

San Diego Association of Governments

BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 23, 2011

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1B**

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE TOUR MINUTES BUS TOUR TO OTAY MESA AND OTAY MESA EAST MEETING OF JULY 22, 2011

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair John Minto (East County) at 12:00 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. **BOARD BUS**

The bus was parked in front of the SANDAG offices and departed at 12 noon.

2. **WELCOME REMARKS**

Borders Committee Chair John Minto explained that the purpose of the bus tour and border visit is to get a firsthand look at Otay Mesa and the various planning activities occurring there.

John Minto introduced the following onboard tour presenters: the Chair of the Committee on Binational and Regional Opportunities (COBRO), Paul Ganster; Councilman David Alvarez; Mario Orso, Caltrans and Jacqueline Appleton-Deane, Caltrans; and Elisa Arias, Principal Planner from SANDAG.

3. **ONBOARD BRIEFING ON THE OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE 2011 SANDAG ANNUAL BINATIONAL SEMINAR UPDATE (INFORMATION)**

Dr. Paul Ganster, COBRO Chair, provided a brief overview of Otay Mesa and the SANDAG 2011 Binational Seminar. He stated that in 2004, Otay Mesa was identified at the SANDAG Annual Binational Event as an area of opportunity for a binational planning partnership. COBRO and the Borders Committee both endorsed this concept. SANDAG and the Tijuana Municipal Planning Institute (IMPlan) developed the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan that was adopted in 2007. It is the first binational strategic plan completed by SANDAG and Mexico and it focuses on four issues areas: transportation, economic development, housing, and the environment.

Dr. Paul Ganster explained that since the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the Borders Committee has received four annual progress reports, the most recent at the March 2011 Joint Meeting of the Borders Committee, COBRO, and the City of Tijuana.

He also stated that the annual binational event held this past June 2011 on "Enhancing Transit and Non-Motorized Mobility on the Border" was very successful in terms of participation and discussion. He explained that COBRO will present outcomes from the 2011 Binational Seminar to the Borders Committee in upcoming meetings.

4. ONBOARD BRIEFING ON CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 BORDER PROJECTS (INFORMATION)

Hon. David Alvarez, City of San Diego, briefed Committee members on the City of San Diego's border projects. Councilman Alvarez gave a description of his district's boundaries and described some of the key planning areas along the border. Specifically he described the city's coordination with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on the San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE) Reconfiguration project, the San Diego-Tijuana Cross Border Facility (CBF), and the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update.

5. VISIT THE OTAY MESA PORT OF ENTRY (INFORMATION)

The group visited the Otay Mesa Land POE Commercial Inspection Facility. This POE is California's largest commercial land crossing. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials provided a tour of the various inspection and enforcement processes.

Elisa Arias, SANDAG, provided a description of the Otay Mesa POE and provided statistics highlighting the economic importance of the San Diego-Baja California POEs for the local, state, and national economies on both sides of the border.

Elisa Arias explained that Mexico is the United States' third largest trading partner, after Canada and China, representing nearly \$393 billion in trade in 2010. Nine percent of the U.S.-Mexico trade value crosses at Otay Mesa and Tecate. She stated that Mexico continues to be California's number one export market and, in 2010, California exported \$21 billion in goods to Mexico, accounting for 15 percent of all California exports. Additionally, 99 percent of trade between California and Mexico is carried by trucks.

She stated that the Otay Mesa commercial crossing continues to rank third among U.S.-Mexico border crossings in terms of the dollar value of trade and is California's largest commercial land border port. In 2010, more than 1.4 million trucks carried nearly \$26 billion worth of imports and exports. Also in 2010, the Otay Mesa POE handled nearly 3.9 million passenger vehicles (or 7 million passengers), almost 35,000 buses, and about 2.3 million pedestrian inspections in the northbound direction.

Elisa Arias explained that in April 2010, in recognition of the need to modernize this POE, the Department of Homeland Security was awarded \$21.3 million in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for some initial modernization projects at the Otay Mesa POE. These funds will improve both commercial and non-commercial portions of the existing port.

She concluded by stressing the need for additional border crossing infrastructure. Elisa explained that SANDAG, Caltrans, the U.S. GSA, and the U.S. CBP are working closely toward a new POE at Otay Mesa East that will connect to the highway system via a new toll road, State Route (SR) 11. Furthermore, counterpart agencies in Mexico are also working to build the companion facility and roads in Tijuana.

6. VIEW OF THE FUTURE SITE OF STATE ROUTE 11 AND OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY (INFORMATION)

Mario Orso, Caltrans, introduced Jacqueline Appleton-Deane, Caltrans, to provide an update on the future SR 11 and the planned Otay Mesa East POE. Jacqueline Appleton-Deane stated that the project consists of three facilities: SR 11, which is an approximate 2-mile toll road beginning at the future intersection of SR 905 and SR 125, proceeding east and then south to connect with the future POE at the border; a nearly 100 acre POE site; and a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility (CVEF) operated by the California Highway Patrol. She also explained that included in the project area is a site for a possible future transit center

Jacqueline explained that Caltrans is the lead agency on the environmental and engineering efforts for the roadway, CVEF, and the POE. She highlighted the following milestones for the project:

- In 2008, the Tier I Environmental Document for the project was completed. This document cleared the SR 11 Corridor and the location of the future POE along the border and enabled the team to apply for and obtain a Presidential Permit.
- In November 2010 the Draft Tier II Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was released for public comment and the anticipated completion of that document is November 2011 with the Record of Decision to follow.
- The anticipated completion date for the design of the CVEF and SR 11 is summer 2013.
- Construction would begin no later than December 2013, due to the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund Proposition 1B funding constraint.
- The opening day to traffic is anticipated for late 2015.

Jacqueline explained that Caltrans is currently focusing efforts to complete the Draft Tier II EIR/EIS as well as the Project Report, which is a companion document to the environmental document, focusing on the technical and engineering aspects of SR 11 and the CVEF.

Caltrans is also contracting with an architectural firm to produce the Program Development Study which focuses on the program and preliminary design for the POE, the document is anticipated to be completed within the next month.

Jacqueline also noted the ongoing partnership with the U.S. GSA and U.S. CBP especially in collaboration with the PDS and Mexico on our continuous exchange of technical data.

Andrea Hoff, SANDAG, provided details about the SR 11/Otay Mesa East Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Technology Pre-deployment Study. She highlighted the challenges faced at the border in terms of wait times, and strained infrastructure and capacity and explained that as a result, there is significant interest from the federal government in studying technology at the border to address some of these challenges. As a reflection of that interest, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded SANDAG a \$1.5 million grant to study ITS at Otay Mesa East.

She stated that the new border crossing project provides a unique opportunity to create a border crossing that uses technology to be smarter by providing information on wait times and on tolls, by segmenting traffic so that it flows smoother into the POE.

Andrea Hoff explained that one major deliverable for the project is the Concept of Operations (ConOps) which is the blueprint for how the border ITS system will function from the perspective of the user. Some of the more immediate tasks that are underway are providing the opportunity to:

- Learn about other cross border ITS projects
- Conduct outreach to the future users of the system to assess the market for the project
- Begin gathering the data and survey information needed to develop a successful tolling operation

Additionally, she stated that the project team is in the process of hiring a consultant team to conduct an investment grade Traffic and Revenue Study. The ITS team will need to work closely with them as well as the architects in order to make the smarter border crossing work and ensure its financial success.

7. ONBOARD PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA CROSS BORDER FACILITY (INFORMATION)

Stephanie Saathoff, Clay Company, provided an update on the proposed San Diego-Tijuana CBF at Otay Mesa. She explained that the facility includes the construction and operation of the CBF, a crossborder airport terminal and an above-grade pedestrian bridge linking border facilities in the U.S. with a commercial passenger terminal at the Tijuana International Airport, Mexico.

8. ARRIVAL AT SANDAG OFFICES

Chair Minto concluded the tour and onboard presentations of the meeting at 2:40 p.m., and the group arrived at the SANDAG offices at approximately 3:16 p.m.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, September 23, 2011, at 12:30 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 22, 2011
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	
				Yes	No
South County	City of Chula Vista	Rudy Ramirez	Member	✓	
	City of Coronado	Mike Woiwode	Alternate	✓	
North County Coastal	City of Oceanside	Gary Felien	Member	✓	
	City of Carlsbad	Farrah Douglas	Alternate	✓	
North County Inland	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Member	✓	
	City of Poway	Jim Cunningham	Alternate		✓
East County	City of Santee	John Minto (Chair)	Member	✓	
	City of La Mesa	Ruth Sterling	Alternate		✓
City of San Diego	----	David Alvarez	Member	✓	
	----	Sherri Lightner	Alternate		✓
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member		✓
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate		✓
Imperial County	Imperial County	John Renison	Member	✓	
		VACANT	Alternate		
COBRO	----	Dr. Paul Ganster	Member	✓	
	----	Cindy Gompfer-Graves	Alternate		✓
County of Riverside		VACANT	Member		
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Remedios Gomez-Arnau	Member		✓
	Deputy Consul General of Mexico	Martha Rosas	Alternate		✓
	Deputy Consul General of Mexico	Elvira Felix	Alternate	✓	

Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Mesa Grande	Mark Romero	Member	✓	
	Campo	Monique LaChappa	Alternate		✓
Caltrans		Laurie Berman	Member		✓
		Bill Figge	Alternate	✓	
San Diego County Water Authority		Howard Williams	Member	✓	
		Elsa Saxod	Alternate		✓
SCAG		Rich Macias	Member		✓
		Mathew Gleason	Alternate	✓	
County of Orange	City of San Clemente	Jim Dahl	Member		✓
	County of Orange	Bill Campbell	Alternate		✓