

## 2025 REGIONAL PLAN Policies and Programs

# Digital Infrastructure



In an increasingly data-driven world, high-quality, high-speed internet service is a requirement in nearly all facets of life, from telehealth to transportation to economic development.

Yet, much of our region still lacks reliable, high-speed connectivity that will enable the future of connected regions.

Beyond enabling our region more access to transportation, education, healthcare, and other opportunities, expanding internet capacity across our region helps us meet state mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the number of miles people need to drive, enhancing public transit corridors, and enabling new technologies of the future, like autonomous vehicles, digital messaging boards, smart streetlighting and stoplights, connected managed lanes, and more.

### What has SANDAG been working on?

By leveraging the Regional Digital Divide Taskforce and our **Regional Digital Equity Strategy**, SANDAG supports the expansion of reliable digital infrastructure in the region by:

- Developing and supporting programs and policies that expand digital infrastructure coverage to more places.
- Strengthening partnerships with internet providers and community-based organizations to collaborate on the development of a broadly connected digital infrastructure network.
- Continually assessing our region's digital infrastructure coverage needs and proactively working alongside stakeholder agencies to address gaps identified in achieving a robustly connected region.
- Expanding digital infrastructure coverage faster by including fiber infrastructure construction work as part of ongoing transportation construction projects: this uses less taxpayer money.
- Working alongside our regional stakeholders to leverage funding opportunities to expand digital infrastructure to increase economic mobility and quality of life and develop a more prepared and resilient workforce.

### Policy and Program Connections



Health



TDM



Technology & Improvements



Vision Zero



### What is SANDAG considering next?

- Working with regional stakeholders and internet providers to connect digital infrastructure to areas that need it most.
- Coordinating with regional partners and internal stakeholders to identify existing work with ongoing transportation construction projects that may enable cost savings or cost sharing opportunities.



### How does this work support our region’s needs beyond the internet?

- Enabling new technologies can help improve transportation safety, increase transportation options and access points, and enhance the drivers' experience.
- Supporting the expansion of SANDAG's intelligent transportation systems by expanding internet infrastructure will lay the foundation for a more data-enabled, multi-modal transportation network.



### Learn More

Visit [SANDAG.org/digitalequity](https://SANDAG.org/digitalequity) for more information.



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