REPORT PROFILES ILLICIT DRUG USE IN REGION: Since 1987, the SANDAG Criminal Justice Division has conducted interviews with adult and juvenile arrestees to obtain insight into their recent and past drug use. Locally, this information is used to assess illicit drug-use trends, identify potential drug-use epidemics and treatment needs, and monitor drug-use by adults and juveniles. Over the years, this substance abuse monitoring (SAM) project has served as a platform for other research on such topics as methamphetamine use, intravenous drug use, and domestic violence. In addition, the SAM project has yielded information about firearm use among juveniles, which was instrumental in the development of the Project Safe Neighborhoods outreach program. Law enforcement, prevention, education, and drug treatment providers serve on a Local Coordinating Council for this project and meet quarterly to discuss and analyze recent trends. No longer federally funded, the locally supported SAM project is a valuable decision-making tool for the SANDAG Public Safety Committee. (Item #9: Staff contact: Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org)

SERVICE BUREAU CREATED: Member agencies, transit operators, other-public agencies, and the private sector area are currently provided information and technical assistance through three distinct SANDAG programs: Local Technical Assistance; Assistance to Transit Operators and Planning; and SourcePoint. Directors approved the concept of a Service Bureau, which would combine all three programs under one structure. The SANDAG Executive Committee will be the bureau’s governing body. Service Bureau benefits include better integration of services and marketing/outreach tools, a single price structure for all clients, and a staff team dedicated to business development, customer service, and improved service delivery. (Item #8: Staff contact: Karen Lamphere, (619) 699-6955; kla@sandag.org)
REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: SANDAG made revisions to two of its policies. Policy 18 stipulates that the transit operators will conduct public hearings regarding proposed transit service changes. SANDAG will continue to review the service change proposals to ensure they are consistent with regional plans, goals, objectives, and policies. Policy 25 establishes a process for obtaining input from and providing information to the public concerning agency programs and projects. Directors revised this policy to conform with the modifications to the transit service change policy. (Item #3: Key Staff Contact: Toni Bates, (619) 699-6950; tba@sandag.org)

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Upcoming Meetings

April 8, 2005
Board Policy Meeting
Cancelled

April 22, 2005
Board Business Meeting

- Work Outline & Schedule for Updating the RTP
- U.S. Census Community Survey
- Borders Committee Priorities