



San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101-4231  
(619) 595-5300  
Fax (619) 595-5305  
www.sandag.org

MEMBER AGENCIES

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Water Authority  
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# BOARD ACTIONS

October 24, 2003

**TransNet EXTENSION:** Directors discussed the key components needed to extend the existing ½-penny local transportation sales tax. The Board then approved a framework to develop the ordinance and expenditure plan that will be presented for voter approval in November 2004. Some of the key components regarding the extension include: a 30-year measure from 2008 to 2038; 10-year major review cycles; an assumption that *TransNet* revenues would be matched on a dollar for dollar basis with federal and state transportation funds; environmental mitigation; the potential for developer impact fees; smart growth incentives; and an independent oversight committee. In addition, Directors approved expanding public information and education efforts about the accomplishments and benefits of the existing *TransNet* program, and when drafted, the costs and benefits related to the extension expenditure plan. In 1987, 53 percent of the voters passed the original 20-year *TransNet* program. For the existing tax to be extended, a 2/3 voter approval will be required because of changes in state law. A July regionwide telephone survey of likely voters showed support for projects that can help reduce traffic congestion. Support for the extension reached 73 percent after a sample ballot measure question, which included examples of transportation projects, was posed to survey respondents. There also was strong support for the bus rapid transit and managed lanes along our existing highways. (Staff contact, Craig Scott, (619) 595-5326 or [csc@sandag.org](mailto:csc@sandag.org))

**2003 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP:** Directors were updated on the outcome and status of legislative efforts undertaken in the last year. SB 491 (Alpert) was passed which will extend the housing element deadline for cities and counties throughout the state for one year. The extension will allow SANDAG and member agencies to better coordinate planning efforts in conjunction with the Regional Comprehensive Plan. AB 361 (Kehoe) was approved and signed by the Governor in September. AB 361 focuses on governance issues in the San Diego region and declares the intent of the Legislature that SANDAG complete a public process by June 30, 2004 to prepare and adopt a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The bill supports a better link between the adopted Regional Transportation Plan and the preparation of the RCP, and an enhanced public outreach and involvement in the RCP's development. In addition, SANDAG will provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature by the end of 2004 and in even years thereafter on the status of consolidating transit planning, programming, engineering, and building functions. The Legislative Analysis Office will prepare its own, independent report to the Legislature by the end of 2005...A major effort continues to support or co-sponsor legislation and/or initiatives that would authorize local sales taxes or other new revenue sources for transportation projects to be approved by a majority vote...Other SANDAG priority legislative issues include working together with Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), North County Transit District (NCTD) in the development of a joint federal transportation agenda to pursue federal funding for transit program and (more)

### Upcoming Meetings

*Executive Committee*  
November 7, 2003

*Board Policy Meeting*  
November 21, 2003

- 2030 Growth Forecast
- Public Safety Consolidation
- Community Outreach

operating funds. Another major effort for the 2004 legislative year is to work with Assemblymember Shirley Horton to pass AB 1279 which would authorize a transportation agency to design and implement a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane concept that allows single-occupant vehicles to operate in underutilized HOV lanes. *(Item #8: Staff contact, Ellen Roundtree, (619) 595-5631 or ero@sandag.org)*

**TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS:** Caltrans opened all lanes to traffic on the SR 125 Fanita freeway between Grossmont College Drive to Navajo Road in El Cajon. The opening of all lanes to traffic on this *TransNet* funded project allows vehicles to travel between SR 52 and I-8...The California Transportation Commission approved the request for revenue bonds for the I-15 Managed Lanes project. The bonds will be used to finance the construction of a new "freeway within a freeway" along I-15 between SR 163 in Kearny Mesa and SR 78 in Escondido. The first phase of I-15 Managed Lanes is scheduled to be open to traffic by 2007...Construction on the Mission Valley East Trolley continues. Concrete is being poured for the bridge spans in the Camino del Rio North area west of Mission Gorge Road. The bridge connecting the alignment along I-8 to the tunnel on the west side of the San Diego State University campus is complete. Construction of the tunnel and underground station is more than 80 percent complete. The trolley is expected to start running on this new route in May 2005...SANDAG's Vanpool Program participation rate continues to increase, growing 34 percent in the last year, from 225 vanpools to 302 vanpools. Average ridership per vanpool was approximately 9.4 passengers, with 2,844 passengers participating in the program. *(Item #7: Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 595-5619 or jnu@sandag.org)*

**LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Directors were updated on the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program. SANDAG and member agencies collaborated to conduct 76 projects in FY 2003. About two-thirds of these projects were done at no cost to the requesting agency. The greatest number of LTA projects were compiling, analyzing, and mapping demographic and economic information. Other projects included subarea transportation modeling and analysis projects and survey design and analysis. The LTA program allows agencies to collaborate on projects to share costs and contribute to the development of new tools to support research and data analysis that benefits the entire region. *(Item #6: Staff contact, Karen Lamphere, (619) 595-5355 or kla@sandag.org)*

**IMPERIAL WATER TRANSFER:** Directors were updated on the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)-Imperial Water Transfer. Four water agencies and the State of California finalized the Agreement that will ultimately reduce California's dependence on water from the Colorado River and improve water reliability for Southern California. *(Item #12: Staff contact, Shelby Tucker, (619) 595-5316 or stu@sandag.org)*

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