PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT UPDATE OF THE 2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Directors accepted public comments on the draft 2030 Revenue Constrained Regional Transportation Plan: 2006 Update and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the public policy blueprint for how people and goods will move around the San Diego region during the next 25 years. After updating cost estimates and forecasted revenues, the updated plan has a price tag of $36 billion. The plan is a technical update to sync it with a new federal law. A more comprehensive plan will be prepared during 2007. Directors will consider the technical update and its associated environmental report for adoption at the February 24, 2006 SANDAG meeting. (Item #10: Staff contact, Michael Hix, (619) 699-1977, mhi@sandag.org)

PROJECTS SELECTED FOR FEDERAL FUNDING CYCLE REQUEST: Based on the recommendation of the Transportation Committee, SANDAG approved a list of transportation projects for funding consideration during the annual federal appropriations process. It is anticipated that the transportation appropriation process will begin in February 2006. It is likely that the funding levels for discretionary projects will be limited because of the many competing needs that Congress is currently facing. Projects included on the SANDAG appropriations request list include: funding for Interstates 5 and 805; State Route 11 connecting to the international border; and the East Otay Mesa Port of Entry. New projects added to the list include: Clairemont Mesa Boulevard/State Route 163; Bird Rock Traffic Improvements in La Jolla; Rose Creek Bikeway Bridge (Mission Bay); University Avenue Mobility Plan; SR 905 Heritage Interchange; and Interstate 805 and La Jolla Village Drive interchange improvements. Transit requests include funds for remote command and control infrastructure, and bus replacements. (Item #12: Staff contact: Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960, ero@sandag.org)

TransNet TAXPAYERS OVERSIGHT GROUP TO RECEIVE FUNDING: When 67 percent of the voters passed the TransNet half-cent sales tax extension ordinance in November 2004, the new law created the seven-member Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC). The committee is tasked with monitoring the progress of the TransNet program. Directors advanced funding for the ITOC to hire outside consulting services to carry out the committee’s taxpayer oversight responsibilities. Subject to SANDAG approval of specific budget requests, the ITOC will receive advanced funding of up to $250,000 per year through the agency’s commercial paper program. (Item #14: Staff contact: Craig Scott, (619) 699-1926, csc@sandag.org)
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM OUTLINES KEY GOALS: SANDAG approved the Legislative Program which contains policies and proposals for possible federal and state legislation and local activities. Some specific program goals include: transportation funding requests; sponsoring legislation that would allow SANDAG to conduct meetings in Mexico and other jurisdictions bordering the San Diego region; and support efforts consistent with financial strategies contained in the Regional Transportation Plan to increase revenue for projects. Potential revenue sources encompass an increase in gas tax, bonds, developer fees, and public/private partnerships. In the public safety area, Directors are emphasizing: interoperability and communications; homeland security funding; and youth and gang violence prevention. (Item #11: Staff contact: Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960, ero@sandag.org)

LAW CHANGE SOUGHT TO ADD 2ND COUNTY SUPERVISOR TO SANDAG: Directors approved working with California Senator Christine Kehoe to amend the agency's enabling legislation to add a second San Diego County Supervisor to the SANDAG Board of Directors. Currently, only the Chair of the Board of Supervisors serves on SANDAG. The additional Supervisor would be appointed by the County from District 2 (East County) or District 5 (North County). The additional Supervisor would ensure representation from both the incorporated and unincorporated areas. The recommendation also includes a request that the Board of Supervisors endorse the SANDAG governing structure. (Item #8: Staff contact, Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960, ero@sandag.org)

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Upcoming Meetings

February 10, 2006
Policy Meeting
4 to 6 p.m.
Meeting with state delegation on Statewide Infrastructure Bonding Proposals

February 24, 2006
Business Meeting
• Final RTP Update
• Comprehensive Fare Ordinance
• Public Safety Workshop Update