

San Diego Association of Governments

BORDERS COMMITTEE

February 22, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2008

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 12:32 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember John Minto (East County) and a second by Councilmember Jack Feller (North County Coastal), the Borders Committee approved the minutes from the November 30, 2007 meeting.

Councilmember Tony Young (City of San Diego) recused himself stating he did not read the minutes.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no public comments/communications.

CONSENT ITEMS (#3 through #4)

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL'S (CBC) "BIODIVERSITY ALONG THE BORDER" COMMITTEE (INFORMATION)

4. UPDATE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE (INFORMATION)

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Minto and a second by Councilmember Feller, the Borders Committee approved Consent Items #3 through #4.

Councilmember Young recused himself stating he did not read the Consent Items.

REPORT ITEMS (#5 through #7)

5. COMMENTS ON THE SAN YSIDRO PORT OF ENTRY (POE) RECONFIGURATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT (REVIEW/ACCEPT)

Hector Vanegas, Program Manager, reported on the proposed changes cited in the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Conceptual Master Plan for the San Ysidro POE Reconfiguration and Expansion Project.

Councilmember Feller asked where Camiones Way was located.

Mr. Vanegas indicated that presently, Camiones Way is located adjacent to the San Ysidro POE's pedestrian crossing. The GSA is considering either relocating Camiones Way or providing an alternate route that would connect to Virginia Avenue.

Vice Chair, Greg Cox (County of San Diego) asked if the double-stacking of lanes could result in having 58 lanes at the border.

Mr. Vanegas stated it would be possible; however, the issue of double stacking is still being reviewed.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, District Director (Caltrans) commented that there is a possibility that all lanes at the POE be retrofitted with double-stacking inspection booths, but the inspection capacity increases only 40 to 50 percent.

Vice Chair Cox asked if this would affect SENTRI lanes.

Mr. Vanegas said all lanes would be retrofitted to make them compatible with SENTRI and other technologies.

Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) asked for clarification on construction commencement.

Mr. Vanegas stated that an additional \$160 million was allocated and as a result, the GSA may begin construction on portions of the project while environmental documents are being prepared.

Councilmember Monroe expressed concern that if the Project is bifurcated, it may not result in a complete environmental document.

Gary Gallegos, Executive Director (SANDAG), commented that without knowing the details, a possibility exists that some parts of the Project might be constructed under a categorical exemption.

Cindy Gompper-Graves (COBRO) stated she had various concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing and requested support from the Borders Committee and SANDAG in the following areas: increasing shelter from the elements for pedestrian crossers in areas at the border,

assessing the impacts on South County businesses due to the rerouting of southbound traffic through the Chaparral gate and determining the types of infrastructure and mitigation necessary for impacted business.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) said in reference to the Project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR), it is possible that a program-level EIR for the entire Project exists, with project-level EIRs for the subsets. Also, it is assumed that elements of the Project under categorical exemption would not have a negative impact on the EIR.

Mr. Gallegos added that it is possible they are examining stand-alone elements of the Project, which can be done in advance.

Councilmember Monroe expressed concern regarding the remaining unresolved issues relating to the Project and the possibility that alternatives might be precluded by beginning construction before the whole Project has been approved.

Mr. Gallegos said the level of controversy usually drives the decisions whether the items in a project should require a categorical exemption or a complete EIR.

Chair McCoy commented on the potential problems, positioning of the new pedestrian bridge, and asked if it was due to Homeland Security issues.

Mr. Vanegas replied that the current positioning of the pedestrian bridge posed several public safety issues and a risk to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) operations. He said that the SANDAG letter to the GSA supported the creation of a southbound pedestrian access to be located at the eastern portion of the port, which would decrease the need to use the pedestrian bridge at San Ysidro.

Mike Daney, Senior Transit Planner, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) stated that MTS supports SANDAG's comments made to the GSA and provided a summary of comments by MTS to the Committee.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Minto and a second by Councilmember Feller, the Borders Committee reviewed and accepted comments on the San Ysidro Reconfiguration and Expansion Master Plan for submittal to the U.S. GSA.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN (DISCUSSION)

6a) Recent Actions on the Future Otay Mesa East – Otay II POE and Connecting Roads (Discussion)

Mark Baza, Caltrans Project Manager for the State Route 11 (SR 11) Otay Mesa East Project, updated the Committee on activities, accomplishments, progress, and next steps relating to the proposed Project, which would connect to the SR 125 and SR 905 interchange.

Mr. Orso-Delgado noted that Caltrans would be awarding the job to construct the first phase of SR 905 next week.

Mr. Gallegos added that within a few weeks, it is expected that Senator Duchenev will introduce legislation regarding tolling of the road.

Consul Lydia Antonio (Consulate General of Mexico) reported on Mexico's efforts. She stated that the Project is currently being planned by city and state urban planning agencies. These agencies have reserved the land for the future POE. Just recently, Baja California Governor Osuna presented a letter of support to Mr. Orso-Delgado, which would be included in the Presidential Permit application. Also, the feasibility study has been completed and will be presented to U.S. federal agencies and Caltrans at the end of January. Mexico is presently considering a public-private partnership as a means to finance the Project.

Mr. Gallegos remarked that some of the biggest challenges will be in funding a secure high-level of service, staff, and technology at the facility.

Councilmember Feller requested further clarification regarding the toll road and the use of infrastructure market funds.

Mr. Gallegos responded that after analysis, it was decided that the road would be tolled in order to generate revenue. Having the authority to toll would then allow entrance into the infrastructure investment market, which would permit immediate construction of the facility and reimbursement to occur over time.

Councilmember Monroe asked if the toll would encompass both funding for the third border crossing and the road.

Mr. Gallegos stated that the toll would include both and a feasibility study found tolling of both cars and trucks to be very viable.

Councilmember Monroe expressed concern regarding the possibility of both countries charging separate tolls.

Mr. Gallegos said an effort will be made to use electronic methods such as transponders in order to facilitate the process and make the experience as customer-friendly as possible.

Mr. Orso-Delgado added that they are presently considering combining the U.S. and Mexico financial feasibility studies in order to facilitate the process when presenting the information to the infrastructure investment market.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

6b) Status of the City of San Diego's Otay Mesa Community Plan Update (Discussion)

Theresa Millette, Senior Planner (City of San Diego) informed on goals of the Otay Mesa Community Plan update, its draft land use scenarios 4a and 4b, and "next steps" for the process.

Kenn Morris, on behalf of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alejandra Mier y Teran, provided comments on the draft scenarios and recommendations on the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update.

Vice Chair, Greg Cox (County of San Diego) asked if the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce opposed both Scenarios 4a and 4b. He also asked if the Chamber had taken positions on any of the other three scenarios.

Mr. Morris stated that the Chamber opposed both scenarios 4a and 4b and recommended an alternative modified Scenario 3, which would be the closest alternative to meet the needs of the Otay Mesa Chamber members.

Vice Chair Cox asked if the focus of modified Scenario 3 was to maximize the industrial zoned land.

Mr. Morris said the modified Scenario 3 would maximize the remaining available industrial land in Otay Mesa while also minimizing any potential co-location problems that might occur from commercial/residential developments adjacent to the industrial land or adjacent to the truck routes.

Councilmember Minto expressed concern regarding the impacts on public safety.

Bill Anderson, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Land Use and Economic Development (City of San Diego), stated an evaluation is presently taking place in the EIR and the analysis of the plan alternatives. He said the City would have policies in place to mitigate or minimize public safety impacts. He informed on recent meetings between the City and the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce to address project concerns.

Councilmember Ed Gallo (North County Inland) asked for clarification regarding the term "No Project."

Mary Wright, Deputy Director of Planning and Community Investment (City of San Diego) explained that "No Project" refers to the existing community plan plus projects that have been developed in the intervening time between 1981 and the current time.

Councilmember Gallo asked if it would be possible for Otay Mesa be incorporated as a separate city.

Mr. Anderson replied it would not.

Councilmember Gallo asked for clarification regarding household size for the area.

Ms. Millette informed a household survey was conducted which yielded 3.5 for a single-family home and 3.9 for a multi-family home.

Mr. Anderson added that household size in this part of the city is much higher than the city-wide average.

Mr. Gallo asked if there is not enough room to build more homes.

Mr. Anderson said the average household size is reduced once more multi-family housing is introduced.

Cindy Gompper-Graves (COBRO) asked if the truck route on Britannia was being moved to La Media.

Ms. Millette answered that it is being considered.

Ms. Gompper-Graves expressed concern that the traffic impacts would prohibit the development of a cross-border terminal.

Ms. Millette responded that due to the appropriation of funds for improvements to the Britannia interchange, Caltrans would have to be consulted.

Councilmember Monroe asked if there was an airport compatibility plan.

Mr. Anderson said they have been working closely with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority on the coordination, and they have reviewed the drafts of the plans and they are compatible.

Councilmember Young reported that the Airport Authority and stakeholders from the area are working together on a plan to ensure compatibility.

Councilmember Monroe asked if high paying employment lands would be reduced in the recommended plan.

Mr. Anderson said in order to have flexibility, some land would be converted to heavy commercial which allows for commercial and warehousing distribution, and some would be for business services, technology, and other higher density employment uses.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

6c) U.S. – Mexico Environmental Program Implementation and Mid-Term Report: 2007 (Information)

Tomas Torres, Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency San Diego Border Office, presented environmental activities and accomplishments along the border and the Border 2012 Program.

Mr. Gallegos inquired if scrap tires referred to in the presentation had been used for asphalt.

Mr. Torres replied that the tires were not of the high-quality rubber necessary for asphalt.

Chairman Victor Carrillo (Imperial County) reported the New River is the second most polluted river in the U.S. Funding was provided to Mexico for improvements, however, there have been no significant cleanup efforts on the American side of the river since the 1940s. The City of Calexico intends to encase the river in the future.

Vice Chair Cox suggested that in order to connect with all the U.S. border counties, Mr. Torres should get together with Chairman Carrillo as he is on the Executive Committee of the U.S./Mexico Border Counties Coalition.

Chair McCoy asked for the name of the representative on the Border Counties Coalition.

Chairman Carrillo said it was Eric Jordan.

Councilmember Monroe relayed his experiences while touring the New River.

Mr. Torres responded the reality is that there are 15 million gallons of sewage less going into the river, which is a significant accomplishment. There are still other pollutants, however, like industrial pollutants and animal waste from local slaughter houses.

Supervisor Slater-Price requested that Item 7 on proposed scrap tire conversion be presented soon.

Chair McCoy explained that Item 7 was deferred as Councilmember Hueso was unable to attend the meeting and that it will be presented at a future meeting.

Regarding the Tijuana estuary, Chair McCoy suggested that a loan provide to plumb the western areas of Tijuana in order to improve water quality.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

7. UPDATE ON PROPOSED SCRAP TIRE CONVERSION PROJECT (INFORMATION)

Action: This item was postponed.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, February 22, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Attachment: 1. Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2008
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	
				Yes	No
South County	City of Imperial Beach	Patricia McCoy (Chair)	Member	✓	
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	✓	
Imperial County	County of Imperial	Victor Carrillo	Member	✓	
	City of Calexico	David Ouzan	Alternate		✓
North County Coastal	City of Oceanside	Jack Feller	Member	✓	
	City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford	Alternate		✓
North County Inland	City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond	Member		✓
	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Alternate	✓	
East County	City of La Mesa	David Allan	Member		✓
	City of Santee	John Minto	Alternate	✓	
City of San Diego	----	Ben Hueso	Member		✓
	----	Toni Atkins	Alternate		✓
	----	Tony Young	2 nd Alternate	✓	
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member	✓	
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	✓	

ADVISORY/ LIAISON MEMBERS

COBRO	----	Dr. Paul Ganster	Member		✓
	----	Cindy Gompper-Graves	Alternate	✓	
	---	Angelika Villagrana	Alternate	✓	
County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	Thomas Buckley	Member		✓
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Remedios Gomez-Arnau	Member		✓
	Deputy Consul General of	Ricardo Pineda	Alternate		✓
	Consul	Lydia Antonio	Alternate	✓	
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Pauma	Chris Devers	Member		✓
	Mesa Grande	Mark Romero	Alternate		✓
Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	✓	
	----	Bill Figge	Alternate	✓	
San Diego County Water	----	Howard Williams	Member	✓	
County of Orange	----	Debbie Cook	Member		✓