



401 B Street, Suite 800  
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231  
 (619) 699-1900  
 Fax (619) 699-1905  
 www.sandag.org

# BOARD ACTIONS

March 23, 2007

**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 County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) FUNDING SCENARIOS:**

Updated every four years, the RTP provides the overall policy framework encompassing all highway, public transit, and major roads for the region through the year 2030. The draft 2007 update of the plan contains a \$40.6 billion constrained scenario, as required by federal law, that includes revenue from both the *TransNet* half-cent sales tax extension as well as the California Infrastructure Bond proceeds. In addition to the constrained RTP scenario, Directors told staff to analyze Reasonably Expected Revenue funding scenarios which would invest an additional \$4 billion and \$10 billion respectively to the constrained RTP. Directors will review the analyses in the ensuing months as they look at proposed projects and the projects' performances on the overall transportation network. An extensive public outreach component will be carried out as part of the draft plan's update. SANDAG will consider adopting the 2007 RTP in the fall of this year along with the associated environmental document and air quality conformity findings. *(Item #15, Staff contact: Mike Hix, (619) 699-1977; mhi@sandag.org)*

**NEW I-15 FASTRAK® TOLL MINIMUM TAKES EFFECT MAY 1:**

SANDAG approved two new fees for its I-15 FasTrak pricing program. Starting May 1, 2007, commuters registered with FasTrak that fail to use their transponder to pay tolls on the express lanes that parallel traffic on I-15 between SR 163 and 56/Ted Williams Parkway will be charged \$3.50 per month to offset the cost of maintaining their account and \$1 per month for each transponder they hold. Customers who spend at least \$4.50 per month in tolls for accounts with a single transponder will not pay any lease or account maintenance fees. Customers who spend less than \$4.50 will only pay the difference between the fee and toll amounts. SANDAG approved the new pricing program to curb the increasing cost of account maintenance for non-users of the system. Since the FasTrak program was launched in 1997, SANDAG has provided free accounts with no enrollment fees and no minimum usage charges. As a result, a number of current customers remain enrolled despite little to no use of the I-15 FasTrak lanes. SANDAG officials noted that a growing number of customers sign up for the service but seldom use it. About half of the customers enrolled made fewer than 10 trips last year on I-15. Many of these customers enrolled with SANDAG primarily used toll roads in neighboring counties. Information about the fees will be mailed to account holders and posted at [www.511sd.com](http://www.511sd.com). *(Item #10: Staff contact: Derek Toups, (619) 699-1907; dto@sandag.org)*

**STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)**

**AUGMENTATION:** Proposition 1B, approved by the voters in November 2006, adds \$2 billion to the STIP, with \$163.7 million available for high-priority projects in the San Diego region. Directors approved funding recommendations for projects that advance the *TransNet* Early Action Program and leverage other funding. Some of these projects include the I-15 Managed Lanes and Bus Rapid Transit system, the SR 52 Extension to SR 67 as well as the SR 52 Managed Lanes Widening between I-15 and SR 125, and Blue Line Trolley improvements.

*(more)*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

*April 27, 2007  
Business Meeting*

- 2007 Regional Transportation Plan: Draft Revenue Constrained and Reasonably Expected Revenue Scenarios
- I-15 Interregional Partnership Phase II Final Report

\*\*\*\*

### **rEgion**

The latest issue of the SANDAG electronic newsletter is available by visiting [www.sandag.org/region](http://www.sandag.org/region).

\*\*\*\*

### **Bike to Work Day** May 18, 2007

Join your colleagues for Bike to Work Day on May 18, 2007! For more information or to register online for this event, visit [www.ridelink.org](http://www.ridelink.org).

Directors also approved a funding exchange that would minimize the process required to obtain and administer these funds, maximize the flexibility afforded by different sources of funds, maintain the SANDAG-approved project funding levels, and allow projects that are ready to go to proceed to construction without further delay. The California Transportation Commission is scheduled to adopt the statewide 2006 STIP at its June 7, 2007 meeting. *(Item #11, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908; [jnu@sandag.org](mailto:jnu@sandag.org))*

**COMPASS CARD PROGRAM SET TO LAUNCH:** Directors approved a \$3.5 million budget increase for the Regional Automated Fare Collection Project to implement the Compass Card program. The funding will pay for an extended service warranty, a settlement agreement with Cubic Corporation, a regionwide marketing and public education program to launch Compass Card, and administrative costs. The Compass Card will introduce smart card technology to streamline and expedite fare collection (our region currently has over 200 transit fares) this summer. San Diego joins a select group of metropolitan areas in this merging of public transit and technology. Adding to the ease of use for customers and operators will be the universal, regional fare collection system for the bus, trolley, and rail in San Diego. The technology also will allow the area's transit operators to collect ridership and revenue data which should lead to better and more efficient service. The Compass Card will be accepted on MTS or NCTD buses, Trolley, or train services. The embedded smart card technology will allow riders to have their fares validated simply by touching the card to a specially designed ticket vending machine or fare box. *(Item #14, Staff contact: James Dreisbach-Towle, (619) 699-1914; [jdr@sandag.org](mailto:jdr@sandag.org))*

**LAKE HODGES BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FUNDING:** Directors approved an additional \$1.875 million in FY 2009 *TransNet* Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Neighborhood Safety funds for the Lake Hodges bicycle and pedestrian bridge. The project is part of the regional bicycle corridor network identified in the MOBILITY 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, and it is a key link in the River Park's trail network. Currently, bicyclists have access across the lake by means of the I-15 freeway shoulders. The nearest alternative access across the river valley is at Via de Santa Fe to the west, or at Bandy Canyon Road and San Pasqual Valley Road to the east. The San Dieguito River Park has a total of \$7 million for this project, including \$2.5 million in funds previously programmed by SANDAG. Approval of this additional funding allows the River Park to avoid losing a grant of State River Parkway funds and continue with the construction currently underway. *(Item #13, Staff contact: Stephan Vance, (619) 699-1924; [sva@sandag.org](mailto:sva@sandag.org))*

**SANDAG DISTRIBUTES DRAFT FY08 BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM:** Based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Directors approved the distribution of the draft budget and overall work program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 to member and funding agencies for review and comment. The work program details the jobs SANDAG plans to accomplish during the year with the associated budgets denoted with each job. The preliminary FY08 budget is estimated at \$50.2 million. The current year budget is \$49.9 million. Final SANDAG approval of the budget and work program is scheduled for the May 25, 2007 business meeting. *(Item #12, Staff contact: Tim Watson, (619) 699-1966; [twatson@sandag.org](mailto:twatson@sandag.org))*

# # #