BOARD ACTIONS

April 23, 2004

STATUS REPORT ON REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP): Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler, Chula Vista Councilmember Patty Davis, and staff updated the Board on the efforts of the Regional Planning Committee, Technical Working Group and Stakeholders Working Group to finalize one of the key concepts in the RCP: better coordination between land use and transportation. The Board was asked to comment on seven categories developed for identifying “smart growth opportunity areas” -- metropolitan center, urban center, town center, community center, transit corridor, special use area, and unincorporated rural village. These classifications will be used to develop a framework for a smart growth incentive program that encourages smart growth development in appropriate locations. The Board also was updated on the “strategic initiatives,” which are sets of priority actions that could be undertaken by jurisdictions, agencies, or other entities to implement key concepts in the RCP. The Board also was reminded of the opportunity to participate in the third round of public workshops where elected officials as well as SANDAG and Caltrans staff are meeting with citizens to answer questions and take input on the draft RCP and its Program Environmental Impact Report. In May, the Regional Planning Committee and working groups will be finalizing the Regional Comprehensive Plan and EIR. The final RCP and EIR will be presented to SANDAG in June for certification and adoption. (Item #11 A, B, C: Staff contact: Bob Leiter, (619) 699-6980 or ble@sandag.org)

SPRINTER RAIL FUNDING: Now under construction, the Sprinter rail line will carry passengers to work, school, shopping centers, and other activities along a 22-mile route paralleling State 78. The rail line, with 15 stations, will connect the Cities of Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Escondido as well as Cal State San Marcos. SANDAG voted to support a request from the North San Diego County Transit District (NCTD), the operator responsible for the construction of the new rail service, to use debt financing in an amount not to exceed $105 million. The financing package will keep the rail construction funded and on schedule to start service in early 2006. The financing package is being used as a contingency in lieu of an $80 million commitment from the State of California during the current state budget crisis. SANDAG and NCTD will continue to actively pursue the funding support from the State of California. Total Sprinter cost is estimated at $352 million, of which $90 million is from the TransNet ½-cent sales tax. (Item #8: Staff contact, Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960 or ero@sandag.org)

(more)
VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
SANDAG approved the recommendation from the Subcommittee for Accessible
Transportation (SCAT) and supported submitting 19 applications to the state from
local non-profit agencies to purchase 17 specially equipped buses and equipment.
The bus and equipment purchases will total more than $900,000, with 80 percent
eligible to be paid for from federal TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st
Century) grants. The balance will be paid by non-profit agencies. The seven
agencies seeking grants to purchase vehicles are: Mountain Shadows Support
Group, Escondido; North County Lifeline, Vista; Promising Futures, El Cajon;
Redwood Senior Homes, Escondido; St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center, El Cajon; San
Diego Center for the Blind, San Diego, and; Sharp Healthcare—Mesa Vista
Hospital, San Diego. (Item #5: Staff contact: Lydia Callis, (619) 699-7330 or
lca@sandag.org)

APPOINTMENT TO SOURCEPOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: SANDAG approved
the appointment of El Cajon Mayor Mark Lewis to the SourcePoint Board.
SourcePoint, a nonprofit corporation chartered by SANDAG, offers a broad range
of services including economic and fiscal impact analysis, market feasibility studies,
economic development strategies, transportation modeling, and geographic
information system (GIS) services. (Item #10: Staff contact: Marney Cox, (619) 699-
1930 or mco@sandag.org)

TransNet EXTENSION: At their April 9, 2004 policy meeting, Directors voted
unanimously to accept the draft TransNet Ordinance and Expenditure Plan for
public review and comment. With a two-thirds voter approval this November, 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 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 is scheduled for the May 14, 2004 SANDAG Board meeting, with the second
reading and adoption slated for the May 28 SANDAG Board meeting. 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. (Staff contacts: Craig Scott, (619) 699-1926 or
csc@sandag.org and Garry Bonelli, (619) 699-1960 or gbo@sandag.org)