ELECTION OF 2012 SANDAG BOARD OFFICERS: Directors elected Encinitas Mayor Jerome Stocks as Chair, Santee Councilmember Jack Dale as First Vice Chair, and Imperial Beach Mayor Jim Janney as Second Vice Chair for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2012. (Item #6: Staff contact, Kim Kawada, (619) 699-6994 or kka@sandag.org)

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO COMPREHENSIVE FARE ORDINANCE: Directors approved amendments to the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance. The proposed changes affect services operated by both Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District and will take affect in January 2012. (Item #8: Staff contact, Brian Lane, (619) 699-7331 or bla@sandag.org)

ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH AND CLEARINGHOUSE: After a thorough due diligence process and public discussion, the Directors gave final approval to buy the lease to operate the State Route 125 toll road from South Bay Expressway. The sale is expected to close December 21. Directors agreed to pay $341.5 million for the asset – roughly one-third of what a private consortium spent to build the toll road.

The facility stretches for about 10 miles through eastern Chula Vista from State Route 905 near the Otay Mesa Port of Entry to State Route 54 near the Sweetwater Reservoir. Users of the toll road will notice no immediate changes to operations or the tolls. SANDAG has contracted with South Bay Expressway to continue operating the facility during a transition phase. SANDAG will oversee the operations.

In the coming months, after all the necessary elements of the transaction are completed, SANDAG expects to begin a process to lower tolls by 40 to 50 percent of the current rates. Reduced tolls are expected to attract more traffic to SR 125, relieving congestion on I-805 and reducing the need for some improvements there. (Construction will begin in 2012 on two carpool lanes – one in each direction – on I-805 in South Bay. However, the acquisition of SR 125 will make it unnecessary to add another two carpool lanes in the future, eliminating a large portion of the cost of expansion.)

The SANDAG finance plan calls for reducing the tolls on SR 125 as much as possible while still generating enough revenue to pay for operations and maintenance, debt service, future improvements, and contingencies. (Item #9: Staff contact, Marney Cox, (619) 699-1930 or mco@sandag.org)

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