BOARDS ACTIONS

February 24, 2006

2030 REVENUE CONSTRAINED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP): 2006 UPDATE: SANDAG adopted the 2030 Revenue Constrained RTP: 2006 Update and its Supplemental Environmental Impact Report. Directors found the Update in conformance with the State Implementation Plan for air quality. Originally adopted in March 2003, the RTP is the public policy blueprint for how people and goods will move around the region during the next 25 years. A comprehensive RTP update is underway and is scheduled for adoption in 2007. (Item #17, Staff contact: Michael Hix, (619) 699-1977; mhi@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS REPORT:

Highway Projects: As part of the I-5/I-805 Merge Widening Project, northbound bypass lanes leading directly to SR 56 opened for use this month. These lanes enable travelers to avoid merging onto I-5 northbound lanes before accessing SR 56. The scheduled completion for all I-5/I-805 widening is the end of 2007. Transit Projects: SANDAG has opened bids for the East Village Station Improvements contract at the City College trolley station. This “Smart Corner” project will realign trolley tracks along a straight diagonal and provide other amenities and aesthetic treatments to this heavily used station. Completion is scheduled for December 2006. Arterial and Freeway Interchange Project: The City of Chula Vista held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 7, 2006, for the 805/Olympic Parkway Interchange Improvements project, which included widening the Olympic Parkway bridge and access ramps, and providing noise walls to local residents. Traffic and Demand Management: The Freeway Service Patrol assisted approximately 12,600 motorists, about 16 percent less than the previous quarter due to lower holiday traffic volumes. Vanpool participation grew 5 percent in the last quarter, from 451 to 479 vanpools. Overall, 4,055 daily commuters participate in the program. (Item #11, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908; jnu@sandag.org)

PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY EFFORTS: Directors were updated on efforts of the Public Safety Committee (PSC) to develop and implement a strategic regional vision and plan to enhance interoperability and communications among the region’s public safety agencies. The PSC is holding a series of workshops to identify key elements and principles that should be included in the strategic plan. The first workshop was held January 20. The next workshop, scheduled for March 17 at SANDAG, will examine the local environment, highlight existing interoperability initiatives, and identify opportunities for the region to enhance collaborative efforts. A third workshop scheduled for May will begin the development of action items to address the priorities identified during the workshops. (Item #19, Staff contact: Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971; psc@sandag.org)

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED ON SMART GROWTH AND TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS: The Regional Comprehensive Plan calls for the preparation of a Smart Growth Concept Map to identify locations that can support smart growth and transportation investments. The map will be used for refining the regional transit network, and for identifying other transportation needs during the comprehensive update of the Regional Transportation Plan next year. The map also will be used to help determine eligibility to compete for future TransNet SMART (over)
Growth Incentive Program funding. Directors discussed the draft Smart Growth Concept Map at its annual retreat earlier this month. The schedule includes workshops in eight county locations. See the sidebar for a listing of workshops or visit www.sandag.org/rcp. (Item #13, Staff contact: Carolina Gregor (619) 699-1989; cgr@sandag.org)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMPREHENSIVE FARE ORDINANCE: SANDAG held a public hearing and conducted the first reading of the proposed regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance. A second reading and subsequent adoption is scheduled for March 24, 2006. No fare increases are proposed at this time. SANDAG is charged with adopting a Comprehensive Fare Ordinance and setting a uniform, fair, and equitable fare system within the region for North County Transit District and the Metropolitan Transit System. In addition, the new Compass Card, which will be introduced later in 2006, will simplify the fare structure, streamline and expedite fare collection, and obtain ridership and revenue data. The Compass Card uses “smart card” technology where fares are pre-paid monthly and the amount stored on the card. Passengers will be able to use the card on any bus, trolley, or train. (Item #18, Staff contact: Dan Levy, (619) 699-6942; dle@sandag.org)

VALUE PRICING PLAN APPROVED FOR MANAGED LANES: SANDAG approved a "skewed per mile" pricing option for the future I-5 managed lanes. In 2004, SANDAG began studying a value pricing plan that would allow solo drivers in the managed lanes to pay a fee to use the I-5 North Coast managed lanes. Based on the high level of forecasted traffic demand for I-5, a dynamic, skewed per mile pricing strategy is recommended for adoption on the I-5 North Coast managed lanes. This strategy uses tolls based on distance traveled with a per mile rate that may be higher along congested sections of the facility. The I-5 North Coast Managed Lanes are scheduled to begin construction in 2009. (Item #4, Staff contact: Heather Werdick, (619) 699-6967; hwe@sandag.org)

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED: SANDAG Chairman Mickey Cafagna is responsible for selecting chairs and vice chairs for the agency’s five policy committees. The following individuals have been appointed: Lemon Grove Mayor Mary Teresa Sessom – Vice Chair, Executive Committee; Solana Beach Councilmember Joe Kellejian – Chair, Transportation Committee; San Diego Councilmember Jim Madaffer – Vice Chair, Transportation Committee; Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler – Chair, Regional Planning Committee; Lemon Grove Councilmember Jerry Jones – Vice Chair, Regional Planning Committee; Imperial Beach Councilmember Patricia McCoy – Chair, Borders Committee; Imperial County Supervisor Victor Carillo – Vice Chair, Borders Committee; Chula Vista Mayor Steve Padilla – Chair, Public Safety Committee; Carlsbad Police Chief Tom Zoll – Vice Chair, Public Safety Committee. (Item #15, Staff contact: Garry Bonelli, (619) 699-1960; gbo@sandag.org)

INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RECOGNIZED: SANDAG Directors recognized Michael F. Boyle for his leadership and contributions as the inaugural chairman of the mandated TransNet Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC). Mr. Boyle stepped down as chairman to serve as a policy advisor to San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. The new ITOC Chair is Maryam Babaki. (Item #14, Staff contact: Craig Scott, (619) 699-1926; csc@sandag.org)