Over the past ten years SANDAG and the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) have developed a government-to-government framework to engage in planning dialogue and action at the regional level. The success of this model has demonstrated that, when working collaboratively, public agencies and tribal governments can create a mechanism for timely, meaningful, and effective involvement of tribal governments in the regional and transportation planning process.

San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan focuses transportation investments in the most urbanized areas, where there is existing and planned transportation infrastructure. At the same time, the transportation system must also support the needs of federally recognized tribal nations whose reservations are located in the sparsely populated eastern rural areas of the region. To most effectively identify and serve the transportation needs of the tribal communities, the 18 tribal nations* in the region have sought an opportunity to evaluate their mobility issues collectively in a regional context and determine collective priorities for further analysis. Using the SANDAG Borders framework, the objective of this project is to develop an Intraregional Tribal Transportation Strategy with the tribal nations and other agencies that influence tribal transportation in the region.

Funding
SANDAG, in partnership with the SCTCA, successfully competed for a Caltrans Strategic Partnership Planning grant to support this effort. The funding allows SANDAG and the SCTCA to work together to develop a strategy that identifies key multimodal projects that will improve tribal mobility while meeting regional, state, and federal goals. The strategy includes identifying: projects, criteria, cost estimates, potential partners, and funding opportunities.

*The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians recently acquired trust land within the San Diego region.
The Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues discusses the next steps of the Tribal Transportation Strategy in a Spring 2016 meeting.

The interactive tool allows a user to generate a refined project list from the database based on Project Funding Sources, Project Objectives, and Project Overlap.

The results of the Intraregional Tribal Transportation Strategy Survey can now be easily mapped and clustered to help inform the strategy.

Status

The project was initiated in January 2016. The Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues serves as the Project Advisory Group. During the spring and summer of 2016, in-depth tribal transportation needs surveys were completed with 17 tribes through one-on-one interviews.

An interactive tool was developed to facilitate the clustering of projects with potential regional partners and funding opportunities. The tool allows for easy sorting of the 127 identified projects, each with approximately 45 data fields including cost estimates, potential funding sources, and project readiness. With the tool, a user can easily enter a query to find projects that may align with potential funding opportunities, partnerships, or cost goals. The ability to cluster and rapidly sort through projects will facilitate the organization of the Intraregional Tribal Transportation Strategy.

The Working Group developed a set of strategic actions to pursue the implementation of the identified projects. Completed in January of 2018, the Intraregional Tribal Transportation Strategy was approved by the SCTCA and the SANDAG Board of Directors for submittal to Caltrans. The document serves as a guide and resource to address tribal multimodal transportation needs in the region. The results will inform the Regional Plan.

The final document is available at sandag.org/ITTS.