

San Diego Association of Governments

BORDERS COMMITTEE

November 21, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2008

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 12:31 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair McCoy requested permission to introduce Item# 8 before Item# 5. The Committee agreed by consensus.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Greg Cox (County of San Diego) and a second by Deputy Mayor Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal), the Borders Committee approved the minutes from the July 25, 2008, meeting. Councilmember John Minto (East County) abstained.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair McCoy introduced and welcomed Julia Coleman, Associate Legal Counsel (SANDAG).

Councilmember Ben Hueso (City of San Diego) updated the Committee on a meeting of the United States – Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Group, comprised of both Mexican and U.S. government officials, on the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration Project. He presented the Committee's concerns regarding pedestrian and transit circulation and he felt very confident that they are in the process of developing a new configuration, which will be more transit and pedestrian user friendly.

Chair McCoy thanked Councilmember Hueso, commenting it was a troublesome issue for most Committee members.

Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) agreed it was good news. He asked if the southbound pedestrian crossing on the east side was included.

Councilmember Hueso responded it had been considered, and that the Committee's comments were really taken to heart. The process will likely take place in phases, including improvements to the current bridge on the Mexican side. It will also explore the possibility of having a connection on both the east side and west sides, which will allow people direct access into Mexico. Those taking the trolley will enter into a new pedestrian area on the

Mexican side. Mexico is also working toward having potential linkage to rail on both sides of the border. Councilmember Hueso assured the Committee both parties are working hard to turn this into a very positive development for pedestrians at the border.

CONSENT ITEMS (#3 through #4)

3. REPORT ON THE TRIPLE BORDER FENCE (INFORMATION)
4. UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION BORDER CONGESTION RELIEF PROGRAM (INFORMATION)

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

REPORT ITEMS (#5 through #8)

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2008 BINATIONAL SEMINAR "SMART GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY ON THE BORDER: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AMONG STRATEGIC PARTNERS" (ACCEPT/RECOMMEND)

Vice Mayor Crawford presented a PowerPoint highlighting the 2008 Binational Seminar, held in June, which was very well attended by individuals from several different agencies on both sides of the border. She gave a brief summary of the seminar participants and what took place. Presentations were made from the various planning institutes and agencies and a roundtable discussion allowed panelists to comment on issues related to crossborder development. A question and answer period was held at the end of the seminar, which has been posted on the COBRO page of the SANDAG Web site.

Angelika Villagrana, (San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, representing the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities, COBRO) thanked Vice Mayor Crawford for moderating the seminar. She informed that COBRO Chair Dr. Paul Ganster formed a subcommittee to review the outcomes, recommendations, and comments made at the seminar. Their first recommendation was to explore the feasibility of developing a map of the regional transportation infrastructure of both the San Diego region and the municipality of Tijuana through 2010. The map would allow a better awareness of where all the transportation infrastructure and border links were located and interconnected, along with assisting with future planning activities on both sides of the border. Their second recommendation was to develop a map of existing and planned water, sewer, energy, natural gas, and other infrastructure in both the San Diego and Tijuana region. Their third recommendation was to begin investigation immediately towards gathering data for the development of a baseline on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on both sides of the border. The fourth recommendation was for SANDAG to accept the invitation to become a permanent Advisory Board Member of Tijuana's Municipal Planning Institute, IMPlan (Tijuana's municipal planning agency) in order to facilitate collaboration with Mexico.

Ms. Villagrana commented the proposed map containing the regional transportation infrastructure, GHG emission data, and other planning efforts could be included in the next update of the Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. Another issue which came up at the seminar was to discuss best practices of borders around the world such as in Singapore, Bilbao, Cordoba, and Bogota.

Deputy Mayor Crawford requested further information regarding the IMPlan meetings.

Elisa Arias, Principal Planner (SANDAG), responded IMPlan's Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis in Tijuana, and staffing options will be brought back to the Borders Committee for their consideration next month.

Deputy Mayor Crawford added the Board of Directors would want to know all of the factors related to staffing the IMPlan meetings such as how it will be staffed, what the level of commitment will be, and how it will be funded.

Mayor Jim Desmond (North County Inland) stated he would like to know the costs involved also before he approved the recommendations.

Chair McCoy said those should be included in the recommendation for acceptance.

Ms. Arias informed some SANDAG and IMPlan in-house resources will be used to begin some of the mapping efforts, especially on the transportation side. There are not sufficient resources in the current fiscal year for GHG emission data gathering. Resources will be proposed for consideration by the Board for Fiscal Year 2010. At this point, the recommendation is to explore the feasibility of conducting this work, and then options for the Committee's consideration will be presented on whether we can move forward with the other items.

Mayor Desmond clarified that this is to explore the feasibility of implementing these recommendations.

Ms. Arias replied he was correct.

Chair McCoy commented particulate matter is an existing transborder issue that requires study as we have a shared air basin and we're going to be constrained with our own legislation on GHGs. Sitting down face to face with people from both sides of the border will help resolve these issues.

Councilmember Monroe said he was interested in the best practices at other borders and asked the Committee to also look at the European common market, which doesn't have a border in terms of stopping people.

Deputy Mayor Crawford moved to accept the COBRO recommendations and proceed with taking the item to the Board for further discussion. She reported she had a couple of more comments.

Chair McCoy seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Crawford commented the Borders Committee had worked on GHG and energy issues for some time. When the Borders Committee began meeting, the discussions on energy issues lead to the formation of the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG). The actions we take and programs we develop in concert with cities across the border can help us meet our AB 32 goals and objectives due to the shared air basin. The California Biodiversity Council meeting in March will focus on renewable energy and energy resources in the Imperial County area. She said she is encouraging the planners of that meeting to include issues in the crossborder region also as it provides another opportunity to educate other individuals from federal, state, and local agencies on what is happening in the border region.

Mayor Desmond said he favored moving forward and asked if the Committee is asking for the Board of Directors to look at the feasibility of the recommendations.

Chair McCoy replied yes, because it gets a wider forum and it's important to do that.

Mayor Desmond stated to look at the feasibility, not necessarily accept the recommendations "as is."

Chair McCoy said he was correct, and referred him to the grey highlighted section of Item #8 in which it says quite clearly, "...recommend approval by the Board of Directors with direction for staff to explore resources..."

Councilmember Hueso asked if moving forward with this process was one of the recommendations from the various stakeholders from the seminar.

Deputy Mayor Crawford clarified the purpose of the seminar in June was to inform and discuss issues of Smart Growth and Sustainability on the border. A summary of the seminar was presented to COBRO, and these recommendations were derived from COBRO's discussions of the results of the seminar.

Councilmember Hueso commented this will move the discussion forward in a formalized fashion.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said he was correct.

Action: Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Crawford, and a second by Chair McCoy the Borders Committee unanimously accepted the following recommendations from the 2008 Binational Seminar and recommended approval by the Board of Directors, with the direction for staff to explore resources in the FY 2010 Overall Work Program/Budget for their Implementation. 1) Explore the feasibility of developing a map of the regional transportation infrastructure of the San Diego Region and the Municipality of Tijuana through 2010; 2) Explore the feasibility of developing mapping of existing and planned water, sewer, energy, natural gas, and electrical infrastructure in the San Diego/Tijuana Region; 3) Evaluate coordination with the appropriate agencies on both sides of the border to investigate and gather existing baseline data on GHG emissions in the San Diego/Tijuana Region and corresponding target reductions. If baseline data on GHG emissions can be gathered by sector, create a graphic of the San Diego/Tijuana Region carbon footprint.

(Sectors may be defined as transportation, electricity, industrial, natural gas end uses, agriculture, and other waste); 4) Proceed with the appropriate arrangements for SANDAG to accept IMPlan's invitation to become its permanent advisory member on its Advisory Board; 5) When the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan is next updated, include a new action to incorporate coordination of Smart Growth and Climate Change planning efforts between the San Diego Region and Baja California; and 6) Explore opportunities for COBRO members to invite practitioners to discuss best practices at borders around the world to evaluate San Diego/Tijuana border crossings.

5. SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL COUNTY INTERSTATE 8 (I-8) CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN JOINT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER AMENDMENT (DISCUSSION)

Chair McCoy informed the Joint Policy Advisory Group's membership presently consists of herself, Councilmember Dave Allan from the City of La Mesa, and Councilmember John Minto from the City of Santee. A tribal government representative expressed interest in his nation's participation in the Joint Policy Advisory Group. Based on this request, the Policy Advisory Group requested staff to amend the Joint Policy Advisory Group Charter and present it to the Borders Committee for approval. The Borders Committee is asked to authorize San Diego – Imperial County I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan Joint Policy Advisory Group to appoint the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) as a designated representative to participate as a non-voting member of this advisory group. The proposed charter amendment would also allow the Policy Advisory Group's voting members to approve additional advisory members.

Councilmember Monroe informed the South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) recently received a federal grant, which included both counties, and asked if these two issues could be combined, or if they were two totally separate issues.

Mr. Vanegas said he was aware of the \$50,000 grant from the Department of Commerce and considering the possibilities of complementing the work and becoming incorporated as much as possible.

Councilmember Monroe stated it seemed initially the same work is being done in both organizations and efforts could be maximized if they were combined.

Mr. Vanegas concurred.

Councilmember Gallo remarked he has been an advocate for tribal participation in all borders discussions. He was glad to see tribal participation being added to this group and commented this probably should have been done from the very beginning.

Chair McCoy informed the group's next meeting will be October 31st in El Centro and most likely there will be an SCTCA representative attending.

Jane Clough-Riquelme, Senior Regional Planner and Tribal Liaison (SANDAG), reported SCTCA Board will be meeting on Wednesday October 29, 2008, and they will decide which tribe will represent them on the Joint Policy Committee.

Councilmember Dave Allan (East County) said he attended the first meeting, which was more or less a brainstorming opportunity, and the meeting on the 31st is an opportunity to go to Imperial County.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Minto and a second by Councilmember Hueso, the Borders Committee unanimously authorized the San Diego – Imperial County I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan Joint Policy Advisory Group to appoint the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) designated representative to participate as a non-voting member of this Advisory Group.

6. UPDATE ON THE SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL COUNTY INTERSTATE 8 (I-8) CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN (DISCUSSION)

Warren Whittaker (PMC) informed on the results of the recently completed interregional public survey. It was found that 70 percent of the commuters on the corridor resided in San Diego County; 60 percent of the residents reported the overall quality of life is "good" or "excellent" within the Imperial Valley; 85 percent of respondents rated access to nearby jobs is "fair" to "poor"; and, the lack of job opportunities was the primary reason that someone would consider moving out of the Imperial Valley. It was also found that traffic congestion is not perceived as a critical problem. Regarding how people would be willing to commute in the future, there is a definite interest in alternatives such as carpooling, vanpooling, ridesharing, and public transit.

Deputy Mayor Crawford recalled there were approximately 176,000 residents in Imperial County and asked if there were any updates to the numbers regarding population, housing permits, and new proposed residential housing. She also asked if there was any feedback regarding commuters' future commuting plans as they approach retirement age.

Mr. Whittaker replied the survey did not ask the specific question about future commuting plans; however, some of the attributes of the drivers showed they did tend to be older; were earning more money; and, have been doing the commute for several years. Regarding building permits, the number of permits has drastically slowed due to the lessened demand.

Deputy Mayor Crawford asked if her recollection of the county's population was correct.

Mr. Whittaker answered she was correct.

Chair McCoy informed the Committee that Supervisor Carrillo was scheduled to attend the meeting; however, due to a bereavement in the family he was not able to attend.

Councilmember Monroe reminded the Committee that this study began as a result of the work done on the I-15. He said the challenge now is to find actions to keep the corridor from becoming too congested.

Councilmember Gallo stated he had advocated for the I-8 study because the I-15 study was a reactive approach and he wanted to take a proactive approach. He said the goal now is to plan for the future instead of waiting for it to happen.

Chair McCoy commented on the recent news regarding the SDG&E PowerLink and how it may run down a portion of I-8. She said it's important to have this incorporated into the plans somehow.

Chair Pro Tem Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) stated the report actually said that no matter where it's located, it's a bad investment.

Chair McCoy clarified attention should be given to this item as the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will rule in November or December.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said she agreed on the need to stay ahead of the problem and include review of the changes to the border crossings in Imperial and East San Diego County.

Bill Figge, Deputy District Director of Planning (Caltrans), informed the other border crossings in Imperial County were Calexico and Calexico East.

Deputy Mayor Crawford asked if there were others even further east.

Mr. Figge answered another is Andrade, which is as far as the Arizona Border and then there's also discussion of what is called "Silicon Border" which would be in the Calexico area.

Deputy Mayor Crawford stated all of those areas should be included in the plan in order to study how San Diego and Imperial County are going to work together on the shipment of goods.

Mr. Figge commented an interesting statistic is that there is a much higher rideshare component in this corridor than others. From a future standpoint, there are a number of people that might be interested in carpooling or vanpooling, perhaps doubling the number of people that are even open to it. He suggested the next phase of the study be focused on GHG emissions and air quality issues.

Mr. Whittaker said he will present this information at the upcoming meetings of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Working Group.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

7. BORDERS COMMITTEE WORK ELEMENTS AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 (DISCUSSION)

Hector Vanegas briefed the Committee members on the roles and responsibilities of the Committee, provided an overview of the Committee's accomplishments during fiscal year 2008, and described the main activities included in the calendar of meetings.

Councilmember Monroe commented that the Committee should receive periodic reports on the eastern environmental corridor, which spans both sides of the border.

Deputy Mayor Crawford informed on a meeting regarding environmental and infrastructure issues relating to border crossings earlier. There was discussion of performing a programmatic EIR for the Otay Mesa crossing in order to obtain further information on the environmental issues.

Councilmember Monroe said this was not the actual area he was speaking of.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said it was Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative.

Councilmember Monroe reiterated the area should be in the plans somewhere.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said it hasn't been forgotten about and it is being worked on by the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) in order to keep discussions moving forward and preserve the habitat corridors.

Chair McCoy commented there are a lot of issues that are peripheral and unfortunately there's not the time, money, or staff time etc., to do these things. But it's not that we shouldn't get reports from time to time on issues that are of importance to us.

Councilmember Hueso asked what type of budgetary involvement the Committee will have in terms of Otay Mesa East Port of Entry.

Chief Deputy Executive Director Diane Eidam (SANDAG) said that the California legislature passed SB 1486 this last session, which establishes the SANDAG Board as the tolling authority; therefore, the SANDAG Board will be intricately involved in developing the financing approaches and taking the next steps to make the facility happen.

Councilmember Hueso asked if the Committee would be involved from a planning perspective.

Chief Deputy Executive Director Eidam responded the role of the PAC and the advice to the Board is something that would be brought back to the Borders Committee to discuss the possibilities and options based on direction from the SANDAG Board.

Councilmember Hueso said he would like to understand what the Committee's role is in order to ensure they have some level of participation.

Chair McCoy suggested perhaps something could be presented in the January meeting.

Mr. Figge updated the Committee on the status of SR 11 and Otay Mesa East Port of Entry. He said the program level document for the project has been approved, with the Record of Decision obtained in October. The Presidential Permit should be obtained within a couple of weeks. The next step for the project includes a project level environmental document, which includes details on the toll collection process.

Ms. Arias informed she attended a meeting of the Border Liaison Mechanism last month where there was discussion of a meeting to be hosted by the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations to discuss the possibility of a binational tolling agreement as a possible approach to the tolling project.

Councilmember Hueso said this could also be an opportunity to discuss the preservation of environmental lands also.

Chair McCoy said it was a great suggestion. She also informed on the tragedy, which took the lives of Commissioners Carlos Marin and Arturo Herrera, United States – Mexico International Boundary and Water Commission or IBWC.

Vice Chair Cox said hopefully by the next meeting the Presidential Permit will have been approved and suggested the Committee recognize and express its appreciation to Gary Gallegos and Pedro Orso-Delgado for their work in bringing this to fruition in such a short period of time and in such a professional manner.

Vice Chair Cox said they have through January 20th, but the key is to make sure we get it before otherwise it will be an extensive time before all the key positions are filled.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, November 21, 2008, at 12:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2008 - 12:30 p.m. 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 Del Mar	Crystal Crawford	Member	✓	
	City of Oceanside	Jack Feller	Alternate		✓
North County Inland	City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond	Member	✓	
	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Alternate	✓	
East County	City of Santee	John Minto	Member	✓	
	City of La Mesa	David Allan	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 Gompers-Graves	Alternate		✓
	—	Angelika Villagrana	Alternate	✓	
County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	Thomas Buckley	Member		✓

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	
				Yes	No
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Remedios Gomez-Arnau	Member		✓
	Deputy Consul General of Mexico	Martha Rosas	Alternate		✓
	Consul	Lydia Antonio	Alternate		✓
		Elvira Felix	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 Authority	-----	Howard Williams	Member	✓	
County of Orange	-----	Debbie Cook	Member		✓