**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**

Monday, July 20, 2020
10 a.m.
**Teleconference Meeting**

**Agenda Highlights**

- 2020 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Membership
- Inland Rail Trail Bikeway Phase 3B Update

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**

The SANDAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) meeting scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2020, 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. Management Committee Members will primarily participate in the meeting virtually, while practicing social distancing, from individual remote locations.
There are a few options for public participation:

- Listen to the meeting audio stream through sandag.org
- Observe the meeting via GoToMeeting (registration required)

To register for the GoToMeeting webinar, follow the prompts to enter your name and email address. Members of the public who prefer not to share their names with SANDAG may use initials or a pseudonym; however, to receive a confirmation email, including a link to join the webinar, you will need to enter a valid email address. On the morning of the meeting, click the “Join Webinar” link in the confirmation email. To avoid connection issues, check your system requirements in advance.

During the GoToMeeting webinar: To minimize/expand the webinar attendee panel, click on the orange arrow at the top right corner of your screen. Attendees will be in “listen only” mode. View GoToMeeting FAQs for additional information.

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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 20, SSTAC” in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain). Comments received by 4 p.m. on Friday, July 17, will be provided to members prior to the meeting. If you desire to provide a live verbal comment during the meeting, register for the GoToMeeting webinar as noted above, and join the meeting
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Welcome to SANDAG. Members of the public may speak to the SSTAC on any item at the time the SSTAC is considering the item. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. The SSTAC may only take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

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Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
Monday, July 20, 2020

Item No.  Action

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Approve
   The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its May 11, 2020, meeting.

3. 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 SSTAC on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda.

Reports

4. Inland Rail Trail Bikeway Phase 3B Discussion Update
   Madai Parra, SANDAG
The Inland Rail Trail Phase 3B is one of four segments planned as part of Inland Rail Trail Bikeway, which will be comprised of approximately 21 miles of Class I facility and will connect the Cities of Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Escondido, as well as a portion of unincorporated County of San Diego. An update on this project will be presented.

5. **Staff Report**
   **Information**
   **SANDAG Staff**
   An update on notable activity within the SANDAG Short Range Transit section will be presented.

6. **2020 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Membership**
   **Information**
   **SANDAG Staff**
   An update on SSTAC Membership for FY2020-2021 will be presented.

7. **2020 Coordinated Plan**
   **Information**
   **SANDAG Staff**
   An update on the 2020 Coordinated Plan will be presented.
8. Specialized Transportation Grant Program Update

*SANDAG Staff*

SANDAG manages the Specialized Transportation Grant Program which includes funding from two sources: Federal Transportation Administration Section 5310 program (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) and TransNet Senior Mini-Grant. An overview of the progress made by grantees will be presented.

9. MTS and NCTD Performance Report

*SANDAG Staff*

A brief introduction to the Transportation Development Act (TDA) productivity improvements, and Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District's efforts to implement productivity improvements during FY 2020, will be presented.

10. Transit Operator Update

*Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District Staff*
An update on the Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District on proposed service changes and any notable activity will be provided.

11. Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update

Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Staff

An update on the most recent developments of the Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update and the Council on Access and Mobility will be provided.

12. Upcoming Meetings

The next SSTAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020, at 10 a.m.

13. Adjournment

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment
May 11, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Chair Meagan Schmidt (Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation [FACT] – Seat B) called the meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) to order at 10:01 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held in a virtual environment via GoToWebinar.

1. Welcome and Introductions
The attendance sheet for this meeting is included.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Action: Upon a motion by Sharlene Ornelas (At-Large Voting Member – Seat B) and a second by Betty Voorhies (At-Large Voting Member – Seat A), the SSTAC approved the minutes from its January 22, 2020, meeting. Yes: Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Jay Washburn (MTS Paratransit), Betty Voorhies (At Large Voting Member – Seat A), Sharlene Ornelas (At-Large Voting Member – Seat B), Catherine Manis (At-large Voting Member – Seat C), Claudia Gavin (ElderHelp), Vassilena Lerinska (MTS Fixed Route), Robert Gebo (NCTD Paratransit), Marissa Lucero (San
Diego Center for the Blind), Ilse Carey (Special Interest Voting Member – Seat A), Kent Rodricks (Special Interest Voting Member – Seat B), Winona Garcia (Survivors of Torture, International), Anthony DeSalis (The Arc of San Diego). Absent: Home of Guiding Hands, North County Transit District [NCTD] – Fixed Route.

3. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments

Sharlene Ornelas commented that NCTD is not charging fares for transit, but MTS is, and this is confusing for passengers.

Reports

4. Staff Report

Associate Transit Planner Lisa Madsen offered her condolences to MTS on the sudden passing of Paul Jablonski. She then provided an update on Senate Bill 1376 (the TNC accessibility for persons with disabilities legislation) and noted SANDAG’s Economics and Finance departments have done some interesting analysis on the economic impact of COVID-19 in the San Diego region. Additional information can be found at sandag.org/economy. The 2020 Coordinated Plan was bumped from the Transportation Committee’s agenda for May 15, and
instead the Draft will go to the Committee at its June 19 meeting, with the Final going in July.

5. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Membership

Lisa Madsen noted that three positions on the SSTAC are expiring this year: 1 special interest alternate of potential transit riders who are disabled (currently held by Wayne Landon), 1 at-large alternate representing the interests of seniors, persons with limited means, or disabled transportation users who are familiar with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and Title 24 regulations (currently held by Mary Birdine), and 1 Social Service Provider for Seniors, including one representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists (currently held by San Diego Center for the Blind; Marissa Lucero -Primary, Elsa Caballero – Alternate).

Lisa Madsen stated that the application period for the three positions would be open from June 1-30, 2020. A selection committee would then meet in the first half of July to select the successful applicants, who would then be announced at the July SSTAC meeting, at which time the Council will also select a new Chair and Vice Chair. Sharlene Ornelas, Jay Washburn, and Chair Schmidt volunteered to serve on the selection committee.
6. Specialized Transportation Grant Program Cycle 11 Criteria

Business Analyst I Zach Rivera discussed the SANDAG Specialized Transportation Grant Program (STGP), which is comprised of the Federal Section 5310 and the Senior Mini Grant (SMG) program funds. The SMG program is funded through TransNet, the voter approved half-cent sales tax in our region. Together, these two programs form the STGP. Every two years, SANDAG holds a call for projects for STGP funds. Local partners, including nonprofit organizations, transit operators, and jurisdictions submit applications to SANDAG. Since there is more need than funds available, SANDAG, in consultation with members of the public and local stakeholders, establishes evaluation criteria to aid the scoring of submitted applications and the distribution of available funds.

Zach Rivera noted that in prior cycles, proposed projects must be derived from a Very High or High Priority strategy in the 2020 Coordinated Plan to be eligible for STGP funding. The notable change from the 2018 Coordinated Plan is to adjust the ranking of one criteria—improve access to available services through coordination and enhanced customer service that connects riders to transit or specialized transportation services that most appropriately meet their needs—from a high priority to a very high
priority. The other potential consideration being considered for Cycle 11 is increasing the grant request maximum amount per project from $200,000 to $250,000 per year per funding source and for an agency from $500,000 to $600,000 per year per funding source.

Brian Lane noted that one major change being considered for the program was to carve off a percent of the funds from both 5310 and SMGs, and provide funds directly to the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA). They are given about $140,000 a year to perform their CTSA duties, and it was noted in the last Transportation Development Act Performance Audit that SANDAG and FACT should look for ways to increase CTSA funding. SANDAG is looking at carving off 20% to 30% of the funds available for the Cycle 11 grant program and giving these funds to FACT to expand their services. The remaining funds would then be competitively distributed. This would enable the CTSA to conduct the Mobility Management activities that they are contractually obligated to provide. The contract with FACT would also be revised to include this new source of funding and these new performance measures to ensure that the funds would be spent wisely. During the past few grant cycles, FACT has been awarded approximately 20% of the available Mobility Management funds. With this guarantee of dedicated
funding to the CTSA, staff also proposes to reduce the amount of competitive funds that the CTSA could apply for from the $600,000 annual cap that all other applicants would have to $200,000 exclusively for FACT.

Zach Rivera noted that COVID-19 has led to a reduction in sales tax revenue, which could affect the funding available for SMGs in Cycle 11. Section 5310 funding should not be affected.

7. **Introducing the Office of Diversity and Equity**

SANDAG Director of Diversity and Equity Elaine Richardson introduced herself and SANDAG Social Equity Principal Dan Levy. The Office of Diversity and Equity is a new division at SANDAG under the Department of Organization Effectiveness. In addition to overseeing Small and Disadvantaged Business Development, other responsibilities include overseeing Civil Rights programs, including Title VI and Environmental Justice.

Dan Levy noted that he will review all construction projects for accessibility and would discuss these issues with the Council. Sharlene Ornelas commented that she was excited about the new department, and that she would be interested in performing walk-throughs of facilities to ensure standards are met.
8. Transit Operator Update

Vice Chair Jay Washburn provided an update on the MTS response to COVID-19. MTS Access has experienced a 90% drop in ridership as people are sheltering in place, and are only providing single-passenger trips (with the exception of personal care attendants). MTS has suspended in-person assessments for ADA eligibility. New applicants have been given 90-day temporary certification, while current riders have had their eligibility extended for 90 days as well. All drivers have been given masks and gloves. The standing line on the buses has also been moved back to allow for social distancing. MTS is not accepting cash currently. Riders are to flash their passes from the rear door. MTS is also testing new software modules, including a new call out system, a web booking system, and a fare payment system.

Robert Gebo stated that NCTD was facing the same challenges as MTS. Paratransit ridership is down 84%. NCTD continues to do everything possible to keep all drivers working, including training, spot cleaning at transit centers, using Personal Protective Equipment, and moving the yellow line inside the vehicles back by the front wheel well. NCTD is not accepting cash, only transit passes. No in-person paratransit assessments are being done at this time; ADA paratransit
certifications will be good for 90 to 120 days. The technology for the new Trapeze module is complete. A newsletter will go out to clients to describe the new EZ Wallet system, and how to use it. Charles Main noted that NCTD reduced service in March on the COASTER and BREEZE. NCTD will have minor service changes in July to improve transfers.

9. Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update

Chair Schmidt announced that FACT is will provide essential trips for dialysis and grocery shopping. FACT is also working with the County of San Diego (County) to transport homeless persons with potential COVID-19 exposure to testing centers. Drivers are performing meal deliveries and all drivers and riders are wearing masks.

The next FACT Board meeting will be May 28. Claudia Gavin asked about the kind of food delivery services that FACT was providing. Chair Schmidt noted that they were delivering food secured by the County from the Red Cross. The referrals are sent via 211 and the boxes are picked up and delivered by RideFACT. Claudia Gavin noted that ElderHelp was able to have volunteers grocery shop for clients and then deliver the items. ElderHelp has also turned a portion of their office space into a food pantry.
10. Public Hearing

Lisa Madsen stated that in accordance with Public Utilities Code 99238, one of the responsibilities of the SSTAC is to annually participate in the identification of transit needs in the jurisdiction, including unmet transit needs that may exist within the jurisdiction of the council and that may be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services. Additionally, per Public Utilities Code 99238.5, SANDAG shall ensure the establishment and implementation of a citizen participation process, using the SSTAC as a mechanism to solicit the input of transit dependent and transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means. The process shall include provisions for at least one public hearing in the jurisdiction represented by the SSTAC. No comments were sent via email or telephone to be read aloud at the meeting. Any comments received will be investigated, and if necessary, forwarded to the appropriate agency for response. Responses will be provided at the July 20, 2020, SSTAC meeting.

Chair Schmidt opened the public hearing. Sharlene Ornelas stated that she would like to see persons homes grandfathered into the paratransit service area if they were certified to use paratransit, and then the
complementary fixed-route service connected to their home was discontinued.

Marissa Lucero, San Diego Center for the Blind, noted that there have been problems for visually impaired persons on board the Trolley who were unable to hear audio for announcements, even when the emergency button is. The passengers are also unable to contact the driver for assistance.

David Jackson noted that there were no problems in South Bay.

Sharlene Ornelas noted that Trolley announcements have been an ongoing problem, especially in older cars. These problems should be resolved once the older cars have been retired. There are security issues at City College, where high school students have harassed visually impaired passengers, although this is not much of an issue due to COVID-19.

Clytie Kohler noted that Robert Gebo mentioned a newsletter, and asked when will it be finished and how will it be provided? Robert Gebo noted that the newsletter will be posted once the stay-at-home order is lifted; it will be posted on buses, the internet, and provided to the NCTD ADA review group.

11. Upcoming Meetings
The next SSTAC meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2020, at 10 a.m., and will be a virtual meeting.
12. Adjournment

Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.
Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

May 11, 2020

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<td>Claudia Gavin</td>
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