BOARD ACTIONS

January 24, 2003

2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP): Directors approved modifications to the draft 2030 RTP, known as MOBILITY 2030. Modifications were based on public input, additional analyses by SANDAG, Caltrans, and the transit operators, and updated cost estimates. The Final Draft RTP includes three funding scenarios: 1) the $30 billion Revenue Constrained plan required by federal regulations; 2) the preferred $42 billion Reasonably Expected Revenue scenario on which MOBILITY 2030 is based; and 3) a $66 billion Unconstrained Revenue scenario that identifies the funding needed to fully implement all of the programs, projects, and services envisioned through 2030. The Draft Final RTP is scheduled for Board review in February 2003, and the Final 2030 RTP is scheduled for Board Approval in March 2003. (Item #11: Staff contact, Kim Kawada, (619) 595-5394 or kka@sandag.org)

TransNet AMENDMENT: At the request of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board, SANDAG approved a loan of $5.6 million in TransNet funds to purchase right-of-way for the proposed Sabre Springs/Rancho Peñasquitos station as part of the Interstate 15 Bus Rapid Transit project. This project was originally intended to be funded by the State of California. However, the current California budget crisis has, at least temporarily, frozen certain Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds pending resolution of State budget issues. Directors want to keep this important project moving forward. The loan would be repaid by the state funds if they become available. In the event the state funds do not become available, SANDAG also initiated the process to allow for the permanent use of MTDB TransNet funds for this project. Because the TransNet ordinance will need to be amended, this action will require a two-thirds approval of SANDAG as the Regional Transportation Commission at the February 28 Board meeting. SANDAG and MTDB will continue to pursue reimbursement from the State of California. (Item #14: Staff contact, Craig Scott, (619) 595-5326 or csc@sandag.org)

CONSOLIDATED AGENCY: Chairman Ron Morrison (National City) presented Directors with a report about the ongoing progress being made by elected officials who form the working group from SANDAG, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board, and the North San Diego County Transit Development Board to transition transit roles and responsibilities into the new consolidated agency. Senate Bill 1703 became law on January 1, 2003. The law mandates membership in the regional agency from the area’s 18 cities and county government. It consolidates transit planning and programming, and eventually, project development and construction into the new agency, leaving responsibilities for day to day operations with the existing transit operators. Chairman Morrison also reported on the outcome of a peer review panel composed of transit experts and city managers that scrutinized the initial transition plan and offered recommendations. In a related item, Directors accepted for distribution the draft of the initial transition plan for review and public comment. The transition plan for the initial transfer of planning and programming responsibilities of the transit boards must be completed by February 28, 2003 with the actual transfer (over)
A plan for the transfer of project development and construction will be completed by September 30, 2003 with the actual transfer occurring on or before January 30, 2004. (Items #9 & 10: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE: SANDAG approved the 2002 update to the Congestion Management Program (CMP). Following the public review process, a number of changes to the draft program were proposed. The program was revised to include: increased SANDAG and Caltrans participation in the preparation of Deficiency Plans to identify and address congestion “hot spots;” revision to the full mitigation goal to ensure appropriate mitigation of projects that have significant traffic impacts; and a proposal to automate the CMP roadway system monitoring. Workshops will be held with local agencies to discuss the changes to the 2002 CMP update and to initiate the process to prepare the required Deficiency Plans. (Item #12: Staff contact, Mario Oropeza, (619) 595-5369 or mor@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: Caltrans awarded the construction contract for the I-15/SR 56 Interchange Reconstruction which includes widening on I-15. The project is scheduled to open by fall 2004…NCTD began construction on the Oceanside-Escondido Light Rail Transit line. NCTD and SANDAG are continuing to work with the Federal Transit Administration on a Full Funding Grant Agreement. This project is scheduled to be operational by December 2005…The City of Escondido recently selected a consultant to complete the environmental clearance process on the SR 78/Nordahl Road Bridge Widening. The environmental document is scheduled to be completed by August 2003. (Item #4: Staff contact, Richard Chavez, (619) 595-5604 or rch@sandag.org)

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Directors received an informational report from Caltrans on the draft California Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP is a statewide, long-range plan that will guide transportation decisions and investments well into the 21st Century. The plan will coordinate with the San Diego region’s RTP “to develop, manage, and operate an efficient, interconnected, and intermodal transportation system.” Caltrans is holding a workshop in the San Diego region on February 21, 2003, to solicit public input on the CTP. For more information, contact Renee’ Krolikowski at Caltrans, (619) 688-3295 or renee.krolikowski@dot.ca.gov.

REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT: Representatives of the San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO) updated Directors on the Regional Energy Strategy (RES). The SDREO has created a Regional Energy Policy Advisory Council (REPAC) which includes SANDAG representation to assist in strategy development and secure input from key interest groups. A key REPAC proposal is to create an energy development authority to develop a regional approach to energy planning, decision-making, investments, and financing. The REPAC is scheduled to present the Regional Energy Strategy to SANDAG in April 2003. The Regional Energy Strategy will be incorporated into the Regional Comprehensive Plan. (Item #14: Staff contact, Steve Sachs, (619) 595-5346 or ssa@sandag.org)

#  #  #