TransNet WORK PROGRAM OUTLINES IMPLEMENTATION: The SANDAG Board voted unanimously to accept an aggressive work program to begin implementing provisions of the new TransNet Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan. The initial draft of the TransNet Work Program outlines various actions to be taken during FY05 and continue into the future. A primary goal is to establish a schedule of tasks that will include starting the process to create the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee in early January 2005; early identification of priority projects to expedite planning and implementation; developing a plan of finance update to provide justification for bond obtainment; update the detailed cash flow model; proceed with a nexus study on the Ordinance mandated, $2,000 per unit private developer fee; and accelerate the acquisition of land in accordance with the Ordinance’s environmental mitigation component. The overarching goal is to begin relieving congestion as soon as possible. (Item #11: Staff contact: Craig Scott, (619) 699-1926; csc@sandag.org)

FINAL REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION: Directors approved a consolidation progress report for submittal to the Governor and Legislature by December 31, 2004. The report focuses on progress made in implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 1703 (amended by Assembly Bill 361) that resulted in the consolidation of SANDAG and transit planning and construction responsibilities of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board and North County Transit Development Board on January 1, 2003. The report also identifies findings related to consolidation, lists accomplishments, and identifies future challenges. A progress report will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature hereafter in even-numbered years. (Item #10: Staff contact: Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960; ero@sandag.org)

BOARD RECOGNIZES SENATOR ALPERT AND ASSEMBLYMEMBER KEHOE: Senator Dede Alpert and Assemblymember Christine Kehoe received plaques of recognition for their work on Assembly Bill (AB) 2032. Passage of the Bill expands the FasTrak™ program that allows single occupant motorists to access high occupancy vehicle lanes of the I-15 by paying a toll. Monies collected are used for transit improvements in the I-15 corridor. The Inland Breeze Express Bus Service, which began in November 1997, is fully funded by FasTrak™ tolls. (Item #8: Staff contact: Derek Toups, (619) 699-1907; dto@sandag.org)
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM: Directors approved the 2005 Legislative Program that includes recommended action on policies and proposals for possible federal and state legislation, as well as local activities. With the still-pending reauthorization of the multiyear federal transportation bill combined with the state’s budget problems, this next year will continue to be challenging for SANDAG. Reauthorization of TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century), pursuit of FY 2006 federal Appropriation Earmarks, and protection of state transportation dollars are among the highest areas of priority in the legislative program. Other areas of high priority include fiscal reform, pursuit of Homeland Security, energy and housing funds, and various policy issues related to housing, growth management, habitat preservation and management, energy, and shoreline preservation. Staff will bring back to the Executive Committee any recommendation for change to these categories as well as any new activities that may require SANDAG input throughout the year. (Item #5: Staff contact, Ellen Roundtree, (619) 699-6960; ero@sandag.org)

BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE CREATED: SANDAG Chairman Mickey Cafagna appointed a Nominating Committee that is responsible for recommending 2005 SANDAG Board Officers at the January 28, 2005 meeting. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by National City Councilmember Ron Morrison, and also will include County Supervisor Diane Jacob, Del Mar Councilmember Crystal Crawford, Santee Councilmember Hal Ryan, and Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler. (Item #9)

SANDAG ANNUAL BINATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT: On July 16, 2004, almost 200 people attended SANDAG’s 8th Annual Binational Summer Conference entitled “Cooperation across the California-Baja California Border: Where do we go from here?” As a result, Directors approved the Borders Committee recommendation to support continued efforts to establish an interregional planning partnership with Mexico to address transportation and related issues. Participants also encouraged the creation of a vision that considers the well-being of all residents in the binational region. (Item #12: Staff contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1909; hva@sandag.org)

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