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BOARD ACTIONS

March 26, 2004

TRANSNET EXTENSION: Directors voted unanimously and started the momentum to place a proposition on the November 2004 ballot to seek voter approval to extend *TransNet*, the existing ½-penny sales tax for transportation improvements. With a two-thirds voter approval, the *TransNet* sales tax would be reauthorized for a 40-year period and generate \$14 billion for transit, highway, and local road improvements. The current *TransNet* program expires in March 2008. *TransNet* would help fund major highway traffic congestion relief projects along Interstates 5, 8, 15, 805, and 905 as well as State Routes 52, 54, 56, 76, 78, 94 and 125. *TransNet* would support a robust public transportation system with Bus Rapid Transit driving on exclusive highway lanes along many of the major interstates. The sales tax extension also would support capital and operational improvements to the Trolley, the Coaster commuter rail service, and the new Sprinter rail line in North County. In addition, the region's 18 cities and numerous county communities would get funding support for hundreds of local street and road projects. As currently envisioned, *TransNet* funding would support incentives for communities to implement smart growth development to better connect homes and jobs to transit. Bikeways, pedestrian improvements, and neighborhood traffic safety projects also would be supported with *TransNet* funding. The first reading of the ordinance to put the tax extension before the voters could be scheduled as early as the April 9, 2004 SANDAG Board meeting, with the second reading and adoption slated for May. Both public meetings are a legal requirement before the ordinance can be placed on the November 2, 2004 ballot as a countywide proposition. For more information, visit www.sandag.org/transnet. (Item #14: Staff Contact: Craig Scott, (619) 699-1926; or csc@sandag.org)

2004 STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP): Directors approved the draft 2004 STIP proposal to allocate \$203.8 million in transportation funding over the next five years for the region. Part of the proposal includes using STIP funds to pay off federal bonds that would provide a total of \$333 million for transportation projects. The initial debt service for the bonds is included in the \$203.8 million. The STIP will fund a number of important projects including: SR 905 and 52 construction, I-15 Managed Lanes Bus Rapid Transit, HOV lanes on SR54/125 from I-805 to SR 94, Oceanside transit center parking structure, and a regional automated fare system. The proposal will be submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by April 12 with a decision from the CTC due in August. (Item #9: Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908 or jnu@sandag.org)

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) RELEASED: Directors accepted for distribution the draft PEIR for the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The RCP is a proposed long-term planning framework for the San Diego region. The PEIR analyzes the potential significant impacts of the adoption of the RCP by SANDAG. SANDAG invites comments from residents, organizations, and agencies on the draft PEIR.

(more)

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Cities of
- Carlsbad
- Chula Vista
- Coronado
- Del Mar
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Imperial Beach
- La Mesa
- Lemon Grove
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Solana Beach
- Vista
- and
- County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Imperial County
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North San Diego County Transit Development Board
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Baja California/Mexico

Comments can be submitted in writing to SANDAG or at the public workshops scheduled in April. Workshops will be held at six locations throughout the region (see listing). (Item #12: Staff contact Rob Rundle, (619) 699-6949 or rru@sandag.org)

RCP Public Workshops

April 17, 2004
Encinitas
9 to 11 a.m.

April 19, 2004
Vista
6 to 8 p.m.

April 21, 2004
San Diego
6 to 8 p.m.

April 22, 2004
Chula Vista
6 to 8 p.m.

April 24, 2004
El Cajon
9 to 11 a.m.

April 26, 2004
Oceanside
6 to 8 p.m.

For workshop location and other information, visit www.sandag.org/rcp or call (619) 515-4RCP (4727).

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: Highway Projects...The I-5/I-805 "Merge" project has completed nearly half of the work. Construction of the "Merge" also includes the I-5 Auxiliary Lane between Del Mar Heights Road and Via de la Valle which will be open to traffic in August 2004. The overall project is scheduled to be open by early 2007... Construction continues on SR 56 to complete the middle segment between I-5 and I-15. The freeway is scheduled to open this summer ... A \$197 million federal bond was sold in February to finance the construction of the I-15 Managed Lanes between SR-56 and Escondido. The lanes are scheduled to open to traffic at the end of 2007...**Transit and Bikeway Project** The environmental document for the Sabre Springs BRT Station has been completed. An Open House and Public Workshop was held March 25 to collect comments and ideas from the public for the proposed BRT stations at Sabre Springs/Penasquitos, Rancho Bernardo and Del Lago/South Escondido ... A ribbon cutting ceremony to open the Sweetwater Bridge that is part of the Bayshore Bikeway will be held Saturday, April 17. **Ridesharing...**The SANDAG Vanpool program continues to grow with 309 vans carrying commuters to and from work. An outreach effort for the SchoolPool program resulted in more than 400 applications for sharing rides to local schools. (Item #10, Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908 or jnu@sandag.org)

DRAFT 2005 OVERAL WORK PROGRAM (OWP): The draft OWP contains the detailed job-by-job description of the work proposed to be accomplished by SANDAG during the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Directors accepted the draft for public review and comment. Top priorities during the new fiscal year include implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. The OWP also reflects the planned public transit programming, development, engineering, and construction work. Comments and responses, along with revisions to the OWP, will be brought to the Executive Committee and SANDAG during the month of April. SANDAG Directors will consider the final OWP for approval at their May 28, 2004 Board meeting. (Item #11: Staff contact, Rene Wasmund, (619) 699-1940 or rwa@sandag.org)

COMMENTS TO CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC): Directors asked staff to request that the CPUC hold hearings in the San Diego region to solicit public input on the draft decision on Cost Allocation for Long-Term Energy Contracts during the 30-day public comment period that is expected to begin in early to mid-April. Directors also approved submitting comments to the CPUC favoring an equitable cost allocation that would not unfairly burden SDG&E ratepayers. (Item #13: Staff contact Rob Rundle, (619) 699-6949 or rru@sandag.org)

SANDAG AND CITY OF CHULA VISTA TO IMPLEMENT RIDESHARING PROGRAM: Directors approved the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Chula Vista on the development of a ridesharing project in East Chula Vista. Funding will come from the City of Chula Vista, through contributions made by East Chula Vista developers, and from a grant from the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District. The goal of the pilot project is to reduce rush hour traffic congestion in East Chula Vista by providing financial incentives to encourage ridesharing, a commuter express bus service to downtown San Diego, and an express Trolley Shuttle. (Item #5: Staff contact contact, Jack Boda, (619) 699-6930 or jbo@sdandag.org)