

San Diego Association of Governments

BORDERS COMMITTEE

February 27, 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2009

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 12:33 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair McCoy announced Deputy Consul General Martha Rosas would be standing in for the Consul General of Mexico, who was unable to attend the meeting. She introduced Elsa Saxod, the new representative for the San Diego County Water Authority, and informed vacancies remain for alternates from North County Inland and South County.

Originally, Councilmember John Minto (East County) and Councilmember David Allan (East County) approved the minutes from the November 21, 2008, meeting; however, Chair McCoy asked for a second from another, as two individuals from the same region cannot approve the minutes.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember John Minto and a second by Councilmember Jack Feller (North County Coastal), the Borders Committee unanimously approved the minutes from the November 21, 2008, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair McCoy introduced Sean Carlos Cázares, Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and Mexico's Coordinator of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Group on Bridges and Border Crossings; Keith Lew, Project Executive from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA); William Yu, City of Tijuana's Director of International Affairs; Gerardo Brisuelas, President of Tijuana's EDC; and, Francisco Villegas, President of the State of Baja Foreign Chamber of Restaurants.

Chair McCoy introduced Chairman Chris Devers (Pauma), Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) to update the Committee on the RTA Grant.

Chairman Devers reported that the Reservation Transportation Authority, in collaboration with SANDAG and SCTCA and the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues, received information in December that they had been funded for another year through the FTA Tribal Transit grant program. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

funding is \$400,000 and will be used to support a second year of the Route 388 Express pilot project in North County, along with bus stop improvements along that route.

Chair McCoy congratulated Chairman Devers and recognized him for his efforts.

CHAIR'S REPORT (Item #3)

3. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP JOINT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER AMENDMENT (APPROVE)

Chair McCoy said there are two active joint policy committees for the interregional corridors, the I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP) and the San Diego – Imperial County I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan Joint Policy Advisory Group (I-8 Strategic Plan). The Borders Committee amended the I-8 Strategic Plan Joint Advisory Group Charter in October 2008 to include a tribal advisory member from the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA), and Councilman James Hill from the La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation was appointed. In November, the SCTCA requested the I-15 IRP Joint Advisory Group Charter be amended to include a tribal advisory member, which would begin serving on the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee in May 2009, should the Committee approve the amendment.

Chair McCoy also informed the Committee that the Charter calls for three representatives from SANDAG. Due to the November elections, Ed Gallo was no longer a member. Currently the I-15 IRP representatives are council members Dave Allan, Jack Feller, and Mayor Jim Desmond, as an alternate. She asked the Committee members to consider volunteering for the alternate position vacated by Mr. Gallo.

Mayor Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal) commented she had attended one of the meetings and asked if she was considered an actual alternate.

Chair McCoy stated the matter would be resolved later and asked for approval of the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Advisory Group Charter Amendment.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Crawford and a second by Councilmember Minto, the Borders Committee unanimously authorized the I-15 Interregional Partnership Joint Policy Committee to include in its membership an advisory tribal representative appointed by the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA).

REPORT ITEMS (#4 through #8)

4. DRAFT SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL COUNTY I-8 STRATEGIC PLAN (DISCUSSION)

Maurice Eaton, Senior Transportation Planner (Caltrans); and Ron Saenz (SANDAG) presented the Draft I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan which studied the potential transportation

impacts and effects of development along the I-8 corridor for both San Diego and Imperial counties.

Ron Saenz stated the Committee's input is necessary in order to finalize the initiatives for the Strategic Plan. He reviewed the original goals and objectives, some of the study's key findings, and the twelve recommended strategies. He said the final report would be presented to the Borders Committee on February 27, 2009.

Chair McCoy commented on the project's rapid progress and congratulated the team on their efforts.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

5. SOUTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (INFORMATION)

Cindy Gompper-Graves, Executive Director, South San Diego County Economic Development Council (SCEDC), clarified although she is COBRO Vice-Chair, she was not acting in that capacity. She was acting as the SCEDC representative. Ms. Gompper-Graves stated the Economic Development Administration (EDA) contacted the SCEDC regarding the formation of an economic development district. The EDA asked that Indian reservations also be included in the economic development district, as the EDA has a special commitment to economic prosperity on Indian reservations. An economic development district is necessary in order to receive federal infrastructure funding for the region's economically challenged areas through the Department of Commerce. In order to form the economic district, a comprehensive economic development strategy must first be created. The economic district must also have a stakeholders group, board of directors, and a committee. The SCEDC applied for funding to create the comprehensive economic development strategy, at the request of the EDA, and was awarded \$50,000. The SCEDC will provide matching funds with in-kind contributions. The comprehensive economic development strategy process will be completed in October 2009. Ms. Gompper-Graves reviewed the boundaries and then provided the following "pros" of developing an economic development district: It positions the region for better funding; it allows for funding through other grant opportunities; and, it helps promote cross-collaboration and cooperation throughout the region on a consistent formal manner. Some of the "cons" of developing an economic development district are: there is a fear of making sure every entity receives their fair share; politics; and, the economic development district may not get formed due to the state of flux in the nation. She stated the formation of an economic district is a way to ensure everyone is working collaboratively and cohesively toward economic prosperity in the region.

Councilmember Allan asked why a Joint Power Authority (JPA) was not being chosen.

Ms. Gompper-Graves said a JPA was not recommended as the costs associated with it would be far greater than those of a non-profit.

Councilmember Allan commented a JPA would alleviate a "con" as far as politics.

Ms. Gompper-Graves replied he could be right and she would take this feedback to the SCEDC committee, who will make the decision about the actual formation of the non-profit in March.

Councilmember Minto stated infighting may occur as everyone wants their piece of the pie. He stated it is his strong desire that all neighborhoods and communities be considered, not just those with economic prosperity, as there are many areas that could have jobs and those jobs should be made available.

Chairman Mark Romero (Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians), Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA), asked if there were any plans in the future to expand this economic development district to the North County.

Ms. Gompper-Graves responded that although there are pockets of poverty that exist in some places in North County, the EDA instructed them to begin the boundary south of I-8 in order to not set false expectations. The project must be approved, however, by the Imperial Valley and San Diego Boards of Supervisors and they may want to change the boundaries to include the entire county.

Chairman Devers requested further information regarding the difference between a mega region and an economic development district.

Ms. Gompper-Graves clarified mega region is a title used in order to attract investment, and not an official recognized district. An economic development district is a recognized Department of Commerce designation with an official title and an official boundary which allows for grant requests.

Vice Chair Greg Cox (County of San Diego) commended the SCEDC on their efforts and said it was a great opportunity to work in a collaborative manner with Imperial County and others in order to promote job creation and more employment opportunities in the region. He asked if it was necessary to include contiguous areas in the economic development district since census tracts could not be split.

Ms. Gompper-Graves said it was necessary to include contiguous areas. A request was received from East County to include Barona, and to get to Barona, the census tracts do not have below median household income or high unemployment rates. In talking with the EDA, they recommended leaving them out for now.

Vice Chair Cox commented it's similar to when the City of San Diego extended portions of their enterprise zone into Chula Vista and National City, but it was along the I-5 corridor, so a main connection is necessary.

Ms. Gompper-Graves concurred that it cannot be an island; it has to be directly contiguous and there has to be a reason if crossing over lines that don't have the high unemployment rates or don't have the below median household income.

Councilmember Thomas Buckley (Riverside County) asked if an organization like this would be more of a natural outgrowth of the mega region effort, rather than a parallel effort so the study would be done once instead of two times for two different organizations.

Ms. Gompper-Graves said they would not be duplicating. They would be folding transportation, workforce, water, and many other pieces from other entities into one comprehensive economic development strategy. The reason for working with partners to ensure there's no duplication.

Councilmember Buckley asked if the district is actually the ultra mega region.

Ms. Gompper-Graves responded it was not because the district is smaller.

Mayor Crawford asked if it would be possible to amend the boundaries of the district at a later time, if appropriate.

Ms. Gompper-Graves stated a justification would have to be made and then it would have to be re-approved by San Diego County, Imperial County, and the managing entity.

Mayor Crawford said it would be possible if a good reason was given to seek the change.

Ms. Gompper-Graves commented that before the Imperial Valley and San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved this boundary, they could say they want all of San Diego County included.

Mayor Crawford remarked she thought her point was well taken with the analogy of are the funds going to be spread all around or just on the areas which seem to make the most sense for now. Perhaps later it may make sense to add more area, such as other tribal lands, after experiencing the success of the district and gathering more information. She asked how the Borders Committee and SANDAG might assist her in her efforts.

Ms. Gompper-Graves said SANDAG has already been very supportive in supplying data. She asked to have access to SANDAG documents to make sure previous strategic plans, such as the Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy, are included. She indicated that in moving forward with the formation of the economic development district board, which will be comprised of 51 percent government entities, it is important to take off our smaller hats and put on our regional hats.

Council President Ben Hueso (City of San Diego) commended SCEDC for their efforts and commented on the importance of working together to ensure success for the region and the State. He remarked that all of the ports of entry are within the plan and asked if that was taken into consideration in terms of calling out the important regional infrastructure needs which will turn into quality jobs.

Ms. Gompper-Graves responded that the ports of entry are key as they share common opportunities and challenges and are sources of possible federal and State funding.

Council President Hueso asked if the plan would attempt to achieve a balance of job distribution throughout the county in order to cut down on service trips and the need to invest in highway development.

Ms. Gompper-Graves informed their goal is to get more jobs located in the economically challenged areas. She acknowledged Council President Hueso, Supervisor Cox, Mayor Jim Janney, and the Committee for their input on the project.

Chair McCoy acknowledged Mayor Jim Janney (City of Imperial Beach) who was in attendance.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

6. UPDATES ON THE SAN YSIDRO – PUERTA MEXICO PORT OF ENTRY RECONFIGURATION AND EXPANSION PROJECTS (DISCUSSION)

Hector Vanegas, Borders Committee Coordinator (SANDAG), presented slides of the San Ysidro Port of Entry reconfiguration project area and reviewed the concerns and potential regional impacts to transit and pedestrian infrastructure, private buses, and global warming with the Committee.

a) SAN YSIDRO / VIRGINIA AVENUE PORT OF ENTRY RECONFIGURATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Keith Lew, Project Executive (U.S. General Services Administration, GSA), presented background information on the project and said the project has been broken up into three phases. The first phase, referred to as a “throughput project”, has been authorized. This project will facilitate the processing of northbound traffic in order to reduce wait times at the border. It includes a temporary employee’s parking relocation to Virginia Avenue; construction of a new employee parking garage to be located at I-5; a central plant to provide heating ventilation and air conditioning to the inspection booths and administrative spaces, as well as air conditioning power for the facility; and, construction of new lanes for northbound traffic. Currently there are 24 northbound lanes, which will be increased to 30 lanes. Each lane will be outfitted with double-stacked booths, whereby there will be two inspection booths per lane in order to process inspections much quicker.

Chair McCoy asked Mr. Lew if he was going to use different forms of energy to make it as energy efficient as possible, as it looks like the size of a small town.

Mr. Lew responded that the administrative building alone was compared to the size of the USS Midway. It is a very large facility.

Mr. Lew said the energy performance criterion is fundamentally based on the American Standard of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, ASHRAE 90. Recent Presidential directives have directed this to be improved by 30 percent, and the most state-of-the-art energy savings devices will be implemented.

Mr. Lew continued to update the Committee on the project's progress, concerns currently being addressed, and site acquisitions and modifications. He added that the second phase of the project is intended to provide administrative facilities for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the third phase is intended to address the southbound access and inspection facilities. Next steps for the Port include continuation of the design; resolving regional throughput issues; resolving CBP operational issues; continuing site acquisition; and, performing surveys. They also plan to begin soliciting contractors to manufacture off-site Port components. The ultimate goal is to effect throughput improvements in fiscal year 2009.

Council President Hueso recommended having a central location for taxi queuing and asked if discussions are being held regarding the potential pedestrian and vehicular southbound crossing on Virginia Avenue.

Mr. Lew responded that currently, it is only a pedestrian crossing and only southbound. It was an issue that the Border Liaison Mechanism brought up, something Mexico had expressed an interest in, and a concept that GSA can support. A diplomatic note correspondence process is necessary in order to make it happen.

Council President Hueso commented that it sounds like an excellent concept. He asked if there had been discussion regarding the southbound bridge and Mexico's proposal to have a pedestrian staging area on the east side of the crossing.

Mr. Lew informed that the latest proposals for Puerta del Bicentenario (Bicentennial Gate) do not show a bridge as the bridge would occur on the Mexican side only.

Council President Hueso asked if it would be incorporated into the design if it were understood that a bridge would be built on the Mexican side that would connect pedestrians from the east side.

Mr. Lew replied it would be incorporated; however, to the best of his knowledge there has not been a formal request to incorporate it.

Council President Hueso stated he was just trying to understand if more work needs to be done in that area especially if they are trying to encourage pedestrians to cross and improve the pedestrian experience.

Mr. Lew said they have every intention of making the pedestrian experience as positive as possible. If there is a footbridge, it would require further discussions as it would require the installation of various facilities.

Council President Hueso said the bridge he was talking about would link the east side to the west side where northbound pedestrian accommodations currently exist.

b) PUERTA MEXICO / EL CHAPARRAL PORT OF ENTRY

Elisa Arias, Principal Planner (SANDAG), stated she was encouraged that GSA continues to address the comments Caltrans, MTS, City of San Diego, and SANDAG staff have made.

SANDAG will continue to evaluate new proposals in order to provide comments to GSA; however, comments at this point can only be conceptual in nature since no pedestrian or transit data is available to allow for a comprehensive analysis of GSA's proposal to be made. SANDAG looks forward to GSA's work on the pedestrian traffic analysis in order to assess the proposals to ensure they are addressing SANDAG's issues regarding pedestrian access, circulation, and transit.

Sean Carlos Cázares (Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and Coordinator of the Mexican section of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Group of Bridges and Border Crossings) informed the Instituto Nacional de Avalúo de Bienes Nacionales (INDAABIN; Mexico's equivalent to the GSA), and the U.S.-Mexico Binational Group of Bridges and Border Crossings (in charge of all border crossings infrastructure negotiations and modifications). He briefed the Committee on the results of the binational meetings which took place in September 2008 in Rosarito, B.C., Mexico, regarding the region's border projects. They specifically addressed the concerns and challenges experienced in project analysis, property acquisition necessary in order to begin construction, and advances INDAABIN has made on the original proposed eastern pedestrian crossing. He also updated the Committee on the recent submission by the government of Baja California of new plans for the project known as "Bicentennial Gate" which includes a southbound pedestrian crossing on the eastern side of the border. He said the U.S.-Mexico Binational Group of Bridges and Border Crossings is currently reviewing and analyzing both projects to determine their feasibility in order to make a formal proposal to the Governor of Baja California.

Chair McCoy suggested moving on to Item No. 7, and then either stay for questioning or postpone questions until next time so we can submit them to the proper agencies. She asked if everyone agreed.

The Committee unanimously agreed.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, District 11 Director (Caltrans), informed the Committee on the recent developments regarding payment of contractors assigned to work on Highway 905 and other bond-funded projects. He said the contractors may not be paid by the Controller for work done in November and December 2008. Executive Director Gary Gallegos and the SANDAG Executive Committee are developing possible solutions to keep construction from stopping.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

7. STATUS REPORT ON OTAY MESA EAST – OTAY II PORT OF ENTRY AND CONNECTING ROADS (INFORMATION)

Mr. Cázares informed that in 2005, Mexico's Border Master Plan ranked the Mesa de Otay II Port of Entry highest on its list of ports of entry. Mexico and the United States created a binational task force to expedite border flow and give priority to border infrastructure in order to decrease wait times as a result of discussions between President George W. Bush and President Felipe Calderón. For the first time in history, there are three new ports of entry, along with Otay II, under construction: San Luis Rio Colorado II (on the border of Sonora and Arizona); Reynosa-Hidalgo Anzaldua (on the border of Tamaulipas and Texas);,

and Rio Bravo-Dona, (in the same area between Tamaulipas and Texas). Mexico is planning to begin construction on the Mesa de Otay II Port of Entry in 2010; however, due to logistical and technical issues, it may not begin until 2012 in the United States. Significant advances made on this project include California legislation for the formation of an authority to collect tolls. Mexico has also decided to have a private entity collect a toll. Also, through the efforts of District 11 Director Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans) and Executive Director Gary Gallegos (SANDAG), the Presidential Permit was obtained. An agreement was recently reached between Mexico's Secretariat of Finance, Secretariat of Communication and Transport, and the State of Baja California to designate funding for land acquisition so construction can begin. Binational meetings will continue to be held every two months in order to monitor progress on Otay II. The next Border Liaison Mechanism meeting will be on January 27, 2009.

Chair McCoy commented it was exciting to see the two pieces together and gratifying to see both sides working together. She congratulated those involved in the effort.

Council President Hueso thanked Mr. Cázares for his wonderful presentation.

Mayor Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal) recommended further discussion, comments, and questions be held until the next agenda due to time constraints.

Chair McCoy said it would be left to staff to schedule.

Mayor Crawford added that she has comments in particular on the GSA item which she would like to present at the next meeting.

Chair McCoy informed comments can be presented at the February meeting. She asked Mr. Jason Wells, representing the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, if he wished to speak.

Mr. Wells responded he would wait until February 27, to speak.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2009, at 12:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2009
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	VACANT	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	VACANT	Alternate		
East County	City of Santee	John Minto	Member	✓	
	City of La Mesa	David Allan	Alternate	✓	
City of San Diego	----	Ben Hueso	Member	✓	
	----	Sherri Lightner	Alternate	✓	
	----	Marti Emerald	2 nd Alternate	✓	
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member	✓	
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	✓	

ADVISORY/ LIAISON MEMBERS

COBRO	----	Paul Ganster	Member		✓
	----	Cindy Gompers-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 Mexico	Martha Rosas	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 Authority		Elsa Saxod	Member	✓	
		Howard Williams	Alternate		✓
County of Orange		VACANT	Member		