EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 14, 2004

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of April 9, 2004

Chairman Ron Morrison (South County) called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilmember Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego) and a second by Vice Chair Mickey Cafagna (North County Inland) the minutes of the March 12, 2004, Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no public or Committee member comments.

CONSENT (Items 3 through 4)

3. APPOINTMENT TO THE SAN DIEGO REGIONAL ENERGY OFFICE (SDREO) BOARD OF DIRECTORS (INFORMATION)

Chair Morrison asked if we had received anything from the SDREO on the status of its voting procedure. Staff replied that the procedure has not yet been decided.

Chair Morrison asked if SANDAG has an open Board slot. Staff responded affirmatively.

Chair Morrison stated that the SDREO wants SANDAG to hold off on making the second Board appointment until it decides on a new appointment procedure. He would prefer that we make the appointment and then let the SDREO decide on its appointment process.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the second appointment to the SDREO Board by SANDAG should be made.

Chair Morrison said that two persons had expressed an interest in serving on the SDREO Board: El Cajon Councilmember Dick Ramos and San Diego City Councilmember Donna Frye. He stated his preference for a person with related energy experience; therefore, he recommended that Dick Ramos be appointed.
Action Taken: Upon a motion by Councilmember Madaffer and a second by Vice Chair Cafagna, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Dick Ramos to the San Diego Regional Energy Office Board.

4. CONSOLIDATION UPDATE: TRANSFER OF TWO INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY POSITIONS FROM MTDB TO SANDAG (RECOMMEND)

The Executive Committee is asked to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the transfer of the Administrator of Information Technology and one Systems Engineer I/II from MTDB to SANDAG, amend the FY 2004 Overall Work Program, and approve a budget adjustment to reflect revenue from MTDB for these two positions for the balance of the fiscal year.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Councilmember Madaffer and a second by Vice Chair Cafagna, the Executive Committee approved Consent Item 4.

REPORTS

5. REVIEW OF FY 2005 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM (OWP) (POSSIBLE ACTION)

The Director of Finance reported that staff has incorporated the previous comments and direction of the Executive Committee and other parties. The Executive Committee will see the full program budget at the next meeting. The changes that have been made were reviewed in detail.

Councilmember Madaffer asked if the amount for lobbying efforts was equal to or less than what it was last year. The Director of Finance replied that it is a little less because staff thinks there will be a savings by combining the lobbying efforts.

The Director of Finance indicated that this information was distributed for public comment following the last meeting, and that staff will formally respond to comments. This information was also reviewed with the Intermodal Planning Group (IPG) and it was satisfied with staff’s report. There were minor changes to the OWP that will be reflected in the next draft. There were also some comments from the Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB), the City of Chula Vista, and the North County Transit District (NCTD) related to a proposed 30 percent reduction to the passenger counting program. Staff looked at the data that was obtained from this program and thought that it could be conducted every two years rather than annually. In 2005 an automated counting program will be implemented on buses. Eventually this will take the place or greatly augment the manual process. However, this automated counting program won’t provide real data until 2006.

The Director of Finance stated that the next step is to come back in May with any changes from today’s meeting and final adoption is slated for June.

Councilmember Madaffer suggested that at some point the smart growth incentive program should be discussed at the Transportation Committee to ensure good linkage
between the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees. The Director of Finance agreed that it would be appropriate to add that suggestion. The Executive Director added that we have held joint committee meetings in the past, and we hope to be able to crosslink the efforts by having joint committee meetings in the future.

Supervisor Dianne Jacob (County of San Diego) thanked staff for the additional information. She asked for a list of the contract services. Staff agreed to provide that information. The Executive Director noted that some are existing contracts while others will be future contracts to staff up for workload peaks.

Councilmember Feller (North County Coastal) asked about the concerns from the transit agencies. Karen King, NCTD Executive Director, suggested that cutting a third of the Assistance to Transit Operators Program in 2005 is premature. The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) will be implementing an automatic counting system; however, due to budgeting issues, NCTD will not be participating in that program, and data won’t be readily available from that program until 2006. She said that this issue is particularly important because between 2002 and 2003 NCTD implemented a whole new system in its area. There were two different systems in those two years and we need a base year of data for the new system for 2003. Within SANDAG’s new role, there are some significant criteria for monitoring system performance. We would like to ensure that we are using the best data when comparing routes throughout the region.

Chair Morrison asked for clarification on the proposal for this work element. The Director of Finance replied that to count every single route every year costs about half a million dollars and is more than what any transit agency in the nation does. Staff will continue working with the transit operators to determine where we should focus our efforts. We are looking to provide more reliable and focused data.

Chair Morrison asked about the overall revenue reduction. The Director of Finance answered that it is about 10 percent or $4 million less than the current year.

Councilmember Feller expressed concern about reducing the passenger counts.

**Action Taken:** This report was presented for information.

6. **LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)**

The Director of Governmental Relations provided a report on the federal transportation reauthorization efforts. The United States (US) House of Representatives (House) Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T & I) approved House Resolution (HR) 3350, the “Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA LU)” in the amount of $275 billion ($225 billion for highways and $51 billion for transit). This is $100 billion less than their original reauthorization plan that was proposed last November. There are several complications to this bill including a “reopener” clause that will allow for the bill to be reviewed and more money added at a later date. Other issues include minimum guarantee rates of return to the states, where high-priority projects are counted against this minimum guarantee, and the percentage of dollars allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
The Senate’s bill, “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficiency Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA) that passed in February authorizes $318 billion ($262 billion for highways and $56 billion for transit). A reconciliation of the House and Senate bills would be addressed in conference. The Administration is threatening to veto any bill that authorizes more than the Administration’s six-year, $256 billion funding level or that includes a reopener clause.

The Executive Director reported that this is the second year where we’ve seen a better coordinated effort in our approach working with the San Diego congressional delegation and the delegation members working with each other. This approach has worked well. His assessment is that there is a lot of good understanding of the priorities and what we need. This year, some of the business groups including the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) were included. This emphasized the importance of a unified voice for San Diego.

Councilmember Madaffer thanked staff for their efforts in this area. He asked what actions beyond our delegation have been contemplated to weigh in to influence the Administration. He said that he was unimpressed with the Administration’s proposal especially as it relates to San Diego. He would like to see the funding level at least at what the House has proposed. He thought that San Diego should be rewarded for investing its own money in projects. He suggested that we send a resolution or letter to the White House stating SANDAG’s position on these bills.

The Executive Director agreed that this action should be taken. On the state site, staff has been working through the California Council of Governments (CALCOG) and Governor Swarzenegger’s Administration for better coordination.

The Director of Governmental Relations asked for clarification regarding the level of funding that should be supported and a position on the reopener clause. Councilmember Madaffer replied that we should support the House level as the minimum amount. The Executive Director urged support for the reopener cause because it leaves the option open should circumstances change over time.

Supervisor Jacob suggested that we express our appreciation to the Administration for the increased funding level, but indicate our support for the reopener clause, and include the reasons why we need additional money.

Councilmember Madaffer noted that this in an incredible jobs bill and public transportation is being provided in the process.

The Executive Director mentioned that last year when we were going through proposed state-level cuts by the Davis Administration we talked about jobs, income, and the tax base in the region. SANDAG’s Chief Economist created an input/output model that emphasized these points and it was presented to our legislative delegation in Sacramento. The model we developed has been shared with other regions in the state and it is now the model being adopted by the Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing’s office and with the California Transportation Commission (CTC).
Supervisor Jacob asked if we know how much we pay in federal taxes that are related to gasoline and transportation and what we get in return. This information should also be included in the letter.

**Action Taken:** Upon a motion by Councilmember Madaffer and a second by Councilmember Feller, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the transmittal to the federal Administration of a letter that includes support for a transportation reauthorization bill at a minimum amount proposed by the US House of Representatives, support for the reopener clause, information documenting the need for increased funding, and information related to the return to the San Diego region from payments of federal gasoline taxes.

The Director of Governmental Relations also reviewed proposed legislation related to rail security. In general, Senate Bill 2216 requests the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to assess the security risks associated with freight and intercity passenger rail transportation, and to develop prioritized recommendations for improving the security of rail infrastructure and facilities, terminal, tunnels, rail bridges, rail switching areas, and other areas identified as posing significant rail-related risks to public safety and the movement of interstate commerce. This bill would authorize appropriation of $500 million for 2005-2009 for rail security nationwide. It was noted that Senator Barbara Boxer would be sponsoring a media event related to this bill on April 14, 2004, at Los Angeles Union Station.

The Director of Governmental Relations reported on the Freeway Service Patrol Grant Program (Assembly Bill [AB]) 2498, Longville) which provides about $21 million throughout the state for a freeway service patrol system. SANDAG has been participating in this effort. This new bill opens up the program to other agencies; however, the problem is that the funding would remain at the same level. Allowing more agencies to participate in this program would reduce the funding for the existing participating agencies.

AB 2032 (Dutra and Kehoe) on Value Pricing relates to the ability for single drivers to use the high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes for a fee. The SANDAG Chair and Executive Director went to Sacramento for a hearing on this matter on March 19, 2004, and noted that the success of San Diego’s program will be a key factor in passage of this bill.

The Director of Governmental Relations noted that there would be a state budget hearing on Transportation on April 14, 2004.

**Action Taken:** This report was presented for information.


The Chief Deputy Executive Director for Operations reviewed the draft agenda for the SANDAG Board meeting scheduled for April 23, 2004. The approval of minutes from the March 19 and April 9 special Board meetings will be added. The consent item related to the US Department of Defense Projects affecting the San Diego region will be postponed to the May 28 Board meeting.
Supervisor Jacob distributed a letter from the County Board of Supervisors requesting a second seat on the SANDAG Board. Staff said that this would be added to the agenda for the May Executive Committee and Board meeting agendas.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Cafagna and a second by Councilmember Madaffer, the Executive Committee voted to approve the draft Board agenda for the April 23, 2004, meeting with the changes noted above.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Executive Committee is scheduled for May 14, 2004.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Morrison adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet
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