

# SAN DIEGO FORWARD: THE 2021 REGIONAL PLAN FACT SHEET

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## Overview

SANDAG is leading a broad-based community effort to develop San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (2021 Regional Plan). It will combine a big picture vision for how our region will grow to 2050 and beyond with an implementation program to help make that vision a reality. Ultimately, the plan will reflect a strategy for a more sustainable future which includes investing in a transportation network that will provide people more travel choices, protect the environment, create healthy communities, and stimulate economic growth to benefit all San Diegans.

In February 2019, the SANDAG Board approved an **action plan** to develop a bigger and bolder transportation vision for the 2021 Regional Plan with the goal of transforming the way people and goods move throughout the San Diego region. Among other potential solutions, SANDAG will explore the use of innovative technologies to offer efficient and equitable transportation choices, meet or exceed state climate targets, and support local jurisdictions' achievements of Climate Action Plan goals. The 2021 Regional Plan will build upon local planning efforts to more closely link land use and transportation planning to create more compact and sustainable communities. SANDAG will work in close partnership with all the region's cities and the county government to create an innovative plan for our growing community.

## The Need

The foundation for the 2021 Regional Plan is the 2050 Regional Growth Forecast. By working with the 18 cities and County of San Diego, SANDAG forecasts the projected jobs, housing, and population expected by 2050. Using this information, we work with our stakeholders and the public to create a balanced, connected, and efficient transportation network that will meet our future needs as a region.

During the last decade, many local jurisdictions updated their land use plans and zoning ordinances, which collectively move the region's vision of the future toward more compact development near transit and greater open space preservation. Focusing housing and job centers in existing urbanized areas has replaced previous assumptions of more dispersed development patterns. By the year 2050, approximately half of the region's land will be dedicated to open space and habitat preservation.

This shift in development patterns is critical to creating a more sustainable way of life and helping the region meet 19% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for 2035 mandated by the California Air Resources Board in 2018. The 2021 Regional Plan will include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to guide efforts to meet or exceed the GHG targets, while maintaining quality of life in the San Diego region.

## Action Plan

The Board-approved **action plan** to develop a bold new vision for the Regional Plan will extend the plan development process by up to two years. This transformative transportation system will consider cutting edge technologies, social equity, sustainability, supporting land use and housing, and economic opportunities.

A preliminary outline of projects, programs, and policies that will serve as the basis for the 2021 Regional Plan is anticipated to be released for SANDAG policymaker and public review and input by the end of 2019. Once this framework is defined, technical modeling and performance measure analysis of transportation network concepts will

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**Topic areas that will be covered by San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan include:**

- » Air quality
- » Borders, including Baja California, our tribal nations, and our neighboring counties
- » Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- » Economic prosperity
- » Emerging technologies
- » Energy and fuels
- » Habitat preservation
- » Healthy communities
- » Open space and agriculture
- » Public facilities
- » Public safety
- » Shoreline preservation
- » Transportation and mobility
- » Water quality

take about one year. This is followed by the selection of a preferred network and the year-long environmental review process. The SANDAG Board is anticipated to adopt the plan in late 2021.

Also during this process, SANDAG will prepare the 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to obtain air quality conformity from the U.S. Department of Transportation and protect funding for the region’s transportation investments. State legislation has been introduced to ensure the current 2015 Regional Plan remains valid for funding eligibility and other consistency purposes until the new plan is adopted in 2021. The legislation also seeks to delink the sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process to keep the timeline for local jurisdictions to update their housing elements on track.

**Public Involvement**

During each step in the plan development process, SANDAG will reach out to a wide range of stakeholders countywide to seek their input. The Public Involvement Plan for the Regional Plan includes a menu of public engagement techniques, such as workshops and open houses, use of social media, visualizations, surveys, videos, and presentations. SANDAG is partnering with

a regionwide network of 12 community-based organizations to engage low-income, minority, senior, and disabled populations in the planning process. A tribal consultation process is being implemented with the support of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association to ensure the region’s 17 tribal nations are included.

In addition, SANDAG is collaborating with Mexico, the military, neighboring counties, colleges and universities, and local communities in an inclusive planning process to ensure our regional transportation system connects to the megaregion and national network.

Throughout 2018, SANDAG heard from thousands of people – through a series of open houses and subregional community conversations, community-based organization outreach events, a Board workshop, surveys, and social media – about projects, programs, and policies to include in the plan. The 2021 Regional Plan will build on the significant public input received so far to develop a bigger and bolder transportation vision for the San Diego region.

**For More Information**

To learn more about the 2021 Regional Plan and how to get involved, visit [SDForward.com](http://SDForward.com).

