

2025 REGIONAL PLAN Policies and Programs

Digital Equity



In an increasingly online world, everyone needs high-quality, high-speed internet service for better quality of life and economic opportunities. Yet, many households in our region still do not have access to affordable broadband service, the resources to pay for smart devices, or the technical skills to use them. This is why we are working with local partners to address this.

Beyond helping individuals, expanding internet access across our region has the potential to help us meet state mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the number of miles people need to drive. Further, the future of transportation will need universal internet access to support new technologies like autonomous vehicles, digital message signs, smart stoplights, and more.

What has SANDAG been working on?

With the help of the Regional Digital Divide Taskforce, our **Regional Digital Equity Strategy** is expanding reliable internet access for everyone by:

- Finding opportunities to expand infrastructure in areas that need it most, such as expanding internet fiber out to rural areas or in urban areas to help more households access service, increase competition, and reduce internet cost.
- Developing and supporting policies that expand broadband coverage to more places.
- Strengthening partnerships with private internet providers and community-based organizations to coordinate work.
- Helping collect more reliable data about our region's internet coverage needs.
- Promoting programs that provide affordable access to the internet, technology, and digital skills.
- Expanding broadband coverage faster by including fiber infrastructure construction work as part of ongoing transportation construction projects: this uses less taxpayer money.
- Leveraging funding opportunities to expand access to internet and internet education to promote better employment and education opportunities, increase economic mobility and quality of life, and develop a more resilient workforce.

Policy and Program Connections



Health

TDM

Technology &
Improvements

Vision
Zero



What is SANDAG considering next?

- Working with internet providers to connect high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that need it most.
- Coordinating with public health organizations to discuss broadband needs for telehealth appointments, emergency response systems, and more. Read more about these strategies on reverse.



How does this work support our region’s needs beyond the internet?

- Enabling new technologies can help improve bike and pedestrian safety and drivers’ parking experience.
- Supporting the expansion of SANDAG’s intelligent transportation systems by expanding internet infrastructure will lay the foundation for a more data-enabled, multi-modal transportation network.



Learn More

Visit sandag.org/digitalequity for more information.



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