



San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

BOARD ACTIONS

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MOBILITY 2030 -- REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Directors approved MOBILITY 2030, San Diego's \$42 billion Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and certified the plan's environmental impact report. Mobility 2030 introduces a new-era strategy for transportation that increases capacity on rail, buses, trolleys, and highways, and provides the public policy vision for a seamless regional transportation system. The foundation of MOBILITY 2030 lies in better connecting our freeway, transit, and road networks, to our homes, schools, work, shopping, and other activities.

MOBILITY 2030 is developed around four main components: Land Use, Systems Development, Systems Management, and Demand Management. Each component has a unique, yet interdependent, role in improving mobility and travel in the San Diego region through the year 2030. A number of projects and funding strategies will transform the region's transportation system: 56 percent of the \$42 billion in funding is dedicated to transit, highway, and road improvements that support implementation of the Regional Transit Vision, which will make travel time by bus, trolley, or rail competitive with driving solo during rush hours.

A \$25 million incentive program will jump-start development of smart growth projects; a 20-mile "freeway within a freeway" will be built up the middle of I-15 from Kearny Mesa to Escondido with a four-lane high occupancy vehicle facility with a movable barrier to reverse the lanes for south and northbound traffic; an extensive carpool and vanpool network is expanded from 14 miles today to more than 200 miles by 2030; highway construction and improvements are proposed or underway on Interstates 5, 15, and 805, State Routes 52, 54, 56, 94, and 125, as well as Routes 905 and 11 along the U.S./Mexico border; and annual monitoring reports on the "State of the Commute" will ensure the investment strategy is supporting regional priorities.

Staff also was directed to begin working with Save our Forests and Ranchlands (SOFAR) and other groups as the RTP is updated. With the plan now approved, SANDAG will move forward to implement the projects in close coordination with local jurisdictions, the Metropolitan Transit Development Board, the North San Diego County Transit Development Board, and Caltrans. *(Item #10: Staff contact, Kim Kawada, (619) 595-5394 or kka@sandag.org)*

HABITAT CONSERVATION: Culminating 10 years of work and consensus building, Directors unanimously approved a comprehensive program to preserve nearly 20,000 acres of undeveloped land in North County. The program, known as the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program, encompasses the seven Cities of Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, and Solana Beach. The designated habitat weaves together contiguous parcels of land to offer wildlife open space corridors to protect 51 species of endangered or threatened plants and animals.

With SANDAG's approval and certification of the environmental impact report, each of the seven North County cities will use the program as a framework to create specific conservation plans within their

(more)

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Oceanside
Poway
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and
County of San Diego

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North San Diego County
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Unified Port District

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Baja California/Mexico

Upcoming Board Meetings

There is no April 11 policy meeting scheduled.

April 25 Board Meeting

- Progress report on Regional Comprehensive Plan
- Nearshore Habitat Inventory
- FY 2004 Overall Work Program

Upcoming Events

April 25, 2003 Spring Into Action

Employer outreach event to promote transportation benefits programs.

May 3, 2003 SR 125 Ribbon Cutting

Celebrate the grand opening of a new stretch of freeway that completes the SR 125 corridor from SR 52 to SR 54. See sandag.org for more information.

May 16, 2003 Bike to Work Day

For more information, visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com.

own city limits. When these plans are put together and receive approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, the North County cities can grant permits so developers can build on approximately 10,000 unprotected acres.

The cost to preserve the 20,000 acres will be \$190 million over the next three decades. Endowments to manage and monitor the preserved lands in perpetuity account for \$63 million of the total cost; another \$71 million is for property purchases; management of the combined preserve is put at \$52 million, and \$4 million is dedicated to land restoration. As part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, SANDAG is working to develop investment strategies to help finance ten regional infrastructures, including habitat preservation.

The new North County habitat program will be closely coordinated with the existing 170,000-acre Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) where 85 sensitive plants and animals are being protected. The remaining unincorporated areas of North County and East County cover more than one million acres of land. The County government has mapped the vegetation in the area and will create a wildlife corridor system that will merge with the two other habitat programs. This work is expected to be completed in 2004. *(Item #11: Staff contact, Janet Fairbanks, (619) 595-5370 or jfa@sandag.org)*

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: Caltrans anticipates the opening of the I-5 Widening project between Mission Bay Drive and SR 52 in early April. The project adds one more lane in the northbound direction to this stretch of I-5...In late February, the Federal Transit Administration announced that the \$152.1 million Full Funding Grant Agreement for NCTD's Oceanside-Escondido Rail line has been approved...NCTD also announced the light rail service, named "The Sprinter," is scheduled to begin service in December 2005...Carlsbad's Rancho Santa Fe Road Widening construction project continues with grading work including earthwork and blasting. The widened section is scheduled to open to traffic in September 2004... Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs reduced an estimated 13,400 pounds of smog forming pollution last month bringing the fiscal year total to 106,300. This is a 29 percent increase over this time last year. Since July 1, 2002, the Freeway Service Patrol has assisted 37,000 motorists, an increase of 14 percent over this time last year. Participation in SANDAG's Vanpool Program has grown by 40 percent in the last year from 183 vanpools to 257 vanpools. Each vanpool eliminates an estimated 18 automobile home-work trips. During the past month, SANDAG implemented the Guaranteed Ride Home program that provides emergency rides home from work to Coaster and Express Bus riders... SANDAG also announced "Spring Into Action" on April 25, an outreach event to provide employers with information on starting a transportation benefits program. Bike to Work Day is scheduled for May 16. Visit www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com for more information. *(Item #6: Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 595-5619 or jnu@sandag.org)*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: California Assembly Bill 361 (Kehoe) – the Consolidated Transportation Agency, as currently drafted, would modify last year's Senate Bill 1703 (Peace) in a number of ways to include: voter approval of a new regional governance structure; and the contents and process for the preparation and adoption of a Regional Comprehensive Plan. The Chairman, as directed by the Board, has appointed an ad hoc committee to work with Assemblymember Kehoe as she works the bill through the state legislature to ensure the bill is consistent with SANDAG policy. The bill is set for a hearing in the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 7, 2003. *(Item #9: Staff contact, Debra Greenfield, (619) 595-5366 or dgr@sandag.org)*