



401 B Street, Suite 800
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231
 (619) 699-1900
 Fax (619) 699-1905
 www.sandag.org

January 4, 2008

TO: City Managers/County CAO
 Cities/County Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
 Local Agency *TransNet* Program Contacts
 Metropolitan Transit System
 North County Transit District
 Caltrans

FROM: Sookyung Kim, Financial Programming Manager

SUBJECT: 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

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 County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico

It is once again time for the biennial update to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The 2008 RTIP is scheduled for SANDAG Board adoption July 25, 2008. As you are aware, the RTIP is a multi-year program of proposed major highway, arterial, transit, and bikeway projects including the *TransNet* Program of Projects. The 2008 RTIP will cover the five-year period Fiscal Years 2008/09 through 2012/13, which means that the *TransNet* extension requirements are in full effect with this RTIP.

This memo establishes the process and schedules to develop the 2008 RTIP. SANDAG, acting as the San Diego County Regional Transportation Commission, approves the *TransNet* Program of Projects (POP) list as an element of the RTIP. In developing and approving the list of *TransNet* POP to be included in the RTIP, each agency and SANDAG must comply with all provisions of the *TransNet* Ordinance and Expenditure Plan and any other implementing ordinances and rules as appropriate.

Pursuant to federal and state laws and the *TransNet* Ordinance, agencies are required to submit projects that cover the next five years. The Transportation Committee, at its June 20, 2008 meeting, is scheduled to release the Draft 2008 RTIP, including its conformity determination, and set the July 18, 2008, meeting to hold a public hearing and recommend the adoption of the 2008 RTIP to the Board of Directors. **The deadline for agency project submittals is April 23, 2008.**

BACKGROUND

Federal Metropolitan Planning and Air Quality Conformity Regulations identify the required content of RTIPs and prescribe the process for air quality conformity analysis. The RTIP must include all major projects requesting certain categories of federal transportation funding or federal project approval. All regionally significant capacity increasing transportation projects regardless of

funding sources are required be included in the RTIP and incorporated into the air quality quantitative emissions analysis. The projects in the RTIP must be based on committed or reasonable expectation of fund availability and all projects and the program be constrained by year based on available revenues. Additional requisite is that agencies ensure that all project submittals have a reasonable expectation of funding in the programmed years. A major component of the RTIP includes the state and federal transportation projects adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). The CTC is scheduled to adopt the STIP in May 2008 and the RTIP is due to the state by August 1, 2008.

The 2008 RTIP details the major projects anticipated to be initiated and/or implemented during the period FY 2008/09 to FY 2012/13. Projects using the following categories of federal, state, and local funding must be included in the RTIP:

Federal Transportation Funds

- 1) Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- 2) Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
- 3) Transportation Enhancement Activities (TE) Program
- 4) Highway Bridge Program (HBP)/Seismic Retrofit/High Risk Rural Roads
- 5) Hazard Elimination Safety (STP Safety/HES)/Safe Routes to School (SR2S)
- 6) Federal Lands Highways/Indian Reservation Roads
- 7) Federal Demonstration/High Priority Projects
- 8) Federal Transit Administration programs
- 9) Federal Transit/Highway Discretionary Projects
- 10) Any other federal transportation programs

State Transportation Funds

- 1) 2008 STIP - Regional & Interregional Improvement Programs
- 2) State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP)
- 3) Funding from Proposition 1B programs
- 4) Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) – carryover only

Local Transportation Funds

- *TransNet* - Sales Tax Measure
- Local Funds (developer fees/gas tax, etc.)

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Surface Transportation Program (STP)/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program: As part of the approval for the *TransNet* Plan of Finance for the Early Action Program (EAP), the Board approved that majority of the use of available STP and CMAQ funds toward the EAP projects with the remaining balances programmed toward the regional Transportation Demand Management program

and other approved projects. SANDAG does not anticipate any Call for Projects process under these programs. However, should there be one, notification will be distributed separately.

Highway Bridge Program/Seismic Retrofit: Federally funded Highway Bridge Program (HBP), Hazard Elimination Safety (HES), Seismic Retrofit, High Risk Rural Roads, and Safe Routes to School projects are funded from a Caltrans statewide priority list. Caltrans provides a specified "lump sum" funding amount for these programs (except for capacity increasing bridge projects). Local agencies should contact the Caltrans Local Assistance office as needed to determine if any projects fall under any of these programs. SANDAG includes these programs as a lump sum in the RTIP with Caltrans as the lead agency.

High Priority Projects: SAFETEA-LU identified 33 projects for the San Diego area. In order to obligate the funds, each agency awarded High Priority funding must include the projects in the RTIP. The federal funds must be matched on an 80%/20% basis; i.e., the local match must equal 20% of the total amount programmed.

Federal Transit Administration Programs: In order to submit applications for federal grants under the various FTA programs, all funds are required to be included in the RTIP by project by fund type. There is a local match requirement to all FTA funds.

STATE PROGRAMS

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP): The 2008 Fund Estimate did not identify any additional STIP funds for the San Diego region. The SANDAG Board determines the proposed programming for the 2008 STIP.

State Highway Operations and Preservation Program (SHOPP): Caltrans proposes programming for safety, rehabilitation, and operations projects throughout the San Diego region. SHOPP funds are programmed as a lump sum item in the RTIP. Agencies do not need to submit any SHOPP-funded projects; SANDAG programs the SHOPP as a lump sum item (except for capacity increasing projects) with Caltrans as the lead agency.

Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP): The Traffic Congestion Relief Program is subject to an annual state budget approval. There is no new funding, only carryover programming from previous cycles. Agencies should program the funds in the year of anticipated allocation.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities Program: This is a federal program managed at the state level (by the CTC) and administered by SANDAG. For the 2006 RTIP, SANDAG incorporated the TE program as part of the region's Smart Growth Incentive Program and awarded nine projects with the TE funds during the 2006 RTIP cycle. The funding was programmed as a lump sum by SANDAG. The decision to allocate the additional TE funding identified in the 2008 STIP has been delayed pending Board decision on the overall non-motorized/smart growth program. Future TE funds will be programmed during the RTIP amendment cycles.

***TransNet* – LOCAL STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

Any major project with a total cost of \$300,000 or more must be individually listed in the RTIP. SANDAG encourages agencies to “lump sum” or aggregate individual projects costing less than \$300,000 and of a similar type of work (e.g., Minor Roadway Resurfacing) as a single line item as long as the type of work being proposed is consistent with the air quality exempt project classifications (see Table 2).

TransNet Revenue Estimates: **Table 1** shows the estimated *TransNet* revenues for each jurisdiction during the 2008 RTIP period. The estimates are for use in developing the *TransNet* Program of Projects (POP) for the 2008 RTIP. The actual fund allocations to each agency will be based on monthly sales tax receipts from the State Board of Equalization with the fund distribution updated annually using current population and maintained miles data. The revenue information is available on the RTIP Web page as well as in the Report section of ProjectTrak.

Public Hearing: The *TransNet* Ordinance requires each local agency to hold a public hearing prior to adoption of the 2008 RTIP. The submittals must include evidence of formal action by the legislative bodies of the cities and the County; i.e., governing body resolution. **Attachment A** is the resolution SANDAG encourages agencies to use for this purpose.

Requirement under *TransNet* Extension: Requirements for *TransNet*-funded programs beginning in FY 2009 include:

- All agencies proposing new projects or major reconstruction projects shall accommodate travel by pedestrians and bicyclists. There are exceptions to this requirement for those projects in which this accommodation is not feasible (see Section 4(E)(3) of the Ordinance). SANDAG proposes to use the RTIP process to ensure agencies are in compliance with this requirement. **Attachment B** provides the suggested level of detail in the project description. Please follow the project description guideline.
- Local Agencies: At least 70 percent of the revenues available each year to local agencies must fund congestion relief projects and no more than 30 percent of the revenues may fund ongoing operations and maintenance of roadways (see Section 2(C)(1) of the Ordinance).
- Maintenance of Effort (MOE): Beginning in FY 2009, new formula will be used to determine the base for the MOE for local agencies and a new MOE will take effect for transit agencies. The MOE compliance will be monitored via the annual fiscal audit. The fiscal audit still is conducted by an independent auditor but will now be overseen by the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC) rather than SANDAG staff (see Section 8 of the Ordinance).
- Regional Transportation Congestion Improvement Program (RTCIP): Local agencies are required to adopt a development impact fee program and submit a list of projects to be funded with the fee in a separate process. For the 2008 RTIP adoption, the schedule for the RTCIP does not lend itself to be included as part of the final document. However, agencies are expected to include projects funded with this program during the amendment cycle (see Section 9 of the Ordinance).

Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC): The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance includes the responsibilities of the ITOC, whose primary responsibility is to review and recommend to the Transportation Committee or the Board the projects proposed for funding with *TransNet* (see Section 11 of the Ordinance).

Debt Financing: For those agencies with project cash flow needs that exceed the estimated *TransNet* revenues available, debt financing options are available for either short-term (Commercial Paper program) or for the long-term (long-term bond). *TransNet* Policy prescribes the requirements for debt financing. Council/Board resolution and an executed MOU are required before any debt can be issued. Projects funded through this mechanism are required to be programmed in the RTIP. To participate, interested agencies should contact SANDAG immediately.

The *TransNet* Ordinance and the *TransNet* Policy are available on the RTIP Web site. Agencies are encouraged to review the pertinent sections of the Ordinance and within the policy for further information.

BIKEWAY PROJECTS

The Bicycle-Pedestrian Working Group develops the non-motorized projects funded with either *TransNet*-Bicycle or Transportation Development Act (TDA)-Bicycle programs, in a separate process. Projects funded with these programs are listed as a lump sum in the RTIP with SANDAG as the lead agency. If a bike project is funded with federal or state funds in addition to the local *TransNet* or TDA bike funds, those projects will be listed individually by the sponsoring agency. Therefore, agencies should only submit those bike projects that are funded from other sources or using *TransNet* Local Street Improvement funds.

FEDERAL AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY REQUIREMENTS

Federal regulations require that SANDAG conduct an air quality conformity analysis of all regionally significant projects that increase the transportation system capacity. This includes major local and developer-funded projects and any other state or federally funded projects that might not otherwise appear in the RTIP, as well as new projects or major changes in project scope for existing programmed projects. Agencies are asked to review **all** their CI projects in the current 2006 RTIP and provide updated information as necessary. This level of information is necessary to provide accurate regional transportation/emissions forecast modeling. In addition to the written information, agencies are required to provide drawings (preferably before and after diagrams) for each capacity increasing project. Projections of pollutant emissions are developed for several analysis years based on the estimated project opening dates. **Attachment C** provides guidance on the type of information required for each CI project and samples of maps/diagrams.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Conformity Rule includes a list of project categories that are exempt from air quality conformity determinations or regional emissions analysis. **Table 2** provides a list of projects exempt from air quality conformity determination and **Table 3** lists the types of projects exempt from regional emissions analysis. These projects can be included and subsequently amended into the RTIP without a conformity finding or a new regional emissions analysis.

2008 RTIP REVIEW, ADOPTION, AND UPDATE SCHEDULE

The 2008 RTIP is due to State by August 1, 2008. **Attachment D** provides the RTIP schedule. Important dates to remember are the following:

Projects (including CI maps/diagrams) due in ProjectTrak – April 23, 2008
Projects submitted after this date will not be accepted
Transportation Committee releases draft RTIP and conformity determination – June 20, 2008
Signed resolutions due to SANDAG – June 30, 2008
Transportation Committee holds public hearing – July 18, 2008
SANDAG Board adopts the 2008 RTIP – July 25, 2008

SANDAG will hold a 2008 RTIP Workshop on February 26, 2008, starting at 9 a.m. to review the schedule and process for this biennial update.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This memo and all attachments are available on the RTIP Web site – www.sandag.org/2008RTIP. Training sessions will be provided for ProjectTrak users (March 4 and 5, more dates will be added if necessary). Additional information for the workshop and the ProjectTrak training dates will be distributed separately.

Should you have any questions specific to *TransNet* Ordinance or Policy, please contact Muggs Stoll at (619) 699-6945 (mst@sandag.org); for all other questions or clarification, contact me at (619) 699-6909 or ski@sandag.org.

Attachments

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Table 1	<i>TransNet</i> Local Street Improvement Revenue Forecast for FY 2009 to FY 2013
Table 2	Projects Exempt from Air Quality Conformity Determination
Table 3	Projects Exempt from Regional Emissions Analysis
Attachment A	Sample Resolution
Attachment B	Project Description Guideline
Attachment C	Project Description Guidelines for Capacity Increasing Projects/Sample Diagrams
Attachment D	Proposed Schedule for the 2008 RTIP