Five inter-reliant actions form the Regional Social Equity Planning Framework

Regional Planning Committee – February 5, 2021
**Engagement**

- Elevate
- Timely and meaningful
- Respecting cultural context
- Community expertise in using the system
- Ensure that what we learn translates into solutions

**Data Accountability**

- Drive and inform process
- With thoughtful and representative community engagement
- Recognize inherent bias
- Human-centered design, dialogue, and partnership to identify those biases
- Collect new data to resolve these inadequacies
**Measure Impacts**

- Measure what matters
- Understand the benefits and trade-offs
- Work closely with community
- Feedback informs decision-making

**Prioritize Investments**

- Understand community priorities and local, state, and federal goals and regulations
- Establish a new methodology to prioritize investments
- Such as prioritizing investments that provide access to jobs, education, and healthcare
Monitor, Report, and Evolve

- Conduct on-going monitoring and reporting
- Evaluate the actual benefits or negative impacts
- Use the outcomes to inform
- Learn from the process and evolve
Bridging the Digital Divide

Regional Planning Committee
February 5, 2021

What is the Digital Divide?

Gap between the members of society who do not have reliable access to broadband service and those who do
What is Broadband?

High-speed internet access via a variety of wired and wireless networks

Speed Matters

The Federal Communications Commission defines a broadband connection as transmission speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.
High-speed internet access is critical to economic opportunity, education, and public health and safety.
Intelligent transportation and Smart Cities initiatives require broadband access

Over 2 million Californians do not have access to high-speed broadband service and 8.4 million residents do not have broadband subscriptions.
Digital Divide in the San Diego Region

- 23% of households earning less than $50,000/year do not have a broadband subscription
- 20 – 40% of students in many local districts are under-connected or lack home internet access.
- 42% of people who live in the County’s rural areas have fixed broadband, versus 97% of the people who live in urban areas

Digital Equity

Access – expand affordable broadband service everywhere
Adoption – ensure that everyone can subscribe to and use broadband service
California Broadband For All

- Mandates minimum broadband speed (100 Mbps download speed)
- Directs development of a California Broadband Action Plan (December 31, 2020)
- Directs state agencies to increase access to broadband under four areas: Mapping and Data, Funding, Deployment, and Adoption
- Transportation will focus on fiber deployment with transportation projects along strategic corridors

What's happening in the San Diego Region?

- The City of San Diego and San Diego Futures Foundation supported 30,000 local households without computers
- SD Access4All providing wifi and laptop access
- The City of Chula Vista adopted a Digital Equity and Inclusion Plan and a Telecommunications Master plan
- San Diego County Office of Education funded 19 school districts
- The San Diego Foundation granted $3 million in relief funding
SANDAG efforts to expand broadband

- Interagency Fiber Optic Sharing Agreement (SANDAG, MTS, NCTD, Caltrans)
- Public-private partnership with Media 3
- Broadband planning integration into CMCPs
- Collaboration with organizations across Southern California to create a framework to streamline broadband deployment:
  - Draft Broadband Resolution
  - Draft Broadband Model Policy

Framework for Developing a Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan

- Regional Digital Divide Task Force:
  - Public, Private, Tribal, and Non-Profit Organizations
  - Technical input on the development of a Regional Digital Equity Strategy
- Adoption of a Resolution (SANDAG and Member Agencies)
- Conduct research on broadband gaps and best practices (Share findings in Spring 2021)
- Develop Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan (Complete in Winter 2021)
Objectives for Digital Divide Task Force and Digital Equity Strategy

- Develop policies, programs and practices that promote rapid broadband deployment and increase broadband adoption
- Proactively incorporate broadband into plans and projects
- Foster cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration to make the most of broadband investments
- Identify funding opportunities and partnerships that bring fast, affordable, and reliable Internet to all San Diego Region residents
- Accelerate intelligent transportation and Smart City initiatives