BOARD ACTIONS

November 19, 2010

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2010:

Highway Projects: Completion of the environmental document for the I-5/I-8 interchange corridor widening project is expected by the end of November for release to the public in December 2010. This project will construct auxiliary lanes and widen the connector between I-5 northbound and I-8 westbound. This project is currently funded through the design phase only and does not have a completion date at this time. Caltrans has revised the date for the environmental document for the I-805 North Express Lanes project. A biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required in order to complete the document, which is expected to occur by the end of the calendar year. On February 17, 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the award of $1.5 billion in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant funding for more than 50 high-priority, innovative transportation projects across the country. Caltrans and SANDAG were one of only four recipients in California of these funds, receiving a $20.2 million grant for the SR 905/I-805 Interchange project, which will improve the interchange by widening the westbound to northbound connector from SR 905 to I-805 and providing auxiliary lanes. The contract is now expected to be awarded in January 2011 with a completion date in fall 2012.

Transit Projects: The environmental document for the Del Mar Bluffs 3 project has been completed and is anticipated to receive approval for a categorical exemption by the end of November. Once this has been approved, the design phase will begin, with an anticipated completion date of February 2011. The completion date of phase one of the Escondido Bus Rapid Transit project has been revised to March 2011. This project, which includes bus stop improvements, is currently in construction.

Arterial and Freeway Interchange Projects: The design phase for the Nordahl Road/SR 78 interchange project has been completed. This project will widen Nordahl Road from Mission Avenue to Montiel Road to accommodate turning lanes. Right-of-way acquisition is underway. This phase is expected to be complete by March 2011. Overall completion is scheduled for 2012.
Traffic and Demand Management: During the first quarter of 2011, the I-15 Express Lanes facility recorded 493,210 FasTrak trips, which is a decrease of 7.2 percent from the previous quarter. Approximately $831,000 in toll revenue was generated during the quarter. Participation in the vanpool program increased from the last quarter, from 667 vanpools to 675. Average ridership per vanpool was approximately eight passengers, with 5,432 passengers participating. The 511 call system received 282,000 calls, raising the cumulative call volume to more than three million calls. Throughout the quarter, staff continued its partnership with Metropolitan Transit System and the U.S. Navy to plan and launch a limited express transit service known as the Murph Express. This new service is part of a program intended to assist Navy personnel living in military housing with their commutes to various bases in the San Diego region. (Item #5 staff contact: José Nuncio, (619) 699-1908, jnu@sandag.org)

ANNUAL REVIEW AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS: Acting on a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Directors approved amendments to eight Board policies and renewed a one-year delegation of authority to the Executive Director pursuant to Board Policy No. 003, Investment Policy. Each year the SANDAG Office of General Counsel solicits requests from staff for changes to Board policies and bylaws and reviews these documents to determine if updates or changes should be recommended to the Board of Directors. (Item #9: staff contact, Julie Wiley, (619) 699-6966, jwi@sandag.org)

PROPOSED 2011 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM: Directors approved the 2011 SANDAG Legislative Program, as recommended by the Executive Committee. Consistent with past programs, the 2011 Legislative Program includes policies and proposals for federal and state legislation, as well as local activities. (Item #10 staff contact: Genevieve Morelos, (619) 699-1994, gmo@sandag.org)

2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION: Directors approved the shortening of the conformity timeframe and proposed methodology for conducting the air quality conformity determination for the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). A public hearing was held on the timeframe and proposed methodology at the October 15, 2010, Transportation Committee meeting. No comments were received at the hearing or in writing. (Item #12 staff contact: Rachel Kennedy, (619) 699-1929, rke@sandag.org)

2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: REVENUE CONSTRAINED NETWORK/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY SCENARIOS: Staff provided a report on the four revenue constrained network scenarios, including a summary of the scenarios’ performance in the areas of economic impact, social equity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions analyses. The report also included a summary of feedback received from stakeholders and several working groups, as well as at Board of Directors and Policy Advisory Committee meetings. Staff was asked to analyze a fifth revenue constrained scenario that combines elements of the initial four scenarios to maximize transit system enhancements, integrates biking and walking elements, promotes Transportation Demand Management and Transportation System Management, and meets GHG reduction targets. Staff will present this fifth scenario at the December 10 Transportation Committee meeting. (Item #13 staff contact: Heather Adamson, (619) 699-6967, had@sandag.org)

UPCOMING MEETINGS
December 3, 2010
Business Meeting

- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan: Draft Policy Options to Support the Transit Network
- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan: Public Involvement and Outreach Update
- Annual Update on the Activities of the Criminal Justice Research and Clearinghouse

December 17, 2010
Business Meeting

- Election of 2011 SANDAG Board Officers
- Preferred 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Revenue Constrained Transportation Network Scenario
- Communities Putting Prevention to Work – Grant Program Evaluation Criteria and Process

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PROPOSED SANDAG COMMENTS ON INTERSTATE 5 NORTH COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Directors voted not to send a comment letter on the I-5 North Coast Corridor Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement to Caltrans prior to the close of the public comment period. (Item #15 staff contact: Richard Chavez, (619) 699-6989, rch@sandag.org)

FINAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2010 BINATIONAL SEMINAR: Directors approved recommendations from the 2010 Binational Seminar, “Crossborder Climate Change Strategies: Raising Awareness on Adaptation.” The annual seminar is hosted by SANDAG and brings together officials from the San Diego and Baja California, Mexico regions to discuss issues of common concern. The 2010 seminar was held June 1. The Board approved the following two recommendations generated at the event: Support, through a letter, the institutionalization of crossborder climate change adaptation discussions via existing mechanisms, such as the Border 2012 Program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico and/or the San Diego-Tijuana Border Liaison Mechanism; and, Request that the consuls general of the United States and Mexico explore a feasible subcommittee or technical commission within the San Diego-Tijuana BLM structure to address crossborder climate change adaptation strategies. (Item #17 staff contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, hva@sandag.org)

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