



BOARD ACTIONS

March 27, 2009

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MEMBER AGENCIES

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County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

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San Diego County
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Tribal Chairmen's Association
Mexico

2009 DIAMOND AWARDS: The 7th Annual Diamond Awards were handed out by SANDAG Chair and Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler in five different categories as follows: Program Excellence – University of California, San Diego; Innovation – Naval Base San Diego and UCSD; Marketing – the Unified Port of San Diego and La Costa Glen Carlsbad; Ongoing Commitment – Naval Base Coronado and EDAA/AECOM; and Best New Program – California State University, San Marcos and the City of Solana Beach. Two awards were given in the Individual Contribution category – Debra Gutzmer, Manager of Facilities Planning and Client Services at SAIC, and Deb Schmidt, Commuter Services Coordinator at CSUSM. Chair Holt Pfeiler also awarded Special Mention certificates to five companies whom the judges felt deserved recognition: Goodwill Industries, Hard Rock Hotel, H.G. Fenton in conjunction with The Art Institute, the Tribal Reservation Transportation Authority, and VPSI, Inc. The Diamond Awards honor companies in the San Diego region that go the extra mile to help reduce traffic congestion. Award winners promote alternatives to commuting to work alone, including vanpooling, carpooling, use of public transit, teleworking, walking, and biking. Chair Holt Pfeiler also thanked the sponsors for the morning reception: VPSI, Inc., Enterprise Rideshare, and Sea Breeze Shuttle. For more information visit www.ridelink.org. (Item #3: Staff contact: Deborah Jones, (619) 699-6988 or djo@sandag.org)

BIKE TO WORK DAY 2009: Directors approved Resolution No. 2009-20 in support of Bike to Work Day, to be held on May 15, 2009, and encouraged member agencies to approve similar proclamations. The purpose of Bike to Work Day is to create public awareness about the benefits and opportunities of bicycling to work rather than driving alone in a car. For more information visit www.ridelink.org. (Item #5: Staff contact: Maria Filippelli, (619) 515-1177 or mfi@sandag.org)

DRAFT FY 2010 SANDAG BUDGET & OVERALL WORK PROGRAM: Based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Directors approved the distribution of the draft budget and overall work program (OWP) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 to member and funding agencies for review and comment. The work program details the projects SANDAG plans to accomplish during the year with the associated budgets denoted with each work effort. The preliminary FY 2010 OWP budget is estimated at \$56.6 million. The current year budget is \$56.7 million. Final SANDAG approval of the budget and work program is scheduled for the May 22, 2009 business meeting. (Item #9: Staff contact, Tim Watson, (619) 699-1966; twatson@sandag.org)

ANNUAL TransNet BUDGET AND PLAN OF FINANCE UPDATE: Directors approved adjustments to the TransNet Capital Budget and the resulting update to the TransNet Plan of Finance (POF). Directors also learned that the recent downturn in sales tax revenues appears to be offset largely by a corresponding decrease in construction costs; as a result, action taken last year to keep all of the TransNet Early Action Program projects on their current schedules can be maintained with similar results. The TransNet POF is updated as necessary, but at least on an annual basis as part of the overall SANDAG budgeting process. (Item #10: Staff contact: Muggs Stoll, (619) 699-6945 or mst@sandag.org)

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

*April 10, 2009
Policy Meeting*

- Transit Operations Funding Workshop

*April 24, 2009
Business Meeting*

- High Priority Projects for the Next Federal Surface Transportation Authorization
- First Reading of Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance
- Future Congestion Management Process
- Transit Impediments Study

rEgion

The latest issue of the SANDAG electronic newsletter is available by visiting www.sandag.org/region.

SPENDING PLAN ADOPTED FOR FEDERAL HIGHWAY STIMULUS FUNDS:

Directors adopted a plan for the approximately \$131.4 million in federal highway stimulus money the region is receiving. The plan will fund two major highway projects and a long list of local road improvements throughout the region. This spending plan will pump money into the local economy and create an estimated 1,500 jobs. At the same time it will spread funds throughout the county so the entire region benefits from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The plan dedicates \$109.3 million for State Route 76, \$18.1 million to I-805 and Carroll Canyon Road and \$4 million to the Grossmont Station Pedestrian Enhancement Project. As part of the plan, the Board then directed staff to reprogram approximately \$51 million in local *TransNet* half-cent sales tax funds for distribution to all 18 cities and the county government for use on high priority local transportation projects. This will allow those projects to move forward expeditiously. *(Item #11: Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908 or jnu@sandag.org)*

SANDAG PRIORITIES FOR NEXT FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION:

In order to advocate for the next federal surface transportation authorization, Directors approved a set of consensus principles for California and proposed SANDAG-specific priorities that address the policy objectives and needs of the San Diego region. The consensus principles, developed through Caltrans by the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, are a set of broad-based provisions that support the state's diverse transportation needs. Staff will share these principles and SANDAG-specific priorities with the San Diego Congressional delegation and use them as a guide for future Congressional hearings and discussions. The current law, SAFETEA-LU (the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, provides \$286 billion in guaranteed funding over five years (FY 2005-FY 2009) and will expire on September 30, 2009. A minimum one-year extension of this law is expected until a new law can be passed. *(Item #12: Staff Contact: Victoria Stackwick, (619) 699-6926 or vst@sandag.org)*

TransNet REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FEE ADJUSTMENT:

Acting on requirements contained within the ordinance passed by voters in 2004 extending the *TransNet* half-cent sales tax, Directors approved an increase in the Regional Transportation Congestion Improvement Program (RTCIP) fee charged to developers per residential dwelling unit by the minimum of two percent, noting that the Caltrans Construction Cost Index dropped over the last year. This action will raise the RTCIP exaction from \$2,000 to \$2,040 for fiscal year 2010. The money raised by the exaction helps ensure future development contributes its proportional share of the funding needed to pay for the regional arterial system and related regional transportation facility improvements as defined in the most recent Regional Transportation Plan adopted by SANDAG. *(Item #13: Staff contact: Muggs Stoll, (619) 699-6945 or mst@sandag.org)*

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FINANCIAL MARKET STATUS: SANDAG staff delivered a monthly briefing to the Board on the latest developments in the financial markets, the economy, and revenue forecasts, and the strategies staff is exploring and implementing to minimize possible impacts to SANDAG. Finance Director Renee Wasmund reported that SANDAG recently took advantage of an opportunity created by current market conditions to lower its borrowing costs by amending two of its three existing *TransNet* interest rate swaps. The transaction resulted in lowering interest rates on existing debt, saving taxpayers an estimated \$100 million in future interest payments. Starting in the year 2018 – and continuing for 20 years – SANDAG expects to save more than \$5 million a year as a direct result of executing the transaction. *(Item #14: Staff contact: Renee Wasmund, (619) 699-1940 or rwa@sandag.org)*

COMPASS CARD STATUS UPDATE: Directors heard a report on the status of the Compass Card, the new regional fare collection system, and the latest on the public outreach and education efforts. Staff reported two remaining key issues that needed to be resolved prior to the launch of the system to the public had been resolved. They included the Bus Card Readers, which was a software issue; and the Business Rules for Fare Products, which was a configuration issue. Staff also reported that public outreach had begun for COASTER and Premium Express Bus riders who would be impacted first by the rolling launch. Take One flyers were being placed on the trains and buses notifying riders that starting April 20, monthly passes would be sold on the Compass Card. In addition, staff is launching a Compass Ambassador program which will have personnel on COASTER platforms and at key Premium Express bus stations to inform riders about the Compass Card and to answer questions. *(Item #15: Staff contact: James Dreisbach-Towle, (619) 699-1914 or jdr@sandag.org)*

2010 CENSUS: Directors were presented with information regarding the 2010 Census from Nampet Panichpant-Michelsen, a partnership specialist for the Bureau of the Census. Taken every 10 years, the U.S. Census surveys U.S. residents for demographic information, directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding, and affects political representation. Census data also is used to guide planning for new facilities and services. SANDAG, as the Regional Census Data Center for the San Diego region, estimates population characteristics annually from this base year census data. *(Item #16)*

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