SAN DIEGO DIALS 511 FOR TRAFFIC INFO: Directors were updated on the new 511 phone and Web traffic and transportation information system for San Diego County. The 511 system was launched on February 21, 2007. Phone and Web users can obtain up-to-the-minute freeway driving times, transit route and rideshare information, roadside assistance, and much more. After just two days in operation, 511 received more than 64,000 Web visits and 10,000 telephone calls. 511 puts a wealth of free, travel-related information at the commuter's fingertips — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Accessed via telephone (number and voice-activated) or Web (www.511sd.com), 511 consolidates valuable traffic information into a one-stop resource. The state-of-the-art service stems from a collaborative partnership among SANDAG, Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transit Service, the North County Transit District, California Highway Patrol, and the San Diego Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies. (Item #12: Staff contact: Thomas Bruccoleri, (619) 699-7381, tbr@sandag.org)

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED: SANDAG Chair Mary Teresa Sessom is responsible for selecting chairs and vice chairs for the agency's five policy advisory committees. The following individuals have been appointed: Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler – Vice Chair, Executive Committee; San Diego Councilmember Jim Madaffer – Chair, Transportation Committee; Santee Councilmember Jack Dale – Vice Chair, Transportation Committee; Lemon Grove Councilmember Jerry Jones – Chair, Regional Planning Committee; San Diego Councilmember Toni Atkins – Vice Chair, Regional Planning Committee; Imperial Beach Councilmember Patricia McCoy – Chair, Borders Committee; San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox – Vice Chair, Borders Committee; El Cajon Mayor Mark Lewis – Chair, Public Safety Committee; Carlsbad Police Chief Tom Zoll – Vice Chair, Public Safety Committee. (Item #10: Staff contact: Kim Kawada, (619) 699-6994; kka@sandag.org)

DIRECTORS DISCUSS AIRPORT AUTHORITY LEGISLATION: Directors agreed to continue working with area legislators on Senate Bill 10, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority Reform Act of 2007. SB 10 currently calls for a restructuring of the Airport Authority Board of Directors and transfers responsibilities for airport land use planning to SANDAG. As the Airport Land Use Commission, SANDAG would be required to review and update the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans as needed, and no less often than every five years for the region's 16 airports. In addition, SANDAG would be assigned responsibility to prepare a long-range Regional Aviation System Plan in consultation with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and others. The bill was introduced by Senator Christine Kehoe, principally co-authored by Assemblymember George Plescia, and co-authored by Senator Denise Ducheny and Assemblymembers Mary Salas and Lori Saldana. (Item #11: Staff contact: Julie Wiley, (619) 699-6966; jwi@sandag.org)
FUNDING APPROVED FOR LOW INCOME AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION: SANDAG has been selected by Governor Schwarzenegger to be the designated recipient of the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), and New Freedom (NF) federal funding for the San Diego County urbanized area. These programs fund transportation services and facilities for persons with disabilities (NF) or transportation to work for low-income users (JARC). The competitive process closed on November 16, 2006, with 22 proposals received from 13 transportation providers and agencies. Eleven of the proposals requested JARC funding, and eleven requested NF funding. SANDAG Directors approved the distribution of $1.26 million in JARC funding to MTS and NCTD. The JARC funding will support MTS bus routes (905, 960, and 30), and NCTD bus stop improvements. In addition, five projects will share $259,370 in NF funding. These include volunteer driver services in the Cities of La Mesa and Oceanside; operating and capital funds for Senior Community Centers; a mobility/travel training program for NCTD; and a mobility management program for Full Access & Coordinated Transportation, Inc. (Item #5: Staff contact: Dan Levy, (619) 699-6942, dle@sandag.org)

SENATOR DUCHENY RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRANSPORTATION: Directors recognized Senator Denise Ducheny for her efforts in the passage of Senate Bills 463 and 1282. Senate Bill 463 extends the duration of the franchise authority for the State Route 125 Toll Road, also known as the South Bay Expressway - which is scheduled to open in summer 2007. Senate Bill 1282 ensures that key federal funding will be available to complete important border projects such as State Route 905. (Item #8: Staff contact: Kim Kawada, (619) 699-6994, kka@sandag.org)

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