



BOARD ACTIONS

April 24, 2009

401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231
(619) 699-1900
Fax (619) 699-1905
www.sandag.org

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

- Imperial County
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico

REQUEST FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO BECOME AN ADVISORY MEMBER OF THE BORDERS COMMITTEE: Directors approved a request from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for an advisory seat on the SANDAG Borders Committee. The Borders Committee provides oversight for planning activities that impact the borders of the San Diego region, including Orange, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, Mexico, and government-to-government relations with the region's tribes. SCAG is the largest council of governments in the United States, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, and Imperial. *(Item #4, Staff contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972 or hva@sandag.org)*

FY 2009 BUDGET AND OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: CALIFORNIA REGIONAL BLUEPRINT PLANNING GRANT: Directors approved an amendment to the FY 2009 SANDAG budget and overall work program to accept a \$400,000 California Regional Blueprint Planning grant. The grant will provide staff support for continued development of a regional transit and integrated infrastructure strategy, and development of transportation/land use scenarios and associated public outreach efforts to support the Sustainable Communities Strategy that is required as part of the development of the next Regional Transportation Plan update. The new grant funded work will be conducted in FY 2010 and FY 2011. *(Item #5: Staff contact: Coleen Clementson, (619) 699-1944 or ccl@sandag.org)*

FY 2010 TRANSIT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: Directors approved the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Programs for the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and North County Transit District (NCTD), including the transfer of funds from MTS to SANDAG for regional planning. These programs form the basis for updating the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and allow SANDAG, as the implementing agency in accordance with Senate Bill 1703, to apply for Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Urbanized Area formula funds and Section 5309 Rail Modernization funds for MTS and NCTD capital projects for planning; design and construction of new infrastructure and facilities; rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and facilities; capital projects involving environmental, engineering and construction support; and construction right-of-way. This approval also allows MTS and NCTD to apply for federal formula grants for projects that support the day-to-day business of the operators. *(Item #9: Staff contact, Kim York, (619) 699-6994 or kyo@sandag.org)*

FIRST READING OF NEW REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE FARE ORDINANCE AND RELATED FINDINGS: The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) has declared a fiscal emergency due to funding cutbacks from the State of California and falling sales tax revenue. As a result, MTS has requested revisions to the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance that include increased fares for Regional and Premium passes, elimination of the downtown Trolley Zone, and discontinuing Community and Local Circulation special fares.

(more)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

*May 8, 2009
Policy Meeting*

- Second Reading and Adoption of New Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance
- Future Congestion Management Process
- Presentation by San Diego County Water Authority

*May 22, 2009
Business Meeting*

- Final FY 2010 Budget and Overall Work Program
- *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program and Smart Growth Incentive Program Funding Approvals
- Regional Energy Strategy and Regional Climate Action Plan Updates

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

Directors held the first reading of this new Ordinance that includes the proposed MTS fare increases and the various changes needed to accommodate the implementation of the Compass Card. Directors also adopted findings related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the California Environmental Quality Act. A second reading and adoption of the new Ordinance is scheduled for the May 8, 2009, Board meeting. *(Item #10: Staff contact: Dan Levy, (619) 699-6942 or dle@sandag.org)*

TRANSIT IMPEDIMENTS STUDY: Directors accepted the Transit Impediments Study draft report for public distribution in accordance with the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Report Settlement Agreement. This report summarizes both financial and ridership impediments to maintaining long-term transit service levels throughout the San Diego region. The report includes potential alternatives based on overcoming the identified impediments, increasing and maintaining service levels, and increasing and maintaining funding for transit operational expenses. Directors also referred the study to the transit agencies to review the alternatives identified in the report and make recommendations to the Transportation Committee. The Committee will then provide recommendations to the Board for approval. *(Item #11: Staff contact, Dave Schumacher, (619) 699-6906 or dsc@sandag.org)*

HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THE NEXT FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION: Directors approved a list of regional High Priority Projects (HPP) for the next federal surface transportation authorization bill. The list includes funding requests for highway, bridge, public transit, New Starts/Small Starts, passenger rail, freight rail, intermodal freight improvement, and other projects. It will be submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee via the San Diego Congressional delegation. The current authorization, SAFETEA-LU (the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), was signed into law on August 10, 2005, and will expire on September 30, 2009. The full list of approved HPP is available on the SANDAG Web site at www.sandag.org. *(Item #12: Staff contact, Victoria Stackwick, (619) 699-6926 or vst@sandag.org)*

COMPASS CARD UPDATE: Directors authorized the SANDAG Executive Director to execute a partnership agreement with Vons to be the exclusive grocery store outlet for the Compass Card. Vons will pay \$800,000 in exchange for co-branding advertising with the Compass Card. The agreement, which will run from May 1, 2009 through May 1, 2011, does not require SANDAG to pay any commissions or customers to pay any extra fees. It also allows for other third-party outlets as needed to comply with Title VI requirements. The rollout of Compass Cards began April 20, 2009 with the sale of COASTER and Premium Express Bus monthly passes. Over 300 Compass Cards with either COASTER or Premium monthly passes have been sold as of April 23, representing 15 percent of current COASTER and Premium Express Bus monthly pass holders. Typically these pass sales are made closer to the end of the month. There is an event scheduled on May 1, 2009 to officially announce the launch of the Compass Card. *(Item #13: Staff contact, James Dreisbach-Towle, (619) 699-1914 or jdr@sandag.org)*

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