Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees
Joint Meeting Agenda

Friday, July 17, 2020
10 a.m. to 12 noon
**Teleconference Meeting**

Agenda Highlights

- What We Are Learning from COVID-19 and How It Could Impact Transportation Planning in the San Diego Region

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
The joint meeting of the Transportation Committee, Regional Planning Committee, and Board Committee will be conducted virtually in accordance with Governor Newsom’s State of Emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, Executive Order N-29-20, and the Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. Members will primarily participate in the meeting virtually, while practicing social distancing, from individual remote locations.

There are a few options for public participation:
- At the time of the meeting, listen to the meeting audio stream through sandag.org
- Submit comments via email to clerk@sandag.org
- Observe the meeting via Zoom
- To participate via Zoom webinar, click the link to join the meeting:  https://zoom.us/j/93295397421
- To participate via Telephone, dial a number based on your current location:
  US: +1 669 900 6833 or 932 953 97421# or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099
  The Webinar ID is: 932 9539 7421
International numbers available: https://zoom.us/u/abRmcwiqa
SANDAG is relying on commercial technology to broadcast the meeting via Zoom. With the recent increase of virtual meetings, platforms such as Microsoft Teams, WebEx, GoToMeeting, and Zoom are working to scale their systems to meet the new demand. If we experience technical difficulty or you are unexpectedly disconnected from the broadcast, please close and re-open your browser and click the link to re-join the meeting. SANDAG staff will take all possible measures to ensure a publicly accessible experience. Please note that the meeting will continue to be broadcast audio-only via the “Listen to the meeting” link on sandag.org.

Public Comments: Persons who wish to address the members on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on non-agendized issues, may email comments to the Clerk at clerk@sandag.org (please reference: “July 17, Joint Meeting” in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain). Comments received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, will be provided to members prior to the meeting. If you desire to provide a live verbal comment during the meeting, please join the Zoom meeting either by computer or phone. At the time for public comments, members of the public will be advised to ‘Raise Hand’ if they wish to provide comments. The ‘Raise Hand’ feature can be found on the Zoom toolbar for those who join via computer or by entering *9 for those who join via telephone only. The Chair will call on members of the public by name for those joining via a computer and by the last three digits of your telephone number for those joining via telephone. All comments received prior to the close of the meeting will be made part of the meeting record.
Welcome to SANDAG. Members of the public may speak to the Transportation Committee, Regional Planning Committee, and Borders Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. The Committees may only take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

In order to keep the public informed in an efficient manner and facilitate public participation, SANDAG also provides access to all agenda and meeting materials online at sandag.org/meetings. Additionally, interested persons can sign up for email notifications at sandag.org/subscribe.

SANDAG operates its programs without regard to race, color, and national origin in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. SANDAG has developed procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints, and the procedures for filing a complaint are available to the public upon request. Questions concerning SANDAG nondiscrimination obligations or complaint procedures should be directed to the SANDAG General Counsel, John Kirk, at (619) 699-1997 or john.kirk@sandag.org. Any person who believes himself or herself or any specific class of persons to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI also may file a written complaint with the Federal Transit Administration.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SANDAG will accommodate persons who require assistance in order to participate in SANDAG meetings. If such assistance is required, please contact the SANDAG ADA Coordinator, the Director of Diversity and Equity, at (619) 699-1900, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. To request this document or related reports in an alternative format, please call (619) 699-1900 or (619) 699-1904 (TTY), or fax (619) 699-1905.

SANDAG agenda materials can be made available in alternative languages. To make a request, call (619) 699-1900 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Los materiales de la agenda de SANDAG están disponibles en otros idiomas. Para hacer una solicitud, llame al (619) 699-1900 al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión.

如有需要，我们可以把SANDAG议程材料翻译成其他语言。

请在会议前至少 72 小时打电话 (619) 699-1900 提出请求。

Closed Captioning is available

To access Closed Captioning: click the closed caption icon on the toolbar at the top of your screen and follow the prompts. The closed captioning will be shown at the bottom of your screen. Or, open your browser and paste the link: https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=SANDAG-Joint

Mission Statement

The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transit; and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life.

San Diego Association of Governments · 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101-4231
(619) 699-1900 | Fax (619) 699-1905 | sandag.org
## Joint Meeting
### Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees
#### Friday, July 17, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.       | Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments  
Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to five public speakers. Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Other public comments will be heard during the items under the heading “Reports.” |

| 2.       | Executive Director’s Report  
Discussion  
Hasan Ikhrata, SANDAG  
An update on key programs, projects, and agency initiatives, including the agency’s response to COVID-19, San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan, and the Airport Connectivity project, will be presented. |

| +3.      | What We Are Learning from COVID-19 and How It Could Impact Transportation Planning in the San Diego Region  
Discussion/Possible Action  
Antoinette Meier; Elisa Arias, and Ray Major, SANDAG  
Matt Tucker, North County Transit District  
Sharon Cooney, Metropolitan Transit System  
An overview of regional economic and transportation impacts of COVID-19 will be presented. |

| 4.       | Continued Public Comments  
If the five-speaker limit for public comments was exceeded at the beginning of this agenda, other public comments will be taken at this time. Subjects of previous agenda items may not again be addressed under public comment. |

| 5.       | Upcoming Meetings  
Information  
The next Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees meeting will be a joint meeting and it is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2020, at 9 a.m. |

| 6.       | Adjournment |

+ next to an item indicates an attachment
Joint Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees

July 17, 2020

What We Are Learning from COVID-19 and How It Could Impact Transportation Planning in the San Diego Region

Overview

On April 26, 2019, staff introduced the 5 Big Moves as key strategies for developing a transportation system that is equitable and safe, provides convenient and accessible travel choices, and meets state and federal requirements for social equity, climate and air quality, and the environment. Since then, staff has been developing a data-driven vision for the 2021 Regional Plan under the 5 Big Moves framework.

In March 2020, an unprecedented global pandemic forced governments to put in place stay home orders to protect the public and reduce the spread of disease. The abrupt closure of communities has had widespread impacts on the economy and public well-being. Staff from SANDAG, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), and North County Transit District (NCTD) will share research and data on regional economic and transportation impacts of COVID-19. This presentation aims to inform policymakers on key findings for consideration as we move forward with the development of the 2021 Regional Plan.

Key Considerations

Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19

Impacts of COVID-19 were felt throughout the San Diego region. Tourism, general retail, and food and beverage were among the industries most affected. Taxable retail sales were down approximately 35% in May. With recent analyses by SANDAG staff, COVID-19 has revealed immense disparities across the region with low-income, Black, and Hispanic communities hit the hardest by both the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Nearly half of Black (45%) and Hispanic (42%) residents live in ZIP codes that have higher than average COVID-19 cases and higher than average unemployment rates. Black and Hispanic workers also account for a larger portion of essential front-line workers.

Public Transit and Traffic Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 drastically changed travel behavior. Public transit ridership dropped sharply reaching its lowest level in April with a 70% reduction in ridership compared to the same period in 2019. Ridership started to recover as stay home orders eased, by the end of May, ridership across all regional bus and rail services was up by 12% from April.

Many low-income and minority commuters continued to depend on public transit as their primary mode of transportation. Twenty percent of those taking public transit to work do not have access to a personal vehicle, they also experience longer commute times. The median travel time to work via transit is 51 minutes, which is roughly double the commute time of those driving to work.
Of the 3,783 residents in the region that responded to a regional travel survey conducted in June 2020, 42% took transit prior to COVID-19 and reported that they will return to transit in the future. Another 18% did not use transit before the pandemic but stated they would be likely to use transit in the future.\(^1\)

Freeway traffic levels also fell as a result of the stay home orders. Traffic volumes and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) were at their lowest in April with 50% fewer vehicles on the road than during that same period in 2019. As restrictions started easing, traffic rebounded. By early July, traffic volumes were down by just 18% and VMT down by 22% from the same period in 2019. While personal travel decreased, 78% of residents participating in the regional travel survey indicated that online shopping and home delivery increased.

The reduction in driving led to a marked reduction in emissions from cars and trucks between mid-March and mid-April. According to the California Air Resources Board this translated to improved air quality (reduced ozone or smog, and to a lesser extent particulates). With the reopening of the economy, air pollution has returned to within the levels observed over the last five years.

**Telework Trends**

Telework and distance learning are reasons for the reduction in travel. Of the residents that responded to the regional travel survey and reported teleworking during the health crisis, 48% expect to continue teleworking at some level in the future.

A survey of 137 employers in the San Diego region was also conducted from March 30, 2020, through June 19, 2020. Just over half of the surveyed employers offered telework (55%), of these employers, 26% stated that they will continue offering telework. When asked what percent of their workforce would be eligible to telework, 7% said their entire workforce. Of those companies who said they would offer telecommuting in the future only 9% said they would offer it full-time.

While telework has the potential to relieve some peak period congestion, roughly 61% of all occupations in the San Diego region are not conducive to working from home. In the region, 64% of occupations are considered essential jobs, and of those essential jobs fewer than 42% are conducive to working from home. Low-income and minority workers are less likely to have the option to work from home. Higher paying jobs in industries like financial and professional services, are most likely to telework.

Telework, distance learning, and virtual healthcare services rely on broadband connectivity and home internet access. COVID-19 shed light on the digital divide in our region with 23% of low-income households not benefitting from a broadband subscription and 20 to 40% of students in many local districts lacking home internet access. Closing the digital divide will be an important aspect of transportation planning to ensure that everyone in the region benefits from improvements to transportation technology and app enabled transportation services.

**Active Transportation Trends**

Biking and walking increased as a result of the stay home order. Bicycling trips increased on all eight corridors where SANDAG collects bike volume data. Bicycle volumes were at their highest in May with 91% more bikes being counted on these corridors in 2020 than 2019. The regional travel survey also showed an increase in walking and biking; 50% reported walking more and 14% biking more for both recreation, travel to work, and shopping and errands. Of those who walked and biked more during the health crisis, more than four out of five stated they will continue walking (82%) and biking (85%) in the future. To support jurisdictions with providing safe space for walking and biking during the health crisis, SANDAG provided funding and support for 11 jurisdictions to implement Shared Street pilots.

---

\(^1\) The Regional Travel Survey was sent to nearly 17,000 households that participated in the 2017 San Diego Regional Transportation Survey and agreed to be contacted again. This was not a random sample and the responses shared may not generalize to the population overall. However, the data provides a glimpse into travel choices being made by residents in the region which is important insight as we move forward with our planning for the 2021 Regional Plan.
Next Steps
Staff will continue to monitor and report on the social, economic, and transportation impacts associated with COVID-19. These findings are informing the 2021 Regional Plan vision which seeks to meet regulatory requirements and create equal access to jobs, education, healthcare, and other community resources. The 2021 Regional Plan vision is expected to be presented to the Transportation, Regional Planning, and Borders Committees on August 7, 2020, and to the Board of Directors on August 14, 2020.

Ray Traynor, Chief of Planning and Innovation
Key Staff Contact: Antoinette Meier, (619) 699-7381, antoinette.meier@sandag.org