SANDAG APPROVES FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST: Directors approved a list of transportation projects to submit to Congress for funding consideration during the FY 2010 federal transportation appropriations process. With possible passage of a federal economic stimulus package, and in light of the many competing needs that Congress is facing currently, it is likely that the funding levels for discretionary projects through the annual appropriations process will be limited. Staff worked with Caltrans, Metropolitan Transit System, and North County Transit District to develop the regional project list. (Item #5: Staff contact, Victoria Stackwick, (619) 699-6926 or vst@sandag.org)

DIRECTORS UPDATED ON MID-COAST TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT: Directors were updated on the status of the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project. The Mid-Coast Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative is a light rail transit alignment that will extend San Diego Trolley service from the Old Town Transit Center to University City, serving major activity centers such as the University of California, San Diego and University Towne Center. The current project development phase includes the preparation of an environmental document that will include: development and evaluation of alternatives; conducting public scoping for the environmental document; selection of alternatives for detailed analysis in the draft environmental document; preparation of the draft environmental document; preparation of the final environmental document; and approval of the final environmental document. Public scoping is anticipated to be conducted in spring 2009. During public scoping, environmental issues and alternatives proposed for detailed environmental analysis will be presented to the public and interested stakeholders for review and comment. (Item #15, Staff contact, Leslie Blanda, (619) 699-6907 or lbl@sandag.org)

DESTINATION LINDBERGH AD HOC AIRPORT REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE: An update was provided on Destination Lindbergh, the cooperative planning effort with the City of San Diego, the Airport Authority, and SANDAG. The Ad Hoc committee has narrowed its’ focus on four major objectives: determining the Ultimate Build Out of Lindbergh Field; judging the feasibility of an Intermodal Transit Center (ITC); developing actions to reduce traffic around surrounding local streets; and reviewing the potential for direct airport access off of I-5. Evaluations of the runway, terminals, and access opportunities have led to four specific alternatives.

The recommended alternative is A2 with some modifications. Option B1 has been set aside as an option should the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego property become available. Option A2 provides for all gates to remain on the south; CONRAC, parking, ITC, and passenger processing to be on the north; and a people mover would connect the north to the south side. The project would be phased and analysis has determined that an opening day facility that would include CONRAC, parking, ITC and rubber tire transit connection would be feasible from a capital and operational cost perspective. (Item #16, Staff contact, Dave Schumacher, (619) 699-6906 or dsc@sandag.org.)
SANDAG EXPRESSES RECOGNITION: Directors recognized Senator Denise Ducheny for her work to secure passage of Senate Bill 1486, which provides SANDAG the authority to implement a public toll project to move people and goods along the State Route 11 (SR 11) corridor, and enables SANDAG to bond against the toll/user fee revenues to develop and construct the new SR 11 highway and Otay Mesa East Port of Entry facility. SANDAG also recognized Senator Christine Kehoe for her effort to secure passage of Senate Bill 1685 which provides SANDAG the flexibility to expand the uses of sales tax revenues beyond transportation-related projects for future ballot measures that could include habitat conservation, water quality, and shoreline preservation. SANDAG also presented a ceremonial gavel to Lemon Grove Mayor Mary Sessom, who served as SANDAG chair during 2007 and 2008. (Items # 9-11, Staff contact: Kim Kawada, (619) 699-6994 or kka@sandag.org)

STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: Directors approved that, as the State-Local Partnership Program funds are appropriated by the Legislature, 94 percent of the formula funds set aside under previous Board direction for TransNet Early Action Program (EAP) projects be programmed on the next ready-to-go TransNet EAP project. The Board also directed that $1 million of the FY 2008/2009 appropriation (representing the remaining 6 percent not set aside for TransNet EAP projects) be set aside to match other potential TransNet funds for the Grossmont Station Pedestrian Enhancements project. (Item #12, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908, jnu@sandag.org)

STATE BUDGET CRISIS IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS: The state budget crisis that began shortly after the FY 2009 state budget was signed is posing a significant risk to ongoing construction contracts, in particular those that are funded with Proposition 1B infrastructure bond funds. In order to keep projects moving should these potential impacts affect transportation projects in the San Diego region, the Board unanimously approved a cash management plan under which programmed federal formula and TransNet funds within the Interstate 15, State Route 52, and State Route 905 major corridors would be used on Proposition 1B bond-funded elements of their respective corridors up to the Board-approved budget amount. Use of TransNet bond funds through a funds consolidation to the state bond-funded elements of the three corridors would be contingent on California Transportation Commission action to approve the necessary bond program amendments. (Item #13, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908 or jnu@sandag.org)

PRESENTATION BY UNITED FOR A HATE FREE SAN DIEGO: State Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Lori Saldaña requested that the Board hear a presentation about hate crimes in San Diego County from United for a Hate Free San Diego, a coalition of more than 52 community and faith leaders. Coalition members reported on the ongoing activities to raise awareness of and address hate crimes in the San Diego region. The group was invited to address the SANDAG Public Safety Committee on next steps and was encouraged to contact the 18 cities and county government to make presentations and secure input from each jurisdiction. (Item #17, Staff contact: Sandy Keaton, (619) 699-6933 or ske@sandag.org)