

San Diego Association of Governments  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE**

January 21, 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1a**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

**BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

Meeting of November 19, 2004

The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal). The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

Chair Crawford thanked and welcomed the guests for attending today's meeting. She mentioned that because the Borders Committee hasn't had a formal meeting to exclusively address the committee's topics, the agenda is very ambitious and includes several housekeeping issues. Self introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Action: Supervisor Slater-Price (County of San Diego) made the motion and Councilmember Gallo (North County Inland) seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

- a. May 21, 2004
- b. September 9, 2004
- c. October 15, 2004

The motion passed. One Committee member abstained from voting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Crawford announced that the California Energy Commission (CEC) will hold a meeting in the SANDAG offices on Tuesday, December 14, 2004. This meeting is part of the Commission's efforts to update its 2005 Energy Plan. This will be the second meeting of the CEC that has been held in San Diego this year.

Diane McHenry, representing the Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA), expressed excitement that the RTA will be more active in SANDAG's efforts and the Borders Committee.

Chair Crawford stated that due to time constraints, Item #6 – Tour of Imperial County, and Item #7 – Report from Ad Hoc Group that Addressed the Issue of Undocumented Immigration in the San Diego Region, will be discussed next.

## REPORTS

### 6. TOUR OF IMPERIAL COUNTY (INFORMATION)

Chair Crawford noted that the tour of Imperial County will be an all-day affair, beginning and ending at SANDAG. She directed the Committee members to the draft itinerary in the agenda package and reviewed the agenda with them. Chair Crawford pointed out that lunch will be held with the Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG) staff and Board members.

Javier Diaz (Consulate General of Mexico) suggested that the group meet with the Consul of Mexico in Imperial Valley during the tour. He volunteered to help set that meeting up if it is the wish of the Committee. *Chair Crawford agreed that would be a good idea and stated that if scheduling a meeting is not possible, maybe the Consul could meet with the group for lunch.*

Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans) mentioned that other representatives from Mexico could also be invited.

Councilmember Gallo stated that the day selected for the tour would pose a conflict with his schedule. *Chair Crawford commented that the date for the tour was selected based on a day that worked best for most Committee members.*

Staff added that the SANDAG Board of Directors, Alternates and Advisory members will be invited to the tour and will be polled to confirm their participation.

Action: The Committee received this item for information.

### 7. REPORT FROM THE AD HOC GROUP THAT ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION (DISCUSSION/APPROVE)

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe reported that Councilmember Jack Feller brought this issue before the SANDAG Executive Committee earlier this year. The Executive Committee then forwarded this issue to the Borders Committee for review. The Borders Committee then formed an Ad Hoc group to look at the issue. The Ad Hoc group held two meetings and recommended that a study on the impact of immigrants in California, produced by the Little Hoover Commission, be presented to the Borders Committee. A special meeting of the Borders Committee was held in September 2004, and the report from the Little Hoover Commission was received. At that meeting, the Borders Committee learned that undocumented immigration is a complex and difficult subject and that many of the issues are probably best addressed at the federal and state levels. The Committee also recognized that there are actions that can be taken at the regional level to address the effects of immigration in the San Diego region. Based on this information, the Ad Hoc Group has three recommendations for consideration by the Borders Committee. Those recommendations are:

1. Suggest that the SANDAG Board of Directors add a new goal to the 2005 Legislative Program which would support legislation that would reduce the barriers that

prevent immigrants from becoming law abiding, contributing members of the community and would reduce the fiscal impact of undocumented migrants on public services in the region.

2. Direct staff to learn more about and prepare a report evaluating the pros and cons to the region of re-instituting a federal guest-worker program. The report should be brought back to the Borders Committee for discussion.
3. Request that staff update the Committee on the effects of the border crossings in the region as well as other relevant information that will help the Committee analyze the impact of various legislative proposals addressing immigration and border security.

The Committee concluded that there is more information to be gained, and this is an issue that still needs to be addressed. Mayor Pro Tem Monroe indicated that he welcomed the issue and felt that the Borders Committee is the appropriate body to discuss this topic.

Staff pointed out that they are currently working on recommendation #3. After September 11, 2002, staff has been working with Caltrans staff on getting a grant to conduct a study to understand what happens to the economy on both sides of the border, specifically in regard to border wait times. Staff added that in addition to the study, an economic impact model will be built. Development of the model should begin in January 2005.

Javier Diaz thanked Mayor Pro Tem Monroe for taking the lead on this issue. He commented that it would be valuable to study the economic impacts of this issue.

Supervisor Slater-Price commented that it is important to not let words stand in the way of issues. There needs to be a discussion about what causes a negative impression in certain societies. She stated that the issue is not necessarily that people need services; it's that people are governed by the rules and regulations of federal government offices. However, the federal government is not providing the necessary funding for the services needed. The Committee should identify the appropriate agency and get them to accept their financial responsibility regarding this issue. She added that the Committee needs to develop a multi-pronged approach.

Mr. Diaz agreed with the Supervisor and added that it should be noted that undocumented immigrants are contributing to the society, by way of paying taxes, and are not just taking advantage of the public services in the region.

Supervisor Cox noted that having undocumented immigrants in the region is not just negative. There are benefits in that the undocumented immigrants are paying taxes and are working the jobs that no one else wants to do.

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe stated that the Committee can move that idea to recommendation #3 without it being negative.

Supervisor Slater-Price expressed concern regarding local funding for undocumented immigrants. She commented that the region cannot put its head in the sand on this and if the benefits are wanted, then the group needs to be willing to accept the challenges that come along with the benefits. The federal government needs to contribute its share of funding to support public services for undocumented immigrants in the region. She concluded that this is a huge problem that needs to be dealt with and one that needs a federal commitment on funding – the entire borders area needs funding.

Supervisor Cox stated that the Committee can address this issue by including a point to seek federal reimbursement for services rendered for undocumented immigrants.

Action: Supervisor Slater-Price (County of San Diego) made the motion and Mayor Pro Tem Monroe (South County) seconded the motion to approve the Ad Hoc Group's recommendations with minor wording changes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT ITEMS (3 THROUGH 5)**

3. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) MEETING SUMMARIES (INFORMATION)
4. BORDER ENERGY ISSUES GROUP (BEIG) MEETING SUMMARIES AND ACTIONS (INFORMATION)
5. ESTIMATING ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BORDER WAIT TIMES AT THE SAN DIEGO-BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER REGION: PROJECT STATUS (INFORMATION)

Action: The Borders Committee voted to approve Consent Items 3 through 5.

7. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR FY 2005 FOR THE BORDERS COMPONENT OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Chair Crawford mentioned that this item will not be discussed at today's meeting. She suggested that any comments or questions regarding this issue be conveyed to staff.

Action: The Borders Committee agreed to continue this item to a future meeting.

8. COBRO'S RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2004 BINATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE AND FY 2005 WORK PLAN (DISCUSSION/APPROVE)

Cindy Gompper-Graves, Vice Chair of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), presented the outcomes and recommendations from the conference. The Conference brought stakeholders from both sides of the border to hear from experts about how the San Diego region is doing in terms of binational cooperation and to learn from best practices in border coordination and collaboration from other regions. The conference participants concluded that a consensus is needed to improve border coordination in the best interests of the entire binational region. The overall recommendation from the 2004

Summer Conference was to create a formal planning partnership in the binational region and establish a cross-border framework for collaboration. In addition, the COBRO would like to increase its communication and coordination with the Borders Committee and support its work more effectively. Also, the COBRO has been working with our partners in Baja California to learn about the future creation of a *Comisión de Conurbación*, a metropolitan agency for the cities of Tijuana, Tecate, and Playas de Rosarito. Creation of the *Comisión* is an important development to facilitate cross-border planning opportunities. They have requested information from SANDAG on its structure and operations in formulating a plan for how their entity would be set up.

Chair Crawford noted that to support a planning partnership is within the Committee's purview.

Action: The Committee approved, by consensus, the COBRO's recommendation.

9. BINATIONAL BORDER TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY (INFORMATION)

Pedro Orso-Delgado provided the Committee with a report regarding the Binational Border Transportation Infrastructure Needs Assessment Study (BINS). Mr. Orso-Delgado provided the Committee with an overview of the project's objectives and methodology. The BINS project is an inventory of the infrastructure needs encompassing the region within 100 kilometers of either side of the U.S.-Mexico border, which includes part of the state of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas in Mexico and California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the United States. The purpose of the BINS project is to identify major transportation corridors in the border region, to develop a systematic procedure to evaluate those corridors, and to identify transportation projects along the corridors and possible funding sources.

Staff presented border-wide findings for transportation corridors and planned projects, discussed financing options for border transportation projects, and reviewed findings for the states of Baja California and California. Staff also summarized funding needs, described how the findings of the study can be disseminated, and presented future potential steps to build on the BINS project.

Mr. Orso-Delgado concluded that there is a need to create bi-national, bi-state partnerships.

Instead of competing for funding, there should be collaboration within the study area to gain more funding given the fact that the federal government provides the opportunity for California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to become united in their funding requests. There needs to be a united front.

Mr. Orso-Delgado indicated that the effort to seek funding jointly would be helpful to the region.

Staff added that a strategy could be developed to create such collaboration.

Mr. Orso-Delgado stated that he will provide a status report to the Committee in approximately six months.

Action: The Committee received this item for information.

10. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE (INFORMATION)

Chair Crawford mentioned that she attended the last I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP) meeting. She noted that there weren't any elected officials from western Riverside County, even though several staff members were in attendance.

Staff reported that the California Department of Transportation awarded SANDAG and the Western Riverside Council of Governments a \$240,000 grant to continue work on the I-15 IRP. On October 15, 2004, the I-15 IRP Policy Committee and Technical Working Group held a workshop to discuss a proposed work program for Phase Two of the I-15 IRP. The second phase will last over the next two years. During that time, staff will be preparing an Employment Cluster Study with a consultant that is familiar with the economic situation in southwestern Riverside County. The purpose of the study is to identify specific employment clusters that drive the bi-regional economy and appropriate strategies to foster these clusters to improve job growth in southwestern Riverside County. Staff is looking at facilitating greater collaboration between the Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) in southwestern Riverside County and EDCs in San Diego.

Staff also is looking at evaluating a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service in Riverside County that could connect to the I-15 BRT service in the San Diego region. In addition to developing economic strategies, Phase Two of the I-15 IRP also will focus on transportation strategies, housing and land use strategies, and performance monitoring efforts. These include preparation of a baseline monitoring report, establishment of short- and long-range performance targets, and preparation of an annual monitoring report on key performance indicators. From January 2005 to January 2007, SANDAG and WRCOG staff will be working on a detailed work program and timeline for the grant-funded activities. This work program and a discussion of high-speed rail issues will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the I-15 IRP Policy Committee.

Staff added that because of the low attendance at previous IRP meetings, more than one Technical Working Group could be created to deal with each issues (economic development, transportation, and housing). Also, moving the meetings to a different day or creating a smaller policy committee could be solutions to the low attendance.

Chair Crawford mentioned that the quarterly IRP meeting conflicts with the Borders Committee meetings. She noted that there could be a benefit to having separate IRP meetings.

Supervisor Slater-Price suggested not having future I-15 IRP meetings on Fridays and holding those meetings during mid-morning as opposed to late afternoon. Mid-morning meetings are easier to move.

Chair Crawford questioned if there is any interest in creating a subcommittee of the Borders Committee to participate in the I-15 IRP meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe stated that policies for the I-15 IRP already were established last year and added that policy input would only be needed about two times per year.

Chair Crawford stated that staff should work with the Committee to create a sub-group for the I-15 IRP and report back to the Committee.

Action: The Committee received this item for information. The Committee also directed staff to explore possibilities to create a sub-group of the Committee members to work with the I-15 IRP and bring that information back to the next meeting.

11. UPDATE ON THE UNITED STATES VISITOR AND IMMIGRANT STATUS INDICATOR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (INFORMATION)

Staff reported that the Committee has been briefed on this issue on two separate occasions and updated the Committee on the status of the program since the last briefing. The United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) Program was developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enforce 1996 regulations requiring an automated entry and exit control system in all ports of entry to collect records of arrival and departure from every foreign visitor entering and leaving the United States.

The US-VISIT program is currently in place at 115 airports and 14 seaports, and the first phase of the program is scheduled for implementation at the 50 busiest land ports of entry, including all San Diego region land ports of entry by December 31, 2004. This report provides an update on the program and its potential effects on ports of entry within the San Diego region. For its implementation in land ports of entry, the DHS has indicated that only those that require a permit to enter the United States will be processed. The exit process will be postponed until a pilot program is tested in three ports of entry: Port Huron, Michigan; Laredo, Texas; and Douglas, Arizona. Officials from the DHS have indicated that the exit procedures would not be implemented until 2006. Local community and border stakeholders have expressed their concerns that exit procedures could negatively impact the flow of vehicles and persons.

Chair Crawford expressed concern that there are pilot programs in other cities that are very different than the San Diego region. She indicated that those pilot programs should be adapted to the San Diego's unique characteristics.

Pedro Orso-Delgado stated that he is trying to consider what a pilot program in San Diego would consist of. If the pilot program is going to create more problems, it should be done somewhere else and be implemented in the San Diego region as part of a second phase. He will try to obtain more information on what is going to be done regarding the exit control. The entrance control appears to be okay.

Cindy Gompers-Graves indicated that it would be good to be part of the test pilot but not until it is known what that entails.

Pedro Orso-Delgado commended the staff of the DHS that are implementing this program. They have been very proactive and have met regularly with the officials in the San Diego region.

Action: The Committee received this item for information.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be the tour to Imperial County from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 2, 2004. The tour will be held in lieu of the Borders Committee meeting scheduled for December 19, 2004.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

BOB LEITER  
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Attachment

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972; [hva@sandag.org](mailto:hva@sandag.org)

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE  
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 19, 2004  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA/ORGANIZATION	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ALTERNATE	ATTENDING
North County Coastal	City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford (Chair)	Member	Yes
	City of Solana Beach	David Powell	Alternate	No
North County Inland	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Member	Yes
	City of Vista	Judy Ritter	Alternate	Yes
East County	City of La Mesa	David Allan	Member	Yes
	City of Santee	Hal Ryan	Alternate	No
South County	City of Imperial Beach	Patricia McCoy (Vice Chair)	Member	Yes
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	Yes
City of San Diego	---	Ralph Inzunza	Member	Yes
	---	Brian Maienschein	Alternate	No
County of San Diego	---	Greg Cox	Member	Yes
	---	Pam Slater	Alternate	Yes
Imperial County	County of Imperial	Victor Carrillo	Member	Yes
	City of Calexico	David Ouzan	Alternate	No

## ADVISORY/LIAISON

COBRO	---	Paul Ganster	Member	No
	---	Cindy Gomppers-Graves	Alternate	Yes
County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	Thomas Buckley	Member	Maybe
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Luis Cabrera Cuaron	Member	No
	Deputy Consul	Javier Diaz		Yes
	Deputy Consul	Lydia Antonio		Yes
Caltrans	---	Pedro Orso-Delgado/Bill Figge	Member	Yes
San Diego County Water Authority	---	James Bond	Member	No
County of Orange	---	<i>Vacant</i>	Member	---