The Regional Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler at 12:06 p.m. The attending Committee members, alternates, and advisory members were as follows: Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland); Judy Ritter (North County Inland); Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal); Patty Davis (South County); Patricia McCoy (South County); Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego); Bill Horn (County of San Diego); Bill Figge (Caltrans); Leon Williams (MTS); David Druker (NCTD); Niall Fritz (Regional Planning Technical Working Group) and Lynne Baker (Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group).

Chair Holt Pfeiler welcomed all to the meeting. Self introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MARCH 5, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

Action: A motion and second was made to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2004 meeting. Two committee members abstained.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Pfeiler announced that Mike McLaughlin, SANDAG’s Division Director of Land Use, will be retiring next month, and this will be his last Regional Planning Committee meeting. Chair Pfeiler noted that Mike has always brought consensus to the planning community, which takes great skill. She presented Mike with a softball signed by all Committee members, in appreciation of all that he has done for SANDAG and the region.

Chair Pfeiler noted that item #8 – Energy Working Group Recommendation to SANDAG Board of Directors - will be discussed now.

8. ENERGY WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION TO SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Staff noted that the newly formed Energy Working Group recommended to the SANDAG Board that comments should be submitted when the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) makes its decision regarding cost allocation for long-term energy contracts. The SANDAG Board voted to be proactive and requested that the CPUC hold public hearings in the San Diego region once its decision has been made. Staff currently is drafting those comments, which will be forwarded to the CPUC when completed.
CONSENT AGENDA (Item 3)

3. DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Staff reported that on March 26, 2004, the SANDAG Board released the draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Regional Comprehensive Plan for a 45-day public review period, ending May 13, 2004. Committee members will receive a copy of the draft EIR. Additional copies of the draft EIR will be made available at the upcoming RCP workshops, and staff will be at those workshops to answer any questions that may arise.

REPORTS

4. SIGN-UP SHEET FOR REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP) WORKSHOPS

Chair Pfeiler commented that a sign-up sheet will be circulated to allow all members to sign up to participate at as many RCP workshops that they can. It is important for the elected officials to attend these workshops to show support and better educate the public on the RCP.

Mayor Houlihan requested that an electronic version of the workshop flyer be forwarded to each jurisdiction outlining their respective workshops.

5. UPDATE ON SMART GROWTH OPPORTUNITY AREAS

The Committee was provided with the Smart Growth Working Group’s progress on defining smart growth opportunity areas and categories. The Smart Growth Working Group was tasked with: refining smart growth categories; preparing guidelines for incorporating smart growth opportunity areas into local general and community plans; developing a smart growth opportunity area concept map; developing a smart growth categories matrix; and developing guidelines for a smart growth incentive program. The Smart Growth Working Group will continue to meet and provide a progress report to the joint meeting of the Regional Planning Technical and Stakeholders Working Group at a later date. In addition, staff will be meeting with local jurisdictions in April 2004 to discuss and refine the smart growth opportunity area matrix and will report back to the Regional Planning Committee in May 2004.

Committee comments/concerns included:

- Regarding the map, specifically the EIR, it appears that there are no exclusions for smart growth projects.

- Regarding the treatment of the unincorporated areas in the proposed matrix, what part of funding will be dedicated to the transit services for the north county.
• There needs to be services added to connect with the current north county transit system. Is there a way to increase the services or change the priority of the existing services?

• Committee members requested clarification between a low-rise and high-rise building.

• Committee members questioned if the concept is to redevelop areas to where the streets are more narrow and walkable.

• Staff should create a list of potential funding sources for the proposed projects. It is important for the Committee to see something concrete.

• It would be useful to determine how much funding will be made available from the TransNet Extension, as well as the current available funding. It is possible that a portion of developer impact fees could be directed towards these projects. Traffic calming issues also should be addressed. The community will be more accepting if the total plan is presented to them.

• There isn’t enough funding to support the current transit system. However, under the proposed TransNet extension, transit centers should be included in the list of projects to allow for more funding for transit. The developers should not have a problem with creating transit centers. The Committee is kidding itself if it thinks that it can add additional transit services when there isn’t enough funding for the current transit services.

• Under the new “pay for performance” program at San Diego State University, there needs to be an outline of what exactly will be funded so the incentives will actually work.

• At Mira Costa College, student bus passes are subsidized to encourage students to use transit. This past semester, there was an increase in student ridership. If the students were to drive, they would have to pay for a parking pass and currently, the cost of a bus pass is less expensive than a parking pass.

• As a result of the increase in gas prices, the Coaster had its best month ever, in March 2004.

• In the future, funding will be allocated to the areas that do the best in promoting smart growth.

Staff commented that the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has a grant to fund a temporary program for the Otay Ranch Villages to obtain express bus services to downtown San Diego. These types of additional funding sources will be identified over time.

6. PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Committee was updated on what has been happening since last month’s meeting regarding the priorities for Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) strategic initiatives. Staff
pointed out the relationship between the RCP goals and strategic initiatives and identified the lead agency for each category and other participants that are needed to accomplish each goal.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Noticed that there aren’t any indicators for the college students. Housing is a critical issue for students. Suggested that the colleges be incorporated into this document.

- Recently, the City of San Diego has identified an area at San Diego State University as a pilot smart growth project.

- Schools should be added to the system where transit is located and should be included as a strategic initiative.

- There should be some incentive to farmers to not sell their property. This activity could be done by providing them with a check each month. Under the Williamson Act, farmers used to get a break on their property taxes. There was a fee of $22 to be protected. The land owners that have large parcels should be incentivized to not separate their land. Carrots should be offered.

- As the smart growth concept map is developed, we should communicate with the K-12 system.

- Entertainment areas that are developed have not been addressed in the RCP. Those are issues that need to be discussed. There is a need to understand how those facilities will be growing and how they can be incorporated into the current transit plan.

- The State of Maryland changed its funding structure and created state support for development of agriculture. There needs to be state legislation that diminishes the use of penalties and instead provides incentives for the maintenance of both agriculture and urban areas. There could be a fund created to compensate owners to not utilize their land.

- Staff should develop an infrastructure matrix when discussing water. There needs to be a realistic, scientific, non-political discussion on this issue.

- A land owner has a well in Fallbrook that taps into the Colorado River and has offered to sell water to anyone that would like to purchase it. No one has taken him up on this offer. The City of San Marcos is the only jurisdiction that has tapped into this well.

- The Committee needs to be realistic about providing replacement housing and what that means. Economically, this issue is very expensive.

Staff will formulate the comments received and bring this issue back to the Committee for discussion before including it into the final RCP.
7. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Committee was briefed on the discussions with the Technical and Stakeholders Working Groups over the past two months regarding developing the proposed list of indicators, where the indicators would be focused on monitoring overall regional progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the RCP, and the number of indicators to be tracked would be balanced with available resources. Performance indicators answer the question, “Is the Regional Comprehensive Plan having a positive impact on the region?,” and fall into the broad categories of: urban form/transportation; housing; healthy environments; economic prosperity; public facilities; and borders. The indicators also interrelate with the “three E’s” (Economy, Environment, and Equity) of sustainability. The Working Groups noted that annually-updated data sources are somewhat limited and recommended adding detailed “periodic” indicators, to be updated every 3-5 years, to provide additional detail and analysis to the monitoring effort.

Committee comments:

• Performance indicators may not be available on a regular basis but could be considered on a cyclical basis.

• The performance indicators should not be limited to what staff has proposed.

• There is no indication where the water is coming from. It would be helpful if the Committee had more information on desalination.

• A target for the end of the plan needs to be determined. Peak period and transit ridership should be at some level. There should also be interim goals, i.e., in 2005 get x; in 2006 get y. The Committee needs to determine the long-term goal in order to determine the short-term goal.

Staff and the Working Groups are working on setting targets for the annual performance indicators. This issue will be discussed at the joint Technical and Stakeholders Working Group meeting on April 8, 2004. After that meeting, the Working Groups will make a formal recommendation to the Regional Planning Committee at the Committee’s May 7, 2004 meeting.

Public Comment

Barbara J. Winton, a San Diego resident, brought up several points regarding safety issues while riding the trolley. She pointed out that there are no street lights at some of the transit stops and no safe places to park your car. She encouraged the Committee to be cognizant of these issues when making future plans for transit in the region.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Two Regional Planning Committee meetings are scheduled in May. The first meeting will be held on Friday, May 7, 2004, from 12 noon – 2 p.m., and the second, a joint meeting
between the Regional Planning Committee and its working groups, will be held on Monday, May 24, 2004, from 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pfeiler adjourned the meeting at 1:37 P.M.

BOB LEITER
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

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