BOARD ACTIONS

October 25, 2002

DRAFT 2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP): Directors released the Draft 2030 RTP for public review and comment. The $42 billion plan integrates public policies, strategies, and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the transportation system in the San Diego region. The goal of the plan is to create a system to move more people and goods, not just vehicles. The robust transit system envisioned in the draft plan makes public transportation competitive for many trips with driving a car during rush hours by the year 2030. Among the highlights of the plan is the creation of an integrated transit system that carries passengers on state-of-the-art vehicles to and from home, work, and school. The plan enhances the region's highway system and adds lanes to existing freeways and launches an extensive HOV network for transit riders and carpoolers. The plan is available for review online at KeepSanDiegoMoving.com, and at SANDAG. Public libraries and city and county information desks should have the draft RTP by November 12. Public comments are invited on the plan and will be accepted through December 30, 2002. A public hearing is scheduled for December 6, 2002. Please direct comments to 2030rtp@sandag.org or to 2030 RTP Comments, c/o SANDAG, 401 B St., Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101. (Item #13: Staff contact, Kim Kawada, (619) 595-5394 or kka@sandag.org)

BEACH SAND PROJECT: Staff presented an analysis of the Regional Beach Sand Project that placed 2.1 million cubic yards of sand at 12 eroded beaches from Imperial Beach to Oceanside during a six-month period from April – September 2001. More than five miles of new beaches were created using sand dredged from offshore sites. The $17.5 million project was funded primarily by the U.S. Navy and the California Department of Boating and Waterways. The region's coastal cities provided funds for environmental monitoring and mitigation. The first year's monitoring confirmed expectations that sand from the project would benefit the region's coastline, and have little or no adverse environmental impacts. Given the positive results to date, the SANDAG Shoreline Preservation Committee and the coastal cities are exploring potential funding sources that can provide $15 million to carry out a major beach restoration project every other year. (Item #16: Staff contact, Rob Rundle, (619) 595-5649 or rru@sandag.org)

RIDESHARE WEEK: Television and newspaper coverage, advertising, radio station events, and employer fairs were some of the activities featured during SANDAG-sponsored Rideshare Week October 7 – 11. The outreach and advertising resulted in a 200 percent increase in rideshare information requests. The Week's activities culminated in the Diamond Awards luncheon where San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy recognized area employers and individuals for their efforts to reduce rush hour traffic congestion. Among the employers honored were Callaway Golf, Hotel Del Coronado, SAIC, SONY, and the USS NIMITZ for a variety of employee programs including, company-sponsored shuttles, vanpool programs, and subsidized transit passes. For more information on carpooling, vanpooling, transit, and other commute options, visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com or call 1-800-COMMUTE, ext. 3. (Item #15: Staff contact, Ray Traynor, (619) 595-5645 or rtr@sandag.org)
AGENCY CONSOLIDATION: Senate Bill 1703, authored by Senator Steve Peace (D-El Cajon), was signed into law by the Governor last month. The law creates the San Diego Regional Agency on January 1, 2003 to strengthen how regional public policy decisions are made. The law mandates membership in the regional agency from the area’s 18 cities and county government. It consolidates transit planning, programming, project development, and construction into the new agency, leaving responsibilities for day-to-day operations with the existing transit agencies. Policy and staff transition teams have been formed to facilitate and expedite the consolidation. SANDAG Chair Ron Morrison (National City Councilmember), Escondido Mayor Lori Pfeiler, and San Diego City Councilman Jim Madaffer will serve on the policy transition team representing SANDAG. NCTD has appointed Vista Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ritter, Del Mar Deputy Mayor David Drucker, and San Marcos Vice Mayor Pla Harris-Ebert. MTDB has appointed Chula Vista Councilmember Jerry Rindone, Lemon Grove Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Clabby, and Poway Deputy Mayor Robert Emery. The transition plan for the initial transfer of planning and programming responsibilities of the transit boards must be completed by February 28, 2003 with the actual transfer occurring on or before July 1, 2003. A plan for the transfer of project development and construction will be completed by September 30, 2003 with the actual transfer occurring on or before January 30, 2004. (Item #10: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: The SR 94/SR 125 interim connector ramp was opened allowing motorists to travel between the two roads without exiting the freeway...A groundbreaking ceremony for the TransNet funded SR 125/SR 54 project was held on October 23... The final draft environmental document for the Sabre Springs Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Center Project has been approved. The BRT, one of three along the I-15 corridor, is part of the I-15 Managed Lanes Project. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2004. (Item # 6: Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 595-5619 or jnu@sandag.org)

BORDERS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Borders Committee Chair Crystal Crawford, Del Mar City Councilmember, reviewed the committee’s accomplishments which include supporting the Safe Border Act of 2002 and coordinating a public forum regarding the potential Imperial Irrigation District water transfer. The Committee also will focus on the development of long-term strategies with the I-15 Interregional Partnership with Riverside County. . . Elsa Saxod, Chair of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) updated SANDAG on the success of the Summer COBRO Conference and recommendations from the conference which focused on a number of items including: infrastructure and the formation of a Binational Energy Forum. (Item # 14A and 14B: Staff contact, Hector Vanegas, (619) 595-5372 or hva@sandag.org)

OTHER ITEMS: SANDAG Chairman, Ron Morrison presented awards of recognition to Senators Dede Alpert and Steve Peace. Senator Alpert was recognized for her leadership in the passage of SB 1432 which will allow for any city or county that has self-certified its housing element to be eligible to receive state and federal funds. Senator Peace was recognized for his leadership in the passage of SB 1703 which consolidates all transportation planning, funding allocation, project development, and construction into one agency in this region. (Items # 10 and 11: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366, or dgr@sandag.org)

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Upcoming Board Meetings

November 22, 2002

- Transportation Progress Report
- Walkable Communities Projects
- I-15 Commute Survey
- Transportation Sales Tax Voting Results

Regional Transportation Plan

The Draft 2030 Regional Transportation Plan is available for review and comment.

To view the document log on to: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com

A public hearing is scheduled for December 6, 2002.