MISSION VALLEY EAST TROLLEY OPENING: Paul Jablonski, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Chief Executive Officer, presented project highlights and planned opening day activities. The six-mile extension will take the Trolley east through Mission Valley to La Mesa via an underground tunnel at San Diego State University (SDSU). Funded in part by TransNet, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, the project links the existing Blue and Orange lines. Planned by MTS in conjunction with the Cities of San Diego and La Mesa, the $506 million Mission Valley East extension, called the Green Line, will provide an important connection in the region’s public transit system. In addition, transit-oriented developments are planned along the route to better connect transit to jobs and homes. Four new stops are located along the Green Line: the Grantville Station — complete with a unique architectural design that features a set of 40-foot high elevated platforms and high-capacity elevators; the SDSU underground trolley station which is already garnering local, state, and national attention; Alvarado Hospital Medical Center Station; and 70th Street Station. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, July 8. A free Community Ride Day is Saturday, July 9 with free trolley rides offered along the new Green Line from QUALCOMM Stadium to the Santee Trolley Station. Regular paid service begins Sunday, July 10. For more information, visit www.sdcommute.com. (Item #12: Staff contact, Troy Anderson, (619) 699-6939; tan@sandag.org)

FY 2006 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) ALLOCATIONS: Directors approved nearly $13 million in FY 2006 TDA allocations. The TDA provides ¼ percent of the State sales tax for operating and capital support of public transportation systems and non-motorized transportation projects. As the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the San Diego region, SANDAG is responsible for the allocation of TDA funds to the region’s cities, the County, and transit operators. Directors approved nearly $2.4 million in bicycle and pedestrian improvements to be allocated for projects in the Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Encinitas, Escondido, La Mesa, Oceanside, Solana Beach, San Diego, San Marcos, and the County of San Diego. More than $5 million in funding will be allocated to NCTD, MTS, and SANDAG for providing accessible service for the disabled. The remaining $5 million will be allocated to NCTD and MTS for operations and capital purchases as well as for planning functions conducted by SANDAG and the transit operators. (Item #4: Staff contact: Sookyung Kim, (619) 699-6909; ski@sandag.org)
SOURCEPOINT LEADERS RECOGNIZED: SANDAG honored SourcePoint Board members Michael Bixler and Jessie Knight, and Mayors Mark Lewis, Steve Padilla, and Morris Vance as well as staff director Marney Cox, for their exceptional commitment and dedication to the program’s success. Started in 1982, SourcePoint is a non-profit corporation chartered by SANDAG that offers specialized economic research services and products to private businesses and government agencies. The honorees’ collective work has enhanced the revenue stream to SourcePoint, and in turn, to SANDAG, thus saving taxpayer dollars. SANDAG’s new Service Bureau — a combination of SourcePoint and two other service programs — will be overseen by the SANDAG Executive Committee. (Item #6: Staff contact: Marney Cox; (619) 699-1930; mco@sandag.org)