program will receive \$2 million in community project funding.

The program offers a comprehensive suite of paid job training and wrap-around services to support participants in achieving long-term economic stability. The program primarily serves two groups: transition-age youth and adults experiencing homelessness, with an emphasis on those living at SGVCOG's three interim housing sites. With the additional funding, SGVCOG can continue and expand the program, providing much-needed support to these vulnerable populations.

Congresswoman Judy Chu Presents \$1.5 Million Check for SGV CARE Mobile Crisis Response Program



On April 10th, Congresswoman Judy Chu visited the City of South Pasadena to present a \$1.5 million check for SGV CARE, our mobile crisis response program. SGVCOG President Becky Shevlin was accompanied by South Pasadena Councilmembers and our trusted service provider, L.A. CADA, to receive this new tranche of funding. SGV CARE is the first multi-city regional collaboration to offers an alternative to the traditional 911 response for individuals amid a mental health crisis. Currently, the cities of Arcadia, Montebello, San Marino and South Pasadena are participating in the program. The SGVCOG is grateful to the Congresswoman for her unwavering support and is excited to continue working towards building a more supportive and empathetic community.

***SGVCOG Hosts Virtual Workshop to Help
Organizations Reduce Food Waste and Combat
Insecurity***



The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) hosted a virtual workshop on April 18th aimed at educating events, venues, hospitals, and universities on how to reduce food waste and recover edible food. The event was part of the COG's Regional Food Recovery Program, which helps member cities, businesses, and food recovery organizations in reducing food insecurity and complying with SB 1383, while also establishing subregional food hubs.

Two industry experts, 301 Organics and Food Recovery Network, presented at the workshop, providing insights into composting best practices, case studies, and how organizations can initiate their own food recovery chapters. Those interested in the program and future events can contact mbolger@sgvcog.org for further information.

SGVCOG Staff Member Spotlight:

Simone Bivens, Senior Administrative Assitant, Human Resources



What do you like most about working with the SGVCOG?

I really like the open and friendly workplace and seeing all the programs the COG offers to help those in need.

What is a fun fact about you?

I enjoy traveling and sewing my own clothes.

News-in-Brief



Soulemates Shoe Drive

Are you looking for a way to positively impact your community? Look no further! The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is looking to provide new socks and shoes to people experiencing homelessness through our Village 143 program. Join us in making a difference by donating to this worthy cause. Not only will you be providing essential items to those in need, but you'll also be spreading kindness and compassion in our community. Visit sgvcog.org/village143 to learn more about how you can participate and make a difference. Don't wait - send your donations!



CalKIDS Statewide Savings Account Program

This past August, Governor Newsom, State Treasurer Ma, and the [ScholarShare Investment Board](#) (SIB) launched [CalKIDS](#), a statewide children's savings account program that awards every newborn child with up to \$100 and eligible low-income public school students enrolled in first through 12th grade with up to \$1,500 for future higher education expenses. If you have interest in this program, please contact Julio Martinez Julio.Martinez@treasurer.ca.gov or Noah Lightman Noah.Lightman@treasurer.ca.gov



SGVCOG Can Help Increase Your Home's Energy Efficiency

Interested in increasing your home's energy efficiency? We can assist you! The SGVCOG has partnered with the County of Los Angeles, which administers the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) to bring together a wide variety of services with one common goal: achieving unprecedented levels of energy savings. Get started by signing up for a free eSGV review! Our staff will walk you through the whole-house approach to energy efficiency, giving you the tools necessary to become more efficient. Find out more information [here!](#)

May Committee Meeting Schedule

Please be advised that the Governing Board will convene in person at the SGVCOG's office in Monrovia. Livestreams of the meetings can be found on the SGVCOG website [here](#). The live streams of San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors meetings are [here](#).

Capital Projects and Construction Committee - May 1, 2023, at 11:00 AM

Water Committee - May 2, 2023, at 2:00 PM

Homelessness Committee - May 3, 2023, at 8:30 AM

EENR Committee - May 3, 2023, at 10:15 AM

City Managers' Steering Committee - May 3, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Transportation Committee - May 3, 2023, at 4:00 PM

Regional Housing Trust Board - May 11, 2023, at 1 PM

Public Works Working Group - May 15, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Governing Board - May 18, 2023, at 4:00 PM

Planning Directors Working Group - May 25, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Homelessness Working Group - May 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Executive Committee - Cancelled

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