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# BOARD ACTIONS

June 28, 2002

**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**

- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit Development Board
- North San Diego County Transit Development Board
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Tijuana/Baja California/Mexico

**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 on January 1, 2003 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 regional and local general and community plans, consolidate all of SANDAG's functions and the planning, programming, project development and construction responsibilities of MTDB and NCTD, and provide a process to get major transportation projects built even over the objections of a local jurisdiction. Directors agreed that the transportation override provision should be brought to the voters in March 2004 for their approval prior to vesting this responsibility with the new regional agency. *(Item #10: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)*

**TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS:** The summer months bring a host of construction activity on the region's transportation system. The bridge over I-8 for the Mission Valley East Trolley line takes shape with the main pillars now constructed on the north and south sides of the freeway. The final construction contract for the SR 56 project will be announced in July with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled this summer. And, residents continue to join vanpools, with a 19 percent increase in the number of vanpools on the roads over the last six months (from 172 to 204). . . *(Item #11: Staff contact Jose Nuncio, (619) 595-5619 or jnu@sandag.org)*. . . Directors adopted the 2002 Regional Transportation Improvement Program which programs \$4.5 billion in funding for highway, transit, arterial, and non-motorized projects in the region. *(Item #23: Staff contact, Sookyung Kim, (619) 595-5350 or ski@sandag.org)*

**WALKABLE COMMUNITIES:** Directors approved the Pedestrian Design Guidelines developed through the SANDAG Walkable Communities working group. The guidelines will be included in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan to help jurisdictions implement smart growth planning. *(Item #26: Staff contact, Stephan Vance, (619) 595-5324, sva@sandag.org.)*

**HIGHWAY NOISE BARRIERS:** Directors approved funding for highway noise barriers along three stretches of freeway in the region. Funds will be allocated from the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program and subject to a "use it or lose it" policy established by the Board. The projects are two on I-5 in Oceanside and one in La Mesa on SR 94. *(Item #10: Staff contact: Richard Chavez, (619) 595-5604 or rch@sandag.org)*

**UPCOMING BOARD  
MEETINGS**

**Policy Meeting  
July 12, 2002**

Regional Energy Strategy

**Board Meeting  
August 2, 2002**

(July Board Meeting moved  
to this date)

- Preliminary Draft 2030  
Regional Transportation  
Plan
- Draft Congestion  
Management Program
- Update on Regional  
Comprehensive Plan
- Allocation of *TransNet*  
Transit Funds

**STATE ROUTE 125:** The southern section of SR 125, which will link SR 54 to the Otay Mesa Port of Entry, is being constructed as a toll road by a private company, California Transportation Ventures (CTV). Additionally, Caltrans is contracting with CTV to construct the SR 54/125 Gap and Connector projects. Directors approved a request from CTV for an additional \$8.36 million to fund cost increases on the Gap and Connector projects. The two highway segments are located between SR 54 and the Sweetwater segment of SR 125, and from the SR 125 toll road, north to SR 54. The additional funding covers higher costs for right-of-way, water quality monitoring, and inflation adjustments. Total cost of the project is now \$138.58 million. The new route is scheduled to open to traffic by 2005. *(Item #25: Staff contact, Dean Hiatt, (619) 595-5378, or dhi@sandag.org.)*

**SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS INDICATORS:** More of the region's residents need the opportunity to share in the region's economic prosperity if we are to maintain our competitiveness with other metropolitan areas around the country. This is one of the major findings of a new SANDAG economic report, *San Diego's Indicators of Sustainable Competitiveness*, which Directors accepted for distribution for public review and comment. The competitive edge, according to the findings, will go to regions in which social equity, environmental quality, and economic vitality are balanced. The analysis, completed with the help of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, reveals the region is at an economic disadvantage because of our inequities. As part of the analysis, SANDAG has developed a "sustainable competitiveness index" to measure the region's progress in the areas of the environment, the economy, and equity. The index compares San Diego to 20 other metropolitan regions. *(Item #27: Staff contact, Marney Cox, (619) 595-5335, or mco@sandag.org.)*

**COBRO CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE:** The annual Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) Conference will be held July 19, 2002. This year's conference will address *Border Infrastructure Needs and Financing: Challenges and Opportunities*. *(Item #19B: Staff contact, Hector Vanegas, (619) 595-5372 or hva@sandag.org)*

**NEW BOARD OFFICERS:** Directors elected National City Councilman Ron Morrison as SANDAG Chairman for the period July, 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. Morrison succeeds Carlsbad Councilwoman Ramona Finnilla, who has chaired the SANDAG Board of Directors for the past two consecutive years. Directors also elected Poway Mayor Mickey Cafagna to serve as Vice Chairman. *(Item #21: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)*

**OTHER ACTIONS:** The Board approved a resolution supporting a federal appropriation to keep Amtrak operating. . . Mayor Juan Vargas visited from Tecate, Mexico. . . Directors recognized Capt Gary Engle for his past two years as a representative from the Department of Defense. Capt. Engle is leaving for a new assignment in Virginia. . . And, COBRO's, Michael Bixler, was recognized for his last six years of leadership as committee chair.