



San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

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BOARD ACTIONS

November 22, 2002

AGENCY CONSOLIDATION: Senate Bill 1703 becomes law on January 1, 2003. The new law creates a consolidated agency to strengthen how regional public policy decisions are made. The law mandates membership in the consolidated 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. To work out the details of the consolidation, both policy and staff transition teams have been formed and are meeting regularly to facilitate and expedite the consolidation. Directors were presented with an informational report highlighting the work to date. 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 #11: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)*

I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP: Directors heard a progress report on the I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP). Del Mar Councilmember Crystal Crawford, who co-chairs the I-15 IRP Policy Working Group, introduced the presentation on the program that was established in 2001 to address the imbalance of jobs and housing that has developed between San Diego and Riverside counties. Key activities of the I-15 IRP includes the preparation of an "Existing Conditions Report" that will define the interregional commuting problem, document existing programs that are addressing the jobs/housing imbalance, and forecasts future commute conditions. The report is to be released in January 2003. Other activities include coordinating transportation plans and funding priorities so that future improvements and expansion on I-15 efficiently connect at the county line. Assistant Temecula City Manager Jim O'Grady addressed the Board and expressed commitment from Temecula officials to continue to work with jurisdictions in Riverside and San Diego counties for the "betterment of the region." *(Item #15: Staff contact, Jeff Martin, (619) 595-5358 or jma@sandag.org)*

WALKABLE COMMUNITIES: Directors were updated on seven Walkable Communities demonstration projects underway in the San Diego region. The projects were funded with a one-time \$1 million allocation from the *TransNet* local streets and roads funds. In Encinitas, construction is completed on the improvements along Coast Highway between A and F Street. The improvements included curb extensions, crosswalk improvements, and landscaped medians. In San Marcos, in-pavement flashing lights are now operating at a crosswalk leading to Knob Hill Elementary School. In San Diego, construction will begin soon to improve the pedestrian walkway on a highway overpass leading from Golden Hill to Sherman Heights. The project will include a fence to separate pedestrians from the traffic with a unique "song rail" that plays a tune when touched as the pedestrian strolls along. The song rail was added with an additional grant from the City of San Diego Arts and Culture program. In Oceanside, officials used the planning grant to develop a comprehensive plan for short-, mid-, and long-term pedestrian improvements in the downtown business district and connections to the Oceanside Transit Center. In San Diego, two planning studies have been completed and both make recommendations for improving transit service and connections, traffic calming, and safety improvements on Balboa Avenue and University Avenue.

(Over)

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

- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit Development Board
- North San Diego County Transit Development Board
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Baja California/Mexico

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 6, 2002

- RTP Public Hearing

December 20, 2002

- Gloria McClellan Award
- Central I-5 Corridor Study Recommendations

Public Hearing Regional Transportation Plan

A **public hearing** is scheduled for
December 6, 2002
10:15 a.m.

401 B. Street, 7th Floor
Downtown San Diego

SANDAG Public Workshops:

December 11, 2002
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern Community
College

December 12, 2002
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
San Marcos City Hall

December 14, 2002
9 to 11 a.m.
Lemon Grove Community
Center

Lemon Grove Mayor Mary Sessom, who chairs the Walkable Communities Advisory Committee, recommended that walkability be part of the criteria for funding transportation projects and requested that *TransNet* and other sources be considered for additional funding of pedestrian projects throughout the region. (Item #14: Staff contact, Rob Rundle, (619) 595-5649 or rru@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: Caltrans awarded the SR 905/Siempre Viva Road Interchange construction contract. The new interchange is scheduled to open in December 2004. The Project is the first phase of the overall SR 905 freeway project scheduled to open in 2007. The draft environmental document for the I-15 Managed Lanes has been released for public comment. The final document is scheduled for approval by Caltrans in December 2002...Design for the first component of the Managed Lanes, located on I-15 between the I-15/SR 56 interchange and Camino del Norte is nearly complete. Construction is scheduled to begin late spring 2003...The Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Oceanside-Escondido Light Rail transit project has been signed by the Federal Transit Administration. A 60-day Congressional Notice period has begun, and execution of the FFGA is anticipated for December 2002. The FFGA will contribute \$152.1 million toward the project...A number of projects around the region will break ground in the coming months including I-805/Olympic Parkway Interchange Reconstruction (Chula Vista) Rancho del Oro Drive Extension (Oceanside); SR 905/Siempre Viva Road Interchange (Otay Mesa); and the I-15 Interchange Reconstruction (Miramar Road and SR 56). (Item #16: Staff Contact Richard Chavez, (619) 595-5604 or rch@sandag.org)

CORRECTION -- INDIAN GAMING SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FUNDS: Directors approved supporting legislation that calls for returning to San Diego County the percentage of funds paid into the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund by the three San Diego County tribes required to contribute to the Fund. Such legislation would serve to mitigate off-reservation impacts to local governments caused by Indian gaming in the county of origin. Directors agreed with the comment from the Jamul Indian Village that the County of San Diego consult with tribal representatives as this and potential future legislation is implemented. (Item #7: Staff contact, Julie Wiley, (619) 595-5647 or jwi@sandag.org)

OUTCOME OF RECENT TRANSPORTATION MEASURES: Directors were presented with an informational report about the results of transportation sales tax measures in five counties during the November 5th election cycle. Only one of the five measures achieved the two-thirds voter approval threshold needed for passage. Voters in Riverside County approved a measure (69% Yes) to extend the area's half-percent sales tax for 30 years. Similar extensions in Fresno (54% Yes) and Madera (51% Yes) Counties failed to achieve the two-thirds required threshold for passage. New half-percent transportation sales tax measures failed in Merced County (61% Yes), and for the Solano Transportation Improvement Authority (60% Yes). These election results underscore the challenge in passing transportation measures that require two-thirds voter approval. The threshold reduction is an important part of the SANDAG legislative program for 2003. Directors believe this type of local funding source is critical to fund needed transportation infrastructure. (Item #13: Staff contact, Craig Scott, (619) 595-5326 or csc@sandag.org)

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