



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OCTOBER 26, 2007**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 07-10-1A  
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2007**

Chair Mary Sessom (Lemon Grove) called the meeting of the SANDAG Board of Directors to order at 10:05 a.m. The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS

Chuck Lungerhausen, a member of the public, commented that the present *TransNet* tax is already allocated for certain expenses. He wondered where we will get the money to replace San Diego County's share of public transportation dollars that the state government has taken to balance the state budget. He noted that we already have one of the highest fare structures in the United States. He heard that fare transfers are being eliminated and asked how that would impact the "seamlessness" of the transit system. He thought that San Diego is going to need to take action on a local basis to cover the loss of funds for the public transit system. He didn't think the transit system would survive if state and federal funds are continuously diverted from public transportation.

Chair Sessom recognized Tijuana Mayor Kurt Honold and La Mesa Councilmember Mark Arapostathis.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

2. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER HON. LUIS CABRERA C.,  
CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO (INFORMATION)

Chair Sessom asked Mexican Consul General Luis Cabrera to join her at the lectern. She announced that he has recently been appointed as Mexico's Ambassador to South Africa and is leaving San Diego next week. Consul General Cabrera has served as Mexico's representative to our San Diego region since January 2004. We are here to recognize his leadership and his support of San Diego. He has been an active member of the SANDAG Board, the Borders Committee, and served as co-Chair of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO). Three years ago, SANDAG was exploring ways to enhance activities with our neighbors to the south. We have prepared, jointly with Tijuana, our first binational Otay Mesa Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the SANDAG Board of Directors on September 28, and it will be presented to the City of Tijuana in October. Our region also is moving toward the opening of a third border crossing at Otay Mesa East. We could not have accomplished all of this without Consul General Cabrera's guidance and support. She stated that we will miss him, and she wished him luck in South Africa. She presented him with a plaque of recognition.

Ambassador Cabrera stated that it has been said all U.S.-Mexican relationships make their way to this border. Now, after this time period, he can certainly agree. San Diego-Tijuana is one region. Every day the border witnesses an immense flow of vehicles and people. In order to manage this dynamic flow there must be a dynamic partnership. In collaboration with institutions like SANDAG, we prove everyday that this is possible. During this time, he has had the opportunity to be involved in these partnerships. SANDAG is a great promoter of such efforts and is a key player to improve the quality of life for this region. He said that it has been an honor to act as an advisory member on the SANDAG Board of Directors. He expressed his deepest gratitude to the Board members for allowing him to be part of these significant efforts. He wished the Board the best and said he hoped to see them in South Africa.

Councilmember Crystal Crawford (Del Mar) expressed a word of personal thanks to Consul General Cabrera. She said that he came at a time when the Borders Committee was trying to reach out to make a difference in the relationship between the San Diego region and Mexico. Consul General Cabrera has done so much for us. He introduced us to new folks, and he has a calm demeanor under fire, particularly with immigration issues over the years. He will be a wonderful representative of his country to South Africa. It has been a unique honor for her to be a friend to him and his wife, Rita.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

## REPORT

### 3. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT 2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DISCUSSION)

Mike Hix, Principal Planner, reported that the Draft 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was released on June 22 by the Board, followed by the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on August 21. Five public workshops were held around the region. In October, staff will come back with a summary of all of the comments received on the Draft RTP and EIR, along with any proposed changes to the documents. The final Draft RTP and EIR will be submitted to the Board for consideration at its November 30 meeting.

Chair Sessom commented that the Board has seen these documents many times.

Chair Sessom opened the public hearing at 10:26 a.m.

Dagmar Landel, a member of the public who resides in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Encinitas, said she supports the freeway expansion as outlined in the Draft RTP. However, she was concerned about the noise impacts, particularly through Cardiff and Encinitas. She noted that there are several sensitive noise receptors in close proximity to the Interstate 5 freeway. She recommended that rubberized asphalt concrete be used in this segment as it will provide noise reduction.

Tom Bartley, member of San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, acknowledged the recent success of the 511 traffic information system and the Draft RTP. He agreed that San Diego cannot build its way out of congestion. The planned

coastal rail projects are commendable for increasing efficient transportation of people and goods. He said it was not clear why a balanced road and transit plan is the best way to move forward. He found the draft plan had shortcomings; he felt that it did not adequately address the transportation needs for businesses and visitors or coordinate with the San Diego International Airport and other airports; he felt that more attention is needed for goods movement and better highway design in order to achieve reduced air pollution and energy use; and he felt the Draft RTP lacks a border transportation strategy for moving people and goods and that a more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly component and public/private partnerships should be part of the plan. He suggested that 1 percent of annual *TransNet* funding be used for innovative demonstration projects.

Duncan McFetridge, representing SOFAR (Save Our Forests and Ranchlands), asked if the RTP leads us to a sustainable future. He said that we need to think globally and act locally. He stated that SOFAR is deeply concerned about the end product of this plan. The RTP has assumptions that result in all of the alternatives being the same. He asked that the Board review these assumptions. He said that the new RTP is based on an independent transit peer review and smart growth concept. He commented that if we had transit-based communities we could get our entire population into 30 square miles, and then we wouldn't have to subdivide our open space and environmental land and destroy our air and water. He acknowledged that SANDAG does not have land use power.

Sarah Turitto, a member of the public who lives in Cardiff, said that mass transit has been a concern of hers since she moved here in 1973. She is a proponent of bus rapid transit (BRT) and the State Route 78 interchange expansion but is opposed to toll roads. She feels that the voters did not expect to pay tolls when they voted for *TransNet*. She also suggested that these kinds of public meetings be held in the evenings so that more members of the public can attend them.

Chair Sessom noted that we have had regional meetings on the RTP on various days and in the evening hours for public testimony.

Second Vice Chair Jerome Stocks (Encinitas) noted that the first RTP workshop was at the Encinitas Community Center after 5 p.m.

Jay Powell, representing the City Heights Community Development Corporation, provided comments related to the I-5 Centerline Rapid Transit project in the City Heights area. They are engaged in a process to move forward with this project. They held a Centerline forum to talk about requirements and progress on this portion of the I-15 freeway. He appreciates the fact that we can bring transportation issues to SANDAG. We had people participate in the scoping for the Draft RTP EIR. Those are the official comments and participation from Mid-City and City Heights' residents and businesses that would like to see the project completed. The community members raised concerns about air quality issues and efforts to divert truck traffic through the area, as we have an elementary school there. We would like to continue to work in partnership. This RTP talks about transit-oriented development and smart growth, and we have made those investments and look forward to completed, needed projects to support the developments.

Dave Nielsen, representing Pardee Homes, noted that there was a letter in the agenda package that expressed their concern about the potential adverse community and

environmental effects of the new, lower priority assigned to the widening of SR 56 from four to six lanes, and completion of two high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes. They are looking forward to working with staff on this.

Don Billings, a member of the public, said that the RTP is a testament that the planning process is broken. It ought to be that only solutions that meet the most stringent cost-benefit test should be pursued. The plan calls for building a large number of carpool lanes and the Mid-Coast Trolley line, when buses will do the job more efficiently and at less cost. It calls for spending to expand the old, heavy diesel railroad that goes through coastal areas. It doesn't solve the problem of congestion on I-5. He stated that the coastal zone does not have the density to make these alternatives pay. Double tracking along the coast will damage environmental areas. He recommended undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of all alternatives.

Sharon Feierahban, a member of the public residing in Del Mar, stated that the list of consequences noted in the EIR is not acceptable to the residents of Del Mar. Environmental impacts to the business district in the City of Del Mar will threaten the future of that city. Citizens of Del Mar have been working for more than 20 years to produce a major environmental enhancement with the San Elijo Lagoon and an open space park from Del Mar to Escondido. San Diego beaches and the ocean are severely polluted due to sewage leaks. Del Mar residents will not accept a tunnel and disruption of the last lagoons that run to the ocean. She asked if written notices of these public hearings are sent.

Chair Sessom stated that we advertise and provide advance notice of all public hearings. She concluded the public hearing at 10:42 a.m.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Cheryl Cox (Chula Vista) and second by Mayor Ron Morrison (National City), the SANDAG Board of Directors voted to close the public hearing on the Draft 2007 RTP and Draft EIR for the RTP.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, Caltrans District 11 Director, noted that last week the California Transportation Commission (CTC) held a special meeting because the state budget had not been approved. At the special meeting, the CTC voted to approve funds for SR 52. We are now moving forward with the bidding process and hope to see equipment moving out there by the first of next year.

#### 4. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2007, at 9 a.m

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

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## ATTENDANCE SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

JURISDICTION/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	ATTENDING
City of Carlsbad	Matt Hall (Member)	Yes
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Cox (Member)	Yes
City of Coronado	Phil Monroe (Member)	Yes
City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford (Member)	Yes
City of El Cajon	Mark Lewis (Member)	Yes
City of Encinitas	Jerome Stocks, 2nd Vice Chair (Member)	Yes
City of Escondido	Lori Holt Pfeiler, 1st Vice Chair (Member)	Yes
City of Imperial Beach	Jim Janney (Member)	Yes
City of La Mesa	Mark Arapostathis (2nd Alternate)	Yes
City of Lemon Grove	Mary Sessom, Chair (Member)	Yes
City of National City	Ron Morrison (Member)	?
City of Oceanside	James Wood (Member)	No
City of Poway	Mickey Cafagna (Member)	Yes
City of San Diego - A	Jerry Sanders (Member A)	No
City of San Diego - B	Toni Atkins (Member B)	Yes
City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond (Member)	Yes
City of Santee	Jack Dale (Member)	Yes
City of Solana Beach	Lesia Heebner (Member)	Yes
City of Vista	Judy Ritter (Member)	Yes
County of San Diego - A	Ron Roberts (Member A)	Yes
County of San Diego - B	Bill Horn (Member B)	Yes
Caltrans	Pedro Orso-Delgado (Alternate)	Yes
MTS	Harry Mathis (Member)	Yes
NCTD	Ed Gallo (Member)	Yes
Imperial County	Victor Carrillo (Member)	No
US Dept. of Defense	CAPT Steve Wirshing (Member)	No
SD Unified Port District	Sylvia Rios (Member)	No
SD County Water Authority	Marilyn Dailey (Member)	Yes
Baja California/Mexico	Luis Cabrera Cuaron (Member)	Yes
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Robert H. Smith (Member)	No