MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, October 7, 2009
3:30 to 5 p.m.

SANDAG Board Room, 7th Floor
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA  92101-4231

Staff Contact: Anne Steinberger
(619) 699-1937
ast@sandag.org

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• APPOINT VICE CHAIR
• FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION NEW STARTS FUNDING OVERVIEW
• INPUT ON DRAFT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

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<th>ITEM #</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</td>
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<td>+2.</td>
<td>MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2009</td>
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<td>Review and approve the meeting summary of September 9, 2009.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>PUBLIC COMMENT</td>
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<td>Members of the public who would like to address the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit PWG on a topic not on the agenda should do so at this time. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT: FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION NEW STARTS PROGRAM OVERVIEW</td>
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<td>Staff will present an overview of the Federal Transit Administration New Starts Program. The TransNet Ordinance specifies that implementation of the Mid-Coast Project relies on the receipt of federal funds. The New Starts Program provides federal funding for fixed-guideway transit projects. SANDAG will be seeking New Starts funding to match local TransNet capital funding for the project.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT DRAFT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN</td>
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<td>Members will be asked to provide input and feedback into the Draft Public Involvement Plan (PIP) circulated for public comment on May 22, 2009. The PIP was provided to members at the September meeting. It is posted at <a href="http://www.sandag.org/midcoast">www.sandag.org/midcoast</a>.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>NEXT MEETING</td>
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<td>The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2009. Members will be polled for their interest in taking a tour of the Mid-Coast Corridor on this date.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>ADJOURN</td>
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+ next to an item indicates an attachment
SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2009, MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Members in Attendance:
Ron Roberts, Supervisor, County of San Diego (Chair)
Daniel Allen, La Jolla resident
William Beck, University City Community Planning Group
Anette Blatt, Scripps Health
Bob Emery, Retired MTS Board Member and Poway Councilmember
Brian Gregory, UCSD Assistant Vice Chancellor
Debra Gutzmer, SAIC
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Joe LaCava, La Jolla Community Planning Group
Evan McLaughlin, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council/La Jolla resident
Julie Nygaard, LOSSAN
Barbara Obrzut, Environmental representative
Jeff Perwin, Linda Vista Community Planning Group
Brooke Peterson, Clairemont Community Planning Group
Andrew Poat, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
David Potter, Clairemont resident
Carmen Sandoval, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Ann Van Leer, Land Conservation Brokerage, Inc.
Chris Westling, UCSD student

Others in Attendance:
Chet Barfield, City of San Diego, Council District 6
Eleanor Beck, University City resident
JoAnne Golden, San Diego County Taxpayers’ Association
Tracie Hager, The Irvine Company
Dennis Hendersen, Parsons Brinkerhoff
Peter Hopf, Renaissance La Jolla HOA
Debby Knight, Friends of Rose Canyon
Janay Kruger, University City Planning Committee
Thomas Ledford, County of San Diego, District 4
Brian Schoenfisch, City of San Diego
Richard Stegner, Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce
SANDAG Staff in Attendance:
Leslie Blanda
Jack Boda
Greg Gastelum
Melissa King
John Kirk
Jim Linthicum
Anne Steinberger

AGENDA ITEM #1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Project Working Group (PWG) Chairman Ron Roberts, County of San Diego Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Mr. Roberts thanked the group for its flexibility in rescheduling the PWG meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public were given the opportunity to address the PWG on any topic not on the agenda. No public comment given.

AGENDA ITEM #3: REVIEW CHARTER AND ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

John Kirk, Deputy General Counsel, SANDAG, provided an overview of PWG member roles and referred to the PWG Charter and general guidelines for SANDAG Committees and Working Groups. He stated the importance of all PWG members reviewing the guidelines and staying within the scope of these responsibilities.

Mr. Kirk stated that PWG members are not required to file Form 700 Statement of Conflict of Interest, but are expected to comply with Brown Act guidelines. Under the Brown Act, a quorum is required to conduct any business of the PWG, which would include approving minutes, engaging in discussion that could lead to future decisions, etc. For the 23-member PWG, a quorum would consist of 12 PWG members. The Brown Act also requires that all PWG meetings should be noticed to the public by posting agendas. If an item is to be discussed at the meeting, it should be on the noticed agenda. If it is not on the agenda, a request can be made to put it on a future agenda. Robert’s Rules of Order should be used as guidelines for running the PWG meetings.

Mr. Kirk added that as a SANDAG Working Group member, PWG members are representatives for SANDAG. However, it is important to note that only SANDAG Board of Directors can change SANDAG policy and take a position on an item on behalf of SANDAG. He noted that there may be news media attending future meetings, and cautioned PWG members about speaking on behalf of the PWG or SANDAG to reporters. Members may identify themselves as a member of the PWG, but not speak on behalf of the group or SANDAG. He suggested that the PWG members contact Anne Steinberger if there are any questions related to these issues.
Anne Steinberger, Marketing & Communications Manager, SANDAG, reviewed the draft PWG participation guidelines, which were included on pages 6 and 7 of the packet. Ms. Steinberger noted that staff will record every PWG meeting and will post all agendas and meeting summaries on the Web site. She asked the PWG to review these guidelines and provide input. Mr. Roberts asked that Mr. Kirk’s contact information be distributed to the PWG in case they need clarification on any legal matters. Ms. Steinberger will distribute this information to the PWG.

**AGENDA ITEM #4: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

Mr. Roberts recommended that the PWG postpone appointing a Vice Chair until the next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #5: MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Leslie Blanda, SANDAG Mid-Coast Corridor Director, provided an overview on the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project. Ms. Blanda explained that the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project is a TransNet Early Action Project, and was included in the original TransNet Ordinance passed in 1987, which established a countywide half-cent sales tax for transportation projects. SANDAG administers the TransNet program. Under the TransNet extension (which extended collection of the sales tax to 2048), the project receives priority for implementation. The project is an extension of the trolley line (light rail transit) from the Old Town Transit Center up into University City. She reviewed the current Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), and indicated that stations are proposed at Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive, Balboa Avenue, University Center Lane, UCSD Campus West, UCSD Campus East, Executive Drive, and University Towne Centre (UTC).

The project is in the development phase, which includes preparing a supplemental environmental document and conducting preliminary engineering. As part of the environmental analysis, several alternatives will be considered: No-Build alternative, Transportation Systems Management (TSM) alternative (baseline), and Build alternatives.

The Build alternatives being assessed are: (a) Light Rail Transit (LRT) alternatives, which consist of a modified version of the current LPA, the Genesee tunnel alternative, and other alternatives that are variations of these two; (b) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) alternatives, which could use either an exclusive guideway or HOV lanes on I-5, depending on the level of capital investment; and (c) COASTER Shuttle alternative, which would utilize LOSSAN tracks and a portion of the LOSSAN tunnel proposed in the Regional Transportation Plan (tunnel portion to UTC only) and an underground station at UTC.

Ms. Blanda reviewed the anticipated Public Scoping schedule. Staff expects that the SANDAG Board of Directors will approve alternatives for Public Scoping in fall 2009. Public Scoping meetings would also be conducted in the fall 2009. Once the Public Scoping period ends, SANDAG will evaluate input from the public and refine the alternatives accordingly. Preliminary Engineering (PE) can proceed after the Board’s selection of an LPA and the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) approval of PE application.

The Project funding for capital costs will be from TransNet and an anticipated match from FTA New Starts funds. TransNet provides funding for maintenance and operations through year 2048. The current Mid-Coast LPA costs are estimated to be $1.2 billion. These costs are escalated to year of expenditure and will be updated during the current phase.
Stakeholder coordination for the project is underway and will continue throughout project development. Key stakeholders for the project include Caltrans, MTS, UCSD, NCTD, and the City of San Diego.

Ms. Blanda reviewed the overall anticipated project schedule:

- Fall 2009: Board approval of alternatives for Public Scoping
- Fall 2009: Conduct Public Scoping meetings
- Winter 2010: Board approval of LPA or alternatives for Draft Environmental Document
- August 2010: Complete Draft Environmental Document
- August 2011: Complete Final Environmental Document

Mr. Roberts asked whether PWG members had any questions.

Daniel Allen, La Jolla resident, recalls seeing a finalized environmental document for the Mid-Coast project. Ms. Blanda responded that an EIR was prepared in 1995 and FEIS up to the Balboa station finalized in 2001. The new environmental document would be a supplemental EIS and subsequent EIR, which will build upon the past environmental review and address changed conditions in the corridor.

Andrew Poat, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, inquired about a Full Funding Grant agreement for the project. Ms. Blanda explained that Full Funding Grant Agreements are usually awarded during the final design phase of the project. Mr. Roberts added that it is highly likely that this project will be awarded federal funding because it has all of the operational expenses covered, which sets it apart from other similar projects.

Ann van Leer, Land Conservation Brokerage, asked how the Mid-Coast project is working with the High-Speed Rail proposal. Ms. Blanda stated that both projects are looking at alignments in similar project areas. As such, the project teams are working together and will continue to do so.

Julie Nygaard, LOSSAN, asked whether the TransNet funding that passed was intended to only be used for the Mid-Coast project. Mr. Roberts replied that the funding for the project and operational expenses were intended to be unique for Mid-Coast through the TransNet ballot language.

Jeff Perwin, Linda Vista Community Planning Group, asked whether the trolley service will go to downtown. Ms. Blanda explained that the capital improvements will begin in Old Town and extend up to University City. But, trolley service will still go through to downtown.

**AGENDA ITEM #6: MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT DRAFT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

Anne Steinberger, SANDAG, explained that in May 2009, the Board of Directors took action to establish the PWG and release the draft Public Involvement Plan for public review. Staff now needs the PWG’s assistance in finalizing and refining this document. Ms. Steinberger suggested a facilitated session at the next PWG meeting to discuss this further. She asked that the PWG review the document in advance and provide suggestions on how to best reach out to the public on this project.
AGENDA ITEM #7: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Anne Steinberger, SANDAG, explained that the PWG needs to establish a regular monthly meeting schedule and suggested Wednesdays in the late afternoon. Mr. Roberts agreed and recommended either the first or second Wednesday of each month, late afternoon. He asked PWG members to e-mail Ms. Steinberger with their meeting preference and she would confirm.

Bob Emery, City of Poway, explained his connection to the project as a retired MTS Board member. He hopes to see this project come to fruition, as he was involved in the first round of Mid-Coast Corridor Transit discussions.

Mr. Roberts suggested that everyone visit the SDSU trolley station before the next PWG meeting. He asked Ms. Steinberger to follow up on sending passes to the PWG members.

AGENDA ITEM #8: ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.