

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 14, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of October 3, 2003

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees included: Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland); Patty Davis (South County); Jack Feller (North County Coastal); Jill Greer (East County); Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego); Ron Roberts (County of San Diego); Patricia McCoy (City of Imperial Beach); Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal); Jerry Jones (City of Lemon Grove); Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans); Leon Williams (MTDB); David Druker (NCTD); James Bond (San Diego County Water Authority); and Carol Bonomo (Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group)

1. MINUTES FROM AUGUST 1, 2003 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE BOARD

The Committee reviewed the minutes. Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal) noted that the Committee had discussed the impact of service industry wages on housing.

Action: The Committee approved the August 1, 2003 minutes with the above change.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 2 through 3)

2. MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2003 SANDAG BOARD MEETING

3. HOUSING UPDATE: REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SELF-CERTIFICATION

Action: The consent agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS

No public comments.

REPORTS

5. STATUS OF AB 361 (KEHOE)

Chair Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland) reported that on September 25, 2003, Governor Davis signed AB 361 (Kehoe). The bill was amended on September 2, 2003 to clarify and improve some of its provisions. There has been overall acceptance and confirmation of the work SANDAG is

undertaking on the RCP with regard to language in the bill. The bill resonates well with where we are and where we are going.

6. REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP) PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

a. RESULTS OF THE SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Committee discussed the results of the six workshops on the RCP, which were held throughout the region during September and October to gather ideas and comments on the draft goals, policy objectives, and potential actions to be included in the RCP. Attendees at the workshops included local elected officials, members of the Stakeholders and Technical Working Groups, and the public. Each workshop attracted between 45 and 80 individuals with a total of approximately 500 participants.

The results are being compiled and tabulated. The cumulative result totals, including participants' comments, will be posted on SANDAG's web site and incorporated into the draft RCP where applicable.

Committee comments were as follows:

- Agency participation at the workshops was outstanding.
- The report was well balanced, detailed, and exceptionally well-done.
- The Oceanside workshop was concise, to the point and well attended. Participants indicated that financing remains a key issue (roads, transit, housing).
- It is ironic that people want top value for their property when at the same time they object to the soaring prices of real estate. People are agreeable to change, as long as it is someone else changing.
- It was interesting how many people did not know much about the future of bus rapid transit (BRT), but once they began to understand, they seemed receptive. This may mean that more information needs to be made available.

b. PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANTS

Earlier this year, SANDAG awarded five Caltrans-funded grants to local community-based organizations to conduct outreach to low income communities, minority communities, and to persons with disabilities on the RCP.

The organizations will submit final reports of their activities, including results achieved and recommendations, in late October. Their recommendations will be included in the draft RCP, and SANDAG will solicit their comments on the RCP after it has been accepted for public distribution by the Board in December 2003 to ensure that it adequately represents the input received from their communities.

The organizations held a variety of functions, including community meetings on vision and core values, roundtable discussions, and a web-based survey for homebound people. The programs have been well received and successful, and have been appreciated by participants.

Committee comments were as follows:

- Will the organizations participate beyond 2003? *All of the organizations have expressed interest in continuing their involvement with SANDAG beyond the RCP process.*
- The grants were instrumental in getting the organizations involved.
- It has been excellent to have the youth ambassadors involved, to get their perspectives and see what's happening in their circles.
- The question was raised whether three hours is enough time for the functions.
- Chair Holt Pfeiler stated that she was amazed and encouraged by how long participants stayed.

7. PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETING THE DRAFT RCP

a. DISCUSSION OF OVERALL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Regional Comprehensive Plan will include an overall policy framework that strengthens the connection between land use and transportation and establishes a framework for future transportation project evaluation criteria. The policy framework will integrate our long-term regional transportation network, our permanent open space areas and habitat preserves, and our existing and planned urban areas, and will allow for the identification of potential smart growth opportunity areas.

Bob Leiter reported on the status of the draft RCP, and presented a flowchart of the overall proposed RCP Policy and Planning Framework.

In discussing elements of the draft RCP with members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) in recent months, it has become clear that the major focus of the draft Plan will be on the coordination of transportation and land use plans, and the successful implementation of the Plan will depend on our ability to provide incentives to local governments for implementing "smart growth" transportation and land use strategies. In order to develop a policy framework that allows better coordination between regional and local transportation and land use planning decisions, the TWG recommended the creation of a sub-committee that included members of the TWG (planning directors) and members of CTAC (public works directors) to prepare a proposed approach to these issues.

The sub-committee agreed on seven "target areas" to formulate its recommendations:

1. Improve transportation networks and mode connectivity
2. Provide adequate funding to meet both capital and operational transportation needs
3. Consider regional and local mobility objectives in approving new land uses
4. Design development to reduce auto dependency
5. Align the timing of related transportation and land use development
6. Facilitate coordination between jurisdictions
7. Establish consistent and reliable regional analysis tools

A joint meeting between the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees is scheduled for October 24, 2003, for additional discussion by the policy makers.

Committee comments and discussion were as follows:

- It is important to keep involved with local planners and continually reinforce the importance of smart planning. The transportation infrastructure is generally already there, but there is need for other infrastructure to make it work.
- If heavy population density is located mainly in key transportation corridors, will sewer systems be able to support it?
- The plan emphasizes that other infrastructure providers follow the same plan so that our land uses and infrastructure networks are all aligned.
- The more we sprawl, the more infrastructure we need to build and the more it costs to maintain. Making changes will take vision by our elected officials.
- The RCP shouldn't be a one-time effort, but rather should be updated, and progress measured by performance standards.
- Transportation problems in San Diego are due to *not* following existing plans. The RCP, once adopted, must be followed so mistakes of the past will not be repeated.
- It is critical to ensure public transportation to current public places of interest as well as smart growth areas.
- Are the transit agencies involved in the sub-committees? *Yes, but staff will work with NCTD to encourage greater participation.*
- Transportation should be driving where housing is going and, therefore, where other infrastructure is built.
- The connection between sewer lines and power lines will be tied into IRIS.
- Aging infrastructure is of great concern. Although redevelopment and infill is costly, it is necessary in order to prevent sprawl.
- Within the arena of fiscal reform, SANDAG meets monthly with the City Managers, who are making this a priority item.
- It is important to get transportation funding up front.
- A key component of the transportation dollars is securing sources that are independent from state and federal sources, in order for the region's policy-makers to be able to make locally-based funding allocations.
- Regarding Smart Growth Opportunity Areas, we shouldn't lose sight about regional resources such as our beaches, Balboa Park, etc. The focus shouldn't solely be on areas that will intensify.
- We need the "guts" to stick to the major concepts of reducing sprawl and focusing growth along transportation corridors.

- We should have some flexibility, however, so we don't hamstring ourselves if things don't work.
- We need to monitor not only the actions in the plan, but also the progress made toward improving quality of life.

b. SCHEDULE FOR DRAFT RCP

The following schedule of upcoming meeting was presented.

Date	Group	Policy Issues
October 24, 2003	Joint Meeting between Regional Planning and Transportation Committees, immediately following Board Meeting	Policy direction on the Overall Policy Framework.
November 7, 2003 (10:15-Noon)	SANDAG Policy Board Meeting	Board discussion and direction on the Overall Policy Framework.
November 14, 2003	Regional Planning Committee	Review and input on all RCP draft chapters before the draft RCP is finalized for print.
December 19, 2003	SANDAG Business Board Meeting	Draft RCP presented to the Board, with request to accept for public distribution.

Committee members were asked to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Regional Planning Committee meeting will be a joint meeting between the Regional Planning Committee and the Transportation Committee on Friday, October 24, 2003, at SANDAG from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m., or 30 minutes following adjournment of the SANDAG Board meeting.

Adjournment: Chair Holt Pfeiler adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.