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BOARD ACTIONS

March 24, 2006

MAGLEV STUDY RELEASED: Directors authorized the release of the Phase 1 Maglev Study that analyzed the feasibility of a high-speed, magnetic levitation train from San Diego to a potential regional airport site in Imperial County known as the Desert Site. The study concludes that from an engineering perspective the Maglev system is feasible, although there are many challenges and risks associated with an emerging technology. The estimated cost for a Maglev system following the Interstate 8 alignment from Miramar to the Desert Site ranges from \$15.2 billion for a lower speed alignment to \$18.5 billion for a higher speed alignment. The higher speed alignment provides a mix of tunnels and bridges to maintain 175 mph average speed needed to make the trip in 30 minutes. The \$400,000 budget for the study was funded with \$320,000 from a federal earmark sponsored by Congressman Bob Filner, and local matching funds provided by the County of Imperial, the Imperial Irrigation District, and SANDAG. The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) contributed technical work and data completed for its Airport Site Selection Program. The goal was to complete the study by March so that it could be used by the SDCRAA in its airport site selection efforts. A Phase 2 study will analyze the feasibility of north/south Maglev alignments in San Diego and Imperial Counties linking to the Southern California Association of Governments potential Maglev network to the north. SANDAG staff is working with Congressman Filner to amend current legislation to allow use of the remaining \$480,000 in earmark funds to conduct the Phase 2 study. *(Item #13: Staff contact: Leslie Blanda, (619) 699-6907; lbl@sandag.org)*

TransNet HABITAT FUNDING APPROVED: Directors approved the expenditure of \$750,000 in FY 2006 *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) funds for eight eligible land management projects. Land management activities can include removing exotic species, picking up trash, maintaining trails, building and repairing fences, weeding vernal pools, and erosion control. *TransNet* includes an \$850 million EMP. *(Item #5, Staff contact: Janet Fairbanks, (619) 699-6970; jfa@sandag.org)*

BOARD TO FURTHER REVIEW HOUSING NEEDS POLICY: Based on the recommendations of the Regional Planning Committee and the Executive Committee, the SANDAG Board of Directors was asked to approve Draft Board Policy No. 033, which sets forth implementation guidelines for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) policy memorandum approved by SANDAG on February 25, 2005. Based on the Board's discussion and written comments on the draft policy distributed by Board Member Christy Guerin (Encinitas), SANDAG staff was asked to return to the Board in 30 days with an analysis of the comments and potential changes to the policy. State law requires SANDAG to prepare a RHNA for use by the local jurisdictions in the San Diego region in the housing elements of their general plans. The RHNA process quantifies and analyzes the housing needs for the San Diego region. *(Item #14, Staff contact: Susan Baldwin, (619) 699-1943; sba@sandag.org)*

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Cities of
- Carlsbad
- Chula Vista
- Coronado
- Del Mar
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Imperial Beach
- La Mesa
- Lemon Grove
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Solana Beach
- Vista
- and
- County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Imperial County
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North San Diego County Transit Development Board
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Mexico

(more)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 28, 2006
Business Meeting

- Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy
- Crime in the San Diego Region: 2005 Crime Statistics and an Update on the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse

MAKING SMART GROWTH WORK IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION

Join your fellow residents, community leaders, and SANDAG officials at an April 2006 workshop near where you live or work. For workshop locations or to RSVP visit www.sandag.org/rcp.

INTERSTATE 15 CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES: SANDAG Transportation Committee and Board Member Joe Kellejian and Caltrans I-15 Corridor Project Director Gustavo Dallarda provided an update on the I-15 Managed Lanes project. Funded in part by the *TransNet* half-cent sales tax and jointly implemented by SANDAG and Caltrans, this project will improve the I-15 corridor from SR 78 to 163 with new facilities for high-occupancy vehicle (HOV), bus rapid transit (BRT) users, and FasTrak™ patrons. BRT and HOV service eventually will continue to SR 94 into downtown San Diego. The Middle Segment, currently under construction, extends from SR 56 to Via Rancho Parkway and is expected to open in 2007/2008. The remaining two segments are scheduled for completion by 2012. *(Item #15, Staff contact: Dean Hiatt, (619) 699-6978; dhi@sandag.org)*

LAKE HODGES BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT: Directors approved programming \$2 million from the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program Transportation Enhancement funds to the Lake Hodges Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Project. Pending additional approval from the California Transportation Commission, this project will construct a bridge over Lake Hodges just west of I-15 for bikes and pedestrians, and is an important link on the I-15 Bikeway identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. *(Item #8, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908; jnu@sandag.org)*

DRAFT BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM RECEIVE BOARD SUPPORT: Directors approved for distribution the Draft FY 2007 Budget and Overall Work Program (OWP). Upon review by the member agencies and other interested parties, the document will come back to the SANDAG Board on May 26, 2006, for final approval. The Draft FY 2007 Budget includes funding for the OWP, capital budget, and the *TransNet* program. *(Item #7, Staff contact: Tim Watson, (619) 699-1966; twa@sandag.org)*

BIKE TO WORK DAY 2006: On May 19, 2006, SANDAG will sponsor Bike to Work Day 2006. This is a nationally recognized event that occurs at the end of Bike to Work Week. Bike to Work Day is held to create public awareness about the benefits and opportunities of bicycling to work instead of driving a car. For more information, contact RideLink, the region's Transportation Demand Management program that provides alternatives to solo commuting, at www.ridelink.org, biking@sandag.org, or 1-800-266-6883, option 3. *(Item #9, Staff contact: Ray Traynor, (619) 699-6945; rtr@sandag.org)*

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