BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, November 15, 2002
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
SANDAG
8th Floor, Conference Room A
401 B. Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• BORDERS VISIONING PROCESS

• PRESENTATION BY THE SAN DIEGO TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

• CROSS BORDER TRANSPORTATION FORECASTING MODEL

MISSION STATEMENT
The Borders Committee provides oversight for planning activities that impact the borders of the San Diego region (Orange, Riverside, and Imperial counties and the Republic of Mexico). The preparation and implementation of SANDAG’s Binational Planning and Interregional Planning Programs are included under its purview. It advises the SANDAG Board of Directors on major interregional planning policy-level matters. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board of Directors for action.
Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the Borders Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker’s Slip which is located in the rear of the room and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The Borders Committee may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at www.sandag.org under meetings on SANDAG’s Web site. Public comments regarding the agenda can be forwarded to SANDAG via the e-mail comment form also available on the Web site. Email comments should be received no later than noon, two days prior to the Borders Committee meeting.

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BORDERS COMMITTEE
Friday, November 15, 2002

Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas
(619) 595-5372; hva@sandag.org

ITEM # | ACTION
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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS | 
+2. MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 18, 2002 (pp. 4-5) | APPROVE
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS 
(Each speaker limited to three minutes.) | 

CONSENT
The Borders Committee will take action on the consent agenda without further discussion and with one vote unless an item is pulled by a Committee member or a member of the public for comment.

+4. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES 
(pp. 6-8) | INFORMATION
Attached is a summary of the October 9, 2002 COBRO meeting.

+5. STAFF REPORT (pp. 9-19) | INFORMATION

• Legislative Update: SB 2588 (Feinstein), HR 4867 (Hunter), and HR 5038 (Filner).

REPORTS
6. CHAIR AND MEMBERS REPORTS | INFORMATION

+7. BORDERS VISIONING PROCESS (Crystal Crawford) 
(pp. 20-21) | DISCUSSION

A) The Committee will hear from David Rohy, SDSU Foundation, regarding a regional visioning project that is currently underway.

b) The Committee will discuss what core values are important to a cross-border or interregional perspective that should be included in the Regional Comprehensive Plan.
8. THE SAN DIEGO TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE (Elsa Saxod)  
   As a follow up to the recent border tour, the San Diego Transportation Alliance for Border Efficiency will present an overview of border transportation issues.

9. CROSS BORDER TRANSPORTATION FORECASTING MODEL (Elisa Arias) (p. 22)  
   This unique forecasting tool was developed by SANDAG in cooperation with transportation planning agencies in the California and Baja California. This model provides a tool to analyze cross-border travel demand and the interaction among existing and proposed ports of entry.

10. NEXT MEETING TOPICS, DATE, AND LOCATION  
    The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held on Friday, December 20, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. in SANDAG’s 7th Floor Conference Room. Topics to discuss will include interregional environmental issues as well as a continuation of the Borders Visioning Process.

Visit us on the Web at: www.sandag.org (under binational)
MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 18, 2002

The October 18, 2002 meeting of the Borders Committee took place immediately after the I-15 Interregional Partnership Committee meeting, and was called to order by Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal). Committee members in attendance were Hal Martin (North County Inland), and Ralph Inzunza (City of San Diego); and alternates Carol McCauley (North County Coastal), and Phil Monroe (South County). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Thomas Buckley (County of Riverside), and Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Crystal Crawford welcomed the Committee members and guests to the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

A motion and second was made to approve the September 20, 2002 Borders Committee minutes. There were no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

No public comments were made.

CONSENT

4. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Committee received a summary of the September 3, 2002 COBRO meeting.

5. STAFF REPORT

The Committee received information regarding Senate Bill 1731 (Polanco).

REPORTS

6. CALTRANS’S TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION (Pedro Orso-Delgado, Caltrans)

Mr. Orso-Delgado, Director, Caltrans District 11, briefed the Committee on Caltrans’ most relevant regional transportation projects, including those in each of the borders areas. Projects related to the
binational border are: State Route 125 South, which will link SR 54 and the future SR 905 at the U.S./Mexico border; State Route 905, which still requires $57 million to complete but construction is on-going; and, SR-11, which will connect with a future port of entry at east Otay Mesa with Tijuana’s loop to Rosarito. In San Ysidro, Caltrans is coordinating with the General Service Administration (GSA) to maximize the use of the port of entry and is reviewing four alternatives to use the former Customs facilities at Virginia Avenue. Friendship Plaza project will improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation in that area.

Specific to the traffic issues at the ports of entry, Mr. Orso-Delgado mentioned: the misuse of the HOV lanes due to the inability to enforce the law; the need for improvements of the dedicated commuter lanes; and, extending the use of technology for pedestrian use. The southbound export route at Otay Mesa needs to be improved since trucks are currently using City of San Diego streets.

Other issues that need to be addressed include: the re-design of Interstate 15 with the County of Riverside; and, potentially, a future project on Foothill State Highway in the County of Orange. Mr. Orso-Delgado concluded with the importance of considering national security when making plans for this region.

7. BORDERS VISIONING PROCESS

The Committee accepted staff recommendations to work on the borders visioning process in preparation for the joint meeting with the Regional Planning Committee in January. The November and December meetings will be dedicated to developing core values to be included in the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP).

8. NEXT MEETING TOPICS, DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held on Friday, November 15, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. in SANDAG’s 8th Floor Conference Room A.
COBRO MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 9, 2002

The October 9, 2002 COBRO meeting was called to order by Chair Elsa Saxod.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Elsa Saxod, welcomed the COBRO members and guests to the meeting and thanked the City of Chula Vista and the Northern Borders Affairs Commission, both new members, for attending today’s meeting.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

The meeting summary for September 3, 2002 was approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

No public announcements were made.

4. CHAIR AND COBRO MEMBERS REPORT

Chair Saxod, introduced Jeff Bogart from SAIC, who is working together with SANDAG and Caltrans, on a study of the California commercial border crossings. The goal of the study is to find out what kind of improvements can be made to improve the flow of commerce by evaluating issues from the user’s perspectives. Around 120 companies will be surveyed in Tijuana, Mexicali, Tecate, and Ensenada. Preliminary findings should be ready by January 2003.

Chair Saxod also reported that Mexico’s Presidential Commissioner for Northern Border Affairs, Ernesto Ruffo, visited the SANDAG Board of Directors’ monthly meeting on September 27, 2002, and that the City of Chula Vista has a draft resolution regarding the Consulate General of Mexico’s request to accept the Matricula Consular as a valid form of I.D.

Ms. Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, reported that several COBRO members formed the San Diego Transportation Alliance, which was organized to create a seamless regional presentation for the U.S. – Mexico Binational Group on Bridges and Border Crossings meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2002.

Ten public and private organizations made a presentation to the Binational Group on San Diego’s most relevant border issues. She noted that this was the first time that a coalition has addressed border issues in a single regional voice. Additionally, the Alliance organized a welcoming reception for the U.S. – Mexico Binational Group on Tuesday, October 1, 2002. The Alliance will work to condense the presentation and propose a summarized printed version to
present to the local congressional delegation. Chair Saxod thanked Angelika and staff for the hard work invested in this presentation.

Dr. Paul Ganster, SDSU, reported on the Border Trade Alliance (BTA) conference which took place in San Diego from October 2nd through the 4th. He encouraged COBRO members to participate more actively in the BTA, noting that this is one of the few organizations that lobbies in Washington for better border crossing conditions along the entire US-Mexico and Canadian border. During the conference, important discussions took place on border security issues, technology upgrades for inspections, energy, and water. Border 2012, the latest EPA and SEMARNAT plan to deal with border environmental issues along the border, was also discussed. The draft document is out for public comment, and he suggested the COBRO review and comment on the document (Staff Note: Item 7 on the COBRO November 5, 2002 Agenda).

Ms. Paola Navarro, City of Tijuana, mentioned that the SD Police Department and the City of Tijuana are working on a Tourist Guide which will document the rights and obligations of tourists that visit Tijuana. She offered to make a presentation once it is complete.

Mr. Cruz Gonzalez, City of San Diego Transportation Department, reported that several agencies on both sides of the border continue to work on short and long term projects at the ports of entry. Mr. Gonzalez will update the Committee at its next meeting.

5. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Hector Vanegas, SANDAG staff, updated the Committee on SB 1731 (Polanco), the California and Mexico Border Economic Infrastructure Financing Authority. SB 1731 was approved by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis.

Staff also reported on SB 1703 (Peace), the San Diego Regional Transportation Consolidation Act, which was signed by the Governor on September 20th. The bill creates a consolidated transportation agency with all the functions of SANDAG, and the planning, programming, project development and construction functions of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) and North County Transit Development Board (NCTD).

Staff also reported that Congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham has co-sponsored Congresswoman Susan Davis’ HR 4837, SAFE Border Act of 2002, and that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a letter of support on this bill.

6. SOUTHERN BORDER COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS BINATIONAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Edgar Ruiz presented an overview of the Council of State Governments-WEST (CSG-WEST) Border Legislative Initiative (BLI). CSG-WEST provides a nonpartisan platform for regional cooperation and collaboration among the legislatures of the thirteen western states by creating opportunities for legislators and staff to share ideas and experiences with their colleagues. Mr. Ruiz explained how the Border Legislative Initiative forum provides state legislators in the ten states (both in the US and Mexico) along the U.S.-Mexico border an arena for developing bi-national partnerships to address common challenges and
opportunities. The program is administered by CSG-WEST and its regional partner in the south, The Southern Legislative Conference.

7. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING TOPICS, DATE, AND LOCATION**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2002.

8. **ATTENDANCE**

Available upon request.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Introduction

Two new legislative items were introduced in Congress this year relating to air quality and energy production along the U.S.-Mexico border (Attachments). They seek to prohibit the exportation of natural gas to, and the importation of energy from energy generators along the border in Mexico that do not meet U.S. air quality standards. The 107th Congress is about to adjourn and all bills that were not approved need to be re-submitted during the 108th Congress session to take any further action.

Potential legislation in this arena is of particular interest given the support of the COBRO Conference recommendations by the Borders Committee and the SANDAG Board of Directors, which recommended the creation of the Border Energy Forum. However, these bills are in the nascent stages of development. Therefore, staff will continue to update the Committee as these pieces of legislation are further developed.

Discussion

Senate Bill 2588 (Dianne Feinstein) - Southern Border Air Quality Protection Act
HR 4867 (Duncan Hunter) - Southern Border Air Quality Protection Act

This set of bills seeks to prohibit the exportation of natural gas from the United States to Mexico for use in electric energy generation units near the U.S. border that do not comply with U.S. air quality control requirements or which do not provide air quality protection that is at least equivalent to the protection provided by requirements applicable in the United States.

House of Representatives 5038 (Bob Filner) – Air Basin Clean Act of 2002

This is a bill to prohibit the importation of electricity into the US. from Mexico if produced in electric energy generation units near the U.S. border that do not comply with air quality control requirements that provide air quality protection that is at least equivalent to the protection provided by requirements applicable in the United States.

Attachment
The attachments to the Agenda Item may be obtained by contacting SANDAG’s Public Information Office at (619) 595-5347.
BORDERS VISIONING PROCESS

At the September Borders Committee Meeting, the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) was presented and discussed. The RCP will include a Borders section, where issues relevant to planning along our shared borders will be included. The Borders Committee has been tasked with developing a vision, including core values, for addressing the borders-related discussion in the RCP. The general vision and core values have already been discussed by the SANDAG Board of Directors and will be evaluated by the public at a series of public outreach meetings (Subregional Workshops) after the new-year. The Borders Committee should discuss what core values are important to a cross-border or interregional perspective in planning and make recommendations to the Regional Planning Committee at the joint meeting in January.

DISCUSSION

The Regional Planning Committee has proposed a vision and a number of core values as a starting point for inclusion in upcoming public involvement efforts and workshops (Attachment). The vision and core values will be refined through the public involvement program of the RCP. The Borders committee should make recommendations regarding the inclusion of core values that take into consideration an interregional planning perspective. Currently, the overarching vision statement, which deals with cross border and interregional coordination, is as follows:

In 2030, 2040, 2050 and beyond, the San Diego region will be an exciting and equitable place to live with a healthy environment, a vibrant and sustainable economy, an excellent transportation system, and strong interregional and international connections.

The Borders Committee, through its work over the past 10 months, has identified a number of key issues as pertinent to interregional planning, including water, energy and transportation. Additionally, jobs/housing balance, international trade, and national security are very important given San Diego’s unique position as an international gateway. Furthermore, the need for more coordinated interregional planning also is an important point that the Committee will want to discuss. The Committee should consider what recommendations it would like to make regarding the overarching vision statement and the core values to reflect the importance of border and interregional issues.

Attachment
RCP Vision and Core Values*
November 2002

Overarching Vision Statement

In 2030, 2040, 2050 and beyond, the San Diego region will be an exciting and equitable place to live with a healthy environment, a vibrant and sustainable economy, an excellent transportation system, and strong interregional and international connections.

Core Values

- Our region will understand and respect the delineations between our urban and rural lands.

- Our communities will be healthy places. They will have more mixed uses and better urban design. They will be walkable, have a distinct sense of place, and strive for greater equity.

- The people that live in the San Diego region will have the ability to choose from a wider spectrum of housing types and will be able to afford their homes more comfortably.

- The region will have a coordinated transportation system that will supply a variety of options for getting about, better link our jobs and homes, provide more transit, walking, and biking opportunities, and efficiently transport cargo and goods.

- Our ecosystems will be healthy. Our water and air will be clean. Our open space and habitat conservation systems will be fully funded, and their maintenance will be secure.

- We will have a great variety of jobs, with the educational opportunities and the workforce to meet the demand for these jobs. Our wages will sustain our families’ standard of living.

- Our infrastructure systems will be in place and will function appropriately, so that our quality of life will be measurably better.

- Our local governments will be good neighbors to each other, to our Native American Tribal governments, to our surrounding counties and Mexico, and to our military.

*Note: The vision and core values will be a primary subject of discussion at the upcoming Subregional Roundtables. Committee members are encouraged to provide comments and recommendations on these items so that staff can integrate those comments into the vision and core values before the Roundtables.
CROSS BORDER TRANSPORTATION FORECASTING MODEL

Introduction

In 2000, SANDAG completed the San Diego Region-Baja California Cross-border Transportation Study, which was conducted and funded in partnership with Caltrans District 11. Assisted by a consultant team, SANDAG developed a cross-border travel demand model for use by California and Baja California agencies as a tool for transportation infrastructure planning in the binational border region. The model not only provides better, up-to-date, and coordinated information, but will enable more informed and consistent key policy decisions.

Discussion

Over the last year, SANDAG has participated in several collaborative planning activities where the model proved of significant value. Specifically, SANDAG was able to assist Caltrans District 11 in the preparation of short and long range traffic forecasts for the proposed new port of entry at East Otay Mesa and the future State Route 11, as well as assisting Tijuana’s planning agency (IMPlan) with short and long term traffic projections for that city.

SANDAG continues to explore the coordination of this model with the new federal INS-BorderWizard model by providing long range traffic projections. The BorderWizard model is a port of entry capacity assessment tool developed by the U.S. federal inspection agencies and the U.S. General Services Administration through the Border Station Partnership Council. The primary use of this model is to assist these agencies in planning for current improvements and future infrastructure needs at the U.S. international ports of entry facilities.

SANDAG has also received two awards for the development of this cross border planning tool. In 2001, SANDAG was honored with the “National Award for Outstanding Technical Merit in Metropolitan Transportation Planning” from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and received a Transportation Innovation Award from the San Diego Chapter of the Women Transportation Seminar (WTS).