



# 2026 Legislative Program

## 2026 Legislative and Policy Programs

The SANDAG Legislative and Policy Program provides a framework to advance policies and legislative initiatives in support of the agency’s mission, strategic goals, and long-term vision. In 2026, SANDAG will work to support the following initiatives:

No.	SUPPORT
1	Efforts to inform the next Federal Surface Transportation Authorization, including appropriate funding levels, goods movement and border programs, transit investment and reforms, grade separation improvements, process improvements (including streamlined environmental processes), active transportation, and tribal transportation planning. SANDAG will work to protect existing federal funding levels and program structures while advocating for increased investment in priority programs.
2	Resources and funding mechanisms consistent with financial strategies adopted in the Regional Plan, including but not limited to increasing revenues for transportation, cap-and-invest revenues, gas tax or equivalent revenue sources, bond measures, public/private partnerships, smart growth, and higher pass-through maintenance/preservation funding. SANDAG will work to protect dedicated transportation funding sources.
3	Expanded access to resources and technical tools that will enable SANDAG to implement the Regional Plan.
4	Efforts that address border transportation infrastructure needs consistent with the Regional Plan and California-Baja California Border Master Plan.
5	Policy and/or legislative changes to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for public transit improvements, active transportation projects, and other transportation projects located within existing rights-of-way.
6	Policy and/or legislative changes to improve the planning and implementation of the Regional Plan including efforts to reform SB 375 mandates.
7	Capital and flexible sustaining operations funding for public transit and continued support for intercity rail, including the LOSSAN corridor which serves as a Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) route critical for national defense and economic connectivity. Funding to promote zero fare public transit for youth as well as funding to increase specialized transportation, active transportation, micro-mobility projects, and transportation demand management (TDM) projects for municipalities, non-profit organizations, and transit operators. Support for complete streets and transit-supportive infrastructure investments.
8	Efforts to advance connected and autonomous vehicle technology to enhance transportation safety, sustainable and efficient mobility, a healthier environment, and economic growth and job creation. Support legislation that provides cities and/or counties with local control over autonomous vehicle deployment.
9	Efforts to advance clean energy and clean transportation policies, programs, and legislation for the region that are consistent with the Regional Energy Strategy, the Zero Emission Freight Transition at the California-Baja California Border Plan, and Regional Plan.

No.	SUPPORT
10	Support for legislative and administrative reform of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process and state housing element law. Incentives to jurisdictions that provide opportunities for more housing, including affordable and transit-oriented developments; preservation of existing affordable housing; efforts to create social housing to address the shortage of affordable homes by developing publicly owned housing for moderate incomes and below regional fair-share allocation of housing funds; and providing additional affordable housing funding with greater local/regional control.
11	Policy and funding to support safe conditions for those who walk, cycle, roll, drive, and use alternate transportation, and reach a Vision Zero goal.
12	Efforts to pursue funding and enact policies, programs, legislation, and other initiatives that advance equity and inclusion in underserved communities, rural communities, and tribal lands.
13	Policies and/or legislation implementing climate action and adaptation plans and programs, including cap-and-invest, that are consistent with the Regional Plan. Support for policy and funding strategies to address key environmental issues, including environmental mitigation, climate resiliency, habitat conservation, beach restoration and replenishment, coastal erosion, and water quality issues such as Tijuana River Valley sewage pollution.
14	Efforts to support funding and legislation that strengthen regional public safety, emergency preparedness, and quality of life through improved public safety communications, transportation system interoperability, coordinated emergency prevention and response strategies, and initiatives that reduce criminal violence, address substance abuse, and promote public health.
15	Efforts to expand available methods of transportation project delivery, including design-build, progressive design-build, design sequencing, construction manager/general contractor, and other alternative methods that expedite connectivity with state and federal systems.
16	Legislation and fiscal reforms that promote government efficiency and cost savings, empower regions to pursue their own fiscal strategies, and protect local governments from unfunded mandates.
17	Support for legislative programs of transit boards and other organizations where consistent with SANDAG Policy.
18	Efforts assisting with elimination of the debt and toll-only operations on the SR-125.

No.	MONITOR
19	Proposals that limit the use of eminent domain for public infrastructure projects.
20	Legislation relating to personnel matters (i.e., workers' compensation, Public Employee Retirement System benefits) and other labor related issues.
21	Legislation requiring local agencies to implement new administrative compliance measures.
22	Legislative efforts related to offshore oil drilling in the coastal waters within the San Diego region.
23	Legislation and policies impacting the development and implementation of Alternative Planning Strategies, as well as planning requirements set forth by the California Air Resources Board and other state agencies.
24	Legislation relating to transportation operating agency coordination.
25	Legislation relating to applications of artificial intelligence and technologies within transportation and infrastructure.

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