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BOARD ACTIONS

May 27, 2005

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Cities of
- Carlsbad
- Chula Vista
- Coronado
- Del Mar
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Imperial Beach
- La Mesa
- Lemon Grove
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Solana Beach
- Vista
- and
- County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Imperial County
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North San Diego County Transit Development Board
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Mexico

TransNet EARLY ACTION PROGRAM APPROVED: SANDAG unanimously supported including several public transit and highway projects into the *TransNet* Early Action Program. The goal of the program is to jump-start projects and begin work before the *TransNet* half-cent sales tax extension goes into effect in 2008. Transit projects include: the I-15 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from Escondido to downtown San Diego via Mid-City, and the South Bay BRT from Otay Ranch to downtown San Diego via I-805. The projects also encompass the Mid-Coast trolley extension onto the campus of UCSD and over to University Towne Centre, and a complementary bus loop in the University City area. In addition, environmental work will be accelerated on I-5 north of the merge to Oceanside and along the entire length of the I-805. *(Item #6: Staff contact: Toni Bates, (619)699-6950; tba@sandag.org)*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM COMPLEMENTS REGIONAL PROJECTS:

A key component of the *TransNet Extension* is the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP). The EMP will provide a total of \$850 million in *TransNet* dollars. Specifically, \$450 million is allocated to mitigate impacts of the regional transportation projects, and \$200 million is allocated to mitigate impacts of local road projects. The EMP also identifies \$200 million to be used for habitat acquisition, management, and monitoring activities. SANDAG will administer the funds with the advice of its Regional Planning Committee. In addition, SANDAG appointed four new advisory members to the Regional Planning Committee: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *(Item #13: Staff contact: Janet Fairbanks, (619) 699-6970; jfa@sandag.org)*

FY 2006 PROGRAM BUDGET SET:

Directors unanimously approved a \$330 million program budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005. Major items contained in the budget include: implementing "Early Action" highway and transit projects using *TransNet* half-cent sales tax dollars; implementing the pilot Smart Growth Incentive Program as part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan; updating the Regional Transportation Plan; expanding the Vanpool program; implementing the Automated Regional Justice Information Enterprise System; and launching a new technical assistance service bureau. *(Item #12: Staff contact: Tim Watson, (619) 699-1966; twa@sandag.org)*

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TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS UPDATED: *Highway Projects:* Caltrans completed the I-15 widening between Friars Road and Interstate 8, and opened to traffic a southbound auxiliary lane between the I-15/SR 56 interchange and Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard. The I-15/SR 56 to Mercy Road Widening project will be completed by December 2006...*Transit and Bikeway Projects:* Phase 1 of the Coastal Rail Trail – Oceanside Segment, which runs from Vista Way to Buccaneer Park, is now open. Other sections of the Coastal Rail Trail are currently in design, and the last segment, located in the City of San Diego, is scheduled for completion in 2008...*Traffic and Demand Management:* Transportation Demand Management programs reduced an estimated 68,200 pounds of smog-forming air pollution during the third quarter of FY 2005, an increase of 28 percent over last year...The Freeway Service Patrol assisted approximately 13,000 motorists during the third quarter of FY 2005...Vanpool participation grew 59 percent in the last year, from 264 vanpools to 420 vanpools. Average ridership per vanpool was nine passengers...The Survive the Drive employer educational event was completed successfully. (Item #15, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908; jnu@sandag.org)

SERVICE BUREAU TO LAUNCH JULY 1: Directors approved the consolidation of three separate SANDAG programs that provide informational and technical services to public and private agencies. The types of projects the new service bureau will perform include: custom mapping and GIS services; survey design and analysis; transportation modeling; and custom research and analysis using SANDAG's demographic, economic, land use, criminal justice, and transportation-related information. (Item #5: Staff contact: Karen Lamphere, (619) 699-6955; kla@sandag.org)

VIOLENT CRIME DROPS AGAIN: One in 217 San Diegans was a victim of violent crime in 2004. As part of a cooperative agreement with local law enforcement agencies, SANDAG compiles regional violent and property crime statistics. This data serves as a tool for gauging the effectiveness of various prevention programs. The most recent report, *Crime in the San Diego Region in 2004*, indicates that the number of violent crimes reported in the San Diego region during 2004 was the lowest in 20 years. The 13,880 violent crimes committed, or 4.6 per 1,000 residents, is a slight decrease from 2003's rate of 4.7. The region's property crime rate (32.2 per 1,000 residents) was one percent lower than it was in 2003 (32.5), but 13 percent higher than it was five years ago in 2000 (28.7). The report also details crimes for all 18 cities and county communities. (Item #14: Staff contact: Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org)

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION ON THE BORDERS COMMITTEE: Directors invited the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association (SCTCA) to be an Ex-Officio member of the Borders Committee to strengthen communications with regional tribal governments. The SCTCA is a multi-service, non-profit corporation established in 1972 by a consortium of 19 federally-recognized Indian tribes in Southern California. (Item #15, Staff contact: Jane Clough-Riquelme, (619) 699-1909; jcl@sandag.org)

OTHER ITEM: San Diego's Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is the recipient of the San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association's (APA) Comprehensive Planning Award. The RCP is the strategic planning blueprint for the San Diego region and provides a broad context in which local and regional decisions can be made that foster a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and a high quality of life for all residents. Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler was awarded the APA's Leadership Award for her role in the development of the RCP.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: The Friday, June 10, 2005, Board of Directors Policy Meeting has been cancelled. The next Board of Directors Business Meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, June 24, 2005. Tentative agenda items include an update on the local traffic congestion management program and a tour of the new Mission Valley East trolley line extension, which will open for service on Sunday, July 10, 2005.

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