FUNDING LOCAL ROADS: SANDAG Directors are kicking in $35 million to help pay for seven local road projects in the Cities of San Diego, San Marcos, and Chula Vista, and in the county between Vista and San Marcos. The City of San Diego gets $4.4 million to modify the interchange at Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and State Route 163. San Diego also gets nearly $7 million to widen El Camino Real north of State Route 56 between Del Mar and Solana Beach. In addition, SANDAG is contributing nearly $1 million of the $5.4 million total cost for widening Genesee Avenue between Campus Point Drive and Interstate 5. In the North County, San Marcos gets $10.2 million to help construct a new interchange at Las Posas Road and State Route 78. San Marcos also will receive $4 million to fund the widening of Rancho Santa Fe Road between Island and Melrose Drives. SANDAG is allocating $1.5 million to the County of San Diego to help pay for the $21 million widening of South Santa Fe Avenue paralleling State Route 78 between Montgomery Lane and Smilax Road. This road project will help commuters traveling between Vista and San Marcos. In Chula Vista, SANDAG is contributing $7 million for improvements to the $28 million interchange at Olympic Parkway and Interstate 805. SANDAG Directors used agreed upon criteria to select which road projects received funding. The agency received requests to fund 19 local road projects from its member cities and county government totaling more than $80 million. Road projects were ranked based on project readiness, congestion relief, regional benefit, bicycle/pedestrian use, and adherence to smart growth design principles. (Item #11: Staff contact, Richard Chavez, (619) 595-5604 or rch@sandag.org)

PLAN TO EXTEND THE TransNet PROGRAM: November 2004 appears to be the most opportune time currently to place a countywide ballot before the voters to seek their approval for an extension of the TransNet half percent local transportation sales tax. Directors approved an action plan and timetable to build support from both the public and private sectors to extend TransNet. Since its inception in 1988, TransNet has generated more than $2 billion with another $1.3 billion to be collected and used to fund transportation improvements through 2008. TransNet is helping pay for more than 60 miles of upgraded and new highways, the addition of 35 miles to the trolley system, 65 miles of commuter rail service, and bus and dial-a-ride services throughout the region. In addition, TransNet helps each of the region’s 18 cities and county communities improve and maintain local roads. TransNet also provides $1 million a year to help pay for bicycle projects. (Item #12: Staff contact, Craig Scott, (619) 595-5326 or csc@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: Construction on key transportation system improvements continue on major highway and transit projects in the region. Construction activity on the Mission Valley East Trolley extension will accelerate at SDSU during the summer break with tunnel and station excavations underway. . . Station modifications and improvements continue at San Ysidro and East Village trolley stations with construction scheduled for completion in 2003. . . Groundbreaking on the I-15/SR56 interchange is scheduled in July. The construction contract for the remaining stretch of SR 56 between I-5 and I-15 will
Upcoming Board Meeting
June 28, 2002

Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Election of SANDAG Board Officers

Regional Governance: Two companion bills authored by Senator Steve Peace (SB 1703) and Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (AB 2095) continue to progress through the California legislature. The bills, when enacted, would create the San Diego Regional Agency to strengthen how regional public policy decisions are made. As currently drafted, the bills would mandate membership in the regional agency from the area’s 18 cities and county government, develop a regional plan to better coordinate and integrate regional and local general and community plans, and provide a process to get major agreed to transportation projects built even over the objections of a single jurisdiction. The bills would consolidate transit planning, programming, project development, and construction into the new agency, leaving responsibilities for transit operations with MTDB and NCTD. In discussing the proposed board for the new San Diego Regional Agency, SANDAG Directors agreed to a permanent weighted voting system requiring both a majority of the agencies voting, and representing a majority of the population to approve a motion where a quorum is present. The City of San Diego would have two representatives on the San Diego Regional Agency Board. SANDAG Directors recommend that the new agency may decide when a public vote on changing or expanding the authority of the Regional Agency would occur. (Item #10: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP): Directors accepted for distribution the Draft 2002 RTIP. The $4.4 billion program proposes major highway, road, transit, and non-motorized projects in the region. Directors will consider adopting the final 2002 RTIP at the June 28 Board Meeting. (Item #6: Staff contact, Sookyung Kim, (619) 595-5350 or ski@sandag.org)

Public Opinion Survey: Affordable housing, traffic congestion, beach pollution, better public transportation, and reducing border wait times top the list of concerns expressed by residents in a recent regionwide telephone survey. However, in the informational report presented to SANDAG, most residents (92%) said that they are satisfied with the region as a place to live. Residents also said that flexible work hours and telecommuting are good approaches to help relieve traffic. The entire survey and its results can be obtained from the SANDAG Web site at www.sandag.org, under publications. (Item #15: Staff contact, Karen Lamphere, (619) 595-5355, or kla@sandag.org.)

Regional Fair Housing Planning: Directors voted to support participation in the upcoming Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to be completed by 2005. Directors also support continuing regional cooperation and activities to eliminate impediments to fair housing choice. (Item #13: Staff contact, Susan Baldwin, (619) 595-5343 or sba@sandag.org)

FY 2003 Program Budget: Directors adopted a SANDAG Program Budget of $261,389,350 for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. The projected funding level represents a two percent increase from the current actual FY 2002 SANDAG and TransNet Program Budgets. This increase is primarily due to projected increases in TransNet sales tax revenues for the coming year. Of the $261 million, about 95 percent are funds that will be used for transportation improvements throughout the San Diego region. (Item #14: Staff contact, Wayne Sink, (619) 595-5340 or wsi@sandag.org)

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If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (619) 595-5300 or facsimile at (619) 595-5305.