



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
T: (213) 236-1800  
www.scag.ca.gov

REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

President  
**Cindy Allen, Long Beach**

First Vice President  
**Ray Marquez, Chino Hills**

Second Vice President  
**Jenny Crosswhite, Santa Paula**

Immediate Past President  
**Curt Hagman**  
County of San Bernardino

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive/Administration  
**Cindy Allen, Long Beach**

Community, Economic, &  
Human Development  
**David J. Shapiro, Calabasas**

Energy & Environment  
**Rick Denison, Yucca Valley**

Transportation  
**Mike T. Judge, Ventura County**  
Transportation Commission

MEETING OF THE

**TECHNICAL  
WORKING GROUP**

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

**[HTTPS://SCAG.ZOOM.US/J/142774637](https://scag.zoom.us/j/142774637)**

**OR**

**DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION**

**+1 669 900 6833 US TOLL**

**+1 346 248 7799 US TOLL**

**MEETING ID: 142 774 637**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Kevin Kane at (213) 236-1828 or via email at [kane@scag.ca.gov](mailto:kane@scag.ca.gov). Agendas & Minutes for the Technical Working Group are also available at: <https://scag.ca.gov/technical-working-group>

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SCAG provides accommodations for persons who require them to participate in public meetings. SCAG also provides translations of its documents upon request in accordance with Title VI. Both services can be requested with at least 72 hours (three days) notice in advance of the meetings by calling (213) 630-1410.

1. Connect SoCal 2050 Local Data Exchange: Overview and Timeline  
Echo Zheng  
30 minutes  
[Packet Page 5](#)
  
2. Connect SoCal 2050 Growth Forecast & Growth Vision: A High-Level Overview  
Kevin Kane, Lyle Janicek, Kimberly Clark  
20 minutes  
[Packet Page 16](#)
  
3. CARB's Evaluation of Connect SoCal 2024  
Camille Guiriba  
15 minutes  
[Packet Page 33](#)
  
4. SCAG's AI White Paper  
Amanda McDaniel  
15 minutes  
[Packet Page 39](#)



# TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes (Abridged)

August 21, 2025  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconferencing.

## Meeting Attendance

### MEMBERS

Angeles, Mariel	City of Cerritos	Oliver, Tom	City of Los Alamitos
Balderrama, Mary	City of Cerritos	Pinto, Erika	SPUR
Diep, Deborah	CDR/CSUF	Shiomoto-Lohr, Gail	City of Mission Viejo
Emery, Edward	RCTC	Tendick, Jennifer	CARB
Hollis, Jerilyn	County of Ventura	Tso, Kristin	OCTA
Koblasz, Ginger	SBCTA	Zaman, Ruby	CDR/CSUF
Kim, Susan	City of La Habra		
Lancaster, Mark	CVAG		
Masters, Martha	RCTC		
Nguyen, Thomas	CA HCD		

### ALTERNATES & PUBLIC ATTENDEES

--



# TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Summary

### 1. CONNECT SOCAL SUBREGIONAL SCS FRAMEWORK AND PRELIMINARY MILESTONES

Camille Guiriba presented an overview of the Subregional SCS Framework and Guidelines, noting the process and implications if subregions opted not to delegate, and shared out preliminary milestones for the development of Connect SoCal 2050. Deborah Diep (CDR/CSUF), Kevin Kane (SCAG), Gail Shiimoto-Lohr (City of Mission Viejo) participated in discussion.

### 2. KEY LINKAGES BETWEEN RTP/SCS AND RHNA ALLOCATION

Kevin Kane presented the key linkages between the Regional Transportation Planning/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), both of which are anticipated to coincide for this next cycle. Kevin noted the statutory provisions, schedule comparison, and highlighted key similarities and differences between the two processes. Gail Shiimoto-Lohr provided a comment.

### 3. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND WORKSHOP UPDATE

Kevin Kane provided demographic updates, noting the upcoming 2025 Southern California Demographic Workshop in October, the 2028-2050 RTP/SCS preliminary growth projections, the upcoming September 9th expert panel, and when the TWG may expect to see preliminary figures. Deborah Diep, Kevin Kane, and Sungbin Cho (SCAG) participated in discussion.

### 4. GENERAL UPDATE ON AB 130 AND SB 131

Karen Calderon shared a verbal update on two major bills relating to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that were passed this summer: AB 130 and SB 131, highlighting key takeaways from each bill. No comments were provided.



# Connect SoCal 2050 Local Data Exchange (LDX)

## Overview and Timeline

---

Echo Zheng, PhD

Forecasting & Spatial Analytics

September 2025

[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)

# What is LDX?

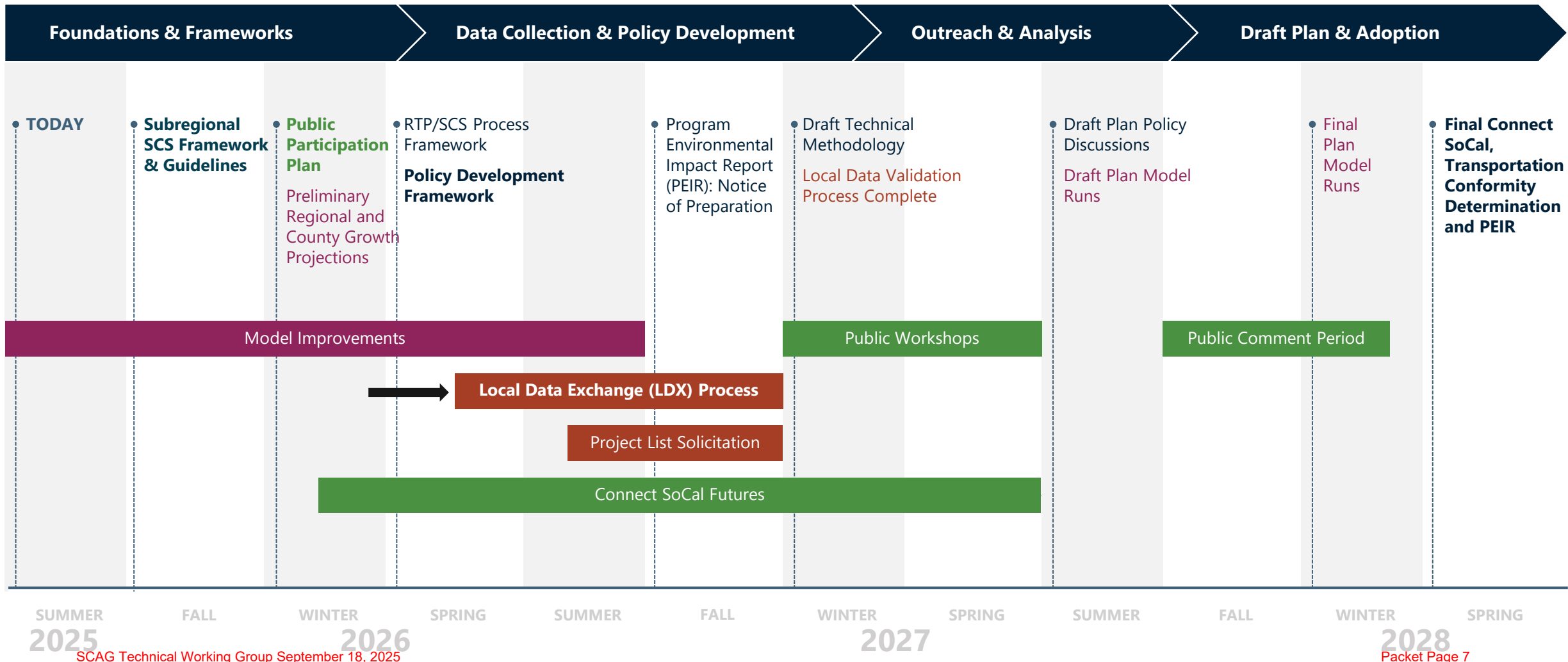
- The Local Data Exchange, or LDX, aims to collect and exchange information covering land use, growth, resource areas, and other related plan inputs to inform the development of Connect SoCal.
- LDX supports data collection and policy development for Connect SoCal 2050
- LDX involves
  - (1) preparing **geographic datasets and a planning survey** to collect local input
  - (2) **one-on-one meetings** with each of our 197 local jurisdictions



# Connect SoCal Preliminary Milestones

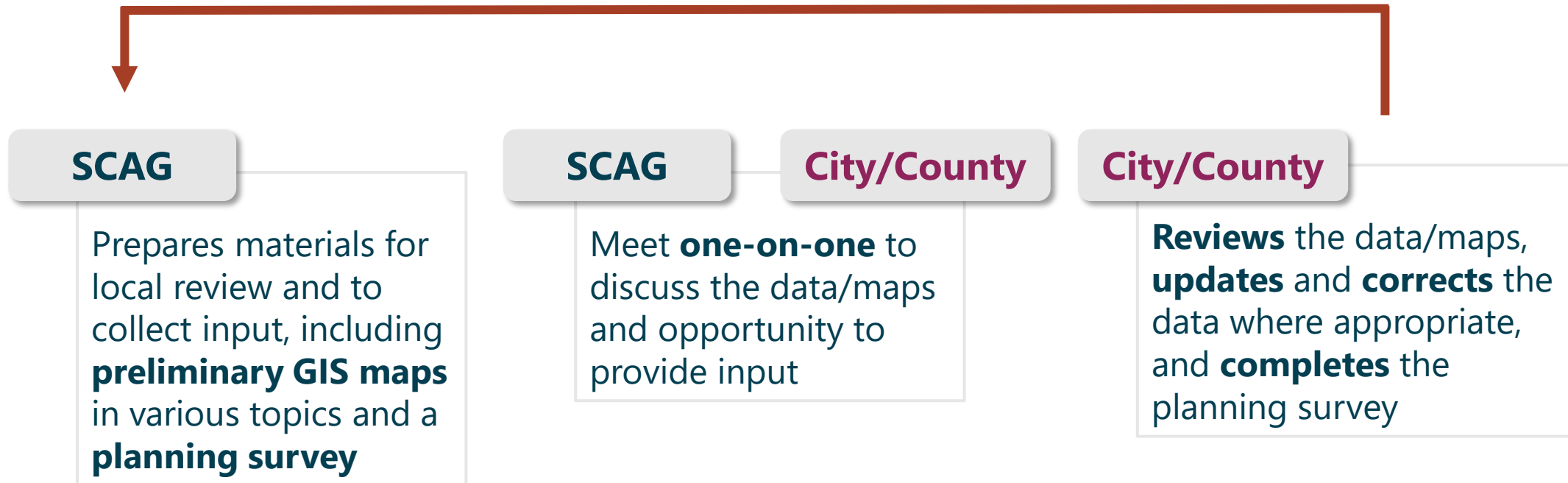
## COLOR KEY

- Plan Foundation & Elements
- Local Agency Input Process
- Modeling/Forecast
- Outreach and Engagement
- BOLD = ACTION ITEM**









# The Local Data *Exchange*

Data with local input will inform the development of upcoming RTP/SCS.











# The Local *Data* Exchange, Connect SoCal 2024

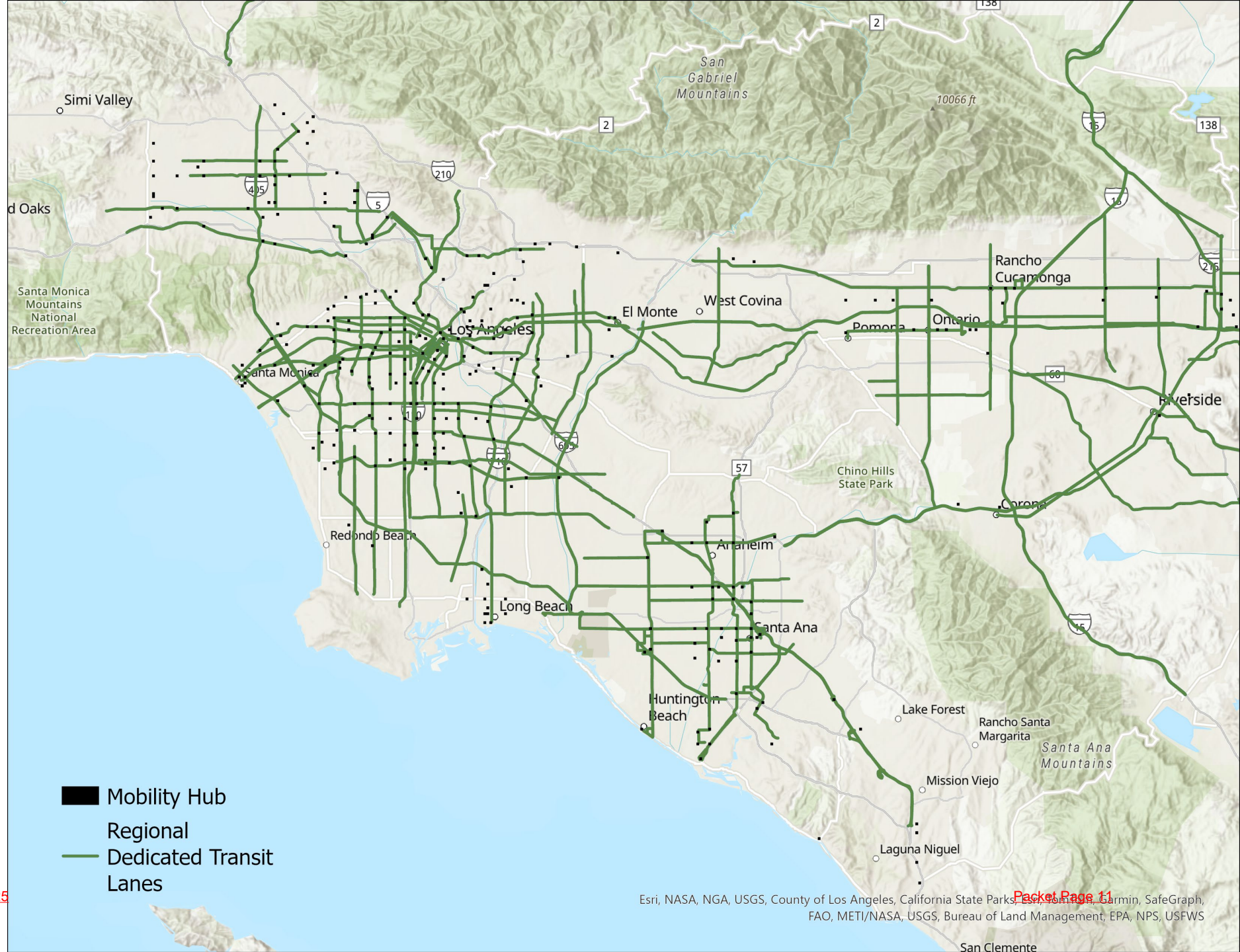
Update (U)	Reference (R)		Update	Update	Reference
					
Land Use	Geographic Boundary	Transportation	Growth Forecast	Priority Development Area	Green Region Resource Area
General Plan land use	City boundary	Major transit stops (R)	Households 2019-2050	Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMA)	Climate Hazards
Specific Plan land use	Sphere of influence	Transit Priority Areas (TPA) (R)	Employment 2019-2050	Livable Corridors	Habitat & Open Space
Existing land use	Census tract	High Quality Transit Corridors (HQTC) (R)		Job Centers	Administrative Areas
Zoning code	TAZ geography	Regional bikeways (U)			
Key Entitlements		Regional truck routes (U)			

# Proposed Data Changes for Connect SoCal 2050

Update (U)	Reference (R)		Update	Update	Reference
					
Land Use	Geographic Boundary	Transportation	Growth Forecast	Priority Development Area	Green Region Resource Area
General Plan land use	City boundary	<b>Update:</b> Major transit stops Transit Priority Areas (TPA) High Quality Transit Corridors (HQTC) Regional bikeways Regional truck routes <b>Add:</b> Mobility Hubs Dedicated Transit Lanes Olympic legacy projects	Households 2024-2050	<del>Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMA)</del>	Climate Hazards
Specific Plan land use	Sphere of influence		Employment 2024-2050	<del>Livable Corridors</del>	Habitat & Open Space
Existing land use	Census tract		<del>Job Centers</del>	Administrative Areas	
Zoning code	TAZ geography		Exploring a singular-layer approach		
Entitlements/pipeline projects					
<b>Update data and/or methodology</b>					

# Examples of Mobility Strategies in CSC 2024

- **Mobility hubs:** locations offering seamless connections between at least two transportation modes
- **Dedicated transit lanes:** SCAG's Regional Dedicated Transit Lanes Study identifies opportunities and best practices for a regional network of bus lanes



# Planning Survey

---

- Collecting feedback to refine established Connect SoCal Sustainable Communities Strategies.
- Understanding opportunities and constraints facing local governments in implementing the SCS.
- Identifying potential new and/or more effective land use and mobility strategies that support a forecasted regional development pattern that is integrated with the transportation network and reduces greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks.

# Planning Survey, CSC 2024

- For CSC 2024, the survey is organized into five parts including: Land Use & Housing, Transportation, Environmental, Public Health and Equity and Data. For example:
  - Has your jurisdiction adopted or implemented any of the following Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategies and, to your knowledge, have any major employers or other entities implemented any such strategies?

**Adopted TDM strategies**

- Bike share system
- Car share program
- Designated pick-up/drop-off for ride sourcing or transportation network companies (TNCs, such as Lyft or Uber)
- Dynamic pricing for parking
- Employee training programs on multimodal travel options
- Facilities or incentives for low speed modes (Neighborhood Electric Vehicles)
- Guaranteed ride home programs
- Incentives for telecommuting or hybrid work
- Integrated mobility hubs
- Intelligent parking programs
- Micromobility program (bike share, scooter share, etc.)
- Parking cash-out policies
- Parking Pricing
- Preferential parking or parking subsidies for carpoolers
- Private employer shuttles or other transportation providers
- Programs or mobility services aimed at local tourism travel (e.g. Shuttle bus)
- Ridesharing incentives and rideshare matching
- Transportation Network Company (TNC) partnership (providing first/last mile, dial-a-ride or paratransit, microtransit, etc.)
- Transit pass benefits
- Transportation management areas
- Vanpool programs

Jurisdiction		Major Employers	
Yes	No	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other TDM Strategies your jurisdiction is considering? What are barriers and/or opportunities to include these strategies in your plans, programs, or ordinances?

# Timeline

EVENT	<u>ANTICIPATED DATE</u>
Schedule meetings and begin subregion-level outreach	February 2026
Finalize and complete LDX data	March 2026
Launch Local Data Exchange. Data made available for local review through <a href="#">Data/Map Books</a>	March/April 2026
Begin one-on-one meetings with local jurisdictions to review the data package and feedback opportunity	April 2026
Deadline for local jurisdictions to provide feedback for possible inclusion in Connect SoCal	December 2026
Regional collaboration on plan development. Continued development of Connect SoCal strategies with stakeholders, working groups, and the public	2027
Draft RTP/SCS release	Fall 2027
Final RTP/SCS adoption	April 2028



# THANK YOU

---



# Connect SoCal 2050 Growth Forecast and Growth Vision

*a high-level overview*

---

Demographics and Growth Vision

September 18, 2025

Technical Working Group

[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)



# Presentation Outline

---

- Region & County Projections and Expert Panel
- The Forecasted Regional **Development Pattern**
- Connect SoCal 2024 Growth Prioritization Scale
- Connect SoCal 2050 – Early Considerations for:
  - Green Region Resource Areas (GRRAs)
  - Priority Development Areas (PDAs)

# Region & County Projections

## Sept 9 Expert Panel considered major inputs:

- 1 ➤ **Employment Growth**
- 2 ➤ **Births**
- 3 ➤ **Deaths**
- 4 ➤ **Immigration**
- 5 ➤ **Domestic Migration**
- 6 ➤ **Labor Force Participation**
- 7 ➤ **Household Formation (*Headship*)**

## Anticipate Preliminary Projections for Nov 20 TWG:



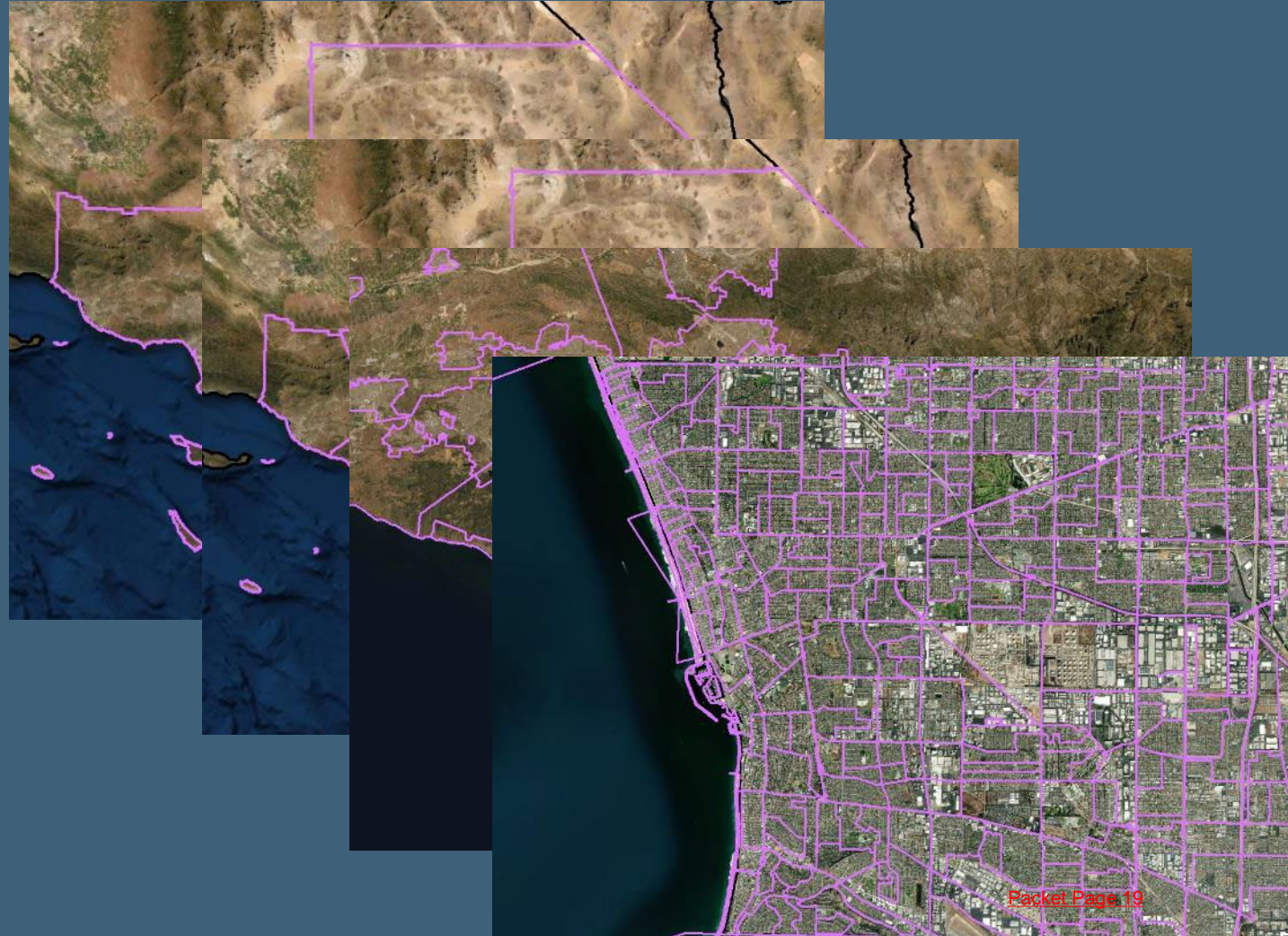
# Four key forecast scales

SCAG Region

6 SCAG Counties

197 SCAG Jurisdictions

Approximately 13,000 City split Tier 2  
Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs)



# Forecasted Regional Development Pattern

“set forth a *forecasted development pattern for the region*, which, when integrated with the transportation network, and other transportation measures and policies, will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks to achieve, if there is a feasible way to do so, the *greenhouse gas emission reduction targets* approved by the state board, and (viii) allow the regional transportation plan to comply with Section 176 of the *federal Clean Air Act* (42 U.S.C. Sec. 7506).” California Government Code 65080(b)(vii)

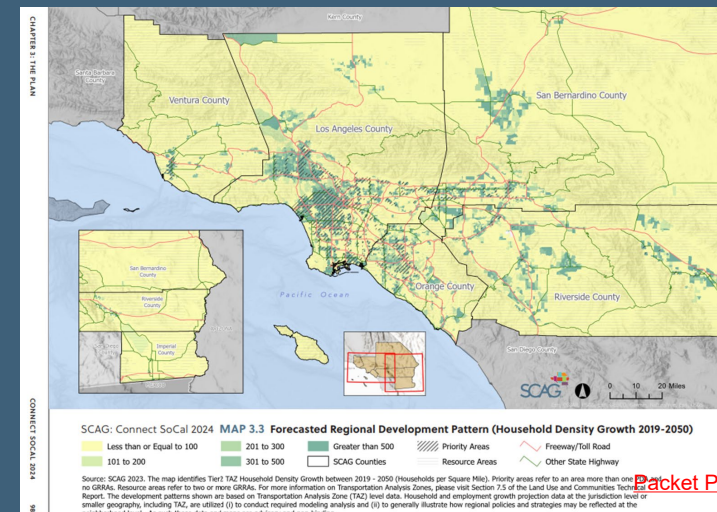
Preliminary  
May 2026

Locally-  
Reviewed  
April 2027

Draft  
Release  
expected Oct  
2027

Final  
Adoption  
expected Apr  
2028

- ✓ Demographic Expert Panel/Model
- ✓ Technical approach
- ✓ Statutory target
- ✓ Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Planning Policies



# Connect SoCal 2024

## Preliminary small area household forecast methodology

1. Estimate remaining general plan capacity and control to county/regional projection
2. Add RHNA/housing element rezone sites (if avail. & > GP)
3. Growth prioritization scale
  - Increase in Priority Development Areas (PDAs)
  - Minimize in Green Region Resource Areas (GRRAs)

### PDAs

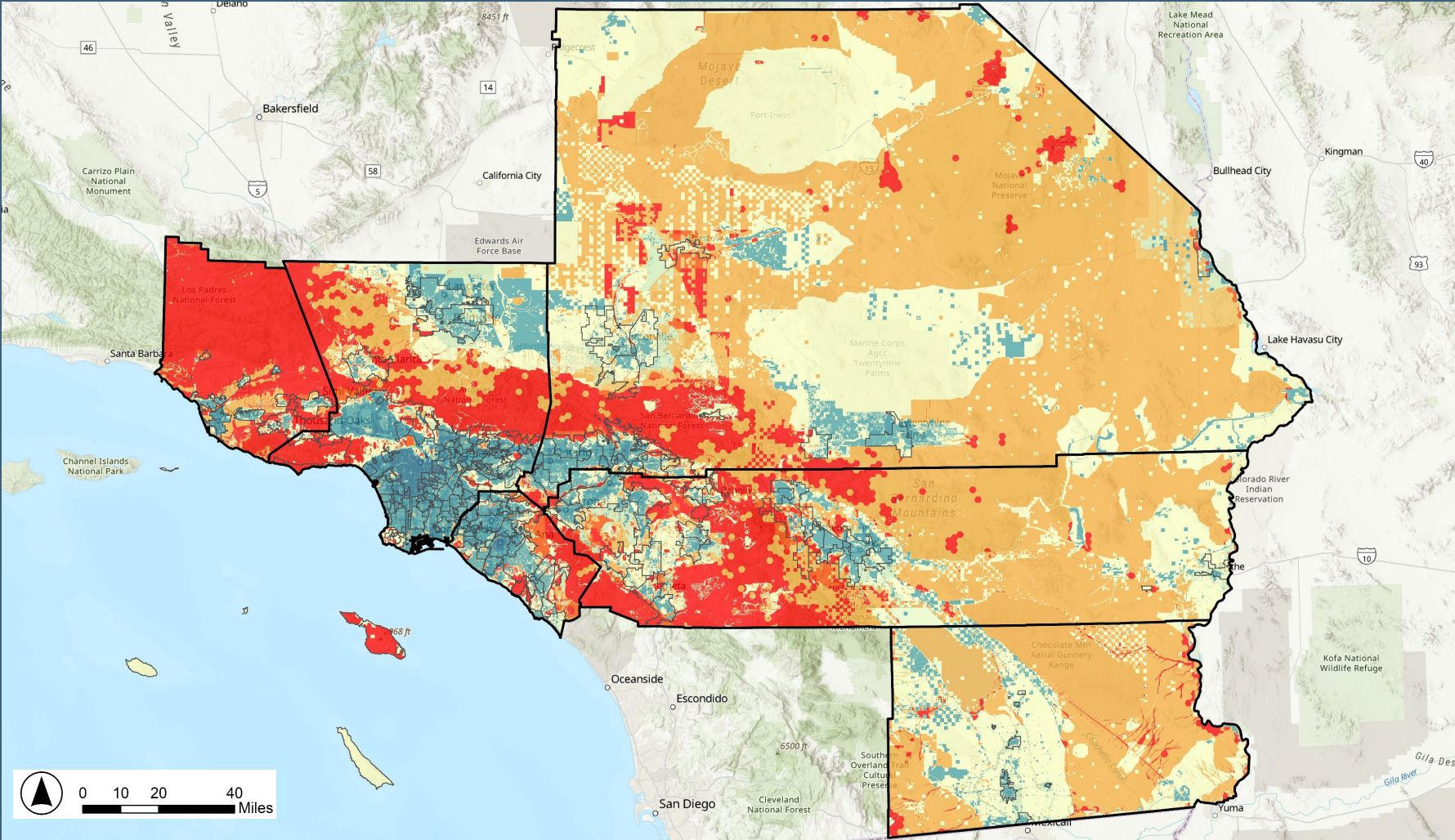
- Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMAs)
- Livable Corridors
- Transit Priority Areas (TPAs)
- Spheres of Influence

### GRRAs

- 100-year floodplains
- Wildfire risk within moderate, high and very high risk areas
- Wildland-urban interface and intermix areas
- 3.5 Feet Sea Level Rise
- Wetlands, Rivers, and Streams
- Areas providing habitat connectivity
- Areas of conservation emphasis
- Open space and parks – SOAR (Ventura County only)
- Open space and parks – CA Protected Areas Database
- Open space and parks – CA Conservation Easement Database
- Tribal Nations
- Military Installations
- Farmlands

*Notes: Small area population projections were derived from household projection (i.e., people-per-household). Small area employment projections used a shift-share approach based on county-level growth by sector.*

# Connect SoCal 2024 Growth Prioritization Scale

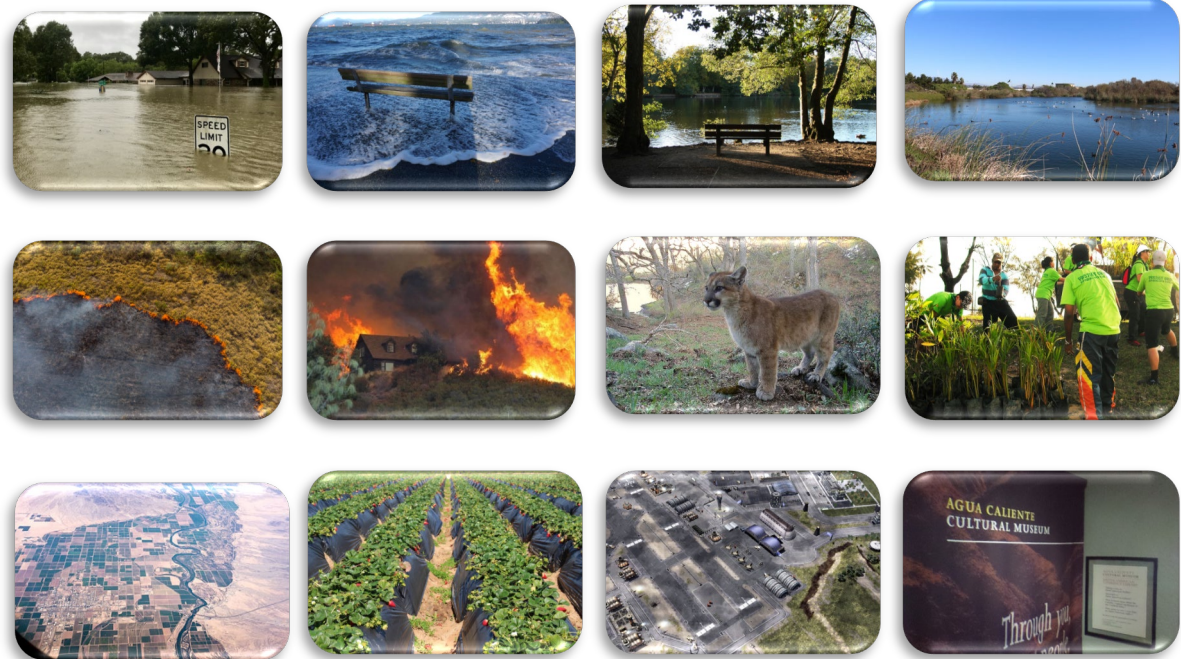
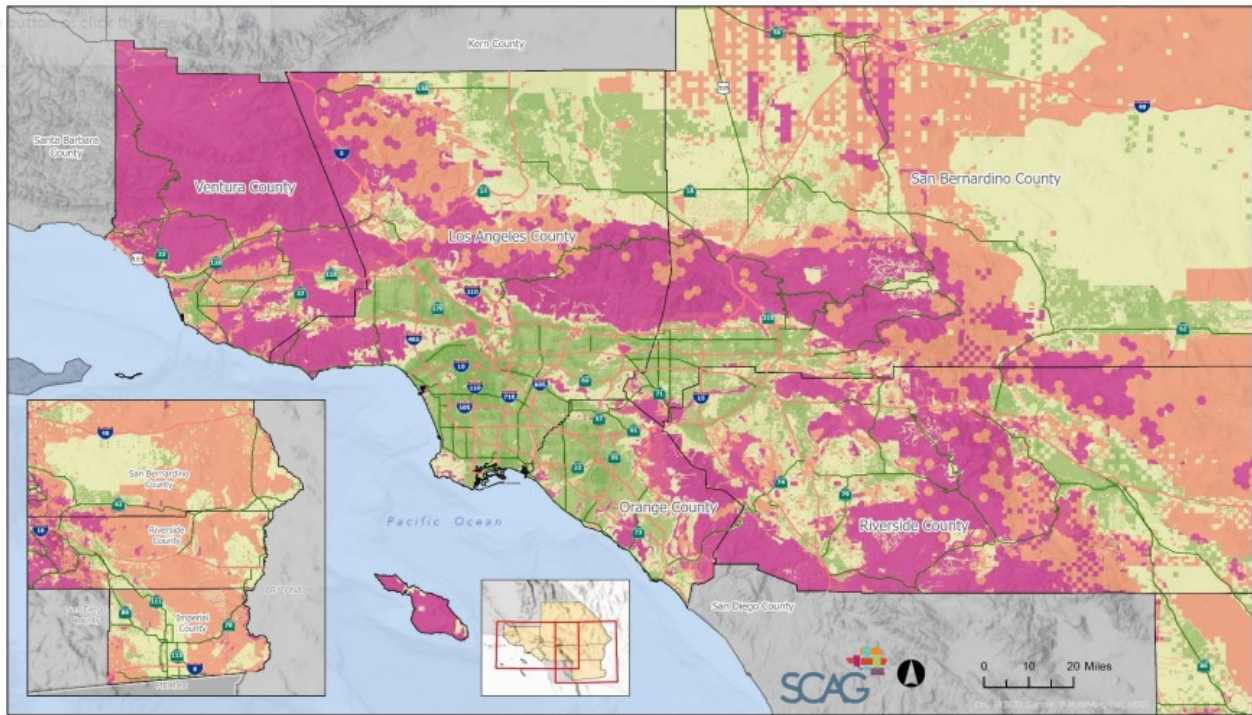


- Used for the preliminary dev pattern
- Used to evaluate locally-reviewed dev pattern

<b>Number of Priority Development Areas</b>	4	3	2	1	0	4	3	2	1	0	4	3	2	1	0	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Region Resources Areas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
<b>Growth Prioritization Scale</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

# Objective: Fulfill SB 375 Requirements for Resource Areas

*“Gather and consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas and farmland in the region”  
California Government Code 65080(b)(v).*



Number of Priority Development Areas	4	3	2	1	0	4	3	2	1	0	4	3	2	1	0	4	3	2	1	0
Number of Green Region Resources Areas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
Growth Prioritization Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

SCAG Technical Working Group September 18, 2025

# Updated Datasets Required by SB 375

Category	2024 RTP/SCS Dataset	2028 Proposed Update
<b>Open Space and Parks</b>	California Protected Areas Database (CPAD), 2021	CPAD, 2024b
	Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR), 2017	SOAR, 2017
	California Conservation Easement Database (CCED), 2021	CCED, 2024
<b>Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species*</b>	California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), 2017	CNDDDB, 2019
<b>Sensitive Habitat Areas</b>	Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE), 2015	ACE, 2018
	Habitat Essential Connectivity Project, 2010	Essential Habitat Connectivity Vector Data, 2021
	National Wetlands Inventory, 2020	National Wetlands Inventory, California Aquatic Resource Inventory (CARI), 2024
<b>Natural Community and Habitat Conservation Plans</b>	Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) boundaries, 2021	NCCP and HCP Reserve Designs, 2025
<b>Farmland</b>	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), 2018	FMMP, 2021; Williamson Act Contracts



# Updated Hazard and Climate Risk Datasets

Category	2024 RTP/SCS Dataset	2028 Proposed Update
<b>Flood Areas*</b>	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map, 2017 (DFIRM)	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map, 2020 (DFIRM)
<b>Coastal Inundation</b>	CoSMoS for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2, 2018	<i>Data for 3.5 feet of SLR requested from USGS</i>
<b>Fire Hazard</b>	FHSZ: Local (2008) and State Responsibility Area Maps (2007);	FHSZ: Local Maps (2025) and State Responsibility Area Maps (2024)
	CalFIRE Wildland Urban Interface & Intermix, 2018	CalFIRE Wildland Urban Interface & Intermix, 2018

\* Flood Areas are also required for consideration under SB 379

# Recommended Additional Datasets for GRRRA Analysis

## Fire Risk and Vegetation Management

*Cal Fire Priority Landscape: Reduce Wildfire Risk to Forest Ecosystem Services*

*Cal Fire Priority Landscape: Reduce Wildfire Risk to Communities*

## Reserve Design and “No Growth” Areas from NCCPs/HCPs

*Western Riverside Reserve Design – Conserved Lands + Criteria Cells*

*Orange County Reserve Design – Central/Coastal NCCP*

*Orange County Transportation Authority NCCP HCP*

*Coachella Valley Conservation Areas – CVMSHCP*

## Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Datasets

*Critical Coastal Areas (CCA)*

*California Aquatic Resource Inventory (CARI)*

*South Coast Missing Linkages*

# Priority Development Areas (PDA)

- Areas within the SCAG region where **future growth** can be located in order to help the region reach **mobility** and **environmental** goals
- Focus on areas with **shorter trips** to support VMT reduction and enhance placemaking:
- Technical tool to reflect adopted policies/strategies & advance plan development, measure performance, guide implementation
- Included as part of the **Local Data Exchange** (LDX) process

# Four discrete types of PDAs in Connect SoCal 2024

PDA type	Description	Data
<b>Neighborhood Mobility Areas</b>	Areas focused on creating, improving, restoring, and enhancing safe and convenient connections to schools, hospitals, shopping, parks, and other amenities (Tier2 TAZ)	Intersection density Low-speed streets Land use entropy Access to amenities (within 1 mile)
<b>Transit Priority Areas</b>	Areas where local jurisdictions may plan and zone for increased density at nodes along key corridors and redevelop under-performing retail	HQTC + input from local jurisdictions
<b>Livable Corridors</b>	Areas that are within one half mile of existing or planned major transit stops in the region	Major transit stops Additional legacy data sources
<b>Spheres of Influence</b>	Existing or planned serve areas within the planning boundary outside an agency's legal boundary. In unincorporated areas only.	SOI information from Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs)

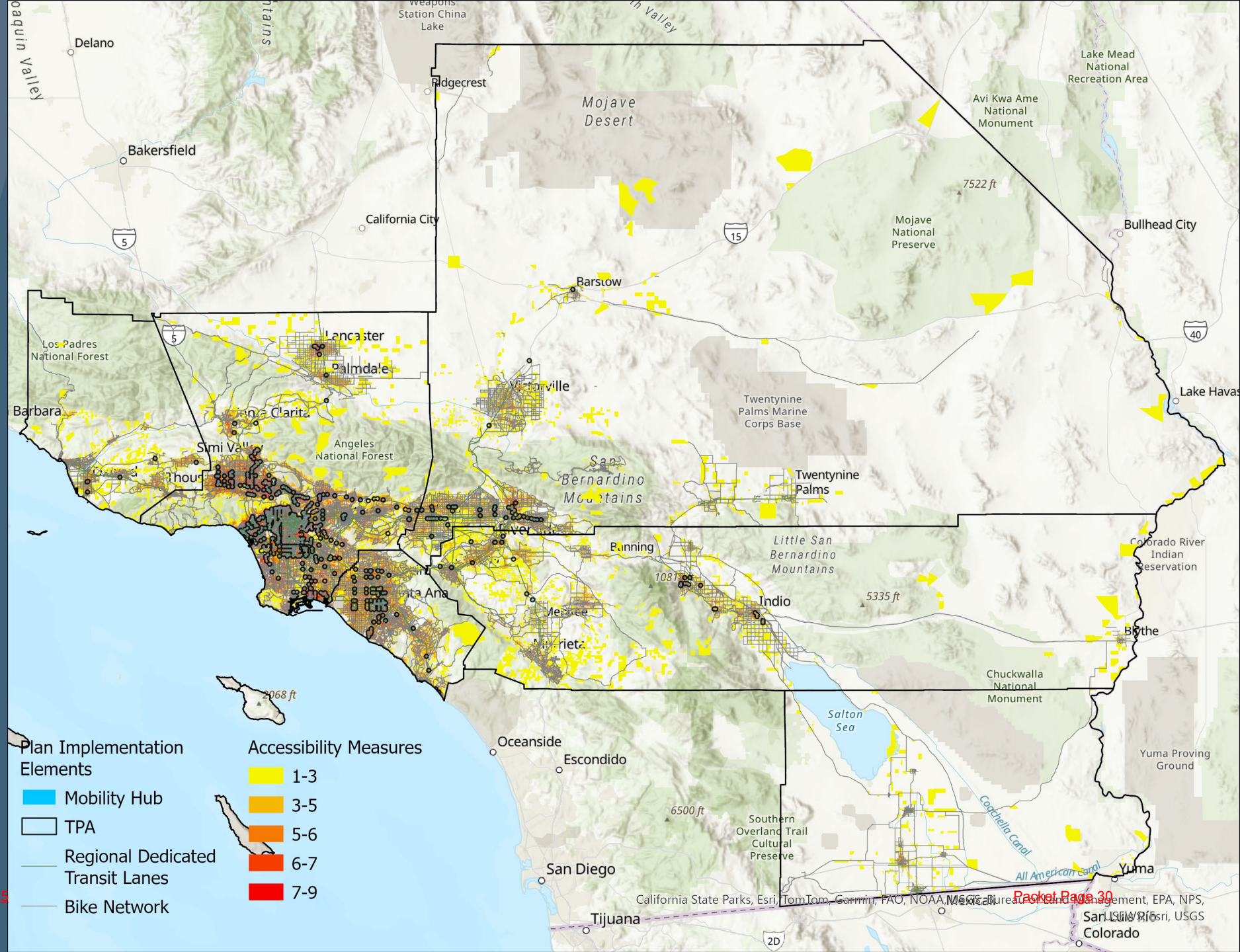
# Considerations for Connect SoCal 2050 PDAs

Component	Description	Source	Weight
<b>Walkable destinations</b>	Everyday destinations within 15 minutes walking	External/SPM	TBD
<b>Intersection density</b>	Reflects improved walkability that may not be captured by a time threshold	External/SPM	TBD
<b>Bikeable destinations</b>	Everyday destinations within 15 minutes on bike	External/SPM	TBD
<b>Transit access</b>	Regional jobs within 45 minutes during AM peak (2019 base year and 2050 plan year)	Prior Plan/SPM	TBD
<b>Transit Priority Areas</b>	Major transit stops + 1/2-mi. buffer	Prior Plan/Polygon	TBD
<b>Mobility hubs</b>	At least two transportation modes that connect and interact with one another	<a href="#">2025 Study</a> /Point	TBD
<b>Bike network</b>	Regional existing and planned bike network (excluding Class III)	Prior Plan/Line	TBD
<b>Dedicated transit lanes</b>	Regional dedicated transit lanes network	<a href="#">2023 Study</a> /Line	TBD

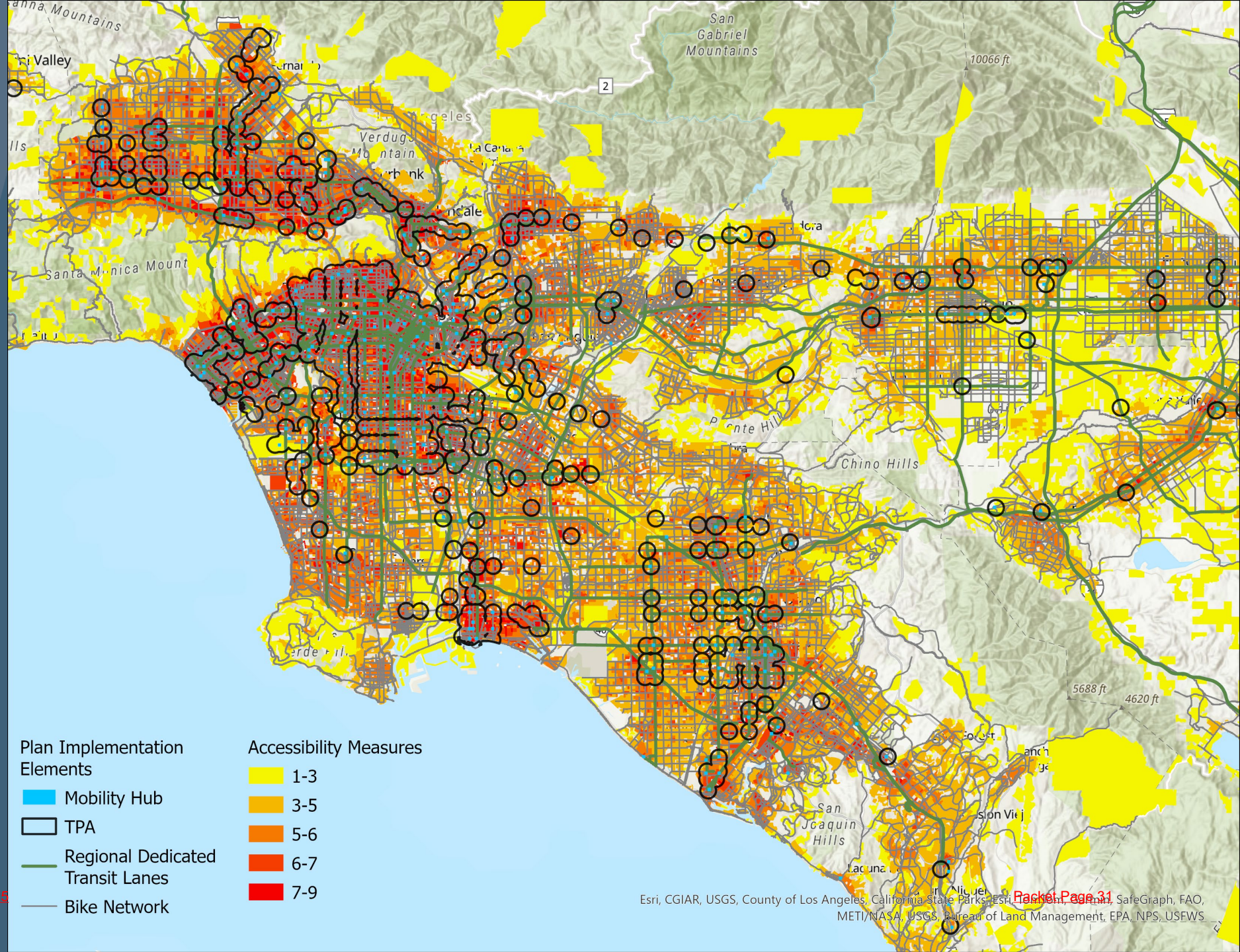
- **Components** of priority development that can be assessed individually or as a whole
- A single, smaller geographic scale: Scenario Planning Zones (SPZs)
- Per-capita VMT closely linked to:
  - presence of everyday destinations,
  - their accessibility via multiple modes, and
  - local or regional **plan implementation strategies**
- Weight components into a single measure → *ArcGIS suitability surface*



# SCAG Region Illustration of potential PDA components



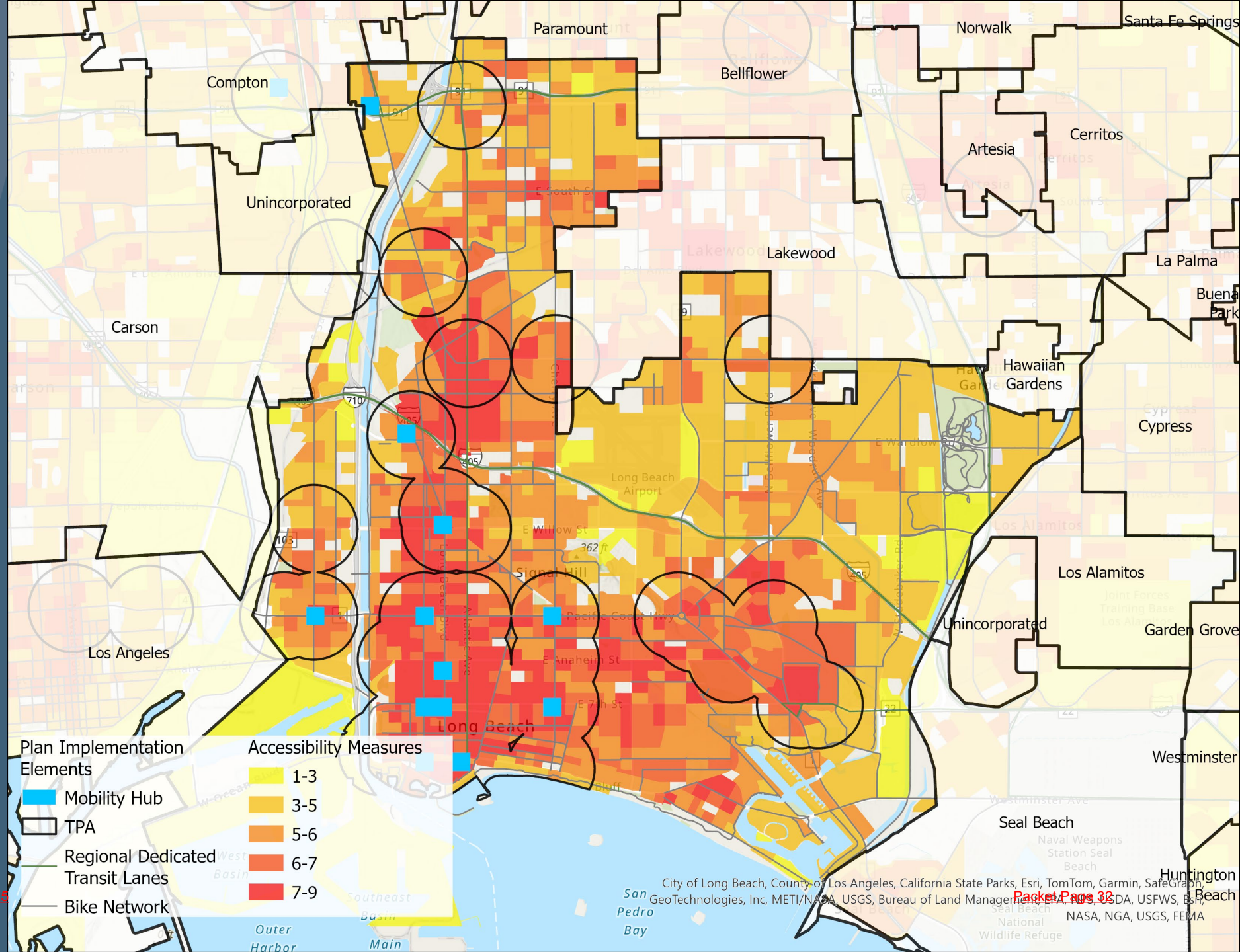
# LA Basin Illustration of potential PDA components



# Long Beach detail Illustration of potential PDA components

## Next Steps:

1. Preliminary county/regional projections based on expert panel insights
2. Approach for combining PDA and GRRR components
3. Preliminary jurisdiction and TAZ projections
4. Local Data Exchange







# CARB's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Evaluation of Connect SoCal 2024

---

Technical Working Group

September 18, 2024

[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)

# Overview and Determination

- SCAG submitted its 2024 SCS for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff's review on **July 2, 2024**. In consultation with CARB staff, SCAG submitted revisions and supplemental information to CARB staff on **March 24, 2025**.
- **CARB accepts that SCAG's 2024 SCS, and the updated SCS submission on March 24, 2025, together demonstrate that the region would meet its 2035 target if fully implemented.**
- However, CARB also indicates that **the 2024 SCS is not likely to be fully implemented, and the region will not achieve the GHG reduction target by 2035 without additional actions to support implementation.**
- CARB to add the evaluation report on their website here: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-program/regional-plans-evaluations/southern-california>

# CARB Findings – Highlights

- CARB could not validate SCAG's **auto operating cost methodology**.
- SCAG's SCS includes actions and investments supporting implementation of land use, housing, transportation, new mobility, and electric vehicle strategies, but not all the **pricing strategies**.
  - The extent of express lane miles that will be new road capacity can limit this pricing strategy's GHG benefits.
- The project list also includes investment in **road capacity projects**, which is not supportive of reducing VMT.

# CARB Recommendations

---

- A standard set of recommendations is customized for each MPO as needed.
- In its next SCS technical methodology, SCAG must describe how it has addressed these recommendations:
  1. Prioritize funding for transportation projects that advance SCS implementation and reduce VMT.
  2. Re-imagine highway expansion projects.  
*Minimize roadway expansion projects, including express lanes.*
  3. Support infill development and affordable housing that advances SCS implementation and reduces VMT.

## CARB Recommendations – Highlights (cont.)

4. Further advance pricing strategies.

Commit to the implementation timeline and steps in the next SCS.

5. Monitor implementation of the SCS.

Determine whether the SCS continues to achieve the 2020 GHG target.

6. Quantify long-term induced travel impacts.

Account for all potential effects of long-term induced travel.

7. Improve modeling and data.

Auto operating cost, zone size, land use model, autonomous vehicles, etc.



# THANK YOU

---

Contact Camille Guiriba at [guiriba@scag.ca.gov](mailto:guiriba@scag.ca.gov)



# Making Sense of AI in Regional Planning—Take One

---

August 21, 2025

[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)

# Background and Purpose

---

- Internal research task to **explore and leverage AI and big data methods and techniques** to establish innovative data processing, analytical, and visualization workflow for regional planning and decision-making.
- Survey:
  - Purpose: assess current **familiarity, adoption, challenges, concerns, and benefits** of AI and big data tools among SCAG Planners.
  - Insights will help **identify opportunities to better utilize** these technologies for regional decision-making, potential training needs, and outline potential risks and concerns to ensure the technologies are being used appropriately.
  - Sent to all Planning Staff (103)  
Received 35 responses, 34% response rate

## Deliverables:

AI and Big Data  
Potential White Paper

Internal AI and Big  
Data Uses and  
Experiences Survey



# Survey Summary

- **49%** of SCAG Planners currently using or previously used AI in their work; **37%** for big data
- **71%** believe AI will play a larger role in regional planning in the next 5-10 years; **91%** for big data
- Top challenges and barriers to AI and big data adoption include lack of technical expertise, data quality issues, resistance to AI adoption, privacy concerns, high cost, and narrow/limited use cases
- Two emerging viewpoints: optimistic and cautious approach

## Benefits

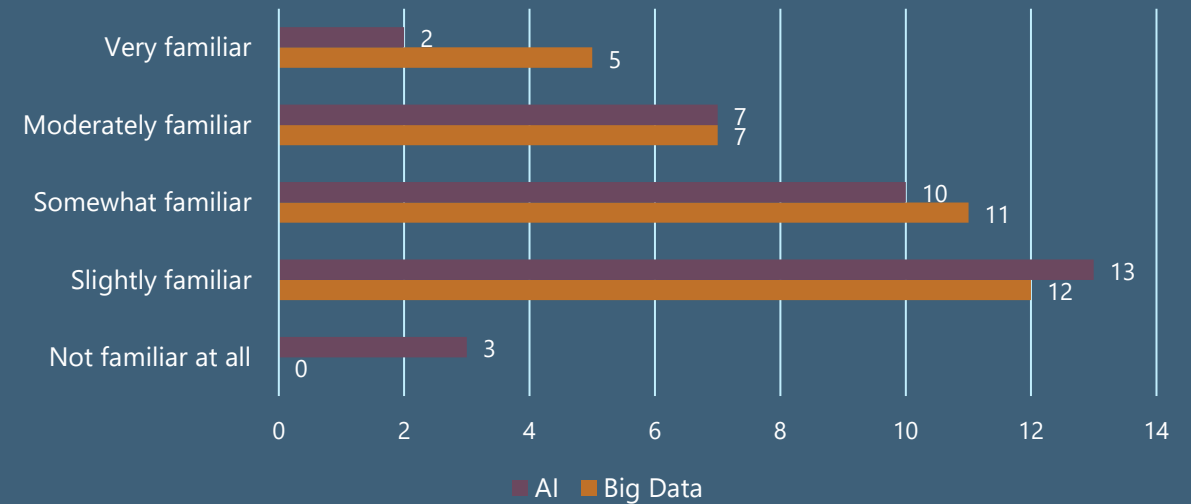
- Productivity, efficiency, saving time
- Minimizing human error
- Code generation for simple tasks

## Risks and Concerns

- Data concerns (unreliable, inaccurate, etc.)
- Inherent biases/lack of transparency/black box algorithm
- Data privacy concerns
- Over-reliance on AI tools
- Erosion of public trust and accountability

SCAG Technical Working Group, September 18, 2025

SCAG Planner familiarity with AI and Big Data



What are the main purposes for using AI tools in your work?



At SCAG, planners who use AI are predominately using it as **a tool to help assist with business productivity**, not as a replacement for analysis, fact finding, or report creation.

# White Paper on Practical Applications of AI and Big Data for MPOs

- **State of the Practice**
- **What's actually under the hood?**
  - Natural Language Processing (NLP) / Large Language Models (LLM)
  - Computer Vision Applications—imagery + CCTV/LBS/etc.
- **Transportation Applications**
  - Traffic and Mobility Analysis
  - Congestion Management/Operations
  - Safety Analysis and Vision Zero
  - Infrastructure Management, multimodal integration
- **Geospatial Intelligence (GeoAI) in Planning**
  - E.g. Feature extraction, faster/better location modeling
- **Digital Twins, Scenario Planning, Virtual Reality**
- **Smart Governance and Public Engagement**

1

## Practical Applications of AI and Big Data for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

Prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments  
July 2025  
Authors: KiHong Kim, Amanda McDaniel, Kevin Kane, Jung Seo, Mengdi Li<sup>1</sup>  
Corresponding author: Amanda McDaniel, [mcdaniel@scag.ca.gov](mailto:mcdaniel@scag.ca.gov)

### Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	1
Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	6
Glossary of Common Terms .....	7
AI and Big Data in Regional Planning: State of the Practice .....	8
AI Usage.....	8
Big Data Usage .....	9
Applications in Transportation Planning and Operations.....	10
Traffic and Mobility Analysis .....	10
Congestion Management and Traffic Operations .....	10
Safety Analysis and Vision Zero .....	11
Use Case: AI Techniques for Proactive Safety Planning.....	11

# White Paper on Practical Applications of AI and Big Data for MPOs

- **State of the Practice**
- **What's actually under the hood?**
  - Natural Language Processing (NLP) / Large Language Models (LLM)
  - Computer Vision Applications—imagery + CCTV/LBS/etc.
- **Transportation Applications**
  - Traffic and Mobility Analysis
  - Congestion Management/Operations
  - Safety Analysis and Vision Zero
  - Infrastructure Management, multimodal integration
- **Geospatial Intelligence (GeoAI) in Planning**
  - E.g. Feature extraction, faster/better location modeling
- **Digital Twins, Scenario Planning, Virtual Reality**
- **Smart Governance and Public Engagement**

## Examples:

MTC automated public comment analysis

**LLM + Python**

WRCOG Staff Report and information retrieval chatbot

**Custom LLM**

LA Metro Bus Lane Enforcement Program

**Computer vision application**

Chattanooga digital twin for signal timing simulations

**Digital twins**

# Implementation Strategies, Challenges, & Considerations

---

## Implementation Challenges and Considerations

- Data quality and availability
- Technical expertise and workforce readiness
- Algorithmic bias and equity
- Transparency and explainability
- Privacy and data governance
- Integration with existing processes
- Cost and sustainability

## Strategies for Integrating AI and Big Data in MPOs

- Establish a **clear vision** and **strategic goals**
- Invest in **digital infrastructure**
- **Building staff capacity**
- Implementing **scalable pilot projects**
- Embedding **ethics, equity, transparency, and privacy**