



Valley Voice

The official newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

December 2020



State Officials Recommend \$217.9 Million for 57/60 Chokepoint Relief Project

On November 16, 2020, State transportation officials announced that the 57/60 Chokepoint Relief Project, which aims to fix the worst truck bottleneck in California, is recommended to receive a grant of \$217.9 million from the Senate Bill 1 state fuel tax program. The funding award will enable construction to start in 2022, two years earlier than scheduled.

The grant award proposed by the California Transportation Commission staff is the largest to a single project in the staff-recommended 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, which provides \$1.359 billion over three years to 28 highway, freight rail, port, and border crossing projects statewide. The program will be considered for adoption at the upcoming California Transportation Commission meeting on December 2nd and December 3rd.

State Route 57 and State Route 60 are among the most heavily-travelled freight highway corridors in the country. The 2.5-mile confluence of the two highway ranks as the worst bottleneck for truck delays in California and the ninth worst in the nation, according to the American Transportation Research Institute. Due to lane drops and hazardous weaving between trucks and commuters, the confluence area is the second highest truck accident location in Southern California, with truck-related accidents occurring at a rate that is 50% higher than the state average.

The confluence project results from a partnership among the Los Angeles County

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), which will provide local Measure M sales tax match funds and overseeing project design, the SGVCOG, which will oversee project construction delivery, and Caltrans, which will maintain the improvements when completed.



Metro North Hollywood-Pasadena BRT Project Draft EIR Available for Public Review

Metro's 2013 Countywide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Street Design Improvement Study identified the North Hollywood-Pasadena Corridor as the most heavily-travelled corridor without a premium bus service. As a result, the Corridor was selected as one of the first corridors to be studied for potential implementation of BRT projects. Earlier last year, Metro initiated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that would study various route options that include street-running and freeway-running segments that will connect the North Hollywood Metro Station to Pasadena City College.

The Corridor extends approximately 18 miles and serves as a key regional connection between the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys with connections to the Metro B (Red), G (Orange), and L (Gold) Lines. It also parallels the SR-134 Freeway and supports more than 700,000 daily trips coming into the study area from both the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. Based on the proposed plans, the Corridor will provide services to cities

and communities within North Hollywood, Burbank, Glendale, Eagle Rock, and Pasadena.

The Draft EIR, which can be found on the Metro website [here](#), is now available for public review and comment until December 28, 2020. The received comments and recommendations will be considered for the Final EIR that will be conducted in Spring 2021.



SGVCOG Congratulates Agencies for Completing the SoCalREN Energy Efficiency Training Series

This October, the SGVCOG partnered with the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) Public Agency Programs to offer a virtual, three-part Energy Efficiency Training Series to provide agency staff with the technical knowledge needed to adopt energy use and operations strategies in light of COVID-19. The focus of the series was to support agencies to analyze energy savings, achieve peak performance and maximize energy use by performing energy assessments, screening audits, and selection of proper equipment, and address comprehensive elements of energy efficiency.

The SGVCOG is proud to recognize the following agency staff members for completing the SoCalREN Energy Curriculum to better support the energy needs of their agencies:

- **City of Alhambra:** Shannen Sisavath
- **City of Claremont:** Kristin Mikula
- **City of El Monte:** Priscilla Garcia
- **City of La Verne:** Kristie Sanchez
- **City of Monrovia:** Christopher Castruita
- **City of Pomona:** Julie Carver
- **City of San Gabriel:** Nzhde Matevosyan
- **El Monte Union High School District:** Lena Luna

Additional information on the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Advisories from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



Limit Travel

The actions we take today and tomorrow have tremendous impact on the health of our neighbors. Please rethink holiday plans and cancel travel to stop the surge.

Actions for Individuals

Residents are strongly recommended to cancel travel, stay home as much as possible, and celebrate holidays only with members of your household.



Actions for Businesses

Businesses are recommended to follow all safety protocols, enforce infection control and



distancing measures, and allow employees to work from home if possible.

News-in-Brief



Safe Routes to Parks Communities Program

The Safe Routes Partnership invites communities and organizations working to improve safe and equitable access to local parks to apply for the 2021 Safe Routes to Parks Communities Program. The program provides tailored technical assistance, along with a \$12,500 award for 7 nonprofits to develop and initiate action plans to increase safe and equitable access to parks and green spaces in their communities. Applications are accepted until December 18, 2020. Additional information



SCAG Sustainable Communities Program

SCAG is pleased to announce the 2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP), which provides planning resources and technical assistance to agencies to support the implementation of [Connect SoCal](#). The SCP Housing & Sustainable Development Call for Applications includes three specific project types, each with a unique application, to fund the planning and implementation of projects that result in the development of supportive housing policies and programs. Additional



New Connect SGV Podcast Episode

The SGVCOG recently released a new "Connect SGV" podcast episode that features energy efficiency discussions with Los Angeles County Internal Services Department Environmental Initiative Manager, Lujana Medina, and Statewide Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator, Angie Hacker. The episode explores the importance of planning and implementing energy efficiency projects and the benefits of having regional partnerships. The podcast episode is now available in both audio and video formats

regarding the program can be found [here](#). information can be found on the SGVCOG website on the SGVCOG website found [here](#). the SCAG website [here](#). [here](#).

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Please be advised that all committee meetings that are held this month will be conducted virtually over Zoom Conferencing. Livestream of each committee meeting will be available through the [SGVCOG website](#). Livestream of the Regional Housing Trust (RHT) Board Meeting can be accessed through the [RHT website](#).

Homelessness Committee: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Regional Housing Trust Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:30 AM

Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee: Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Executive Committee: Monday, December 7, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Capital Projects and Construction Committee: Monday, December 14, 2020 at 12:00 PM