



BOARD ACTIONS

December 15, 2006

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TransNet ORDINANCE AMENDED; SPRINTER FINANCING APPROVED:

SANDAG has amended the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance to fully fund the completion of the North County Transit District SPRINTER rail project between Oceanside and Escondido. Directors also approved revisions to the *TransNet* Early Action Program to include the SPRINTER; an estimated \$340 million in capital improvements to the Trolley, incorporating station and vehicle upgrades; and additional Environmental Mitigation Program costs to include mitigation work along the I-5 and I-805 corridors. (Items #8 and #9: Staff contact: Craig Scott; (619) 699-1926, csc@sandag.org)

HIGHWAY PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR STATE BOND FUNDING:

Directors approved a prioritized list of projects to submit to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to be considered for funding from the \$4.5 billion Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA). The CMIA was established as part of the \$19.9 billion bond package known as the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1B) that was approved by voters statewide in November. SANDAG is requesting \$400 million for I-15 for the construction of a direct access ramp and Managed Lanes between SR 163 and SR 56. The I-5/805 North Coast proposal is for \$900 million to support construction of four Managed Lanes along 21 miles of I-5 and I-805. The third proposal is for high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-805 from Palomar Street in Chula Vista to SR 94. This project request is for \$350 million. The proposals are due to the CTC by January 16, 2007. Sixty percent of the CMIA funding will be allocated to Southern California regions, and no single region will receive a disproportionate share of the funding. While SANDAG does not expect to get all the funds requested, the San Diego region is in a good position to capture a maximum share of the funding because the proposed projects meet the criteria established for the CMIA program. (Item #13: Staff contact: Jack Boda; (619) 699-6930, jbo@sandag.org)

TRIBAL REPRESENTATION APPROVED:

SANDAG unanimously approved a proposal to add a San Diego County representative from the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) to its Board of Directors, and Transportation, Regional Planning, and Public Safety Policy Committees. A representative from the SCTCA has served as an advisory member on the agency's Borders Committee since June 2005. This expanded participation at a policy level would take effect on January 1, 2007. The decision to include representatives of this intertribal council as advisory members on the SANDAG Board and its Policy Committees strengthens the growing cooperation and collaboration among the region's jurisdictions and tribal governments. (Item #11: Staff contact: Garry Bonelli; (619) 699-1960, gbo@sandag.org)

GOVERNOR OF BAJA CALIFORNIA VISITS:

The Honorable Eugenio Elorduy, Governor of the State of Baja California, Mexico, was introduced to the SANDAG Board. He commended SANDAG on its efforts to expand binational collaboration between the neighboring regions; and emphasized the need to work together to improve the border's transportation infrastructure, protect the environment, and promote economic development for a more prosperous binational economy. (Item #4: Staff contact: Hector Vanegas; (619) 699-1972, hva@sandag.org)

(more)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 12, 2007
Policy Meeting

- Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy Update

January 26, 2007
Business Meeting

- Quarterly Transportation Progress Report
- FY 2008 Federal Transportation Appropriations Proposals
- Recognition of Past Board of Directors Chair

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The latest issue of the SANDAG electronic newsletter is available by visiting www.sandag.org/region.

TransNet HABITAT PROGRAM FUNDING APPROVED: The *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program includes a Regional Habitat Conservation Fund (RHCF) for habitat acquisition, biological monitoring, and land management. The RHCF is based on the economic benefit of achieving assurances with state and federal regulatory agencies through the environmental review and approval process for transportation projects. SANDAG approved the planned activities and a \$2 million budget for the FY 2007 RHCF — up to \$700,000 of which is authorized for time-sensitive field monitoring work. The remaining \$1.3 million will be released when funding is available. Directors also approved a five-year RHCF funding strategy for management and monitoring activities which will result in a blueprint for the annual investments. *(Item #14: Staff contact: Keith Greer; (619) 699-7390, kgr@sandag.org)*

2007 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM APPROVED: Directors approved a legislative program that includes policies and proposals for possible federal and state legislation and local activities. Priorities for the next year include efforts to secure funds from the state infrastructure bonds, funding for improved interoperability of voice and data communications among public safety agencies, and more homeland security funding for the region. Other activities proposed are to secure support for the use of interim transit freeway lanes, legislation that would allow SANDAG and other regions to better implement plans and programs such as design-build legislation, and legislation that rewards jurisdictions that produce more affordable housing and transit-oriented development. *(Item #10: Staff contact: Kim Kawada; (619) 699-6994, kka@sandag.org)*

NEW PORT OF ENTRY WITH TOLL ROAD FEASIBLE: Directors were informed of the results of a financial feasibility study conducted by SANDAG on behalf of Caltrans. The study objective was to determine the financial feasibility of the proposed SR 11 and the East Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE) at the U.S./Mexico border as toll or fee-based facilities. The study concluded that the SR 11 toll road and East Otay Mesa POE potentially would be a good investment provided there are sufficient external resources for POE capital and operating and maintenance costs. Other findings show that construction of SR 11 cannot be considered without the East Otay Mesa POE. The next steps for this project are to assess economic benefit (travel time savings, safety) and social equity; explore potential non-toll revenues to make up revenue shortfalls; pursue funding for SR 11 from the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (Proposition 1B); and obtain a Presidential Permit from the federal government for the East Otay Mesa POE. *(Item #16: Staff contact: Elisa Arias; (619) 699-1936, ear@sandag.org)*

SANDAG ELECTS BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2007: SANDAG has elected Lemon Grove Mayor Mary Teresa Sessom as Chair, Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler as First Vice Chair, and Encinitas Deputy Mayor Jerome Stocks as Second Vice Chair, for one-year terms, beginning January 1, 2007. Mayor Sessom takes over as Chair from Poway Mayor Cafagna who will continue to represent his North County city on the Board. *(Item #12: Staff contact: Garry Bonelli; (619) 699-1960, gbo@sandag.org)*

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