



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 25, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-07- 3-C
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of July 11, 2003

The Regional Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland). Committee members in attendance were Vice Chair Patty Davis (South County), Jack Feller (North County Coastal), Jill Greer (East County), Ron Roberts (County of San Diego), and Alternate members Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Patricia McCoy (South County), Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal), and Jerry Jones (East County). Ex officio members in attendance were: James Bond (San Diego County Water Authority), Gene Pound (Caltrans), Susannah Aguilera (Department of Defense), Leon Williams (MTDB), Dave Druker (NCTD), Bob Leiter (Regional Planning Technical Working Group), and Mike Stepner (Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group). Also in attendance were SANDAG Chair Ron Morrison (National City) and Mayor Pro Tem Ramona Finnila (Carlsbad).

CONSENT (Item 1)

1. **ACTIONS FROM JUNE 6, 2003, REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (INFORMATION)**

Deputy Mayor Maggie Houlihan (Encinitas) asked that the minutes reflect the concern that as we add housing in an attempt to implement smart growth, we need to balance the removal of obstacles such as regulations and fees to expedite the housing process with the need to provide services. There was no opposition to this change in the minutes.

2. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

3. **UPDATE ON THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (IRIS) OF THE RCP (DISCUSSION/COMMENT)**

The IRIS proposes a two-step approach to achieve the urban form and design called for in the RCP: (1) creating a planning, financial management, and public policy framework to strengthen the relationship between local and regional plans and policies to better link land use and infrastructure, and (2) using an incentive and competitive-based process to prioritize and synchronize capital improvement programs and strategies. Additionally,

currently, much of the decision-making process that leads to the provision of infrastructure is independent and fragmented. The IRIS proposes to establish a more integrated and formalized working relationship between general purpose governments and infrastructure providers. The Regional Planning Committee was asked what they liked about the IRIS approach and how it could be improved.

Comments included:

- This is the most important and most fragile area of the RCP. The key issue is how local communities can help to implement the regional plan even though their neighborhoods may oppose certain projects.
- The idea is to develop a regional approach for each of the eight infrastructure areas and then provide funding. Areas that are more consistent with the regional priorities receive priority funding.
- The primary focus will be on transportation facilities and planning, and prioritizing funding allocations in relation to where smart growth is occurring. The allocation of funding for other types of facilities should then be synchronized with the regional strategy and expenditures. Transportation investments serve as a key driver for the smart growth implementation.
- There should be regional policies that direct the purchase of properties that are most at risk for urban encroachment.
- How can we encourage individual jurisdictions and infrastructure providers to be involved in this regional process? Setting criteria and principles is an effective way of allocating resources.
- Increasing population pressures on our natural resources could diminish our quality of life. The pressures in our rural areas are significant. The RCP and IRIS could help direct the growth.
- Funding sources should be presented as part of the next report.
- SANDAG's legal team was asked to review the regional concept and the nexus between a fee charged and the service provided.
- Elected officials need to sell the idea that longer-term planning is important and needs to be supported. That is the charge of this group.

Action: The Committee expressed support for the IRIS process.

4. DRAFT TRANSPORTATION CHAPTER (ACCEPT)

Staff reported that the language for the draft transportation chapter for the RCP has been based on the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), MOBILITY 2030, adopted by the SANDAG Board of Directors in March 2003. The SANDAG Board approved the 2030 RTP

with the understanding that it would be the transportation component of this first RCP. In turn, the RCP will set the policy framework and help prioritize transportation investment decisions for the next RTP update in 2006.

The integration of land use and transportation was reflected in several elements of the 2030 RTP, including the emphasis on the Regional Transit Vision, the Congestion Management Program, and using transportation funding as an incentive for smarter land uses. Staff described the \$25 million smart growth incentive program included in the 2030 RTP and stated that transportation evaluation criteria were currently under review to determine how they could be modified to be consistent with the RCP. Staff stated that the Regional Planning Committee is asked to accept the draft transportation chapter for inclusion in the draft RCP. Staff noted that the chapter is likely to be changed over time, in order to integrate the transportation-specific goals and policy objectives with the overall goals and policy objectives for the RCP and other individual chapters.

Comments included:

- Support was expressed for the integrated approach of funding for both short- and long-term projects, particularly carpool lanes, movable lanes, and other near-term efforts.
- Support was also expressed for the draft chapter's emphasis on reducing sprawl.
- SANDAG should conduct an analysis of how implementing the RCP and the RTP results in different outcomes. MOBILITY 2030 includes an effort to conduct performance measures, and will track the changes that will take place over time.
- Transit should be as quick or quicker than the automobile to provide a choice. The Plan should challenge the imagination of our public.
- In order to achieve quicker transit trips, the RCP needs to relate housing densities to transit investments.
- The benefits of transit, such as not having to find a parking space, should be emphasized.

Action: The Committee unanimously accepted the draft transportation chapter for inclusion in the draft RCP, with the understanding that the chapter will continue to change, while the concepts stay intact.

6. APPROACH TO HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS CHAPTER (DISCUSSION)

The healthy ecosystems chapter will include four components: air quality, natural habitat conservation, shoreline preservation, and water quality. Staff will start by reviewing existing work done in these areas and consolidating those components. Under air quality, SANDAG is responsible for developing and adopting the RTP and the Regional Transportation Improvement program (RTIP) to ensure that transportation policies and projects conform to federal and state air quality policies. SANDAG is a co-lead with the Air

Pollution Control District (APCD) for air quality planning related to on-road motor vehicles. The habitat conservation component will build upon existing habitat plans, and will address two major issues: funding and near-shore habitat. SANDAG has a shoreline preservation strategy that was adopted in 1993, which will be integrated into this chapter. SANDAG has no direct responsibility for water quality; however, it will be reviewing the whole watershed question and pollutant reduction. Draft goals and policy objectives will be completed next week and presented to the Working Groups for their review. The concepts will then be presented to the Regional Planning Committee for review at the August meeting.

Comments included:

- Green infrastructure concepts should be incorporated into the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter and the IRIS.
- Disincentives should be put in place to discourage increasing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and therefore help improve air quality.

7. SECOND ROUND OF RCP WORKSHOPS (DISCUSSION)

Five RCP workshops have been scheduled in September to obtain input on key regional planning concepts in the RCP. Elected official participation was excellent in the first round of RCP workshop, and SANDAG is encouraging high participation rates again. Staff encouraged Committee members to attend the workshops and to invite other elected officials and constituents from their jurisdictions.

The Executive Director asked the representatives of the two working groups if they were in agreement with the content and the direction of the workshops. Both Mr. Leiter and Mr. Stegner indicated their Working Groups' support.

Mr. Pound reminded staff to ensure that the workshops are accessible to the disabled.

8. ADJOURNMENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Committee agreed that the next Regional Planning Committee meeting will take place on August 1, 2003, as scheduled.

Chair Pfeiler adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Secretary