



**Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant to  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)**

**Stakeholder Forum Summary Report**

**Regional Broadband Consortium: Broadband Consortium, Pacific Coast (BCPC)**

**Date of Stakeholder Forum: 1/27/2022**

**Date of Forum Summary Report: 2/1/2022**

**What are your overall observations about the Stakeholder Survey Results and what do you think are the major conclusions?**

1. Local Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) models already exist. Broadband may help but is not the total solution. Expectations are inflated and in the absence of work-related travel, other trips get substituted. There are additional data resources (and models) available on the VCTC website.
2. Ventura County is a region where a significant amount of transit between communities for work occurs. We are also a significant labor exporter. That is people leave the area to go to work.
3. There is a connection between commuting and housing costs. The opportunity to get a bigger home at a more affordable price creates the long-distance commuter issue. As a region we are generating new talent, however they cannot afford to live here.
4. We need to leverage all existing incentives to accomplish this goal (ex: carbon credits).
5. Congestion patterns are shifting due to people's driving interests, priorities, and needs. Broadband is a form of transportation... How do we link these systems together?
6. Despite people working from home, COVID is still "hammering" the small local businesses.
7. Carriers keep raising rates and there is no competition. Municipalities need to identify and encourage other carriers with an interest to serve.

**What are public policies or actions that you can take for your own business or organization to reduce trips?**

1. Consider policies and incentives encouraging distributed office, hub and spoke, facilities locations. Programs to encourage residents to stay local, while still connecting with their out-of-town employers.
2. Do we have programs to educate residents to encourage residents to use phones as hot spots? Do people know that they can “light up” their home with Wi-Fi.
3. Align with the local VMT mitigation program that is currently under development. Broadband could be included and eligible for funding as an element of the program.
4. Look at land-use planning with a “15 min” walking perspective.
5. Policy development should start with leveraging the current transportation planning efforts underway.
6. The middle mile map is a good start for a regional conversation.
7. We need to “revive” the notion of a dig once policy. It is not as talked about today as in the past. We also need to develop a regional strategic plan.

**What are the major barriers to implementing the policies and practices and how can they be overcome?**

1. Existing specifications & standards - Why aren't we all at a Gig? Takes so long to get communities connected.
2. If ISPs stepped up and focused on the issue, we wouldn't have this conversation. We should take our maps and start working mile by mile, don't bite off more than we can chew. Try to get a breakdown of the hurdle and get started.
3. Navigating funding sources. Ongoing funding for broadband funding is necessary. Qualifying for existing funding sources is an issue.
4. Cities are concerned about the potential of reduced revenue resulting from cable cutting.
5. Has past land use planning occurred in a manner that aligns with the return to remote work? If workers remain home, do local amenities exist and support their needs and lifestyle?
6. Incumbents are still a barrier with a firm foothold and competition is an uphill climb. Municipalities should encourage competing providers to enter the market.
7. Communication between municipalities and carriers can be dramatically improved.



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	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization Affiliation</b>
1	Don Gerkenmeyer	Manager, Ventura County Educational Network	Ventura County Office of Education
2	George Amandola	Business Owner	Cyberdynamix
3	Shelby Arthur	Strategic Alliance Associate	Economic Development Collaborative
4	Daniel Audelo	Transportation Planner	SLO Council of Governments
5	Ned Branch	District Director	Blanchard Library
6	Alexander Burrows	Communications Manager	BCPC
7	Brian Chong	Assistant to the City Manager / PIO	City of Moorpark
8	Tom Clock		(unknown)
9	Amanda Fagan	Director of Planning and Sustainability	Ventura County Transportation Commission
10	Noel Heredia	Business Owner	Digital Value Creation
11	Maria Kelly	Collaborative Coordinator	BCPC
12	Jeffrey Lambert	Chief Operating Officer	Ventura County Community Foundation
13	Nicki Mayes	Management Fellow	City of Santa Paula
14	Stephen Meier	Director, Technology Infrastructure	Ventura County Office of Education

15	Rosie Ornelas	Economic Development Manager	City of Oxnard
16	Stephen Sawyer	Director of Government Affairs	Charter Communications
17	Nancy Schram	Library Director	County Libraries
18	Bill Simmons	Collaborative Developer	BCPC
19	Sandy Smith	Land Use Consultant	Sespe Consulting
20	Andy Sobel	City Councilman	City of Santa Paula
21	Michael Soltys	Professor & Chair Dept. of Computer Science	Cal State University Channel Islands
22	Bruce Stenslie	President / CEO	Economic Development Collaborative
23	Danna Stroud	Cuesta College Board of Trustees	State of California, Go-Biz
24	Linda Swan	Business & Development Advocate	City of Simi Valley
25	Dan Watkins	Assoc. Vice Chancellor, Information Technology	Ventura County Community College District
26	Tim Williams	VP of Expansion	Astound
27	James Worthley	Regional Planning Division Chief	SLO Council of Governments
28	(unknown)		Camarillo Administrative Services