Meeting of the Equity Working Group

March 24th, 2022
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference. A video recording of the meeting is available upon request. The meeting presentations are available here.

ATTENDEE LIST

Presenters:
Anita Au, SCAG
Annaleigh Ekman, SCAG
Courtney Aguirre, SCAG
Dr. Karthick Ramakrishnan, UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation

SCAG Staff:
Anikka Van Eyl
Anita Au
Annaleigh Ekman
Antonia Izuogu
Courtney Aguirre
David Milner
Frank Wen
Izzy Goldfarb

Webinar:

Wendy Angel, Emerald Cities Collaborative
Dori Baeza, SBC Community Vital Signs at Public Health
Caitlin Brooks, Ventura County Transportation Commission
Dakota Brown, Independent Contractor
Angela Carranza, SJCOG
Marivel Castaneda, Riverside DPSS-Community Outreach
Rob Corley, California Department of Education School Facilities
Raffi Der Wartanian, CSUSB
Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates
Ankitha Doddanari, Southern California Edison
Carina Fajardo, Community Health Systems Inc.
Kristopher Fortin, Santa Ana Active Streets
Devan Gelle, Alta Planning + Design
Steven Giang, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Maria Gonzlez-Andrade, California Farmworkers Foundation
Patricia Hachiya, L.A. County Department of Regional Planning
Larry Kosmont, Kosmont Companies
Chirag Kothari, University of Texas at Austin
Brendan Latimer, Caltrans
Daniel Lim, Torrance Transit
Tiffany Lin, City of Irvine
Serena Liu, Caltrans
Emani Miller, Mighty Little Giants

Julie Moore, L.A. County Department of Regional Planning
Alyssa Murakami, Caltrans
Dr. Ernelyn Navarro, RUHS-BH
Fatima Nelson, UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation
Jessica Nguyen, County of Ventura
Edwin Peart, LeSar Development Consultants
Michael Redlinger, SRTC
Sofia Rodas, County of Ventura
Sharina Sanchez, Sigma Beta Xi Youth and Family Services
Aleathia Scott, City of Inglewood
Gail Shiomoto-Lohr, City of Mission Viejo
Catina Spaeth, Loma Linda University Health
Conni Terry, MADD
Candice Vander Hyde, City of Lancaster
Catherine Vasquez, County of Kern Community Development
Bridget Vigneault, RUHS-PH
Megan Walker, Omnitrans
Warren Whiteaker, OCTA
Dr. Tom Williams, PhD, Citizens Coalition for A Safe Community
Brady M. Woods, RRM Design Groups
Jerard Wright, Greater L.A. Realtors
Sarah Wright, UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation
Jose Zavala, California Farmworkers Foundation

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

   Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) | aguirre@scag.ca.gov

   Courtney Aguirre welcomed all participants.

2. **CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION AT UCR: FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION ON INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT**

   Karthick Ramakrishnan, Professor at UC Riverside and Founder of Center for Social Innovation | karthick.ramakrishnan@ucr.edu

   Presentation Summary:

   Professor Karthick Ramakrishnan highlighted a few frameworks the Center for Social Innovation has been working on related to inclusion and engagement. Using social science as a tool, the Center for Social Innovation at UC Riverside highlights challenges and solutions for Inland Empire, California, and the country as catalysts for change.

   In Summer 2018, the Center for Social Innovation had a non-profit capacity building summer institute that helped discover "the power of using expertise to create something new that people hadn't seen before." They created a curriculum that revolved around Data, Narrative and Action (DNA Framework), the foundations essential to propel applied research towards action.

   Professor Ramakrishnan shared a set of recommendations aligned with the DNA Framework, starting with data recommendations. These included disaggregating data by gender and race/ethnicity, and especially for Asian American, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, presenting county-level data, and using more effective visualizations, perhaps aided by index measures of disparity to enhance understanding. The Standardized Measures of Equity and Inequity (SME and SMI) use the Hoover Index measure of disparity to measure population-based equity from a scale of 0 (no equity or no inequity) to 100 (full equity or extreme inequity). Professor Ramakrishnan stated that we need more accurate, inclusive and aspirational regional and county narratives as well as intentional, strategic and enduring actions (e.g., equitable education and workforce development; equitable access to health care, and lending, entrepreneurship support).

   Professor Ramakrishnan introduced the Systems Change Framework, applied to racial equity, that prioritizes mental models, community voices, and shared values. Common ground is essential to some points of agreement from various stakeholders that help push solutions forward. The Ready to RISE Framework for Project and Programs contains broad concepts of Readiness, Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability, and Equity and scales with "Readiness."

   To learn more about Center for Social Innovation's Frameworks for Action, visit: https://socialinnovation.ucr.edu/frameworks

   Professor Ramakrishnan briefly introduced California 100: Vision & Strategy for the Next Century, a long-range visioning and planning roadmap for the next one hundred years for the ideal California we want to see and build. California 100 launched March 29, 2022, with thirteen planned reports related to the future of housing, transportation, energy and environment, advanced technology, and more. The core values are innovation, resilience, inclusion, sustainability, and equity.

   To learn more about California 100, visit: https://california100.org/.

   Questions and Answers:

   Comment: The Calfironia 100 timeframe is aspirational and impressive.

   > **Response:** The statewide effort takes into account what we want to see in the future seeing the present challenges we are facing now, particularly for communities of color. Considering the 2- and 4-year political cycles and the quarterly cycles of publicly-traded corporations, a 100-year timeframe is very far out; this project explores the question of "how do we build

insulation to keep us on track for those long-term visions?" This project attempts to identify a vision (the summit of a mountain), routes (trails) towards that vision, noting the obstacles (bears, fires, landslides) that we can prepare for to ensure that everyone is able to make it to the summit.

Question: Any suggestions on how to create regional narratives that are sensitive to the wide range of experience in our region? Have you seen effective examples of regions or counties that have created a successful narrative?

Answer: It makes sense to talk about the whole as well as individuals within it (e.g., Inland Empire vs Coastal California). Building a narrative will depend on what questions we're trying to answer. California has institutional complexity; it makes sense to have different level of governments, but issues don't happen neatly within jurisdictional boundaries. How do we create a governance that is responsive and flexible to issues? How we can make functional federalism?

3. EQUITY RESOURCE GUIDE

Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager, SCAG | aguirre@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

Courtney highlighted the Equity Resource Guide, developed to support local practitioners who may need guidance on advancing equity. The Equity Resource Guide is an evolving collection of examples of equity efforts at the local, state and national level, meant to share best practices, and encourage collaboration and implementation of equitable planning practices and approaches. The guide aligns with the SCAG'S Racial Equity Framework, using the three overarching strategies to group types of resources: Listen & Learn, Engage & Co-Power, and Integrate and Institutionalize.

Review SCAG's Equity Resource Guide at: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/scag-equity-resource-guide_final.pdf?1648056748

If you have questions or comments on the Equity Resource Guide, please contact Courtney Aguirre at aguirre@scag.ca.gov.

4. SCAG CONNECT SOCAL GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager, SCAG | aguirre@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

Courtney introduced the Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG's next long-range plan with a 2050 horizon year. SCAG is currently seeking feedback on the working drafts of the vision statement, goals, and performance measures through April 30, 2022.

Please share feedback by completing these fillable forms and emailing them to Sarah Dominguez (dominguezs@scag.ca.gov) or Courtney Aguirre (aguirre@scag.ca.gov):

Vision and Goals: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/connect-socal-2024-draft-goals-vision.pdf?1644350374&utm_source=SCAG+Community&utm_campaign=60418a4d53-CONNECT_SOCAL_2022_03_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d8c0406cae-60418a4d53-1301168566

Performance Measures: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/connect-socal-2024-draft-performance-measure.pdf?1644350297&utm_source=SCAG+Community&utm_campaign=60418a4d53-CONNECT_SOCAL_2022_03_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d8c0406cae-60418a4d53-1301168566

SCAG is sharing the draft goals and performance measures with Regional Planning Working Groups through April 2022. In June 2022, the draft goals and performance measures will be shared with the SCAG's Policy Committees.

Questions and Answers:

Comment: Suggest transportation be a tool for equity.

Question: How about achieving State Air Quality Requirements?

Answer: We conduct rigorous analysis of air quality, and that analysis is a part of our performance measures for plan evaluation and ongoing monitoring.

5. **SCAG BASELINE CONDITIONS UPDATE**

   Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | au@scag.ca.gov

   Presentation Summary:

   Anita presented updates on the Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report. In March 2021, SCAG published the first Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report in an effort to better understand the state of disparities and inequities across the SCAG region. The report featured twenty-six equity indicators grouped under the four Connect SoCal goals: Economic Vitality, Healthy and Complete Communities, Mobility and Environment. Analysis challenges and limitations included defining indicators, data feasibility and availability, and accessing disaggregated data.

   Anita shared that the 2022 update would include updating the list of indicators, enhancing the data by using 1-year 2020 data and 10-year trend data at the county- and regional level, and overlapping the Baseline Conditions equity indicators with the Equity Analysis indicators.

   *Blue italicized text are proposed topic areas to be added and red italicized text are proposed topic areas to be removed.

   Read the Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report (March 2021) here: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/racialequitybaselineconditionsreport_03242021revision.pdf?1616695824

   SCAG invites your feedback on the Baseline Conditions update! Please send any questions or comments to Anita Au at au@scag.ca.gov.

6. **SCAG EQUITY ANALYSIS APPROACH (FORMERLY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS)**

   Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | au@scag.ca.gov
   Annaleigh Ekman, Assistant Regional Planner, SCAG | ekman@scag.ca.gov

   Presentation Summary:

Anita and Annaleigh presented the proposed Equity Analysis Approach (formerly the Environmental Justice Analysis). The proposed approach involves a shift from an environmental justice (EJ) analysis to an equity analysis to better characterize the work SCAG has already done in past EJ Technical Reports, incorporate equity into the analysis, and enhance and consolidate performance indicators. The Federal Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, Caltrans' forthcoming Transportation Equity Index, the California Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment's CalEnviroScreen tools were considered for alignment on federal and state equity efforts.

The 2024 Equity Analysis will feature a streamlined methodology, consolidating the existing three populations and three community into two populations (i.e., People of Color and Low-Income Households), and one community (i.e., Prioritized Equity Populations and Areas [PEPAs]) to conduct analysis on. SCAG's slides provide more detail on the proposed methodology to determine PEPAs.

There are fourteen (14) performance indicators proposed for the 2024 Equity Analysis, and are categorized under the four Connect SoCal Goals: Economy, Communities, Mobility and Environment. See proposed indicators on slide image below.

Proposed Equity Performance Indicators - 2024

Economy
- Revenue Sources In Terms of Tax Burdens *
- Investments vs. Benefits
- Geographic Distribution of Transportation Investments
- Impacts from Mileage-Based User Fee *

Communities
- Jobs-Housing Imbalance *
- Neighborhood Change and Displacement *
- Rail-Related Impacts *

Mobility
- Accessibility to Employment, Services, and Parks *
- Active Transportation Hazards *
- Travel Time and Travel Distance Savings
- Share of Transportation System Usage

Environment
- Resilience and Climate Vulnerabilities *
- Emissions Impacts Analysis *
- Noise Impacts *
- Public Health Impacts

* = indicator with notable data or methodology modifications

Read the Connect SoCal 2020 EJ Technical Report here: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/fconnectsocal_environmental-justice.pdf?1602625867

SCAG invites your feedback on the proposed methodology and performance indicators for the Equity Analysis. Please send any questions or comments to Anita Au at au@scag.ca.gov or Annaleigh Ekman at ekman@scag.ca.gov.

Questions and Answers:

Question: For railroads, will you differentiate between freight and passenger rail? Assume that there would be a different in particulate matter (PM) emissions that are worth considering as well as other issues (e.g., noise).

> **Answer:** We are not currently differentiating freight and passenger rail but we are working closely with passenger rail and goods movement staff to improve these indicators.

Comment: For the Baseline Conditions Update, perhaps consider looking at Active Transportation levels for multiple trip purposes and not just commute. Based on OCTA's analysis and several planning efforts, we are looking at opportunities to increase active mode share for all trips less than three miles.

Response: We appreciate the suggestion. We will definitely look into active transportation trips. We also intend on incorporating the baseline conditions analysis into the 2024 Equity Analysis so we will also consider it there as well.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | au@scag.ca.gov

Anita shared the following announcements:

- The Council on Environmental Quality recently released their Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool which helps Federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

- The Public Health Alliance of Southern California is launching their Healthy Places Index 3.0 on April 6 from 10am-11:30am which includes updated data and introduces new and enhanced features to examine the link between race and place. View the HPI 3.0 launch announcement here: https://mailchi.mp/dbea0e2f4260/youre-invited-join-us-for-the-launch-of-the-new-healthy-places-index?e=ecddd3b5fd

- The next Equity Toolbox Tuesday is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 from 1-2:30pm and will focus on Equity Action Plans and Frameworks. We've invited GARE, the City of Long Beach and City of Portland to share their experiences and efforts. If you are interested in attending a Toolbox Tuesday, please contact Anikka Van Eyl, vaneyl@scag.ca.gov or Anita Au, au@scag.ca.gov.

- The GARE Annual Membership Meeting is taking place in person in Portland or virtually from April 19-21. Learn about 2022 GARE Annual Membership Meeting and register here.

Anita wrapped the session with Offers, Requests, and Connections. Participants were welcomed at this and future meetings to share their equity-related work, request assistance on any work challenges they are experiencing and connect with others doing similar work. The following questions were prompted:

- Offers: Has your agency been working on any equity-related work you would like to share?

- Request: Are there any issues you have experience since we met last that you would appreciate resources/support on?

- Connection: Are you interested in connecting with other agencies around a specific topics?

If you have questions about this meeting, please feel free to reach out to Anita Au au@scag.ca.gov or Courtney Aguirre at aguirre@scag.ca.gov. SCAG also encourages participants to reach out if you have a topic, project, program, tool, or resource that you think should be highlighted in a future meeting. The next Equity Working Group meeting will be held in June 2022.