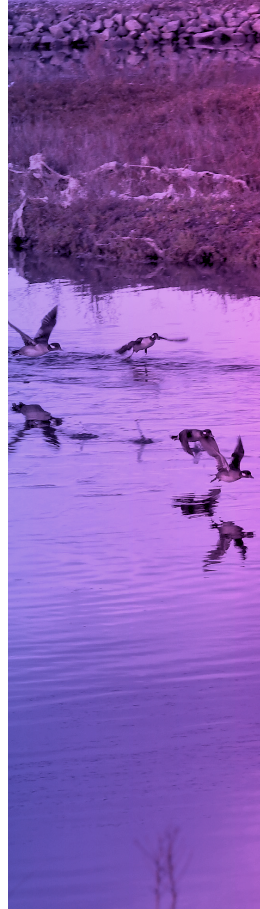
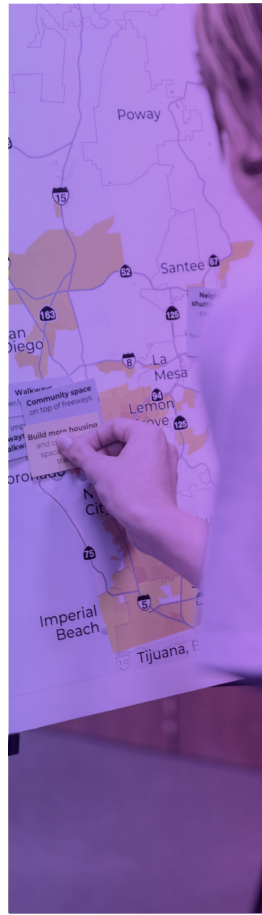
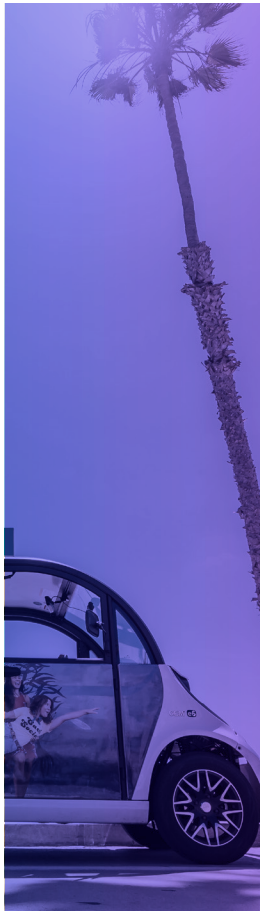


SANDAG

TransNet
35TH

ANNIVERSARY



SANDAG.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of Board leadership, I am thrilled to share with you this year's annual report. There is much to be proud of, and I want to thank the SANDAG team, community partners, and dedicated Board members for all of your contributions to the San Diego region.

We kicked off this year with a strategic discussion geared toward more collaboration, more dialogue, and more engagement. We have done just that.

- ▶ We passed bipartisan budget items totaling over \$1.8 billion that bring direct funding to transportation, community infrastructure, and badly needed road repairs.
- ▶ We are delivering on our TransNet commitments and moving forward on critical projects like the I-5 HOV lanes; SR 67, SR 52, I-15/SR 78 HOV connectors; the SR 78/I-5 Express Lanes connector; Purple Line and Blue Line Express projects; the Airport Transit Connection; LOSSAN realignment; and the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry.
- ▶ We extended the Youth Opportunity Pass program for two more years and are working on half a dozen bikeway/complete street projects.
- ▶ We brought hundreds of millions of dollars to the San Diego region to help build major infrastructure projects and housing, bridge the digital divide, and advance climate action planning. And, we provided millions of dollars to each of the cities and San Diego County to create safer streets, increase regional connectivity, and expand mobility options.

When I was elected Chairwoman, I pledged to bring unity and partnership to SANDAG. These accomplishments demonstrate our shared dedication to investing in our communities through mobility options that grow the economy and improve the environment.

I look forward to working with all of you to continue this good work.

—Nora E. Vargas
SANDAG Board Chairwoman

Each year, SANDAG produces a report to provide a summary of agency activities. This report outlines the progress we've made between January and October 2023, and how that progress fits into our vision for the future. Included in this report are:

- ▶ **Major Projects:** an overview of progress on infrastructure planning and implementation
- ▶ **Regional Initiatives:** updates on key programs implemented throughout our region
- ▶ **Grants and Local Funding:** resources SANDAG has provided to our communities

This year marks the 35-year anniversary of TransNet, the half-cent sales tax administered by SANDAG to fund local transportation projects. This report highlights the impact that the SANDAG TransNet Program has had on the San Diego region in 2023.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nearly five years ago, I joined SANDAG with a vision for the San Diego region and the goal of creating a world-class organization. Together—with the help of the SANDAG team, our Board, and the people of this region—we have achieved that. Simply put, our success demonstrates what can be done when we work together.

Using data and analytics, we are transforming transportation in the San Diego region based on a vision we call the 5 Big Moves. Every day, that vision is coming to life as we develop major projects that connect the region, stimulate the economy, address social equity, and foster a healthier environment in all our communities. This past year, we've tackled long-standing challenges such as a transit connection to the airport, stabilizing the Del Mar Bluffs, and building a third crossing at the U.S.-Mexico border. We've also improved transit, bikeways, and housing, decreased the digital divide, and made roadways safer and more efficient. Our bold vision has garnered support from federal and state funding agencies, resulting in significant investments for our region.

Additionally, we have made internal improvements to become a more efficient, effective, and transparent agency. Our efforts have included implementing a unified financial system, negotiating a lease on a new office space, and improving several of our internal processes. We also hired a new independent performance auditor.

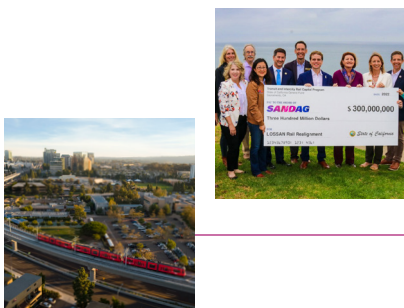
SANDAG is a role model for public sector innovation with an ambitious work program and a reputation for success. Being part of the SANDAG team has been one of my proudest accomplishments in my 30-plus year career. As we enter the next chapter of SANDAG's history, focused on implementing the 5 Big Moves, I believe it is the right time to pass on the leadership reins. My last day as CEO will be December 29, 2023. On the following page, you'll find some of my favorite highlights from my time at SANDAG. Be sure to read the complete report to learn more about what SANDAG accomplished in 2023.

I am confident the agency is in very good hands, and I look forward to watching this world-class organization bring the region together.

—Hasan Ikhata
SANDAG Chief Executive Officer

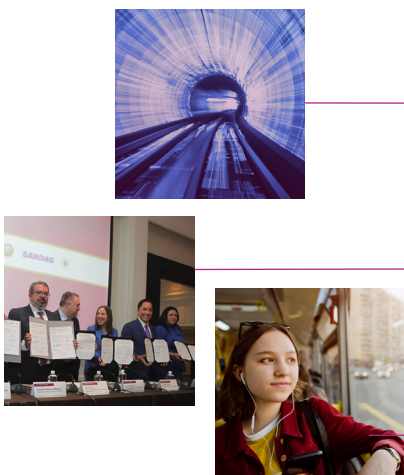
Highlights from the Last Five Years

Connecting the San Diego Region



- Completed the Mid-Coast Extension of the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley on time and within budget
- Secured funding for the Del Mar Bluffs stabilization project, the LOSSAN Rail Realignment project, and other corridor improvements
- Identified potential locations for a Central Mobility Hub and analyzed Airport Transit Connection alternatives
- Provided specialized transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities
- Enhanced major corridors such as I-5 in North County and SR 11 in South County
- Implemented innovative transit solutions such as the Bus on Shoulder project and Neighborhood Electric Vehicles

Stimulating the Economy



- Secured funding for the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry and signed binational toll revenue-sharing agreement with Mexico
- Established the Request for Innovative Concepts (RFIC) program to partner with private companies to address the region's transportation needs
- Provided project funding to local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and transportation partners for innovative localized solutions

Addressing Social Equity

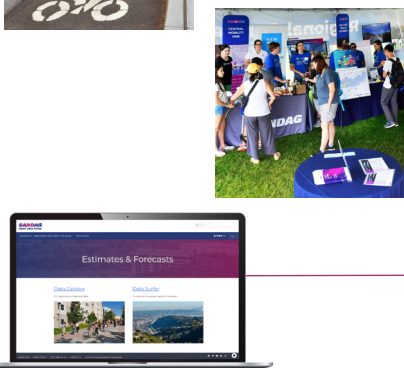
- Launched the Youth Opportunity Pass to provide free transit for youth and transit education for their families
- Adopted our Commitment to Equity statement to advance equity within the organization
- Created the Housing Acceleration Program to help local jurisdictions support affordable housing development

Fostering a Healthier Environment



- Continued implementation of the Environmental Mitigation Program which provides millions of dollars for lagoon restoration, land management, endangered species protection, and more
- Built an extensive network of bikeways and walkways to provide comfortable and convenient alternatives to car travel
- Partnered with hundreds of employers to encourage carpool and vanpool programs and incentivize sustainable transportation options

Improving Processes and Engagement



- Hired the agency's first Independent Performance Auditor
- Addressed audit recommendations by implementing process improvements, including replacing multiple obsolete proprietary software packages with a unified system
- Launched a redesigned website that's easier to use with improved search capability and full functionality on mobile, tablet, and desktop devices
- Launched the Open Data Portal to assist and inform policy makers, member agencies, academic institutions, tribal governments, community-based organizations, and the public
- Hosted our first-ever Community Fair and multiple community workshops, open houses, and skills classes



ABOUT THE **San Diego Region**

The San Diego region is made up of 18 cities, the County of San Diego, and 17 federally recognized tribal governments. San Diego shares its southern border with Mexico, the United States' largest trading partner. For many people, frequent travel across the international border is essential for visiting family, going to work, shopping, and accessing medical care.

It is truly a remarkable place for all, with unique coastlines, canyons, mesas, grasslands, forests, agricultural lands, and deserts. The San Diego region hosts strategically located sea and land ports of entry, the U.S. Navy's prestigious Pacific Fleet, renowned higher education institutions, and a diverse economy rooted in technology, research, national defense, and tourism.

When the region and its people face significant challenges—climate change, the housing crisis, transportation access, and a history of inequity between communities—SANDAG is there to craft solutions.



ABOUT **SANDAG**

We believe the San Diego region thrives when we work together. At SANDAG, we use data and public input to plan, build, provide resources, and preserve our region. By working collaboratively with local governments, community partners, neighboring regions, and state and federal agencies, we are able to deliver long-lasting solutions to the region's challenges.

We are governed by a Board of Directors made up of elected representatives from each of our local city councils and County Board of Supervisors. They determine where we focus our efforts and how we spend our \$1 billion budget across all our projects, programs, initiatives, services, and operations throughout the region. Our Board also includes advisory members from local transit districts, the military, neighboring tribal governments, Mexico, and partner agencies.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the San Diego region, we maintain a long-term Regional Plan for infrastructure improvements. We also serve the region through several other designations including the Council of Governments, San Diego County Regional Transportation Commission and TransNet sales tax authority, forum for regional housing needs, ARJIS administrator and criminal justice clearinghouse, and census agency.

Commitment to Equity

We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve. We acknowledge we have much to learn and much to change; and we firmly uphold equity and inclusion for every person in the San Diego region. This includes historically underserved, systemically marginalized groups impacted by actions and inactions at all levels of our government and society.

We have an obligation to eliminate disparities and ensure that safe, healthy, accessible, and inclusive opportunities are available to everyone. The SANDAG equity action plan will inform how we plan, prioritize, fund, and build projects and programs; frame how we work with our communities; define how we recruit and develop our employees; guide our efforts to conduct unbiased research and interpret data; and set expectations for companies and stakeholders that work with us.

We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.



Delivering for you
THEN

Delivering for you
NOW

Local Funds for Local Solutions

Did you know your tax dollars are paving the way to a better future? For more than three decades, the SANDAG TransNet program has been the driving force for improving transportation infrastructure in the San Diego region. This half-cent sales tax administered by SANDAG makes an impact in the everyday lives of residents and visitors by funding local transportation and environmental projects that are identified in the Regional Plan. As one of the largest transportation improvement programs in California, TransNet funds numerous local projects.

Transit, highway, freight, and bikeway and walkway projects funded by TransNet help reduce congestion and improve our infrastructure. TransNet also funds reduced transit fares for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities; specialized transportation grants to create services for seniors and people with disabilities; and habitat conservation, management, and mitigation.

TransNet creates a massive boost for street improvements by allocating funds to local cities and the county. Projects include new roads, pothole repairs, bike lanes, crosswalks, drainage improvements, and more.

From safe streets to fresh landscapes, SANDAG is using TransNet to transform the San Diego region one improvement at a time. Check out TransNet projects in your community by exploring our project map at

SANDAG.org/transnet35.



of Connecting the San Diego Region

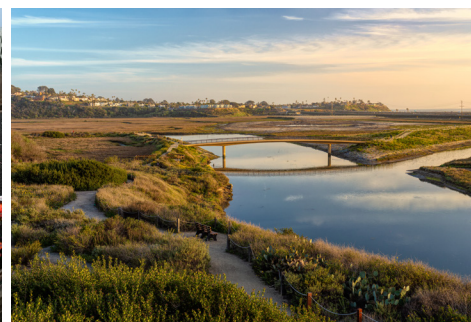
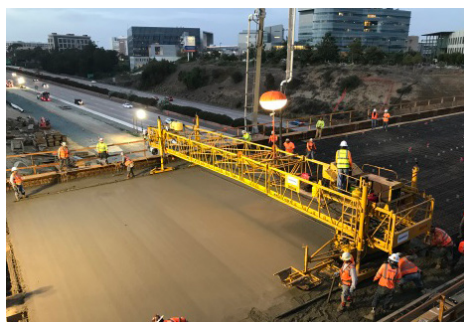
This year SANDAG celebrates the 35th anniversary of TransNet. The first 20-year TransNet measure was approved by San Diego County voters in 1987. It went into effect in 1988 and was extended by voters in 2004 for an additional 40 years. Since the beginning, SANDAG has been using TransNet funds to deliver numerous transit, highway, bikeway and walkway projects, local street and road improvements, specialized transportation projects, and environmental protections . . . and we'll keep on delivering through 2048!

The initial 20-year TransNet program resulted in approximately \$3.8 billion in local investments between 1988 and 2008. The TransNet extension has generated \$4.4 billion to date and has been vital in helping us secure additional federal, state, and local funds. Working with our partners at Caltrans, MTS, and NCTD, SANDAG has delivered more than 700 projects for our communities.

Together, we're building a brighter future for our communities!



The initial 20-year TransNet program generated approximately **\$3.8 billion between 1988 and 2008.**



The TransNet extension has generated **\$4.4 billion to date.**



Regional Plan OVERVIEW

The Regional Plan outlines how we will improve transportation, equity, and the environment for people in the greater San Diego area over the next several decades. It takes into account how our region is expected to grow and change and provides a blueprint for our transportation network, coordinated land use, housing, and more. The state and federal governments require us to update this plan every four years. This plan is informed by public feedback and developed by a team of experts using data and research. As the guiding document for much of SANDAG's work, most of the projects and initiatives in this report are part of making the Regional Plan a reality. Visit [SANDAG.org/regionalplan](https://www.sandag.org/regionalplan) to learn more.

Regional Impact

The projects, programs, and initiatives in the Regional Plan impact every resident of the San Diego region.

TransNet Connection

TransNet is an important funding source for many projects and programs in the Regional Plan. Find more details about the impact TransNet has on individual projects throughout this report.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ This year, we released an interactive online mapping tool that allows people to view and provide input on proposed transportation projects for the 2025 update of the Regional Plan.
- ▶ We held 45 community pop-up events and six subregional community workshops where approximately 2,100 participants provided in-person feedback. Additionally, we collected more than 2,000 online comments that will contribute to the 2025 Regional Plan.
- ▶ As part of the development of the 2025 Regional Plan, we prepared a new transportation model to reflect post-pandemic travel behavior and a 2050 regional forecast.
- ▶ We updated our Regional Plan vision and goals and established performance measures.
- ▶ We hosted multiple workshops for the Board of Directors and Policy Advisory Committees to share their input on the 2025 Regional Plan.

LOSSAN CORRIDOR

The LOSSAN Corridor (Los Angeles—San Diego—San Luis Obispo) is the second busiest intercity rail corridor in the nation and the only viable rail freight link between the San Diego region and the rest of the country. This corridor is also part of the Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET), identified by the U.S. Department of Defense for its importance in providing access to the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the Port of San Diego. The Del Mar Bluffs stabilization project protects the LOSSAN Rail Corridor from erosion while long-term plans to relocate the tracks off the bluffs are implemented. Visit [SANDAG.org/lossan](https://www.sandag.org/lossan) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ The State of California Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) awarded a \$100 million grant to SANDAG and the North County Transit District (NCTD) to advance Phase 2 of the San Dieguito Bridge replacement project which will replace the 107-year-old bridge, add 0.9 miles of double track, and construct a special events platform at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.
- ▶ In partnership with the City of Del Mar, NCTD, and the California Coastal Commission, SANDAG completed the Coastal Connections Conceptual Planning Study to help improve public safety, minimize railroad/pedestrian conflicts, and protect coastal resources.
- ▶ The California Transportation Commission awarded \$103 million to SANDAG to replace an 80-year-old wooden rail bridge and add 0.6 miles of double track across the Batiquitos Lagoon, connecting the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas.
- ▶ SANDAG held five community outreach events to discuss the reasons, studies, and proposals behind the plan to move the rail tracks off the Del Mar Bluffs and to engage in meaningful dialogue about the LOSSAN rail line.

Regional Impact

Within the San Diego region, the LOSSAN Rail Corridor passes through Camp Pendleton, over six coastal lagoons, and across the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar before terminating in Downtown San Diego. As the only rail corridor in the region moving both people and freight, the LOSSAN Rail Realignment project is a critical priority for all residents of the county.

TransNet Connection

TransNet funds have been allocated on several LOSSAN capital projects including Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2, San Dieguito Double Track and Special Events Platform, Batiquitos Lagoon Double Track, Eastbrook to Shell Double Track, and others.



Otay Mesa East

PORT OF ENTRY

Mexico is California's main trading partner, fueling commerce and economic opportunity throughout the San Diego-Baja California binational region. The future port of entry that we are building with our partners at Caltrans will reduce wait times, strengthen border security and safety, increase economic efficiencies, and foster innovative technology solutions, all while reducing emissions and ensuring the Cali-Baja region has the infrastructure it needs to continue its dynamic growth. Visit [SANDAG.org/ome](https://www.sandag.org/ome) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ The California Transportation Commission awarded \$140 million in funding as part of the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), which funds projects designed to move freight more efficiently on corridors with high freight volumes.
- ▶ After last year's visit from U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, we have begun to draft the \$150 million federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant agreement.
- ▶ SANDAG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Caltrans, General Services Administration, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection which outlined preliminary design components of the port of entry facilities.
- ▶ We began initial design for the port of entry facilities which aim to achieve LEED® Gold certification and will use non-intrusive inspection equipment to help shorten border wait times.
- ▶ SANDAG, Caltrans, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), and Calpine completed the relocation of approximately 4,400 linear feet of large steel diameter gas utility lines, a critical component of site preparations.

Regional Impact

Progress on the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry in 2023 brought the region several steps closer to an innovative new border crossing while continuing to advance key initiatives and foster trade growth. The new port of entry will improve mobility and air quality in the border region and fuel economic growth and binational trade throughout the region.

TransNet Connection

As part of the TransNet Ordinance Expenditure Plan, TransNet provides a contribution toward border access improvements, which include the new port of entry.





Airport TRANSIT CONNECTION

The Airport Transit Connection will provide a reliable, direct, and convenient transit link to the San Diego International Airport for people across the region. This transportation improvement will reduce the increased traffic that's projected with the expansion of the airport, provide a practical travel option for residents and visitors, and contribute to the regional economy. Visit [SANDAG.org/atc](https://www.sandag.org/atc) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ Over the summer, Airport Transit Connection concepts were shared with the SANDAG Board of Directors and partner agencies, including the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.
- ▶ The Central Mobility Hub and Connections study was finalized to inform strategies for transit connections near the airport.
- ▶ We secured funding for the environmental phase of the project in fall 2023. A Notice of Preparation for environmental clearance is anticipated in early 2024.

Regional Impact

The project is expected to increase transit ridership, reduce traffic, and advance climate action goals throughout the region. People from Oceanside to El Cajon and San Ysidro will feel the impact of reduced travel times to and from the airport and enjoy a fast and reliable way to get there without a car. Additionally, the project will boost economic growth by connecting people to jobs in the region's urban core through robust transit options.

TransNet Connection

Initial planning efforts for this project were funded by TransNet. Consistent with the goals of TransNet and the Regional Plan, the Airport Transit Connection will help to expedite congestion relief around one of our region's most critical transportation destinations.



Blue Line AND Purple Line

The Blue Line Trolley was the first in the system. In 2021, we added 11 more miles to the line, extending it from San Ysidro through Downtown San Diego all the way to UTC. We continue to hear from the community about how the Blue Line can better serve the region's residents. While we plan for long-term improvements, we are working on more bus routes and services that can meet the needs now.

The Purple Line will be a new, high-speed transit line designed to connect the most populated areas of our region with major job centers. We are beginning the planning work to study a high-capacity transit line that would carry people from San Ysidro to Sorrento Mesa via National City, City Heights, and Kearny Mesa, while also starting on near-term relief in the form of rapid buses and other corridor improvements.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ We kicked off the Purple Line project in early 2023. The study focuses on a potential new high-speed transit line from National City to Sorrento Mesa.
- ▶ The Blue Line Express Feasibility Study is looking at making the existing Blue Line faster, developing a Rapid bus service, and evaluating how the COASTER could potentially serve the international border.
- ▶ In October, the Board approved \$20 million to conduct an Alternatives Analysis for the Purple Line, which will include extensive public outreach and consideration of all possible solutions for our region, making the Purple Line eligible to receive federal "New Starts" funding.



San Ysidro MOBILITY HUB

The San Diego region is known for its binational identity and crossborder movement. With our partner agencies, we are creating the San Ysidro Mobility Hub to make travel in the border region easier and more sustainable. Phase 1 of the project will improve the existing San Ysidro Transit Center while building toward Phase 2, which will generate a comprehensive long-term vision for a Mobility Hub that reflects the historical and cultural significance of the binational region. Mobility Hubs provide people with seamless connections through multiple travel options—walking, biking, transit, and shared mobility—using world-class transportation, amenities, technology, and design.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ Work on Phase 1 this year has included the study of near-term enhancements to the existing station and resulted in initial station improvement concepts. Upcoming public outreach will help refine initial concepts before the study is completed in early 2024.
- ▶ In July 2023, the Federal Transit Administration announced a funding award of \$785,400 to the project as part of the Areas of Persistent Poverty program. Planning and outreach activities for Phase 2 will begin in 2024.

Regional Impact

Transit improvements throughout the region benefit residents, visitors, and commuters by providing different option for people to get to the places that matter most.

TransNet Connection

These improvements are building on TransNet projects, such as the Blue Line, the COASTER, the Trolley Renewal Project, and the Border to Bayshore Bikeway, to continue to make travel in the border region easier and more sustainable.



BUILD NCC

The Build North Coast Corridor (NCC) project is a combination of transportation improvements, environmental protection, and coastal access enhancements being constructed by SANDAG and Caltrans. Build NCC is the first phase of the 40-year program which aims to improve mobility solutions and the health of the environment in North County. Visit [SANDAG.org/buildncc](https://www.sandag.org/buildncc) to learn more.

Regional Impact

The effects of Build NCC projects are felt most directly in the cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Oceanside, but the project provides a useful example of a complete corridors approach to sustainable and comprehensive transportation improvements for the entire region.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ In July, SANDAG and Caltrans opened four new miles of carpool/HOV lanes on I-5, stretching from SR 78 in Oceanside to Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad. The new lanes connect to existing HOV lanes, offering a total of 13 miles of improved access throughout North County.
- ▶ The San Elijo Activity Hub Park & Ride on Manchester Avenue in Encinitas opened in August, providing infrastructure for future electric vehicle charging stations, bike racks, space for a future community garden, parking, and more.
- ▶ Build NCC was recognized throughout the state and country with several awards including the California Transportation Foundation Sustainable Project of the Year Award, the American Public Works Association (San Diego) Project of the Year Award, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (San Diego) Project of the Year Award.

TransNet Connection

Many of the improvements within Build NCC are TransNet projects such as I-5 Express Lanes and the San Dieguito Lagoon and San Elijo Lagoon restorations.



REGIONAL Bike Network

The San Diego region is one of the most exciting places in the country for bike infrastructure improvements, with nearly 1,800 miles of existing bikeways in the region and several more projects making big strides this year. Providing an extensive network of bikeways is key to ensuring that all people can use biking and walking as comfortable and convenient forms of everyday travel. Ten years ago, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved the Regional Bike Plan Early Action Program (EAP). We continue to implement the high-priority projects laid out in the EAP. Visit [SANDAG.org/bikes](https://www.sandag.org/bikes) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ More than 7,000 participants joined SANDAG at 100 pit stops across the region with the reimagined Bike Anywhere Day celebration on May 18.
- ▶ In the spring, we broke ground on the Border to Bayshore Bikeway, a 6.7-mile bikeway connecting one of the world's busiest land border crossings at the San Ysidro Port of Entry and the Bayshore Bikeway in Imperial Beach.
- ▶ The highly anticipated Pershing Bikeway is 75% complete, while the Barrio Logan segment of the Bayshore Bikeway is 60% complete. Crews completed vital infrastructure and developed more connectivity throughout the region.
- ▶ The forthcoming Imperial Beach Bikeway project, along with a new phase of the Inland Rail Trail and the Uptown Bikeway in Eastern Hillcrest, went out to bid in late 2023. Construction is expected to kick off in 2024.

Regional Impact

We officially kicked off the development of the first Regional Vision Zero Action Plan, which will encompass 19 jurisdictions, 17 federally recognized tribes, and more than 3.3 million people in the San Diego region. The data-driven plan, modeled on national and international best practices, will pinpoint high-risk areas for traffic fatalities and serious injuries in our region. We are also updating the Regional Active Transportation Plan to improve walking and rolling connections for daily travel and recreation. This update will align the regional bikeway network with the Regional Plan and consider post-pandemic travel trends, including the increased use of e-bikes.

TransNet Connection

Two percent of annual revenues from TransNet go to the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Neighborhood Safety program. SANDAG also uses funding from other sources to move bike projects toward construction on a rolling timeline, ensuring the availability of shovel-ready projects at any point in time.



NEIGHBORHOOD Electric Vehicles

SANDAG partnered with local jurisdictions and the private sector to deploy “Flexible Fleets”—affordable, on-demand transportation services that help riders reach their destinations or connect to transit. Together, we launched new neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) that operate as low-speed, zero-emission shuttles for short trips of up to three miles. Visit [SANDAG.org/flexiblefleets](https://www.sandag.org/flexiblefleets) to learn more.

Regional Impact

Oceanside and the City of San Diego benefited directly from the NEV program in 2023, demonstrating to communities across our region the value of flexible mobility options and how to use these programs.

TransNet Connection

These services complement existing regional transportation infrastructure investments delivered through TransNet by providing another option for people to easily get around their communities and access our transit system, including the UC San Diego Blue Line and COASTER.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ SANDAG launched two NEV pilot programs in Oceanside and Pacific Beach in partnership with the City of Oceanside, Visit Oceanside, and the City of San Diego.
- ▶ In partnership with the Urban Collaborative Project, SANDAG is receiving a \$1.5 million grant from the Clean Mobility Options Program to start a microtransit pilot program in Southeast San Diego.
- ▶ In October, the Board approved an additional \$5 million for Flexible Fleet pilots, which will help local jurisdictions partner with SANDAG to create programs in their communities.
- ▶ SANDAG is providing data and best practices to other partner agencies in the region who are launching their own NEV shuttle services. Future programs are in the works for Coronado and the City of San Diego.

Many of the San Diego region's transportation challenges are connected to larger issues including economic and social inequities, climate change, public health, and safety. SANDAG partners with community members to create programs that address these challenges. Our regional initiatives focus on delivering what our communities need most—internet access, affordable housing, equitable transportation options, and a healthy environment.



DATA, RESEARCH, AND Analytics

SANDAG creates and maintains a tremendous amount of data and takes advantage of emerging datasets to better understand the needs of the region. We then translate data into actionable information such as transportation models, economic forecasts, project cost-benefit analyses, web applications, and maps. The public safety data and independent evaluations we provide offer insight into quality-of-life issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries. The Open Data Portal (ODP) makes our data publicly and readily available to everyone. Visit [SANDAG.org/data](https://www.sandag.org/data) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ SANDAG completed the Series 15 Forecast, estimating how many people, housing units, and jobs we expect in the region through 2060. This forecast is a key component of our travel demand model which helps us understand the impact of programs, policies, and projects in the 2025 Regional Plan.
- ▶ On the ODP, we significantly expanded the data on border wait times and 2022 population estimates, and several reports that were previously released as printable PDFs have been published as interactive dashboards.
- ▶ Application upgrades—such as the creation of a project inventory and a data explorer tool—made conducting analyses and compiling data more efficient and effective.
- ▶ The ODP won the Tyler Technologies Public Sector Excellence Award for Connected Communities.

Regional Impact

SANDAG's resources are used throughout the region by policy makers, member agencies, local government entities, academic institutions, tribal governments, community-based organizations, stakeholders, and the public to make informed decisions.

TransNet Connection

Many projects that use TransNet funding rely on in-house data throughout the project lifecycle. In 2023, our TransNet-mandated 2023 State of the Commute report was made available on the ODP as a dynamic report for the first time, and we implemented a quality control process recommended by the TransNet audit.



TRANSIT EQUITY AND THE Youth Opportunity Pass

After more than a decade of advocacy by social justice community organizations, we launched our Transit Equity program in spring 2022. The Youth Opportunity Pass (YOP) pilot program, which provides free, unlimited transit rides for young people ages 18 and under, has provided more than 11 million rides countywide since its launch. Working with our community partners, the program also includes education for youth and families about public transit options in their neighborhoods and evaluation of its impact. Visit SANDAG.org/yop to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ As of October 2023, more than 150,000 youth have set up a Pronto card or account set up.
- ▶ Approximately 50,000 young people in the San Diego region are taking an average of 750,000 transit rides per month. That's three times as many riders taking more than double the number of trips as compared to pre-program numbers.
- ▶ The project team surveyed participants and found that 80% said they would keep riding transit as adults, 93% said they had greater access to important destinations and appointments, and 90% agreed that their family benefits financially because of YOP.



Regional Impact

YOP has expanded equitable access to transportation throughout the region. Youth ridership on NCTD routes serving Vista and Escondido increased by more than 200% in 2023. MTS routes serving San Diego, Chula Vista, and El Cajon experienced a youth ridership increase of more than 150%.



TransNet Connection

TransNet-funded Rapid 215 and 225 are some of the highest-performing YOP routes, serving South Bay and City Heights youth on their commute to school. The Mid-Coast Trolley Extension, also TransNet funded, helps students at the Preuss School get from their homes in City Heights and Southeastern San Diego to school every day.



Safety AND VISION ZERO

Roads and intersections should be safe for everyone. That’s why the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted a Regional Vision Zero Resolution with the intention of eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility options. Vision Zero rejects the idea that traffic crashes are inevitable and instead views them as preventable incidents. The regional Vision Zero Action Plan recommends proven roadway safety strategies to accommodate a variety of travel modes, safer speeds, and education around responsible travel behavior. Visit [SANDAG.org/visionzero](https://www.sandag.org/visionzero) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ Seeing the need for a centralized source of transportation data on fatalities and severe injuries throughout the region, we launched a Traffic Safety Dashboard to gather essential data in one convenient place.
- ▶ The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) awarded SANDAG with \$3.2 million in Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funding to develop Vision Zero Action Plans in partnership with Caltrans, the City of Vista, and the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians.
- ▶ The U.S. DOT identified SANDAG as an Allies in Action stakeholder and First Mover for our Vision Zero Action Plan.
- ▶ SANDAG formed a multidisciplinary Safety Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with representatives from tribal governments, community-based organizations, local jurisdictions, Caltrans, law enforcement, school districts, and advocacy groups to help shape transportation safety solutions along with ways to invite community feedback.

Regional Impact

Vision Zero initiatives will impact the entire region with improved data collection and analysis, collaborative policy and planning, public awareness and education, and proposed infrastructure improvements. Any jurisdiction or tribal government with a completed Regional Vision Zero Action Plan can seek federal funds to help implement recommended transportation safety solutions.

TransNet Connection

Guidance from the TransNet Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC) on addressing TransNet Triennial Performance Audit recommendations led to SANDAG’s development of a Regional Vision Zero Action Plan. The impact of Vision Zero and TransNet are strongly aligned. Vision Zero focuses on reducing traffic-related fatalities and injuries, and TransNet funds are often used for projects that work toward that goal.



Housing ACCELERATION PROGRAM

The Housing Acceleration Program (HAP) promotes fair and equitable housing for all by working to increase affordable housing production, prevent displacement, offer technical assistance and educational outreach, strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and tribes in the region, and provide financial resources. Visit [SANDAG.org/hap](https://sandag.org/hap) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ The state awarded \$43 million to SANDAG in Regional Early Action Planning grants (REAP 2.0) for planning and implementation activities in four categories: local jurisdiction support, affordable housing programs (including a regional housing trust fund), transit agency partnerships, and tribal partnerships.
- ▶ Through Cycle 2 of the HAP grant program, SANDAG awarded \$12.3 million to local jurisdictions for 15 planning and capital projects that will accelerate housing production, prioritize infill development, and reduce vehicle miles traveled. Visit [SANDAG.org/hapgrants](https://sandag.org/hapgrants) for more information.
- ▶ We launched the Housing Technical Assistance Program (HAP TA) to provide support to local jurisdictions as they implement their housing plan.
- ▶ SANDAG developed the Housing Policy and Planning Tool (HPPT), a regional public housing data platform available on SANDAG's Open Data Portal.
- ▶ In collaboration with community members and other stakeholders, SANDAG developed the Regional Anti-Displacement Strategy to identify populations at risk of being displaced by development and transit projects and to offer recommendations, best practices, and tools to combat the issue.
- ▶ With SANDAG as the fiscal agent, the region was awarded \$10 million in REAP 2.0 Higher Impact Transformative (HIT) funding for Transforming and Advancing South County Transit Communities (TASC).

Regional Impact

The HAP actively advances the Regional Plan, benefiting the entire region. The cities of Del Mar, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, National City, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, and the County of San Diego took advantage of our HAP Cycle 2 funding opportunity in 2023. This past year, SANDAG held 13 regional housing technical assistance convenings and is providing direct technical assistance to 12 local jurisdictions: the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, Oceanside, San Diego, Solana Beach, and the County of San Diego.



Digital Equity

The Digital Equity Program seeks to close the digital divide and ensure everyone has equal access to educational, economic, and social opportunities through a reliable, affordable internet connection. In 2021, SANDAG adopted the Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan. Since then, the Digital Equity Program has led many efforts in collaboration with state and local partners to raise awareness of available resources that help residents connect to the internet and build out the broadband infrastructure system in the region. Visit [SANDAG.org/digitalequity](https://www.sandag.org/digitalequity) to learn more.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ As part of our ongoing Get Connected educational programs, SANDAG worked with San Diego Futures Foundation and 211 San Diego to offer four digital skills classes in rural areas of the region. Our partners helped with class instruction and outreach, respectively.
- ▶ SANDAG supported project proposals to improve fiber and broadband infrastructure in the San Diego region which prioritize rural, unserved, and disadvantaged communities with no access to high-speed internet.
- ▶ In close collaboration with the State of California, we supported the State Digital Equity Plan process. Our extensive outreach for the digital equity survey, which aimed to identify community connectivity needs, brought in more than 30% of the 42,000 responses statewide—more than any other region.

Regional Impact

This program ensures that internet infrastructure, resources, and skills are made available throughout the region. The Regional Digital Divide Taskforce is key to making sure these needs are factored into upcoming projects. In 2023, the program focused on improvements for rural populations and underserved communities and made broadband improvements in areas with previously unreliable coverage in urban communities across the region.

Through competitive grant programs, SANDAG provides project funding to local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and transit agencies. We allocate millions of dollars each year to create safer streets, increase regional connectivity, protect the environment, accelerate housing production, and expand mobility options.



Local Streets AND ROADS

Since 1988, more than \$1 billion in TransNet funding has been provided to the cities and the county to help with street improvement projects. Benefits of these funds include new major roads, repaved and widened streets, pothole repairs, local bikeway and walkway improvements, median and landscaping projects, bridge repairs, drainage improvements, traffic calming and signal adjustments, and other major congestion relief and rehabilitation projects.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ TransNet provided more than \$82.4 million toward local street improvement projects in progress during 2023.
- ▶ The City of San Diego added funding to the construction phase of La Media Road improvements which will make the street safer, provide congestion relief, and improve access for freight trucks going through the Otay Mesa Port of Entry.
- ▶ The City of Escondido expanded their traffic signals project to add and coordinate signals and improve traffic flow.

Regional Impact

Every jurisdiction in the San Diego region receives annual TransNet funding for local street and road improvements. Individual jurisdictions spend these funds according to their priorities and needs.





Western Snowy Plover



Nuttall's Acmispon



California Least Tern

TransNet Environmental MITIGATION PROGRAM

SANDAG has awarded approximately \$18.8 million in TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management grants over a total of ten cycles. This competitive program awards projects to land managers to protect threatened, rare, and endangered species and their habitats while promoting regional habitat conservation planning.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ The Nature Collective began work on the Rare Dune Species Restoration Project which will restore habitats and implement conservation efforts for Nuttall's Acmispon and other dune species.
- ▶ San Diego Habitat Conservancy started work on the Quarry Creek Preserve Fencing Project which will reduce human activity and trash in the preserve.
- ▶ The San Diego Unified Port District began their Endangered Avian Nesting Site Stewardship project at the D Street Fill project to help with management and recovery of two state and federally listed species—the California least tern (endangered) and western snowy plover (threatened)—who use the area during the avian breeding season.

Regional Impact

The 19 projects that were awarded funding by the Board of Directors for the tenth cycle will support the communities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Vista, Santee, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego.



TransNet Active Transportation & Smart Growth

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Every three years, SANDAG provides jurisdictions with funds to create more walkable, bike-friendly, and transit-oriented communities. Since 2009, \$59 million in TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program funding and more than \$28 million in Active Transportation funding contributed to projects throughout the San Diego region. These projects revitalize downtown areas and create economic growth opportunities by enhancing streetscapes, improving walking and biking facilities, beautifying public spaces, and increasing connectivity.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ Four projects were completed and many more that received funding in past years moved forward with planning and construction.
- ▶ The City of San Diego completed its Clairemont Transit-Oriented Development design concepts.
- ▶ The City of Escondido completed Phase 1 of its Grand Avenue Complete Streets Improvement project.
- ▶ The County of San Diego completed the Casa De Oro–Campo Road Specific Plan planning project.
- ▶ The City of National City completed its National City Boulevard Intercity-Bike Connection project.

Regional Impact

All jurisdictions across the region have been served by these programs. In 2023, jurisdictions including Carlsbad, Escondido, National City, Lemon Grove, El Cajon, Santee, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego benefitted from completed or ongoing Smart Growth Incentive Program projects.



TransNet
FUNDING



Specialized Transportation PROGRAMS

Specialized Transportation Grant Programs (STGP) expand mobility options for older adults and individuals with disabilities. STGP consists of two programs: The Senior Mini-Grant Program and the Section 5310 grant program. The Senior Mini-Grant Program uses TransNet funding to provide specialized transportation for people ages 60 and older within San Diego County and Section 5310 uses Federal Transit Administration funding to provide specialized transportation for people ages 65 and older and individuals with disabilities. These two programs have awarded more than \$68 million to private nonprofits and local governments.

Additionally, the SANDAG Access for All Grant Program (AFA) funds projects and programs that expand on-demand wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV) services for individuals with disabilities in the San Diego region. The program is funded by a ten-cent Access Fee collected from each Transportation Network Company trip in the county, which the California Public Utilities Commission distributes to the region for the program.

2023 Highlights

- ▶ In February, SANDAG awarded approximately \$7.9 million in STGP grants through the Cycle 12 call for projects.
- ▶ Approximately 9,000 people benefitted from STGP-funded services, providing more than 300,000 one-way passenger trips.
- ▶ The SANDAG Board approved \$2.5 million in funding for RideFACTNOW, an AFA grantee, who began offering services in June. The on-demand service has already provided more than 4,000 trips to more than 3,000 people with disabilities, including more than 2,700 WAV trips. The service picks up passengers within 60 minutes of the request.
- ▶ The AFA Cycle 2 call for projects will open in late 2023, providing approximately \$2.3 million for eligible projects.

Regional Impact

STGP grants serve older adults and individuals with disabilities throughout the region. The most heavily serviced areas in 2023 were in El Cajon, La Mesa, Poway, Lemon Grove, and Point Loma. AFA is the first program to provide regionwide on-demand WAV service, benefiting individuals with disabilities throughout San Diego County.



Pursuant to AB 805, this report provides a summary of activities by the consolidated agency including, but not limited to, program developments, project updates, changes to voter-approved expenditure plans, and potential ballot measures. All applicable information for calendar year 2023 has been included.

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