BOARD ACTIONS

November 19, 2004

TransNet EXTENSION: Directors received an informational report on the results of the November 2, 2004 election pertaining to Proposition A, the countywide ballot measure, that extends the existing half-cent transportation sales tax, known as TransNet, from 2008 to 2048. With more than a million ballots counted, nearly 67 percent of the voters approved the TransNet extension. The 40-year sales tax extension will generate $14 billion and will help fund major highway expansion projects along Interstates 5, 8, 15, and 805 as well as State Routes 52, 54, 56, 67, 76, 78, 94, 125, and 905. TransNet will support a robust public transportation system, including new Bus Rapid Transit services utilizing new carpool/managed lanes along many of the major freeways. Nearly $4.5 billion of the total tax will be shared among the region’s 18 cities and numerous communities for local street improvements. An extensive $850 million environmental mitigation program also will be implemented. TransNet funding is combined with state and federal dollars to improve the region’s transportation network. The funding is distributed essentially into thirds among highway, transit, and local road projects. In addition, nine other counties statewide put transportation sales tax measures on their respective ballots. In total, it appears seven out of the ten counties in California received the required two-thirds super majority voter approval. (Item #15: Staff contact: Craig Scott, (619) 699-1926; csc@sandag.org)

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN INTEGRATION: SANDAG voted unanimously to integrate the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and the update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RCP contains a smart growth incentive program, an updated Regional Housing Needs Assessment, land use and transportation performance indicators, a smart growth concept map, and an updated regional growth forecast. If federal legislation is approved, the RTP will be updated in 2006 or 2007. SANDAG then will coordinate updates to the RCP. (Item # 18A: Staff contact: Bob Leiter, (619) 699-1980 or ble@sandag.org)

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP: Directors approved a plan to establish a new Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group (SWG) to provide interested residents with a direct mechanism for involvement in RCP implementation and the RTP update. Membership is based on a combination of skills, experience, geographic representation, and interests. Potential volunteers should contact SANDAG’s Public Information Office for an application at (619) 699-1950, or visit the Web site at www.sandag.org/notices. The deadline for applications is Thursday, December 9, 2004. Membership selection will occur at the SANDAG Board of Directors meeting on January 28, 2005. This SWG will advise the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees. (Item #18B: Staff contact: Bob Leiter, (619) 699-1980; ble@sandag.org)

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TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS REPORT: Highway Projects: I-15/SR 56 interchange ramp improvements are nearly complete. San Marcos broke ground on their SR 78/Las Posas Road Interchange in October. The project will alleviate interchange congestion and is scheduled for completion in fall 2006. Transit Projects: Construction began on the City College Trolley Station project and is scheduled for completion in late 2006. Traffic Demand Management: Caltrans’ Closed Circuit Television Incident Identification System project is complete and will allow incident response teams to monitor and respond to accidents in a more efficient manner. Vanpool participation grew 20 percent in the last year, from 302 vanpools to 363 vanpools. Vanpools originating in Riverside County increased 27 percent, from 120 vanpools to 152 vanpools. Survive the Drive marketing campaign was launched with materials for vanpool, carpooling, biking, SchoolPool, and employer benefits. A gas-card reward promotion was introduced to provide incentives for vanpool formation in the I-5/I-805 area. (Item #10, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908; jnu@sandag.org)

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM) PROGRAM UPDATE: Directors received an information report on Transportation Demand Management activities for increasing mobility. The TDM program helps employers, employees, students, and schools find other options to driving alone. Current programs and services include Vanpooling, Ridematching, Guaranteed Ride Home, and Bike Lockers. Programs started this year are the I-5/805 construction mitigation and the new carsharing program called Flexcar. Additional information can be found at www.ridelink.org or by calling 1-800-COMMUTE. (Item #19: Staff Contact, Ray Traynor (619) 699.6945 or rtr@sandag.org)

CONSOLIDATED AGENCY DRAFT REPORT: California law (SB 1703 and AB 361) requires SANDAG to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on a biennial basis in December detailing the progress being made to streamline transportation and land use decisions in the San Diego region. During the last two years since the laws were enacted, many of the transit planning, programming, and engineering functions have been consolidated into SANDAG from the region’s two transit agencies. The draft report identifies findings related to the consolidation effort, and lists accomplishments and future challenges. Pending SANDAG approval at the December 17th Board meeting, the final report will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature next month. (Item #17: Staff contact: Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960; ero@sandag.org)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY: Directors approved the updated Public Participation Policy that will serve as an umbrella policy for all public participation activities related to comprehensive planning; development planning; design/build construction; transit service and fare changes; and Native American Consultation. The updated policy was developed in consultation with Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit Development Board officials. (Item #8: Staff contact, Anne Steinberger, (619) 699-1937; ast@sandag.org)

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