REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 2019-01-04

Name: Clive Richard

Address: 

Phone: 

E-mail: 

Agenda Item #: 2
Options: □ In Favor □ Opposed

Representing: Self

Request to Speak: □ Yes □ No

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

SANDAG

Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board
REQUEST TO COMMENT

This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: 1-4-18  Agenda Item #: 2  □ In Favor □ Opposed

Name to be called: John G. Wetzka  Representing: Self

Address (optional): ___________________________

Phone (optional): ___________________________  Email (optional): ___________________________

Request to Speak: □ Yes □ No

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

1. Roads, Rail, High-Speed Rail, Bridges  5. Transportation Environmental Issues
3. Water Issues  7. Airport and Global Trade Issues

Please Submit to the Clerk

SANDAG
1-4-19 Transportation Committee Meeting

1.0 Roads, Rail, High-Speed Rail, Bridges, Bicycle and Ride-Share Issues

Hasan Ikhrata the new executive director of SANDAG is calling for a "Grand Central Station" to connect urban transportation systems to SDIA, connecting buses, rail, and commuter rail so that they are competitive with driving.


1.1 Roads

1.1.3 State County and City

1.1.3.2 Sidewalks

Los Angeles will allow street vendors in such places as in Echo Park and the Fashion District.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-29-18 pp. A2

• The Theatre Box Chinese theater is open with 8-auditoriums upstairs. The theater is a Hollywood pairing between the 90-year-old TCL Chinese Theater in Los Angeles and Instagrammable restaurant and retail chain Sugar Factory. It will feature $18-milkshakes, $39-cotails, and shows at $15 for adults and $12 for kids.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. C1 & C4

1.2 Rail

1.2.4 Urban Light Rail Systems

A woman was killed by an MTS Trolley, in the Encanto area on 11-25-18 near 65th & Imperial Ave., 3-blocks from the Encanto Trolley Station.


1.2.5 Amtrak

Officials are scrambling to stabilize the crumbling Del Mar bluffs—with 4-collapses that occurred since August 2018 on areas were the Coaster and Amtrak trains run daily. The tracks are inspected twice/wk.


1.2.6 International Freight Systems

1.2.6.1 China’s Belt and Road Initiative

South Korea said on 11-25-18 the U.N.’s Security Council granted an exception to sanctions on North Korea that will allow surveys on North Korea railroad sections they want to connect with the south. The surveys will study connections that will connect to the South and bring the North, fuel and cars, on the northern tracks. U.S. led sanctions against the North will also need to be lifted—pending dismantling the North’s nuclear weapons and missiles. The modernize plan was agreed to between Kim Jong Un and South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in, who met 3-times/yr and Kim’s meeting with President
Trump in Singapore in June 2018, along with a nuclear free, Korean Peninsula. Experts say the rail network that was built in the early 20th-Century would take a massive effort, taking decades and tens of billions of dollars.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-25-18 pp. A4

1.4 Bridges

1.4.2 Interstate

The Delaware Memorial Bridge was closed in both directions on 11-25-18 because of a chemical production facility leak. Traffic of some 80E3-vehicles was diverted to other crossings including the Commodore Barry Bridge. The Bridge carries traffic from 8-lanes of I-295.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-26-18 pp. A2

1.6 Bicycle

1.6.3 Bike Trails

The City of San Diego, approved $2.3E6 in bike paths to connect 2-parks near Carmel Valley. The State Department of Transportation will contribute $1.5E6 for the project under I-5 near Route 56.


2.0 Port and Military Issues

2.1 Ports

2.1.2 Cruise Ships

The Mexican Riviera has regained its appeal, San Diego as a port of call for departing and arriving cruises is having a comeback. The Port of San Diego is expecting 295E3-passengers to pass through its 2-cruise ship terminals on their way to Baja California ports such as Cabo San Lucas, Ensenada, and Panama Canal and the Hawaiian Islands. By 2020 it forecasts some 340E3 passengers, a drop from 1.0E6 in 2008, and twice that of 2014 when it was 183E3.


2.1.5 International

Dissidents from Colombia’s largest rebel movement who were unable to take advantage of a peace accord are fueling violence in the port city of Tumaco, underpinned by coca production, a lack of basic infrastructure, and disillusion with peace.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-14 pp. A3

2.1.5.1 China’s 21-Century Maritime Silk Road Economic Belt

A $99E9 Bering Strait tunnel was approved as the Kremlin paves a way for East to West rail link by 2030. The system could provide a train trip from New York City to London via Nome, AK and Uelen, Russia tunnel crossing with a 3-week train ride through the Artic.

• 5-international charities urged the U.S. to halt all military support for a Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen’s Shiite rebels, saying it would save millions of lives.—The Senate voted 63 to 37 to limiting presidential war powers in Yemen.—A delegation of Houthi rebels flew from Yemen to Sweden on 12-5-18 for a step in a peace process in the civil war that has been on since 2016. Talks will be between the rebels and Saudi-led coalition backing President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.—Yemeni rebel delegates at talks under way in Sweden to try to end the 4-yr civil war and open the airport in the capital Sanaa and exchange prisoners.—The Republican controlled Senate took the rare step on 12-13-18 invoking its War Powers Authority for the 1st-time to demand a halt to U. S. participation in the Saudi-led war in Yemen. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in Saudi airstrikes and is considered the planets worst humanitarian crises. U.S. support includes providing targeting intelligence and refueling Saudi aircraft.—Yemeni’s warring parties agreed to a cease-fire in the Port of Hoderda, says the U.N. chief. Houthi rebels agreed to withdraw their forces from Hoderda said the Secretary-General António Guterres.


2.2 Military

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was in the United Arab Emirates on 11-23-18 on his 1st-tour abroad since the killing of writer Jamal Khashagghi at the kingdom’s consulate in Istanbul.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-24-18 pp. A3

• President Trump will talk to President XI and President Putin, of China and Russia, about reducing costs of defense spending that is $716E9 in the U.S. with $10.0E9 for missile defense and nuclear weapons programs by the U.S.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-4-18 pp. A5

2.2.1 Ships and Planes

A U.S. military member was killed, and 2-Afghan soldiers died when their helicopter failed to land properly. The Islamic State Group claimed responsibility for the suicide attack on 11-23-18, inside an Army base in eastern Khost Province, that killed at least 27-Army soldiers. ISIS said it occurred inside a mosque at the base.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-25-18 pp. A4

• The Navy on 12-1-18 commissioned a new guided-missile destroyer in Boston—the USS Thomas Hudner, and will be home-ported at Naval Station Mayport, FL. It can engage in air, surface, and sub-surface with air and missile defense capability. The ship was built by Bath Iron Works, Bath, ME.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-2-18 pp. A10

• 5-Marines were missing, 1-rescued, and another recovered, after 2-aircrafts collided off the coast of Japan. An F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet and KC-130 refueling-aircraft collided after leaving their base in Iwakuni, near Hiroshima. The Navy said the collisions were the result of missed warnings and basic errors that could have been avoided.—1 is dead and 5-missing from the F/A-18 Hornet jet and KC-130 Hercules incident.—5-missing crew members have been declared dead after a KC-130 Hercules refueling aircraft collided on 12-6-18 with a F/A-18 Hornet during training from Japan near Shikoku Island.

2.2.2 International Issues

President Tsai Ingwen resigned as head of the Democratic Progressive Party—DPP—in Taiwan and remain as President after economic pressure from China. The DPP lost the mayoral election to the Nationalist Party in the Port City of Kaohsiung and Ingwen is up for re-election in 2-years. The DPP held power for 20-years and lost power in Taichung, home to the light industrial industry, and Ko Wen-je independent mayor in Taipei, the capital, could win a 2nd-term.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-25-18 pp. A16

- President Trump on 11-29-18 canceled a meeting with Russian President Putin in Argentina, over issues of Russia’s seizure of 3-Ukrainian naval vessels and 24-sailors, after Air Force one took off for the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-30-18 pp. A4

- President Putin warned on 12-5-18, if the U.S. decides to develop new intermediate range missiles, Russia will respond in kind. The Chief of Russia’s military, Gen Valery Gerasimov said any E.U. country that hosts a missile would be targeted. Many national leaders from the Middle East have visited Moscow over the last few years.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-6-18 pp, 3 & 7

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Trump Adm. would make formal plans to scrap the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty within 60-days, unless Russia returns to compliance with the treaty’s terms. The process could take 6-months. The Europeans see it as pushing them into a further arms race with Russia without improving their security.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-5-18 pp. A3

- Secretary of state Pompeo urged the UN Security Council to ban Iranian ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and to maintain an arms embargo that will be lifted in 2020 under the landmark 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal. Pompeo also urged the council to prevent Iran from circumventing arms restrictions with inspections of ships in ports and stopping them at sea. President Trump dropped out a deal that is supported by Russia, China, Britain, France, and Germany.


- President Trump will talk to President Xi and President Putin, of China and Russia, about reducing costs of defense spending that is $716E9 in the U.S. with $10.0E9 for missile defense and nuclear weapons programs by the U.S.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-5-18 pp. A7

- Russia has emerged as the World’s 2nd-largest arms producer, after the U.S., and surpassed Britain which held the sport since 2002 as the No.1 arms maker. The report does not include China. China is No.5 after the U.S., Russia, Germany, and France.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-10-18 pp. A3 and Google.Com: 10 countries that export the most weapons.

- Russia’s Coast Guard opened fire and seized 3 of the Ukraine’s vessels on 11-25-18. Russia’s warplanes attacked rebel-held areas in Northern Syria on 11-25-18.—More on Russia-Ukraine incident with 24-Ukrainian sailors detained.—The president of Ukraine is urging NATO to deploy warships to the Sea of
Azov, that was called a provocation by Russia. A 2003-treaty between Russia and Ukraine stipulates that permission from both countries is required for warships from anywhere else, to enter the internal sea. NATO is not expected to send ships to the area.


- A federal grand jury indicted 2-Iranian men for a ransomware cyberattack scheme that targeted U.S. cities, hospitals, and transportation agencies, including the Port of San Diego. They used SamSam to freeze data on computers and demanded payment in cybercurrency known as bitcoin to unlock the data. They collected more than $30E6 in ransom and caused $30E6 in damages in 2016. They have not been arrested and live in Iran.


- U.S. Senators are moving to rebuke Saudi Arabia for the slaying of journalist Khashaggi to call Prince Mohammed bin Salman complicit in the killing and are moving to: condemn the crown, suspend arms sales, and to pull back U.S. help for Saudi-led war in Yemen, said Bob Corker R-TN. Yemen’s sides agreed to a prisoner swap on 12-6-18 sitting in a room at the U.N. peace talks in Sweden over issues of the 3-year international recognized government, backed by the Saudi-led coalition against Shiite rebels.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-7-18 pp. A2 & A3

- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu will visit Oman and on to further visits to the Arãb World.


- Russia is building up its land forces along the border with Ukraine & deployed 80E3-troops, 1.4E3-utility & multiple rocket launchers, 900-tanks, 2,300-armed combat vehicles, 500-aircraft, and 300-helicopters.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-2-18 pp. A9

- A Canadian prosecutor urged a Vancouver court to deny bail to a Chinese executive at the heart of a case shaking up U.S. China relations and waging global financial markets. Meng Wanzhou the chief financial officer of Tele Communications giant Huawei and daughter of its founder were detained at the request of the U.S. during a layover at Vancouver Airport on December 1, 2018—the same day President Trump and President Xi agreed to a 90-day cease fire in trade disputes that disrupts global commerce.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-6-18 pp. A3

- North Korea is expanding a missile base that would be the most likely sites for deploying intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S., says 2-experts on the North’s missile programs on 12-6-18. The Yeon-dong missile base, near the North Korea border with China, and expansion of a new suspected missile facility 7-mi away, are indicating North Korea continues to improve its missile capabilities, says the Middlebury Institute of studies at Monterey.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-7-18 pp. A3

- Dozens of South Korean soldiers visited the former frontline—North Korean guard post in the DMZ, a 155-mi x 2.5-mi area, on 12-12-18 to verify their recent removal of restrictions, as a warming diplomacy by North Korea. denuclearization remains stalled over sanction issues.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. A11
Japan took a step on 12-11-18 to expand its military capabilities by advancing plans for aircraft carries that can launch fighter jets and arm Japan with its 1st-aircraft carrier since WW II. There may be issues with the pacifist constitution. A large Japanese naval vessel is now equipped with helicopters and could be upgraded for jet fighters and be capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings, equipped with stealth-technology to avoid detection.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. A7

- 5,100-lbs of cocaine was seized in the Eastern Pacific by the U.S. Coast Guard aboard her Majesty’s Canadian ship, Edmonton. The drugs were being shipped on drug dealer’s “go-fast” boats. Joint Canadian-U.S. crews seized more than 31E3-lbs of cocaine on the Eastern Pacific—12-marine realms that cover the shallow oceans of the world and extends along the Pacific coast of the America’s from the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula in the north, to northern Peru in the South, since 2015, valued at $417E6.


3.0 Water Issues

3.1 Regulation

The Trump Adm.’s rollback of the Clean Water Act could affect 66% of CA’s inland streams

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. A4

3.1.1 Water Rights

Borrego Springs is facing reducing consumption of water by 75% in coming decades. Proposition 3—a $8.8E9 state water-bond would have allowed fallow of citrus and other farms in the northern part of the community in exchange for trees cut down and creating an Anza-Borrego desert state park surrounding the unincorporated town like, dough surrounds a doughnut hole. The 50+- year old town uses 70 to 80% of the ground-water for golf courses, businesses, and residences in the rule. There is no way to pipe in water. In 2016 the state passed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and listed Borrego’s sole aquifer as being in critical overdraft, the most serious level.


3.6 Municipal Water System Contamination

Some 6E6-gal/d of raw sewage has been spilling into the Tijuana River since 12-10-18. The U.S. section of the IBWC said the Mexican counterparts, had a ruptured collector pipe that had millions of dollars of upgrades over the last year, but is still damaged. Shorelines from Imperial Beach to Coronado have been shuttered for several days because of polluted water from the Tijuana River by recent rains, says the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-12-18 pp. B1 & B4

4.0 Pipeline and Tunnel Issues

4.1 Pipelines

4.1.2 Sewer Lines
The IBWC will try to divert the flows of sewage from the Tijuana River back into CESPT's wastewater treatment system.—A ruptured pipe in Mexico continues to spill sewage into the Tijuana River but is now being captured at the border and diverted to a wastewater treatment facility. Over the last few days efforts were made to remove sediment and debris from pumps in the Tijuana River, that will help restart a diversion system, that was caused by a broken pipe.


4.1.5 Oil and Gas

MI Gov. Rick Snyder hopes to lock in a deal allowing construction of an oil pipeline tunnel beneath a channel linking 2-of the U.S. Great Lakes. The deal would be with Canadian oil transport giant Enbridge, to replace underwater segment Line 5 that carries 25E6-gal-oil and natural gas liquids/d between Superior, WI and Sarnia, Ontario in MI. The line is more than 4-mi-long on the floor of the Cheering Straits of Mackinac between Lakes Huron and Michigan and was laid in1953. The twin pipelines have issues with environmentalists, native tribes, tourism businesses, and critics. An agreement was made with Snyder’s Administrative people, in October 2018 to decommission the pipes, drill a new line through bedrock that could take 7-10-years, and cost $350 to $500E6, that Enbridge would pay for. The new Gov. Whitmer pledged to shutdown the line as well as Democratic Dona Nessel, who won the race for Attorney General and will take office in January 2019.


- Mexico’s President Obrador says the country loses $2.5E9 to $3.5E9 annually to fuel thieves who drill illegal taps into government pipelines. 11,230 taps were found in the 1st-9-months of 2018—some 41/d. The theft industry involves drilling taps, bribing or threatening oil company employees, stealing tank trucks, and turf battles between rival groups.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-9-18 pp. A12

5.0 Transportation Environmental Issues

5.1 Maritime Transportation Emissions

6.0 Transportation Financial Issues

Transit officials agreed on 12-13-18 to sale back a proposal fare hike on seniors and disabled riders as part of the 1st-overhaul to ticket process in more than a decade, in response to a some $10.1E6 annual budget shortfall and would impact a wide range of users. MTS’s 1st-proposal was to raise senior and disabled riders’ fares from $18 to $26/month—with MTS settling for $23 and moving the age for a senior from 60 to 65.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-14-18 pp. B1 & B4

6.1 Ports

6.3 Federal Highway Trust Fund

6.3.1 Gasoline Tax

French President Emmanuel Macron scrapped a fuel tax amid fears of more violence.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-6-18 pp. A3
7.0 Airport and Global Space Issues

With it's $93E9 in revenues in 2017 and 141E3-employees, Boeing Company was massive, but over the last year the aerospace company expanded in its commercial jets, big satellites, and fighter’s divisions, taking over parts and services providers. In October Boeing acquired KLX Inc. for $4.25E9. Since Boeing’s merger in 1997 with McDonnell Douglas Corp. they had proposed a joint venture with Brazilian Aerospace firm, Embraer, and bought Millennium Space Systems in EL Segundo. Harris Corp. said they will merge, creating the 6th largest U.S. Defense Company. Acquisitions will be the norm with increased demand for space systems.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-14-18 pp. C1 & C4

7.1 Airport

7.1.2 Regulation

Airlines in the U.S. and Europe are expected to collect $92.9E9 from extra charges to check bags, upgrade seats, and change reservations. Called “ancillary revenue”, it is expected to be 13% higher than the $82.2E9 in 2017. China is expected to adopt U.S. and European tactics for its 300% increase in passengers.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-1-18 pp. C2

7.1.5 Safety

The Great Lakes region is under blizzard or winter storm warnings, some 1,200-flights headed to or from the U.S. had been canceled as of 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Most were routed through Chicago or Kansas City areas hit hard by the storm.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-26-18 pp. A2

- It took 8-years for California Pacific Airlines to take flight but was grounded in one month because of mechanical issues.—after 2-days of cancelations North County’s California Pacific Airlines will be back in the air on 12-12-18. The planes mechanical issues were fixed.


7.1.6 U.S.

After more than a decade of inaction, elected officials throughout the region now appear serious about connecting transit lines to the SDIA and voted for an interagency committee to bring the concept for improving transportation to the airport forward. SANDAG’s new executive director-Hansan Ikhrama made it clear his top priority would be to blueprint a “San Diego Grand Central” to connect trolleys, busses, and Amtrak to the terminals.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-8-18 pp. B1 & B4

7.2 Global and Space

Insight landed on Mars just before 12:00 p.m. PST and it took 8-min for the conformation to arrive, relayed by a pair of tiny satellites that had trailed Insight throughout the 6-month more than 300E6-mi journey. The conformation arrived across 100E6-mi of space. The 2-satellites transmitted the news in almost real time and sent back Insight’s 1st-pictures of Mars in 4.5-min after landing. The surface looked
smooth and sandy with just 1-2 sizable rock. Insight is the 8th-successful landing on Mars since the 1976-Viking probes and the 1st-in 6-years. The Curiosity rover arrived in 2012, is still on the move on Mars. It was flawless says JPL’s chief engineer Rob Manning along with NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine. Insight was a $1.0E9 international project and includes: a German mechanical mole to burrow down 16-ft to measure internal heat, a French seismometer to measure quakes, and an experiment to see if Mars wobbles. 7-hours after touchdown NASA employed Insight’s vital solar panels, were opened and recharging its batteries. Over the next few “sols” or Martian days of 24-hrs-39.5-min, the health of Insights robot arm, and instruments will be evaluated. Many spacecraft have been launched to Mars by the U.S., Russia and other countries but have been lost or destroyed over the years with a success rate of 40% without Insight. NASA used a parachute and braking engines to get the speed from 12,300-mph entering the atmosphere, about 77-mi-up, to 5-mph at touch down. It could have bounced off the atmosphere. The 3-legged Insight settled on the Western side of Elysium Planitia. The 300-lb Insight is stationary and will operate for 2-years. The Earth formed 4.5E9-years ago and is seismically active but Mars is not. NASA’s next mission, the Mars 2020-rover will prowl for rocks that could contain evidence of ancient life.


7.2.3 Moon

NASA selected 9-companies that can bid on contracts to carry science experiments to the Moon. The commercial lunar payload services contracts are valued at $2.6E9 during the next 10-years and could start in 2019. Company’s are: Astrobotic Technology Inc.—Pittsburgh; Deep Space Systems Inc., Littleton, CO; Draper of Cambridge, MA; Firefly Aerospace Inc., Cedar Park, TX; Intuitive Machines of Houston; Lockheed Martin Space Systems Inc., Mojave; Moon Express of Cape Canaveral, FL; and Orbit Beyond, of Edison, N.J.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-30-18 pp. C3

7.2.5 Comets and Asteroids

After a 2-year chase, a NASA spacecraft arrived at the ancient asteroid Bennu—it’s 1st visitor in billions of years. The robot explorer Osiris-Rex pulled-up within-12-miles of the diamond-shaped space rock and will enter an orbit on December 31, 2018. It is the 1st-attempt to collect asteroid samples for return to Earth, something only Japan has done so far. Bennu is 76E6 miles from Earth and took 7-min to contact controllers at Lockheed Martin in Littleton, CO, where the satellite was built. Bennu is 1,600-ft across and the spacecraft is about the size of a SUV. Osiris-Rex will shadow the asteroid for a year and scoop up gravel for return the earth in 2023. The solar system is some 4.5E9-years-old. A Japanese spacecraft has been hanging out at another asteroid since June 2018 named Ryugu and a sample could arrive on earth by December 2020. Osiris-Rex will not land but use a 10-ft arm to touch down and vacuum up particles into a container that would break loose and head back to Earth. Bennu and Ryugu could hit the earth in 150-years. The Osiris project cost $800E6 with a 2016 launch from Cap Canaveral and has traveled 1.2E9-miles as of 12-11-18.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-9-18 pp. A28

7.2.7 International

Many nations are developing 3-rovers, 2-orbiters around the world.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-2-18 pp. A14
7.2.7.1 International Space Station—ISS—

3-astronauts reached the ISS in a Russian Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft on 12-3-18. NASA’s Anne McClain, Canada’s David Saint-Jacques, and Russia’s Oleg Kononenko entered the ISS and were greeted by the present occupants. They were launched from the Russian-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 12-3-18 and entered its orbit in 9-min after making 4-orbits, as it chased the ISS.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-4-18 pp. A3

8.0 Border and Culture Issues

Leaders of the incoming Mexican government are in talks with U.S. officials to allow migrants applying for asylum to remain in Mexico while they wait for a decision as President Trump suggested, the deal was good as a done deal. Some 4,700-Central Americans have been living in cramped areas together on the ground, on a baseball field, in a gymnasium, basketball court, by the jungle gym.


8.1 Border

8.1.1 Import-Export

San Ysidro stores lost $513E6 in sales as a result of a 5-hr closure caused by migrant disruptions. Some 70E3-vehicles and 25E3-pedestrians move between the 2-centers each day.


- President Trump blamed responsibility for recent stock market declines on the Federal Reserve raising interest rate higher than what can be gained in the market because of trading fees issues.—Stocks fell to 8-month lows on 12-14-18 after weak data from China and the E.U., sell-offs worries about the global economy, and tensions over Brexit.


- President Trump, President Nieto of Mexico, and President Trudeau of Canada signed the revised NAFTA. Congress must approve the deal before it takes effect. Trade law makers say it limits free flow of goods and services, and trade skeptics say it does not protect American jobs, higher wages and protect the environment. President Trump will meet President Xi Jinping of China over trade issues including raising tariffs to 25% on Chinese goods.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-1-18 pp. A13

- President Trump says “money we save” from a new trade deal with Mexico and Canada would make good on his long-standing promise to have Mexico pay for a new southern border wall— new Mexican President Obrador said he’s had no conversation with Trump on the wall.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-14-18 pp. A4

- Trade talks between President Trump and China’s President Xi Jinping raised hope for a peaceful resolution of the trans-Pacific tariff war. Over dinner following the G-20 Group of 20 summit, Trump agreed to cancel a planned January 1, 2019 tariff increase in return for increased Chinese purchases of American farm and industrial goods. The 2-will also commence talks about structural changes in Chinese practices—including forced technology transfers, trade secrets theft, non-tariff barriers, and seek an
agreement in 90-days. Over the last 25-years, American manufactures grew dependent on low-wage Chinese workers to produce iPhones, clothing, and industrial parts—at the expense of factory employees in the industrial heartland. In turn China invested some $140E9 in the U.S. since 2000, says Rhodium Group, combining the 2-economies that account for some 40% of the global market.—President Trump says a new deal with President Xi could be crumbling after the G20 meeting and the stock market reacted by dropping 3% as investors became puzzled by the G20 results, and wiped out the gains, just after the G20 Summit.


- Qualcomm’s failed bid to buy Dutch chip maker NXP Semiconductor, that fell apart in July after Chinese regulators balked at approving the acquisition. At the G20 meeting Trump said President XI would reconsider the deal if presented to him again. The deadline for the deal with NXP has expired, Qualcomm considers the matter closed, and they are focused on executing it’s 5G-road map. Qualcomm paid a $2.0E9 break-up fee to NXP to buy back its own stock that was earmarked to help finance the NXP purchase. The deal has been in the works since October 2016.—Qualcomm said a Chinese Provincial Intermediate People’s Court ordered Apple subsidiaries to stop selling a wide swath of iPhone models in China that infringe on 2-Qualcomm patents.


- China’s President and Argentina announced more than 30-agricultural and investment deals during a state visit following the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires. They include exporting of Argentine cherries to China and China is one of Argentina’s biggest lenders, financing $18.2E9 in infrastructure and other projects, says Intec-American Dialogue in Washington D.C. The Argentine Polo Association gave President Xi a polo horse. Xi will also visit Panama, that is negotiating a free-trade deal with China, shifting its diplomatic recognition to Beijing, from Taiwan in 2017—that caused complications for the U.S.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-3-18 pp. A8

- An AZ company—a unit of Brazil’s JBS recalled more than 12E6-lb of raw beef shipped around the U.S. over issues of salmonella contamination. All products have the USDA inspection number “EST.267” and were packaged between late July and Sept. There were 246-illnesses from 25-states as of Nov. says the CDC&P. The USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service—FSIS—says its in the best interest of the public. Meat should be cooked to 1600F internal temperature and wash hands and areas with soap and water. The largest recall was 143E6-lbs by Westland, Hallmark Meat in 2008—infected with mad-cow disease.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-5-18 pp. A2

- The U.S. economy expanded 3.5% in the July-September-Q-2018 from consumer spending and business investment says the Commerce Department for GDP released on 11-28-18

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-29-18 pp. C3

- Leaving the E.U. will make the U.K. poorer and into an 8% recession, warns the Bank of England. Britain and the E.U agreed on a deal for the Brexit in March, but British lawmakers are threatening to derail it, and PM Theresa May is battling to persuade them to support her agreement in a vote in December 2018.—PM May of Britain suffered a series of defeat’s for Brexit from the E.U. The issues are assertiveness of law makers and breakdown of discipline in the ruling Conservative Party, says analysis.—Britain’s embattled PM May postpone a critical parliamentary vote on her proposal for Britain’s departure from the E.U. that
left the economic and political future uncertain and her hold on power.—British PM May defeated a bid by rebels in her Conservative Party who oppose her compromise deal on leaving the E.U. She won the party only vote 200 to 117, passing the majority of 159 votes needed to win.—The E.U. stance became tougher than before PM May’s diplomatic push.—British PM May implored E.U. leaders on 12-13-18 to help her sell the Brexit divorce deal at home but were told the proposals are not clear and the E.U. would plow ahead with plans for a cliff-edge “no-deal” Brexit on March 29, 2018 with contingency measures to be presented next week.


• President Enrique Peña Nieto signed a new free-trade deal with the U.S. and Canada on 11-23-18 and bestowed Jared Kushner, son-in-law of President Trump with Mexico’s highest honor—the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, for pushing through its trade pact.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-29-18 pp. A3

• Mexico’s Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrado will take office as Mexico’s new president elect. Critics fear he will bring in an old-style Latin American caudillo, or strongman policy toward democracy.


• The U.S. exported 211E3-bbl/d of crude oil and refined products—gasoline and diesel compared to net imports of more than 2.0E6-bbl/d on average in 2018 and the annual peak of 12E6-bbl/d in 2005 says the U.S. EIA. The U.S. has been a net importer since 1991 and 1949. The U.S. imports some 7.OE6-bbl/d. In Vienna OPEC ended talks without a deal on oil production cuts for the 1st-time in 5-years as Russia flexed its mussels by refusing to commit to cuts in exports that Saudi Arabia is demanding. The Middle East government needs high oil revenues to pay for government expenses. Russia is running a budget surplus and weak ruble that mitigates the effect of lower crude prices in dollars.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-9-18 pp. C4

• The trade war in June 2018, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates, the world’s largest economies began to slow, and their markets reactions were unchanged and continued to rise. Last week, all those combined drove the S&P 500 down 4.6%, the worst since March 2018. Stocks are now down for 2018. China summoned the U.S. ambassador in Beijing to protest the arrest of a prominent Chinese technology executive over issues of evading U.S. trade curbs on Iran.


• GoPro Inc. will move most of its U.S.-based camera production out of China over tariff issues that are making more than $250E9 worth of goods from China more expensive for Americans.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-11-18 pp. C3

• China’s Starbucks plans to open 600 stores/annually through 2022 for a total of 6,000-new stores, will offer delivery in more U.S. stores, and in China. Delivery service was 12% in the U.S. from 2016 to 2018.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-14-18 pp. C2

8.1.2 Ports of Entry

The U.S.—Mexican border at the San Ysidro PEO was closed in both directions for more than 5-hours on 11-25-18 after hundreds of migrants rushed the area, prompting federal authorities to launch
tear-gas in attempts to get the groups to dispense. The attempts were at multiple locations, leading to assaults on C & BP personal and dozens of arrests. Members of the migrant caravan are in a version of immigration purgatory in Tijuana—dreaming "We have to wait."—

Federal law enforcement officials said on 11-27-18 that agents will continue to use tear-gas on a "less lethal" force at the U.S.-Mexico border if they are attacked again by rocks or other means. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers did not target women and children on Sunday, but if they are in a violent crowd, they will be subject to retaliation. Tijuana officials say they won't use city's money and demanded federal support. The number of immigrants in the U.S. without legal status has declined to its lowest level in more than a decade. The Pew Research Center said there were 10.7E6 immigrants that lacked legal status in 2016, down from 11.0E6 in 2015, and a peak of 12.6E6 in 2007. President Trump dismissed the judge who ruled against him on immigration issues.—

A mobile hospital was added to the medical services for Tijuana migrants of check-ups and minor services of first aid. Health care at the shelters stops diseases from crossing the border into the U.S.


• An appeals Court decided to strike down a federal law that makes it a felony to encourage someone to violate immigration laws by the 9th-U.S. Circuit court of Appeals.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-5-18 pp. A7

• President Trump signed a short-term spending bill to keep the government solvent until December 21, 2018 and he wants $5E9 to keep building the U.S./Mexican border wall. A program that encourages federal, state, and local authorities to collaborate on crime-fighting strategies was increased by $50E6 in 2018.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-6-18 pp. A11

• Some 30-mostly faith leaders were arrested on 12-11-18 as part of a peaceful demonstration when participants resisted official's orders to move away from the border barrier.


• U.S. Commercial fishing generated more than $144E9 in sales in 2016, buoyed by growth in sea scallops and American lobsters, says the U.S. Government. NOAA says $144.3E9 in sales from commercial fishing
in 2016, was up $100E6 from 2015, in its annual Fisheries Economics of the U.S. report, 1 of 2-reports about the health of fisheries that come out on 12-13-18.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-14-18 pp. C4

8.2 Culture

Sickness is setting in at the sprawling migrant camp in Tijuana, that is now seeking International and federal assistance for the 6,000+ Central Americans that came in the last few weeks. Doctors will not enter the camp, children are getting sick and need to go to a medical tent. Children of migrant women born in the U.S. can not be put in detention centers in the U.S.—thus forcing separation of parents and children.—Thursdays downpour turned Tijuana’s outdoor migrant shelter into a mud pile and by night fall officials began transporting hundreds of people on buses to a facility 11-mi further away from the border. There are now some 6,000-people at the shelter, twice it’s capacity. Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom spoke at the casa Familia civic Center in San Ysidro on 11-29-18 said he would seek support from the state, local and federal government for humanitarian efforts at the border. Charges will not be filed against any of the 42-people associated with a caravan of Central American migrants who were arrested in a clash that ended with authorities firing tear-gas into Mexico to counter rock throwers. President Trump said he would not tolerate law lessness. CB&P did not collect evidence. Migrants are being moved to a new shelter at EL Barretal in Mariano Matamoros neighborhood.—Tijuana officials cut off food, water, and bathroom services to thousands of central American migrants at the Benito Juárez Sports Complex on 12-1-18 as they were led to a shelter, 11-mi away from the U.S. Mexican border. Officials said conditions at the sports complex became unsafe for migrants. The new area can accommodate 7,000-people. The Department of Homeland Security requested the Pentagon extend the mission of active duty troops on the southwest border until the end of January 2019. The troops are also backing up CBP officers and border patrol agents.—Some migrants are living in a tent city outside the original shelter are buying and selling fruits and cigarettes for a living at the El Barretal, making about $10/d.—As conditions get worst migrants at the Playas de Tijuana are trying to climb over the new border barrier in the low spots and turn themselves into border agents as “self-surrenders”. Business losses and disruptions are feared in San Ysidro over issues of migrants, U.S. C & BP and military helicopters into night hours to protect the border.—Haitian migrants from Venezuela are living a good life in Tijuana, working and enjoying European soccer. President Obrador, Mexico’s new president wants to combat poverty, spin social development, strengthen the rule of law, and attack corruption, but did not address the Central American migrant crisis.—The San Diego Rapid Response Network is asking for shelter in the U.S. for non-resident migrant families to allow time for them to connect with family in the U.S. The program costs $350E3/month to run.— Some 1,000-members of the caravan of migrants have decided to return to Honduras. The lines of asylum seekers at the CA Ports of Entry are the largest of any along the Southwest border. CBP officials say the number of people they can take each day to begin the asylum process depends on space available. The number of detentions of family units on the U.S. reached 25,72 in November 2018.—Donations of shoes and bottled water poured into the El Barretal shelter in Tijuana on 12-8-18 helping some Central American migrants who only have flip-flops and must drink water from puddles in mud streets around the shelter. Donations include sleeping mats, water, and diapers.—Volunteers from the San Diego Rapid Response Network are responding to families seeking asylum are being released by border agents, or from holding cells at the Port of Entry or boarder patrol stations some with ankle monitors and orders to appear in immigration court.—Nearly 93E3-asylum seekers who crossed the border illegally or turned themselves in at official ports in 2018 cited credible fear of being targeted because of their race, religion, nationality, political
opinions, or social group. It is up from 56E3 in 2017 and 60% were families, says C&B with Homeland Security.—2-groups of Central American migrants made marches at the U.S. consulate in Tijuana on 12-11-18 demanding they be processed through the asylum system more quickly and in greater numbers, that deportations be halted and President Trump either let them into the country or pay them $50E3 to go home. These numbers are dwindling since it peaked at 6,000. 700-voluntarily returned to their Country of Origin and 300-were deported, and, 2,500 applied for humanitarian visas to Mexico.—Alfonso Guerrero Ulloa, the unofficial spokesperson of a group of Honduran migrants who asked the U.S. to pay $50E3 to each person who returns home hasn’t set foot in Honduras in more than 3-decades. He left his birthplace in 1987 after being accused of planting a bomb in a Chinese restaurant that injured 6-U.S. soldiers in Honduras. Guerrero claimed the charges are false, and against the U.S. government, Mexico gave him asylum in Mexico. He has lived in Mexico City for 31-years and sells bracelets, earrings, and necklaces.—Hundreds of Central American migrants who refused to leave the original Benito Juárez shelter in Tijuana and move to a 2nd spot 11-mi away, are being released to a new government run shelter a few blocks away.—Central Americans are finding jobs in Tijuana- so far 104 are officially employed. 920-more have obtained visas, were cleared to work in Mexico, and 3,581-more [more than 50% that came], have been registered to get work visas but no jobs. The types of jobs pay 2.5-times the typical pay in Baja, CA [88.36-pesos—$4.40/d]. Most migrants make $15/d. Update on unauthorized immigrants in Roma, TX, and how they got there.


• Dozens of migrants were arrested and close to 100-were deported—members of a Central American caravan, says Keven McAleenan, Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Mexico’s National Migration Institute said 98-foreigners would be deported as a result of the “violent behavior of a group of migrants”, against immigration agents and federal police at El Chaparral. Tijuana’s Public Safety Secretary reported his department detained 36-people during the conflict and turned them over to immigration authorities. Some migrants opt to head home out side the Benito Juarez Shelter.—Update on the caravan in Tijuana. Some migrants left their countries in amidst of violence, followed leaders, that have all but disappeared since the boarder rush incident and hopes are mixed for former felons expecting to be granted asylum in the U.S. even though they have relatives here.


• An American adventurer and Christian missionary, John Allen Chau was killed with arrows by tribes-people on a North Sentinel Island area where people live as their ancestors did and want to be left alone.


• The San Diego City Council allocated $14.1E6 to help homeless people on 12-4-18 that came from the states Homeless Emergency Aid Program. The mayor wanted $6E6 for tents but the council only gave $1.6E6. The money is controlled by the Mayor’s chief of homeless strategies Keely Halsey.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-6-18 pp. B5

• 2-San Diego teens from Encanto were tortured and shot to death execution-style with a 3rd-Tijuana man that was with them at the apartment complex.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-29-18 pp. A2
• Elected officials in the county want to add 10,000 homes in areas labeled by CalFire as posing a "very-high" fire hazard. Developers have plans for exhaustive fire-prevention blueprints.
Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-10 18 pp. A1 & A8

• Tijuana officials plan to open another shelter 11-mi away in the Mariano Matamoras neighborhood of Tijuana says Mario Osuna Jimenez—Secretary of Social Development and is waiting for federal agencies approval. The area has 5-separate roofs for protection and migrants can work for some $72/wk.—The city of Tijuana began moving migrants to a shelter in the working-class area of Benito Juátez Sports Complex.

• Gordon Walker resigned as CEO of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless in UT, after leaving for Mormon missionary duty in Rome.
Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-30-18 pp. A2

• The Trump Adm. wants to deport some 46-cambodians that will arrive in Cambodia on December 19, 2018. They were part of an exodus fleeing the Khmer Rouge massacres and granted refugee status. Some have green cards and some were convicted of felonies in the U.S. from many years ago. There will be 40 in December, says the Khmer Vulnerability Aid Organization, a Phnom Penh-based group.
Ref: The San Diego 12-13-18 pp. All

• The number of Ebola cases reached 426, with 198-deaths and another 47-probable ones. Rebel groups are in the area posing challenges to health workers, who work with U.N. peace-keepers. More than 37,000 people received Ebola vaccinations. —Global health experts are urging the Trump Adm. to allow the U.S. government disease specialists to return to the Northeast Congo to help with the 2nd-largest Ebola outbreak in history.

• 165-countries gathered in Marrakech, Morocco and approved a Global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migrations, at a 2-day conference in Morocco with U.N. Secretary-general- Antonio Guterres. They are defying the U.S. and other countries that withdrew, citing concerns about migrant flows and national sovereignty.
Ref: The San Diego U-T 11-11-18 pp. A10

• Wang Yi who heads the Protestant Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengder, China was detained for illegal or foreign influenced religious activity. There are some 60,000 Protestants in China that are not registered with the government.
Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-11-18 pp. A6

• Gavin Newsom will be sworn in as CA's next Governor at the capital on January 7, 2019.

John G Wotzka 720 4th Ave San Diego, CA 92101 Ph: 619-446-7690, johnwotzka@gmail.com
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 1/4/19

Name: DAN SUMMERS

Address:

Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________

Agenda Item #: 2

☐ In Favor ☐ Opposed

Representing: RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Request to Speak: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board
December 3, 2018

RE: HWY 67 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG) joins with other Federal, State and County government entities to serve the people of Ramona by addressing issues impacting our community. For several decades now, the largest issue we face is the inability of Hwy 67 to safely and effectively manage the traffic flow into and out of Ramona. There are three areas of concern: safety, traffic flow, restricted evacuation.

Safety is our foremost concern. Last year, a member of the RCPG did a thirty-year study of accidents occurring on Hwy 67 in the curve between Rock House Road and Cloudy Moon Drive. The study revealed 58 collisions, of which 9 were head-on. There were 12 fatalities, 51 patients transported, 20 of whom were sent to trauma centers. One person was paralyzed, and 1 person burned to death. The study was submitted to Caltrans by the RCPG in an effort to get a permanent concrete median installed in that 1640 ft. curve to prevent head-on collisions. The request was denied because the Highway Safety Monitoring Program (HSIP) had not identified this segment of Hwy 67 for investigation. In the meantime, Caltrans did install no-skid asphalt and channelizers in the curve, which we took as partial recognition of the problem. In addition to the above curve, there are many
December 3, 2018

Hwy 67 Road Improvements

other sections of Hwy 67 between Ramona and Poway Road that have frequent serious and often fatal collisions. We assert that these safety issues require the addition of new lanes for mitigation and not just non-skid asphalt and channelizers.

Ramona’s increasing population has absolutely outgrown the present configuration of Hwy 67 and with the new housing developments of Montecito Ranch (417 homes) and Cummings Ranch (125) already approved, the problem will only get worse. Long lines of commuters form every morning leaving Ramona and every afternoon on their return. Rural communities generally do not experience traffic jams unless their roadways are inadequate. Although we appreciate that Caltrans has made some recent improvements, the issues are not resolved. The real solution of adding new lanes to the highway was scheduled by Caltrans in 1988, thirty years ago.

A third issue of concern is impaired evacuation. In the fires of 2003 and 2007, the authorities issued mandatory evacuation orders to thousands of Ramona residents who were in the path of the fires. When they reached Hwy 67, they experienced enormous traffic jams that lasted for several hours, not once, but twice. The mandatory evacuations stalled, with many people unable to leave the danger area and the Ramona community evacuation plan had failed.

This is not news to Caltrans or Ramona. Plans for Caltrans to widen Hwy 67 have been in the works since 1988 but have always been postponed. The fact that Caltrans had scheduled the widening thirty years ago is recognition that a problem exists. Further postponement is dangerous.

The San Diego Forward Regional Plan adopted in October of 2015 addresses Hwy 67 improvements between Dye Road in Ramona and Gold Bar Lane in Lakeside sometime between 2036 and 2050. The Regional Plan is currently being updated for the period 2019 – 2050. Now is the time to amend that plan to prioritize additional lanes to Hwy 67 between Ramona and Poway.

The undersigned along with elected officials from Federal, State, and County government, who represent portions of Hwy 67 that run through Ramona, the Ramona Community Planning Group and citizens of Ramona, are demanding that the Hwy 67 issue be given the priority its failing status requires and Ramona taxpayers deserve. In so doing, we make the assertion that problems identified, researched, and scheduled for resolution back in 1988 should not be delayed any further.
December 3, 2018

Highway 67 Road Improvements

Please note, we will provide a link to newspaper articles appearing in the Ramona Sentinel concerning Hwy 67 over the past 30 years.

Thank you for your consideration,

DAN SCHERER, Chairman
Ramona Community Planning Group

Endorsed by:

William H. Gore
Sheriff Bill Gore
San Diego County Sheriff

Tony Mecham
CAL FIRE Unit Chief
San Diego County Fire Chief

Bill Schweitzer, President
Ramona Valley Vineyard Association

Mark Garrow, President
Ramona Real Estate Association

Andy Hanshaw, Executive Director
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

Nicole Nicholas Gilles, Executive Director
American Sand Association

Joe Stupar, Executive Director
Ramona Chamber of Commerce

Jim Wayman, President
Julian Chamber of Commerce
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 1/4/19

Name: Sophie Wolfram
Representing: Climate Action Campaign

Address: [Redacted]
Phone: [Redacted]
E-mail: [Redacted]

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:


Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board

REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 1/4/19

Name: Dan Totah
Representing: [Redacted]

Address: [Redacted]
Phone: [Redacted]
E-mail: [Redacted]

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:


Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 2019-01-04
Name: Clive Richard

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:

Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board

REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 1-9-19
Name: Maria Carter

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes ☐ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 1/4/14

Name: Yianney Ruvalarba

Address: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Representing: City Heights

Agenda Item #: 4

Request to Speak: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board
Good morning, my name is Vianney Ruvalcaba and I am Transportation & Planning Program Coordinator at the City Heights Community Development Corporation. Thanks to SANDAG staff for providing updates to our organization regarding the Fare Ordinance update and its Title VI analysis. We support the decrease to the Youth Monthly Passes but have concerns about the increases planned for one-way trips, day passes, and monthly Senior/Disabled/Medicare passes. We’re also concerned with the timeliness of the Title VI analysis release and format of the public feedback.

This analysis was released on Friday Dec. 21st, right before the holidays, only 5 working days before this meeting. It found that 71% of all transit riders are people of color and 66% of all riders are low-income, thus virtually any increase in fares would have a considerable adverse effect on low income people and communities of color compared to the region as a whole, despite federal guidelines for determining disproportionate burden. Additionally, there was no summary of public feedback regarding the fare ordinance, only an over 200-page attachment with verbatim comments along with this agenda item.

However, we are encouraged by the comments made by MTS Chair Gomez and Executive Director Ikhrata regarding the urgent need to make riding transit a competitive alternative to driving and reduce barriers to transit access.
We'd like to see these comments, and the calls by local groups and community members to reduce fares, represented in an amendment to Board Policy 29 -- SANDAG's "Regional Fare Policy" -- in order to ensure a timely effort and codified commitment to reduce economic barriers to transit access. We encourage the Transportation Committee to recommend that staff amend the Regional Fare Policy and include it as part of this item when it goes to the Board on Jan. 25th. This amendment would not only enhance the "Fairness" section of Board Policy 29, but would induce significantly higher ridership levels, contribute to a major reduction in GHG emissions, and connect low income and people of color to their schools and jobs by reducing economic barriers to transit access.

It is imperative to take steps towards reducing transportation-related GHG emissions in the face of a worsening climate crisis. Eliminating economic barriers to riding transit, along with route and service enhancements already underway, will make this mode of transportation competitive with single-occupancy vehicles, and will be a truly sustainable and system-wide solution.

Thank you for your time
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 2019-01-04

Name: Clive Richard

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Request to Speak: □ Yes □ No

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:


Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board