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Streamlining Decisions

SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, councilmembers, and a county supervisor from each of the region's 19 local governments. Voting is based upon membership and the population of each jurisdiction, providing for a more accountable and equitable representation of the region's residents.

Supplementing these voting members are advisory representatives from Imperial County, Caltrans, Metropolitan Transit System, North San Diego County Transit Development Board, the U.S. Department of Defense, San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego County Water Authority, and Baja California/Mexico. The Board of Directors is assisted by a professional staff of planners, engineers, and research specialists.

Current major initiatives include fast-tracking *TransNet* projects, implementing the Regional Comprehensive Plan, launching the pilot Smart Growth Incentive Program, preparing the update of the Regional Transportation Plan, including the plan's Regional Transit Vision and integrating the RTP with the RCP.

SANDAG meetings provide the public forums and decision points for significant regional issues such as population growth, transportation, environmental management, housing, open space, air quality, energy, fiscal management, economic development, and public safety. SANDAG Directors establish policies, adopt plans, allocate transportation funds, direct transit project development and construction, and develop programs to meet regional needs.

These interdependent and interrelated responsibilities permit a more streamlined, comprehensive, and coordinated approach to planning for the region's future, without the need to create costly new government. Citizens and representatives from community, civic, environmental, education, business, and other special interest groups, and other agencies are involved in the planning and approval process by participating in working groups as well as by attending workshops and public hearings.

SANDAG has multiple responsibilities in carrying out its regional roles. The overarching theme running through the agency's legislative mandates, cooperative agreements, working coalitions, and policymaking efforts is that of developing and guiding programs that contribute to making the San Diego region a better place to live, work, and play now and in the future.

