

2020 Legislative and Policy Focus Areas



The following focus areas encompass broad, policy-oriented objectives that will help to advance the SANDAG priority projects and initiatives by securing the necessary legislative authority, program funding, political support, and/or regulatory actions at the state and federal levels in 2020¹.

Funding, Innovative Financing, Pilots, and Partnerships

Sustainable sources of funding at the state and federal levels are needed to support ongoing implementation of the Regional Plan. SANDAG will continue to seek state and federal formula and discretionary awards to advance the delivery of major regional projects, as well as support efforts that expand access to technical tools and resources and oppose efforts to redirect transportation funding to other purposes. SANDAG is also supportive of opportunities to pilot meaningful technologies, programs, and processes and leverage new and existing partner relationships.

Project Delivery

As the Consolidated Agency for the San Diego region, SANDAG is responsible for planning and delivering regional capital transportation projects. To do so in an efficient, cost effective, and innovative manner, SANDAG supports California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform and streamlining for transportation-related projects where reasonable. SANDAG also encourages innovative project delivery methods, such as Construction Management General Contractor (CMGC), and supports other strategies that may help expedite projects, minimize costs, and provide the highest quality of service.

Climate, Energy, and Environment

SANDAG has a long history of working closely with local jurisdictions and stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve other environmental goals, including water quality-related matters, through sustainable transportation projects, programs, and services. SANDAG will partner with stakeholders to maximize clean transportation investments (electrification, hydrogen fuel cell, other zero- and near-zero transportation technologies) to help advance the region's mobility, resiliency, and sustainability goals.

Binational Border, Tribal, and Interregional Collaboration

Transportation infrastructure in the border region is critical to both Mexico and the United States. San Diego and the rest of Southern California are home to major U.S.-Mexico trade corridors where goods pass through the region to markets throughout the country and the world. SANDAG will continue to coordinate comprehensive planning efforts to improve border transportation and infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border. It is important that the region's 18 federally recognized tribal governments with jurisdiction over 19 reservations have a voice in planning for the transportation needs of today and tomorrow. Binational, tribal, and interregional coordination include transportation infrastructure, energy, and conservation planning, forecasting, and/or data collection.

Housing / Affordable Housing

A lack of housing production in the San Diego region has led to higher rents and housing costs - affecting residents, the business community, and quality of life. SANDAG will partner with its member agencies and other stakeholders to support legislative efforts that help incentivize housing development near existing and planned transportation investments through redevelopment, transit-oriented development, and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process.

Technology and Data

Big Data is becoming increasingly more important to effective planning, policy, service delivery, operations, and public engagement. The San Diego region is a leader in piloting and deploying innovative transportation solutions and infrastructure that leverage both technology and data to improve the transportation system. SANDAG will seek policies, infrastructure investments, and new opportunities to employ data analytics research to continue this effort, including new ways of conducting business in partnership with the private sector.

¹ Listed in no particular order.

2020 Legislative and Policy Program

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.

Sponsor	
1	Work with federal, state, and local stakeholders to inform the next Federal Surface Transportation Authorization, including appropriate funding levels, goods movement and border programs, transit investment and reforms, process improvements (including streamlined environmental processes), active transportation, and tribal transportation planning. (2007, 2012)
2	Pursue resources and funding mechanisms consistent with financial strategies adopted in the Regional Plan, including but not limited to increasing revenues for transportation, cap-and-trade revenues, gas tax or equivalent revenue sources, bond measures, public/private partnerships, smart growth, and higher pass-through maintenance/preservation funding. (2012)
3	Expand access to resources and technical tools that will enable SANDAG to implement San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, including value pricing, Managed Lanes, High Occupancy Toll Lanes, the alleviation of current constraints on transponder technology, transit priority treatments, Transportation Demand Management, and other efforts that promote efficient use of highways and local roads. (2003, 2009, 2015)
4	Pursue efforts that address border transportation infrastructure needs consistent with the Regional Plan and California-Baja California Border Master Plan. (2012)
5	Pursue policy and/or legislative changes to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for public transit improvements, active transportation projects, and other transportation projects located within existing rights-of-way. (2013, 2015)
6	Pursue policy and/or legislative changes to improve the planning and implementation of the Regional Plan. (2013)
7	Pursue public transit funding and continued support for intercity rail. (2008, 2013, 2015, 2017)
8	Support 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. (2018)
9	Support efforts to advance clean energy and clean transportation policies, programs, and legislation for the region that are consistent with the Regional Energy Strategy and Regional Plan. (2002, 2015)
10	Support incentives to jurisdictions that provide opportunities for more housing, including affordable and transit-oriented developments, supports regional fair-share allocation of housing funds, and provides additional affordable housing funding with greater local/regional control. (2002)

Support

- 11 Support policies and/or legislation implementing climate action and adaptation plans and programs, including cap-and-trade that are consistent with the Regional Plan. (2007, 2015)
- 12 Support efforts to pursue resources to improve regional public safety voice and data communications and interoperability, including connectivity with state and federal systems. (2005)
- 13 Support efforts to pursue funding at both the state and federal levels to improve public safety and security in the San Diego region through Automated Regional Justice Information System operations and enhancements, regional transportation system improvements, and activities related to regional emergency preparedness, prevention, and response to catastrophic events. (2003, 2005, 2011)
- 14 Support fiscal reform initiatives that enable regions to develop their own fiscal strategies and oppose unfunded mandates on local governments. (2002)
- 15 Support efforts to lower the current two-thirds voter requirement for special purpose taxes, such as transportation and quality of life improvements, to a simple majority vote. (2002)
- 16 Support efforts assisting in the implementation of key environmental issues, including habitat conservation, planning, beach restoration and replenishment, and water quality-related issues. (2002)
- 17 Support efforts to expand available methods of transportation project delivery, including design-build, design sequencing, construction manager/general contractor, and other alternative methods that expedite connectivity with state and federal systems. (2005)
- 18 Efforts to support funding opportunities and legislation that promote the implementation of effective and collaborative strategies and programs that maintain public safety and promote quality of life and public health, including initiatives that address substance abuse and graffiti abatement and reduce youth and gang violence.
- 19 Pursue policy and/or legislative changes to enable the use of freeway shoulders as transit lanes on major corridors in the San Diego region. (2006)
- 20 Support legislation and/or policies that promote governmental efficiencies and cost savings. (2009, 2015)
- 21 Transit boards' legislative programs where consistent with SANDAG Policy. (2002)
- 22 Other organizations' legislative programs where consistent with SANDAG Policy, i.e., California Association of Councils of Governments, American Public Transportation Association, National Association of Regional Councils, California Transit Association, Self-Help Counties Coalition, League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, Caltrans, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, California Police Chiefs Association, California State Sheriffs' Association, Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC), and National Association of Counties. (2003, 2005)

Monitor

- 23 Monitor efforts to pursue legislative and/or administrative reform of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process and state housing element law.
- 24 Monitor proposals that limit the use of eminent domain for public infrastructure projects. (2005)
- 25 Monitor legislation affecting solid waste, water supply, and storm water; support funding opportunities to assist in these areas. (2003)
- 26 Track legislation relating to personnel matters, i.e., workers' compensation, Public Employee Retirement System benefits, and other labor related issues. (2003)
- 27 Monitor legislation requiring local agencies to implement new administrative compliance measures. (2005)
- 28 Monitor legislative efforts related to offshore oil drilling in the coastal waters within the San Diego region. (2018)