

# 2021 Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group Agenda

Thursday, April 28, 2022  
10 a.m.

## SANDAG

401 B St. Ste 800 San Diego CA, 92101

<https://zoom.us/j/98755099934>

### 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (15 mins)

*Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Board Alternate, SANDAG*

The Working Group is asked to review and approve the meeting summary from the January 6, 2022, meeting.

### 2. Chair's Report (15 mins)

*Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Board Alternate, SANDAG*

An update on key programs, projects, and agency initiatives.

### +3. Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan -Early - Actions (15 mins)

*Krystal Ayala, Senior Regional Planner, SANDAG*

The Board of Directors adopted the Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan on December 17, 2021. An overview of early actions underway to close the digital divide in the region will be presented.

### 4. Housing Acceleration Program Update (15 mins)

*Sam Solis, Regional Planner, SANDAG*

An update on the Housing Acceleration Program will be presented with an emphasis on the Regional Equitable Housing Framework, Regional Equitable Housing Subcommittee activities, and a status update of REAP 2.0 Program.

### +5. Small Sample Household Travel Behavior Survey (15 mins)

*Grace Miño, Principal Research Analyst, SANDAG*

Gearing up for the 2025 RP, the SANDAG modelers are developing the Activity Based Model(ABM) Version 3.0. One of the major inputs for the ABM, is the household travel behavior survey. SANDAG staff, along with their contracted consultant, Resource Systems Group (RSG) will provide an overview on the recruitment efforts and opportunities to get involved.

### 6. Transit Equity Pilot Update (15 mins)

*Zaccary Bradt, Regional Planner, SANDAG*

Following the SANDAG Board of Directors' approval of its Title VI equity analysis, SANDAG Staff will provide final updates on the SANDAG's Youth Opportunity Pass pilot program and NCTD's SPRINTER/BREEZE fare pass.

+ next to an item indicated an attachment



## 2021 Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group

Item: **1**

April 28, 2022

Action: **Approve**

### March 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chair Vivian Moreno (SANDAG Board Alternate) called the meeting of the 2021 Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group (SEWG) to order at 10:05 a.m.

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Moreno welcomed members and attendees.

#### 2. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments

There were no public or member comments.

#### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Upon a motion by Brian “Barry” Pollard (Urban Collaborative Project), and a second by Carol Lewis (El Cajon Collaborative), the SEWG voted to approve the minutes from its January 6, 2022, meeting.

The motion passed.

Yes: Craig Jones (Alliance for Regional Solutions), Monica Hernandez (Casa Familiar), Azucena Lopez De Nava (Chula Vista Community Collaborative), Carol Lewis, Konane Martinez (National Latino Research Center), Claire Groebner (Olivewood Gardens), , and Brian “Barry” Pollard.

No: None.

Abstain: Kim Heinle (Bayside Community Center), Randy Torres Van-Vleck (City Heights Community Development Corporation), Elizabeth Lou (Nile Sisters Development Initiative), Fe Seligman (Samahan Health Centers)

Absent: Vista Community Clinic.

### Chair’s Report

#### 4. Chair’s Report (Information)

Chair Moreno provided an update on key programs, projects, and agency initiatives.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Information.

## **Consent**

### **5. Restructuring of SANDAG Working Groups (Information)**

Senior Regional Planner Jane Clough provided an overview at its meeting on February 11, 2022, the Execute Committee approved the proposed restructuring of working groups, and charters for the new Mobility and Sustainable Communities Working Groups.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Information.

## **Reports**

### **6. Regional Social Equity Baseline Conditions Report (Discussion)**

As an Early Action of the 2021 Regional Plan, SANDAG is developing a Social Equity Baseline Conditions Report, to better understand existing conditions and equity disparities throughout the region. Regional Planner Paul La Farga presented an update to the SEWG with refined indicators and asked members to provide feedback.

He provided samples of results to engage in a discussion on the most relevant indicators for this region.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Discussion.

### **7. 2023 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Update (Information)**

Richard Radcliffe provided an overview of the development process and schedule for the 2023 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Information.

### **8. Upcoming Calls for Projects for the SANDAG Specialized Transportation Grant Program and Access for All Grant Program (Discussion)**

Benjamin Gemblar and Zachary Rivera provided an overview on the Specialized Transportation Grant Program (STGP) Cycle 12 and Access for All (AFA) Cycle 1 calls for projects. The SEWG was asked to provide input to help inform the STGP Cycle 12 draft goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria. Because the AFA Cycle 1 call for projects timeline is greatly accelerated, the AFA presentation will be for information only.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Discussion.

### **9. Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan – Early Actions (Information)**

This item was continued to a future meeting.

### **10. Possible Topics for Next Meeting (Discussion/Possible Action)**

The SEWG discussed possible meeting topics for next month.

Craig Jones spoke about wanting an update on the status of the Pilot Flexible Fleets Strategy and the Subregional Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plans.

Action: Discussion.

#### **8. Upcoming Meetings (Information)**

The next SEWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10 a.m.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Information.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Chair Moreno adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

## Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG 2021 Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group Meeting

March 24, 2022

Jurisdiction	Name	Attending	Comments
SANDAG Board Alternate	Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Chair	Yes	
Alliance for Regional Solutions	Craig Jones	Yes	
	MaryLynn McCorkle, Alternate	?	
Bayside Community Center	Rose Ceballos, Alternate	?	
	Kim Heinle	Yes	
	Huy Tu	?	
Casa Familiar	Lisa Cuestas	?	
	Monica Hernandez, Alternate	Yes	
	Goyo Ortiz, Alternate	?	
City Heights CDC	Randy Torres-Van Vleck	Yes	
	Haneen Mohamed	No	
	Jesse Ramirez	No	
Chula Vista Community Collaborative	Omar Calleros	Yes	
	Chris Ross	Yes	
	Angela Tomlinson, Alternate	No	
El Cajon Collaborative	Dana Stevens, Alternate	No	
	Carol Lewis	Yes	
National Latino Research Center	Ana Ardón, Alternate	No	
	Lilian Serrano	No	
	Michelle Ramos Pellicia, Alternate	No	
	Konane Martinez	Yes	
Nile Sisters Development Initiative	Elizabeth Lou	Yes	
	Breanne Lash, Alternate	Yes	
	Sam Bedwell	No	
	Mohammed Tuama, Newcomers	Yes	
Olivewood Gardens	Jen Nation, Alternate	No	
	Claire Groebner	Yes	
	Rocina Lizarraga, Alternate	Yes	
Samahan Health Centers	Fe Seligman	Yes	
	Lorna Delossantos, Alternate	Yes	
Urban Collaborative Project	Brian "Barry" Pollard	Yes	
Vista Community Clinic	Erica Leary	Yes	
	Carmela Muñoz, Alternate	Yes	
	Nannette Stamm	No	

Other Attendees		SANDAG Staff	
Araceli Medina	Toshi Ishihara	Alexis Morris	Krystal Ayala
Belen Hernandez	Travis Knowles	Ashley Wiley	Sam Solis
Nancy Hand		Benjamin Gembler	Stacey Cooper
Patricia Trahin		Brian Lane	Sue Alpert
Phil Birkhahn		Catherine Matel	Tuere Fa'aola
		Heather Brehm	Zachary Rivera
		Jane Clough	

March 24, 2022

Action: **Information**

## **Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan – Early Actions**

### **Introduction**

Technology and connectivity are critical to the future of transportation and the vision outlined in the [2021 Regional Plan](#). As the San Diego region's transportation planning agency and metropolitan planning organization, SANDAG has a key role to play in planning for and implementing digital communications infrastructure needed to support transportation technology improvements, smart city initiatives, and access to high-quality internet.

On December 17, 2022, the Board of Directors adopted the [Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan](#) (Attachment 1) to spur rapid broadband deployment and adoption in the San Diego region. The Strategy and Action Plan was developed with input from the [Regional Digital Divide Taskforce](#), which consists of [representatives](#) from public agencies, broadband providers, and non-profit organizations that are actively working to bridge the digital divide.

### **Discussion**

#### ***The Digital Divide in the San Diego Region***

To inform the recommendations in the Strategy and Action Plan, staff conducted a regional gap analysis to identify where there are disparities in broadband infrastructure and service. The analysis revealed that only 66% of rural households have access to fixed broadband in the San Diego region. In urban areas, 94% of households have fixed broadband service available. However, service is not affordable, leading to low adoption especially among households earning less than \$50,000 per year. In some communities, more than 20% of low-income households do not have a broadband subscription or computer at home. This makes it difficult to participate in virtual learning, remote work, telehealth, and access other critical online services. The [Digital Divide in the San Diego Region Story Map](#) provides more information on the state of the digital divide in the San Diego region.

#### ***Early Actions***

The Strategy and Action Plan identifies seven overarching strategies and actions for improving both broadband access and adoption in San Diego County. SANDAG staff are collaborating with stakeholders on several near-term initiatives including:

- **Initiative: Create a regional portal for digital equity resources like the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program. Coordinate with 211 to cross-promote information.**

Status: SANDAG will be launching a "Get Connected" campaign to increase awareness of regional digital equity resources including subsidies for broadband service (e.g., [FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program](#)), digital literacy programs, accessibility and device technical assistance. Collaborating with partners is essential to spreading awareness and increasing adoption. The campaign will develop partner outreach toolkits to cross-collaborate with trusted community partners like the Social Equity Working Group (SEWG), the Digital Divide Taskforce, social service and healthcare providers, education-based organizations, and local jurisdictions. Direct outreach will focus on communities that have low broadband adoption rates. The City of San Diego and 211 are partnering on the outreach effort and supporting the development of a regional database of digital equity resources. The outreach campaign will launch in early April 2022.

- **Initiative: Continue convening community-based organizations (CBOs), public housing, public health, libraries, and education organizations to advance digital equity.**

Status: SANDAG will continue convening the Digital Divide Taskforce on a quarterly basis to share best practices, resources, and coordinate on regional initiatives. For more information on joining the Digital Divide Taskforce, please contact Krystal Ayala, [krystal.ayala@sandag.org](mailto:krystal.ayala@sandag.org).

- **Initiative: Develop a dig once policy to cost-effectively integrate broadband and digital communications infrastructure as part of SANDAG-funded projects, including TransNet projects.**

The 2020 [California State Broadband Action Plan](#) and Assembly Bill 1549 task Caltrans with doing this as part of state highway projects. In December 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration also passed a final rule (FHWA-2019-0037) allowing for the installation of this infrastructure as part of transportation projects to avoid the need for further excavation in the future.

Status: In alignment with state and federal requirements, early progress is being made to draft the dig once policy that will require SANDAG-funded projects to integrate digital communications infrastructure in areas where there are gaps. This policy would enable SANDAG, Caltrans, and local jurisdictions to advance many of the projects outlined in the 2021 Regional Plan; building out the infrastructure needed to support broadband and intelligent transportation solutions such as smart intersections, real-time traveler information, connected and autonomous vehicle infrastructure, and active transportation demand management solutions support efficient operations during congested periods, major incidents, outages, or evacuations. The dig once policy will be included with the proposed TransNet Ordinance amendments that will be brought to Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee and the Board later this year.

- **Initiative: Convene the Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce (ReDIT) to develop regional permitting standards and guidelines that expedite broadband infrastructure development in unserved and underserved communities.**

Status: On February 24, staff convened the first ReDIT meeting to evaluate permitting practices and develop standard guidelines for deployment of digital infrastructure. This Taskforce will meet on a monthly basis to develop streamlined permitting guidance for broadband by December 2022.

- **Initiative: Complete a Digital Infrastructure and Broadband Master Plan for building out a regional broadband network that connects public facilities in each of the San Diego region's jurisdictions.**

Status: The consultant procurement is underway; the SEWG will have several opportunities to provide input on the Digital Infrastructure and Broadband Master Plan when the project kicks off later this year.

- **Initiative: Conduct a joint procurement with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to pre-qualify broadband providers as potential partners for grants and other digital equity projects that expand broadband infrastructure and services in Southern California.**

Status: The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released in December 2021; twenty organizations expressed interest in partnering with SANDAG and SCAG to expand broadband infrastructure. A panel of stakeholders from the SANDAG and SCAG regions are evaluating expressions of interest and will be making final prospective partnership recommendations in mid-March 2022. This RFQ will prepare the region for forthcoming state and federal broadband funding.



- **Initiative: Donate retired technology assets to organizations that refurbish and distribute them to communities in need**

Status: To date, SANDAG has donated over 105 computers to San Diego Futures Foundation as part of their computer refurbishment and donation program. SANDAG will continue to explore opportunities to donate retired assets on a regular basis.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will continue to monitor implementation of many of these near-term actions, evaluate priorities, and update the Action Plan on an annual basis to reflect progress. The SEWG is asked to cross-collaborate and partner on the “Get Connected” outreach campaign.

### ***Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning***

Key Staff Contact: Krystal Ayala, (619) 699-1998, [krystal.ayala@sandag.org](mailto:krystal.ayala@sandag.org)

Attachment: 1. Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan

**Agenda Item 9— Attachment 1:**

**Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan**

The full document in electronic format can be downloaded at  
[https://www.sandag.org/uploads/projectid/projectid\\_614\\_31273.pdf](https://www.sandag.org/uploads/projectid/projectid_614_31273.pdf)

For a printed copy, please contact the Public Information Office at (619) 699-1950 or [pio@sandag.org](mailto:pio@sandag.org).