BOARD ACTIONS

February 28, 2003

MOBILITY 2030: DRAFT FINAL REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: The Board reviewed the Draft Final RTP including modifications approved by the Board at its January 24, 2003 meeting. Following a three-year planning, development, and public outreach process, this $42 billion long-range plan contains an integrated set of public policies, strategies, and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the transportation system in the region through the year 2030. At its March 28, 2003 meeting, the Board is scheduled to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report, make a finding that the 2030 Revenue Constrained RTP is in conformance with the State Implementation Plan for air quality, and adopt the final RTP. (Item #19: Staff contact, Kim Kawada, (619) 594-5394 or kka@sandag.org)

INITIAL TRANSITION PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATION: Directors approved the plan which will consolidate the transit planning and programming functions of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) and the North San Diego County Transit Development Board (NCTD) under SANDAG as of July 1, 2003. The transition plan was developed by staff from the three agencies with guidance from an ad hoc committee of elected officials from the policymaking boards of all three agencies. The plan is based on a state law (Senate Bill 1703) which became effective on January 1, 2003. A subsequent plan for the transfer of transit project development and construction will be completed by September 30, 2003 with the actual transfer of responsibilities occurring on or before January 30, 2004. (Item #5: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: California Assembly Bill 361 (Kehoe) San Diego Consolidated Transportation Agency: The bill would modify last year’s Senate Bill 1703 in a number of ways including voter approval of a new governance structure, and the contents and process for the development and adoption of a Regional Comprehensive Plan. Directors authorized the Chairman to appoint an ad hoc committee to consult with Assemblymember Kehoe as she works the bill through the state legislature to ensure the proposed legislation is consistent with SANDAG Board policy. Ad hoc committee membership will come from members or alternates to the SANDAG Executive Committee. (Item #17: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)

TransNet AMENDMENT: At the request of the MTDB, Directors approved a loan of $5.6 million in TransNet funds at the January meeting 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. SANDAG wants to keep this important project moving forward. The loan would be repaid by State funds if they become available. In the event the State funds do not become available, SANDAG approved an amendment to the TransNet Ordinance to allow the use of MTDB TransNet funds for this project. This action required a two-thirds approval of SANDAG because the original 1987, voter-approved ordinance specified that a two-thirds vote was needed for any amendments to the Ordinance. SANDAG and MTDB will continue to pursue reimbursement
TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: Progress on the I-5/I-805 “Merge” continues with construction on various bridge columns, abutments, and retaining walls. The widening is scheduled to open to traffic in June 2005 for the northbound lanes and January 2007 for the southbound lanes. A Web camera system, which allows viewing of traffic conditions in the construction area, is available at www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/d11tmc/sdmap/cameras/merge.html.

On February 15, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the SR 905/Siempre Viva Interchange. This Caltrans project is the first stage of the 905 corridor which will open to traffic in 2004. The overall SR 905 project is scheduled for completion in 2007. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held February 21 to celebrate the opening of the Sorrento Valley Coaster Station Parking Lot Expansion. This MTDB project built 120 new parking spaces.

Chula Vista’s City Council awarded the construction contract for Palomar Street Widening to widen the street to six lanes from I-5 to Industrial Boulevard. The project is scheduled to open to traffic in March 2004. Caltrans awarded a construction contract to install three Changeable Message Signs on I-8 and one on SR 94. Installation is scheduled for January 2004. SANDAG has launched new Web pages and developed new brochures to promote the Guaranteed Ride Home Program and to announce the availability of 36 eLockers (on-demand bike lockers) at three Coaster stations.

REGIONAL SHORELINE MONITORING PROGRAM: The SANDAG Board authorized the Executive Director to accept up to $75,000 in local funds to continue the basic Regional Shoreline Monitoring Program and allocated another $45,000 from SANDAG’s state and federal Regional Beach Sand Project Funds for expanding the program in FY 2004 to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to replenish beaches and manage the region’s shoreline.

HOUSING TRUST FUNDS: Chula Vista Councilmember Patty Davis, Chair of SANDAG’s Regional Housing Task Force, introduced this informational item on housing trust funds. Housing trust funds provide a dedicated source of funding for jurisdictions’ housing needs. They are flexible and can be used for a variety of housing activities for low and very low income households including new construction, preservation of existing housing, emergency repairs, homeless shelters, and other housing-related services. In the coming months, SANDAG will work with local jurisdictions to determine the potential for implementing trust funds. After gathering information from the Cities and County, a specific strategy for encouraging and expanding local, multi-jurisdictional, and/or regional trust funds will be developed and integrated into the housing element of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

SDG&E ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLANNING: Frank Urtasun of SDG&E presented a report on SDG&E’s expanded responsibility for planning and procurement of energy for the San Diego region. SDG&E is developing a 20-year electric resource plan that will provide adequate near- and mid-term energy resources and plan for expanding energy supply for the future. SANDAG was invited to provide input into the 20-year plan. The Board felt that SDG&E should be a voting member of the Regional Energy Policy Advisory Council, and options for regional energy planning should be provided at a future Board meeting.

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