

September 18, 2025

San Diego Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Program

Overview

[California Senate Bill \(SB\) 743](#) (Steinberg, 2013), also known as the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Policy, became effective on July 1, 2020. The bill requires local agencies to use VMT to assess the environmental impacts of land development projects on the transportation system. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the County of San Diego have received a Caltrans Strategic Partnership Grant to explore the development of a Regional VMT Mitigation program for the San Diego Region. The program will strive to develop an equitable and feasible path forward for new developments to mitigate their VMT related impacts through an interregional program-based on regional infrastructure needs. Staff from the County of San Deigo will provide a report on the status of the project.

Action: Discussion

Staff from the County of San Diego will present on the evaluation of options for a regional Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation program.

Fiscal Impact:

The project is part of SANDAG's FY 2026 Budget and Overall Work Program Project No. 3402400.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

The project is expected to be completed in June 2026.

Key Considerations

- The State of California has indicated that VMT is the appropriate metric to evaluate transportation impacts under California Environmental.
- The VMT metric has created challenges for development projects within suburban and rural areas as they attempt to feasibly mitigate their impacts based on localized improvements.
- The San Diego Regional VMT Mitigation Program will help to evaluate opportunities for VMT mitigation that are most compatible with the needs and priorities of the San Diego region.
- A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed for the project that includes transportation engineers and California Environmental Quality Act planners from jurisdictions within the San Diego Region (Attachment 1).
- Seven program evaluation criteria were developed with the TAC and four Primary Program Options were analyzed against the evaluation criteria.
- The Hybrid Program Option which provides VMT mitigation opportunities at both the regional and local levels scored the highest and was the most consistent with the evaluation criteria (Attachment 2).

Next Steps

A Draft VMT Mitigation Program will be developed around the preferred program option. A final recommended strategy will be present to the SANDAG working groups, Policy Advisory Committees and the Board of Directors in the spring of 2026.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning

- Attachments: 1. Regional VMT Mitigation Program Technical Advisory Committee members.
2. San Diego Regional VMT Mitigation Program – Preferred Option Section Memo dated March 26, 2025