



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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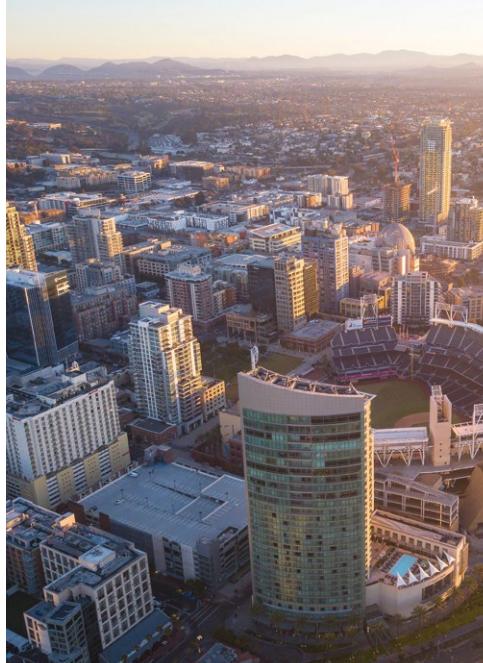
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Pursuing a BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL in the San Diego Region

The San Diego region is home to more than 3.3 million people within 18 cities, the County of San Diego, and 17 federally recognized Tribal Governments. Located along the U.S.–Mexico border, the San Diego region benefits from a rich economic, social, historical, and cultural exchange through the daily flow of people and goods across the international border.

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.

The San Diego region also faces significant challenges threatening its quality of life—a lack of affordable housing and compelling transportation options have contributed to inequities between communities and increased difficulties in advancing climate goals. At SANDAG, we hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve and are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.



About SANDAG

Using data and technology to inform our planning, SANDAG connects people, places, and innovative ideas by building projects with the San Diego region's unique and diverse communities that improve mobility and promote equity, economic growth, and sustainable communities.

We provide a forum for regional decision making and are governed by a Board of Directors made up of elected officials from the region's 18 city councils and the County Board of Supervisors. Representatives from Imperial County, Caltrans, U.S. Department of Defense, Port of San Diego, San Diego County Water Authority, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, North County Transit District (NCTD), Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association, and the Government of Mexico serve on the Board as nonvoting advisory members.

SANDAG serves the San Diego region through several designations, including the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Regional Transportation Planning Agency, 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.

In November 2022, SANDAG launched a redesigned website, offering a whole new look and feel. To reflect our commitment to engaging with the public, we've improved search capability and the ability to access information whether on a mobile, tablet, or desktop device.





Message from the CEO

At SANDAG, we are committed to working with the community in new and innovative ways. We are a public agency in service of the people—we want to engage. We want to connect. Using data and technology to inform our planning, we are making the bold decisions that are needed now to improve the San Diego region for generations to come.

This year, our biggest undertakings brought the region countless opportunities to connect. We're connecting our communities with improved transit, corridor improvements, and bikeways. We're connecting our region from north, south, and all destinations beyond with the LOSSAN Rail Realignment project, new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, and Central Mobility Hub. And, we're connecting our communities with key resources like affordable housing, internet, free transit, and jobs.

We have more than 70 projects and initiatives going on right now in every corner of the county. We also are an incredible resource for our member agencies and the region as a convener of information and people on topics as wide-ranging as public safety, economic modeling, and habitat conservation. This report offers an overview of just some of the things that we do. We want to make sure the community knows about every single one of them. But more importantly, we want people to know how they can get involved and be a part of this important work.

SANDAG has so much to offer, and we want to make sure everyone can benefit. Thank you for connecting with us.

—Hasan Ikhrata
SANDAG CEO

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Regional Plan

The Regional Plan is a long-term vision to improve mobility, equity, and the environment for the San Diego region today and for generations to come. Centered around key strategies known as the 5 Big Moves, the Regional Plan was informed by public feedback and developed by a team of experts using data and innovative analytical methods. To implement the Regional Plan, SANDAG is delivering major capital projects, starting multiple pilot programs, and continuing to plan for more ways to transform the way people and goods move throughout our communities.

Regional Impact

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

Visit sandag.org/regionalplan to learn more.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ To help educate the public about projects and programs included in the Regional Plan, SANDAG hosted its inaugural Community Fair showcasing over 50 projects, programs, and initiatives taking place throughout the region. The fair highlighted more than a dozen partnerships with regional agencies and community groups and reached thousands of community members through online and in-person engagement.
- ▶ This year, we broke ground on the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, Barrio Logan Segment of the Bayshore Bikeway, and Pershing Bikeway. We also began construction on the Border to Bayshore Bikeway.
- ▶ We celebrated ribbon cuttings on Fourth & Fifth Avenue Bikeways, Georgia – Meade Bikeway, Landis Bikeway, and the El Portal undercrossing project.
- ▶ We completed the first phase of the North Coast Corridor program, opening the new San Elijo Lagoon bridge and suspended bike and pedestrian bridge under the I-5, nine miles of new carpool lanes on the I-5, and double-tracking projects to improve the LOSSAN Rail Corridor.
- ▶ Highway construction improvements for I-805/SR 94 Bus on Shoulder Demonstration Project were completed in June and a three-year demonstration project is underway.
- ▶ We completed emergency repairs for Del Mar Bluffs and opened the southbound State Route 125 to westbound State Route 905 connector ramp in Otay Mesa.

Del Mar Bluffs/ 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.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ Following a bluff collapse in February 2021, SANDAG partnered with NCTD and the City of Del Mar to complete emergency repairs within 15 months.
- ▶ Thanks to the leadership of California Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, SANDAG received \$300 million in the state budget for the LOSSAN Rail Realignment project in Del Mar.
- ▶ With the help of Congressman Mike Levin, SANDAG secured \$27 million in federal funding to replace the 100-year-old single-track San Luis Rey River Bridge, which will add more than ten miles of double track to the LOSSAN Corridor in Oceanside.
- ▶ U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg toured the Del Mar Bluffs and LOSSAN Corridor, emphasizing its importance as a key segment of the national rail system.
- ▶ The California Coastal Commission approved the Del Mar Bluffs stabilization project for Federal Coastal Consistency Certification. SANDAG completed project design in November and began finalizing construction arrangements.

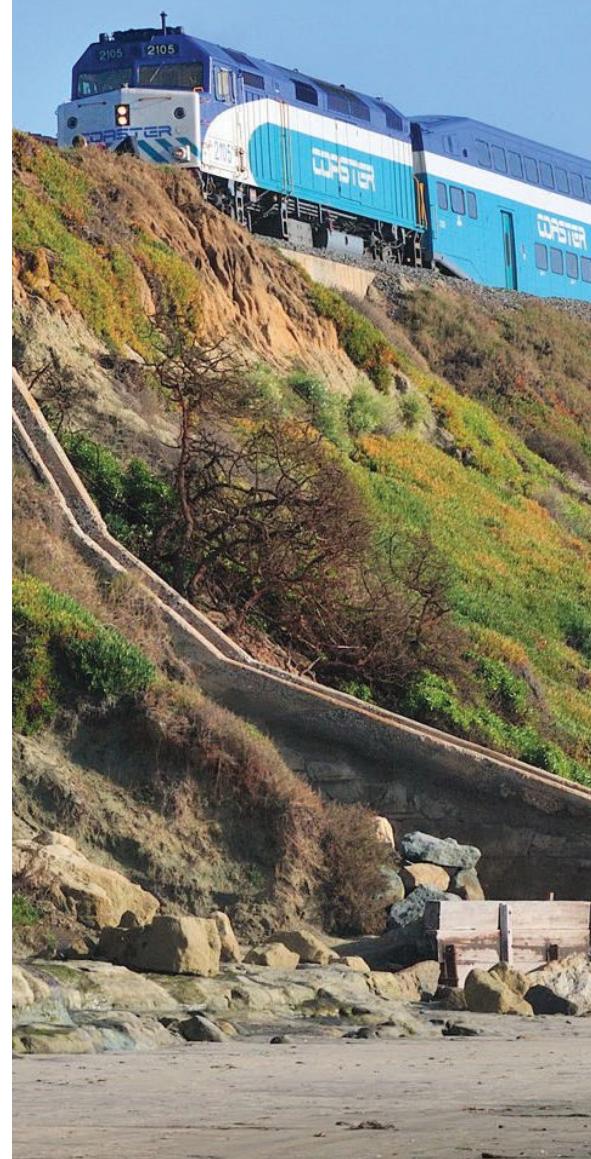
Regional Impact

Within the San Diego region, the LOSSAN Rail Corridor passes over six coastal lagoons, Camp Pendleton, and the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar before terminating in Downtown San Diego. However, 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.

Visit sandag.org/lossan to learn more.

"We're going to make sure the second busiest rail corridor in America... is going to be open and running for a long time. We have the money to get it done. We have the knowledge to get it done."

—U.S. President Joe Biden



SR 11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry

Mexico is California's number one trading partner, fueling commerce and economic opportunity throughout the San Diego-Baja California binational region. The future port of entry 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.

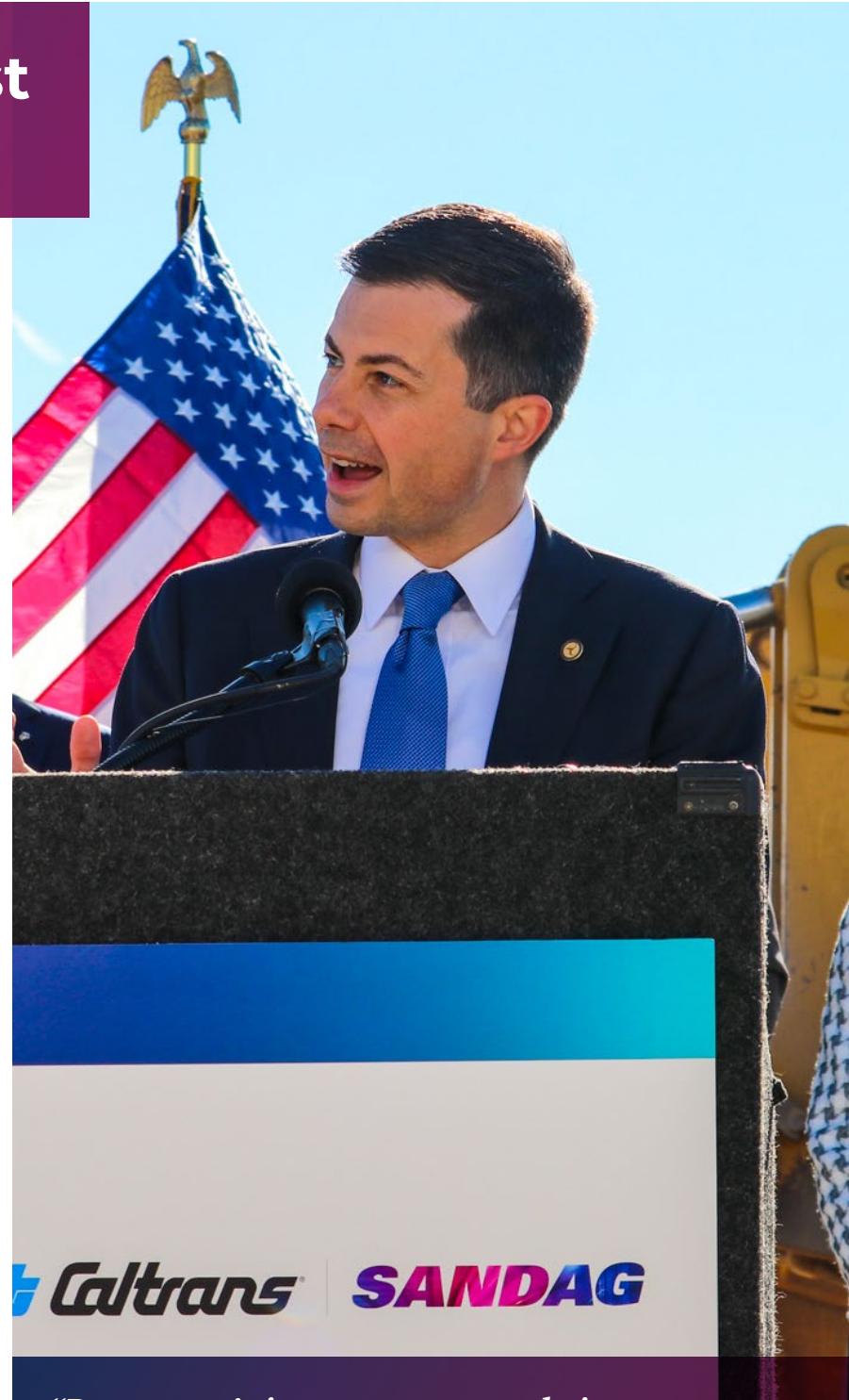
2022 Highlights

- ▶ In August, SANDAG celebrated the historic groundbreaking of the Otay Mesa East project.
- ▶ In September, SANDAG, in partnership with Caltrans, was awarded \$150 million from the federal INFRA grant program to help fund the project.
- ▶ California and Mexico signed a binational Toll Revenue Sharing Agreement in October.
- ▶ U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg visited the Otay Mesa East site in November to highlight the importance of the project for the entire country.

Regional Impact

Progress on the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry in 2022 strengthened the state's bilateral partnership, bringing the region several steps closer to an innovative new border crossing while continuing to advance key initiatives and foster trade growth. Using state-of-the-art technologies, the new port of entry will improve mobility and air quality in the border region and fuel economic growth and binational trade, benefitting every SANDAG jurisdiction and the entire nation.

Visit sandag.org/ome to learn more.



"Ports aren't just on coasts and rivers. Our land ports of entry play a critical role in ensuring the safety of trucks on our roads and keeping our supply chain and our nation's economy moving."

—U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg



Central Mobility Hub: A Regional Transit Connection to the Airport

The Central Mobility Hub, a new multimodal transit center in Downtown San Diego, will provide fast and convenient regional transit connections to the San Diego International Airport from every part of the region by bus, Trolley, and commuter rail services (like the COASTER and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner). The overall project will increase transit ridership, reduce traffic, and advance climate action goals in addition to boosting economic development in the region's urban core by supporting new opportunities for housing and revitalized public spaces.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ Project staff began a concept study to analyze several airport transit connection alternatives.

Regional Impact

The Central Mobility Hub will provide a central nexus between transportation in the northern and southern parts of the region. The project will connect various transit and mobility nodes in one place. This centralized location will support housing growth and revitalized public space and create an opportunity to invest in transportation as a catalyst for increased density, sustainability, and connectivity, all while helping to meet the regional and state housing and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Visit sandag.org/cmh to learn more.



Mid-Coast Trolley Extension

The Mid-Coast Trolley Extension added 11 new miles to the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley, serving key employment, education, medical, and residential areas and offering a one-seat ride between the U.S.-Mexico border and University City area. Construction for the project began in fall 2016, and the Trolley extension opened for revenue service on November 21, 2021, on time and on budget.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ On November 21, 2022, SANDAG celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension, the largest completed infrastructure project in the history of the San Diego region.
- ▶ Between December 2021 and September 2022, the Blue Line carried an estimated 16.7 million passengers—as compared to 9.6 million in all of 2021.

Regional Impact

The Mid-Coast Trolley connects an additional nine new stations throughout the region, creating a no-transfer transit connection between the U.S.-Mexico border and South Bay communities and University City area.

Visit sandag.org/midcoast to learn more.



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.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ In February, SANDAG launched the Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce to talk about barriers to rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure, share best practices, and foster collaboration between local, regional, and state agencies. The group is now working on developing regional permitting standards that will expedite broadband infrastructure deployment in unserved and underserved communities.
- ▶ SANDAG launched the Get Connected Campaign in partnership with the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, and 211 San Diego to increase awareness of resources that help people connect to the internet.
- ▶ In partnership with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), SANDAG released a Request for Qualifications for Prospective Broadband Partnerships and executed a cooperative agreement among the 20 firms that responded.

Regional Impact

The Regional Digital Divide Taskforce ensures that connectivity needs from throughout the region are factored into upcoming projects to ensure this program serves the entire county through SANDAG initiatives.

Visit sandag.org/digitalequity to learn more.



Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot Program

The Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot Program is providing more than one year of free transit rides for anyone 18 and under in the San Diego region. The program was developed based on input from the SANDAG Social Equity Working Group and includes additional funding for partnerships with community-based organizations to assist in transit education and community outreach about the program.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ The Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot Program launched in partnership with MTS, NCTD, and the County of San Diego in May. Since then, more than 21,000 free transit passes have been distributed to riders 18 and under.
- ▶ SANDAG partnered with schools and community organizations to distribute passes, assist youth with smartphones in acquiring virtual passes, and disseminate program information in 14 languages.
- ▶ We have seen a 92% increase in youth transit rides and a 175% increase in youth riders as compared to April before the pilot program launch.

Regional Impact

The Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot program has made reliable transportation more accessible for families throughout the region, reducing vehicle miles traveled and emissions. NCTD routes serving Vista and Escondido saw youth ridership increase by more than 2,000%. MTS routes serving San Diego, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley, Chula Vista, and Bonita saw youth ridership increase by more than 150%.

Visit sandag.org/yop to learn more.

Housing Acceleration Program

The Housing Acceleration Program promotes fair and equitable housing for all by working to increase affordable housing production, prevent displacement, provide technical assistance and educational outreach, and provide financial resources to local jurisdictions. Our region's housing goals include an additional 171,685 housing units between 2021 and 2029.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ As part of the Housing Acceleration Program, SANDAG kicked off its Housing Policy Forum series with a legislative digest and, in collaboration with SCAG, hosted three virtual housing forums.
- ▶ SANDAG also created a Local Jurisdiction Technical Assistance program, the Housing Policy and Leadership Academy, the Housing Policy and Planning Tool, and is working on an Anti-Displacement Strategy.
- ▶ SANDAG created a Housing Task Force and Regional Equitable Housing Subcommittee to explore potential regional housing financing models.
- ▶ SANDAG partnered with state agencies, local jurisdictions, community-based organizations, and affordable housing developers and identified ways to bring more funding to the region through the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program.



Regional Impact

SANDAG held four outreach events, met directly with nine local jurisdictions, collected more than 500 survey responses, and consulted with six Tribal Governments to help ensure all residents of the region benefit from the Housing Acceleration Program.

Visit sandag.org/housing to learn more.



Regional Bike Network

The Regional Bike Network connects the region with safe, accessible bikeways that encourage active transportation and provide convenient routes within and between communities. As of December 2022, SANDAG has built 23 miles of bikeways as part of the Regional Bike Plan Early Action Program, with 11 miles currently under construction and 20 additional miles in the final design phase.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ SANDAG opened a record-breaking 11 miles of new bikeways and broke ground on nearly five more miles between the Pershing Bikeway and Barrio Logan segment of the Bayshore Bikeway.
- ▶ The Georgia-Meade, Landis, and Fourth & Fifth Avenue Bikeways opened—SANDAG's first on-street bikeway projects.
- ▶ To ensure safety and accessibility, the team implemented dramatic and innovative traffic calming solutions, including constructing 18 new traffic circles.
- ▶ In July, the Board adopted a resolution to create a Vision Zero Action Plan to guide regional transportation safety efforts.

Regional Impact

This year's work on the Regional Bike Network focused on building the necessary infrastructure to support increased bike safety and use in some of the most densely populated communities in the region. These projects fill critical gaps in the San Diego active transportation network, many of them located in residential areas linking riders and pedestrians alike to crucial destinations like schools, parks, and shops.

Visit sandag.org/bikes to learn more.

Request for Innovative Concepts

“Our region is poised to lead the nation in implementing next-generation transportation technologies.”

—SANDAG CEO Hasan Ikrata

In November 2021, SANDAG issued a Request for Innovative Concepts (RFIC) inviting interested innovators, entrepreneurs, service providers, and mobility experts to submit innovative concepts for transportation “Connector” services that advance the transformative vision for transportation shaped by the 5 Big Moves.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ Three submissions were chosen to advance to the second phase of the RFIC process.
- ▶ Beep, Inc. proposed implementing mobility hubs to create a network of autonomous electric shuttles. The network would provide first- and last-mile connections to existing transit services and strategically located electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.
- ▶ Cordoba Corporation proposed extending the Blue Line Trolley one mile into Tijuana, expanding the San Ysidro Transit Center, building connecting pre-clearance border crossing facilities, and providing improved traveler information through Intelligent Transportation System upgrades.
- ▶ Cavne proposed a state-of-the-art managed lanes network to improve the speed and reliability of transit and shared mobility services through technology-enabled infrastructure.

Regional Impact

Proposed RFIC projects would enhance mobility, reduce congestion, and improve air quality for the entire region.

For more information, visit sandag.org/rfic.

Data and Research

To advance social equity and economic prosperity in the San Diego region, SANDAG creates and maintains a tremendous amount of data and takes advantage of emerging datasets to better understand the needs of the region. As a data-driven organization, SANDAG is committed to being a reliable and transparent source of publicly and readily available information.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ The SANDAG Open Data Portal launched. It makes available a variety of data, including highway traffic volumes, regional crime data mapping, and population estimates.
- ▶ Our team collected original data which is used to better understand travel patterns around the region and will be used in the creation of the 2025 Regional Plan.
- ▶ Supplementing original information with big data, we created economic data analyses to understand short- and long-term effects on the region.

Regional Impact

SANDAG’s resources are used by policy makers, member agencies, local government entities, academic institutions, Tribal Governments, community-based organizations, stakeholders, and the public to make informed decisions.

For more information, visit sandag.org/data.

SANDAG | GRANTS AND LOCAL TRANSNET FUNDING

SANDAG provides project funding to local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and transportation partners through the TransNet half-cent sales tax and competitive grant programs. We allocate millions of dollars each year to create safer streets, promote travel choices, increase regional connectivity, protect the environment, and expand mobility options.

Local Streets and Roads



Since 1988, nearly \$1.6 billion in TransNet funding (leveraged with more than \$400 million from federal, state, and local sources) has been provided to help each city and the county 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.

2022 Highlights

- TransNet provided more than \$300,000 toward the completion of four projects in 2022 and more than \$50 million more toward other projects in progress.

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.

Jurisdiction	FY22 Allocation
Carlsbad	\$ 4,198,543.88
Chula Vista	\$ 8,411,581.03
Coronado	\$ 772,459.10
Del Mar	\$ 259,298.15
El Cajon	\$ 3,298,876.37
Encinitas	\$ 2,222,201.57
Escondido	\$ 5,030,749.09
Imperial Beach	\$ 959,998.49
La Mesa	\$ 2,085,625.36
Lemon Grove	\$ 937,397.61
National City	\$ 1,927,650.91
Oceanside	\$ 6,093,275.35
Poway	\$ 1,949,548.13
San Diego	\$ 46,004,501.98
San Marcos	\$ 3,047,650.09
Santee	\$ 1,896,887.98
Solana Beach	\$ 558,142.83
Vista	\$ 3,146,862.54
Unincorporated	\$ 20,474,210.53
Regional Total	\$ 113,275,461.00

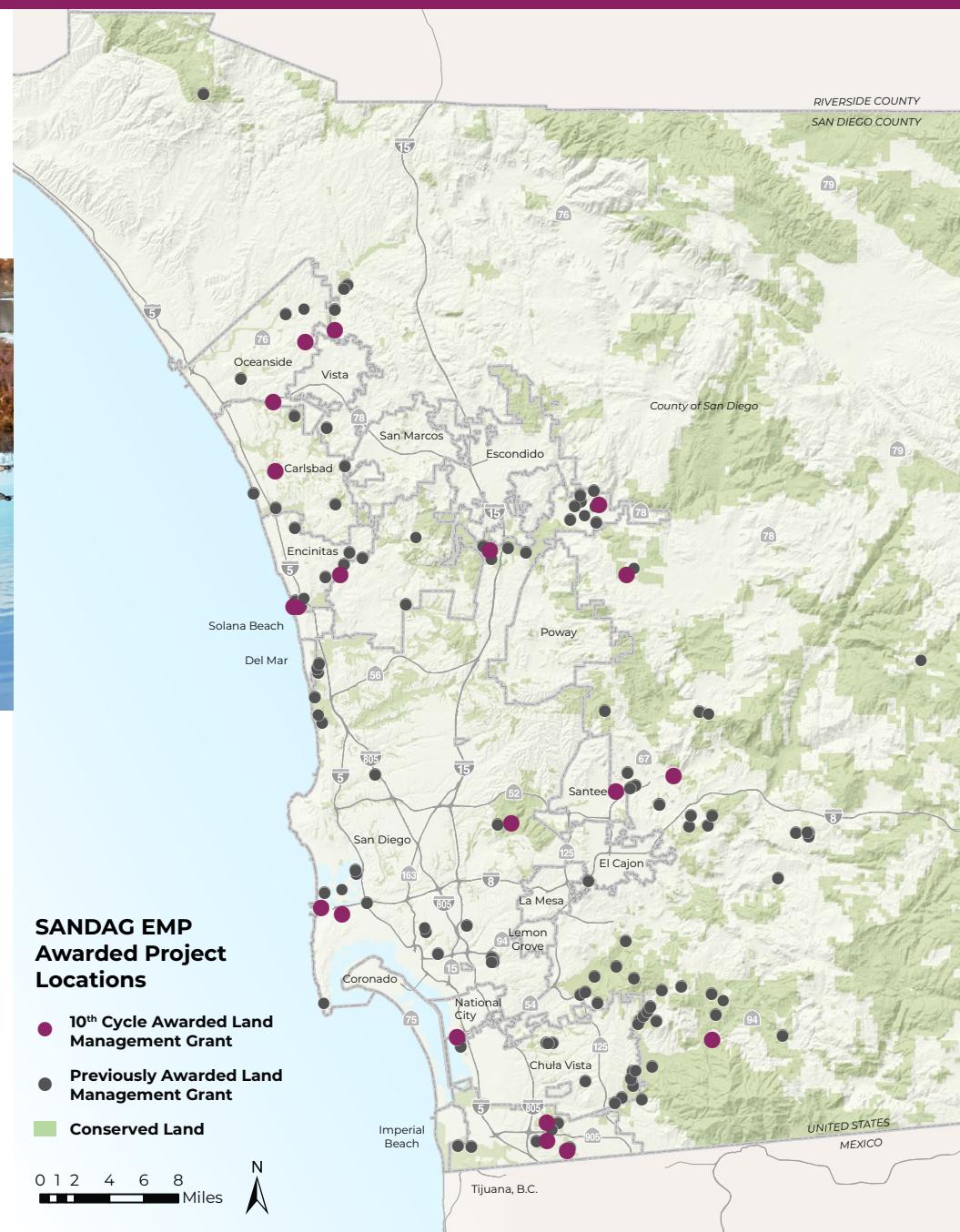
Environmental Mitigation Program



SANDAG has awarded approximately \$18.6 million in TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management grants over a total of ten cycles. This competitive program awards projects to land managers to enforce and further the protection of threatened, rare, and endangered species and their habitats while promoting regional habitat conservation planning.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ The SANDAG Board of Directors awarded \$2.4 million in funding to 19 projects in 2022.
- ▶ Six projects were completed, including three by the Chaparral Lands Conservancy (Otay Mesa Rare Plants, Proctor Valley Vernal Pools and Uplands, Rarest Plants 2), one by Nature Collective (North County Dunes 2), and one by Mission Resource Conservation District (Invasive Species Management).
- ▶ The San Diego Audubon Society performed ReWild Mission Bay, a habitat restoration and monitoring program which restored coastal dune habitat for the endangered California Least tern and endangered Nuttall's Acmispson through techniques including invasive plant removal, volunteer events, educational signage, seed collection, surveying, and fence repairs.



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, Encinitas, Escondido, Santee, Vista, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego.

Active Transportation Program and Smart Growth Incentive Program

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 paths and facilities, beautifying public spaces, and increasing connectivity.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ Twelve projects were completed and many more that received funding in past years moved forward with planning and construction.
- ▶ Solana Beach completed its Lomas Santa Fe Corridor Active Transportation Improvement design project.
- ▶ The City of San Diego completed four community planning projects.
- ▶ National City completed the Roosevelt Avenue Corridor Smart Growth Revitalization Project.

Regional Impact

All SANDAG jurisdictions have been served by these programs. In 2022, jurisdictions from Oceanside, Vista, and Carlsbad in North County to Chula Vista and Imperial Beach in South Bay and El Cajon in East County have benefitted from completed or ongoing Smart Growth Incentive Program projects.





Housing Acceleration Grant Program

SANDAG launched the Housing Acceleration Grant Program in 2022 to support jurisdictions, developers, and transit agencies by funding projects related to accelerating housing production and creating sustainable and climate resilient communities. By focusing on infill development, building within smart growth or mobility hub planning areas, and affirmatively furthering fair housing, these grants help reduce vehicle miles traveled and emissions.

Regional Impact

Grant awards were provided to Chula Vista, Del Mar, Encinitas, National City, Santee, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ SANDAG released its first call for projects and awarded \$1.9 million to seven local jurisdictions.
- ▶ Funding through this program assisted local jurisdictions with housing feasibility studies, housing production assistance, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis for multifamily housing sites.
- ▶ SANDAG began work on the next funding cycle, which will include both planning and capital components, and plans to release the next call for projects in early 2023.
- ▶ SANDAG submitted its application to the state to receive over \$43 million dollars in formula funding to support housing-related projects and programs.



Specialized Transportation Grants and Senior Mini-Grants Programs

The SANDAG Specialized Transportation Grant Program funds projects and programs that expand mobility options for older adults and individuals with disabilities. The Senior Mini-Grant Program uses TransNet funding to provide specialized transportation for people aged 60 and older within San Diego County. Funding between these two programs has supported more than 275 specialized transportation projects for private nonprofits and state and local governments.

Regional Impact

These grants serve older adults and disabled individuals throughout the region; the most heavily serviced areas in 2022 were in El Cajon, La Mesa, Poway, Lemon Grove, and Point Loma.

2022 Highlights

- ▶ In July, SANDAG released a call for projects for the Specialized Transportation Grant Program, making approximately \$7.9 million available for specialized transportation grants.
- ▶ Approximately 8,000 people benefitted from Specialized Transportation Grant Program-funded transportation services, providing nearly 300,000 one-way passenger trips.



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.