What is the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)?

SANDAG is a public agency that serves as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transportation, operates toll roads and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region’s quality of life.

SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and county supervisors from each of the region’s 19 local governments. Policy Advisory Committees assist the Board of Directors in carrying out the agency’s work program. The Board of Directors is assisted by a professional staff of planners, engineers, and research specialists.

SANDAG is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the San Diego region.

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OR RTIP?

SANDAG, as the MPO and the RTPA, is required by state and federal laws to develop and adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The RTIP is a multi-year, multi-modal program of major transportation projects in the San Diego region proposed for development and construction in the near-term. Transportation projects funded with federal, state, and the local half-cent sales tax program (TransNet) must be included in the RTIP. Locally funded projects of regional significance must also be included in the RTIP.

The RTIP covers five fiscal years and incrementally implements San Diego Forward; The Regional Plan (Regional Plan), which is the long-range transportation plan for the San Diego region. The Regional Plan was approved by the SANDAG Board of Directors on October 9, 2015.

HOW DOES A PROJECT GET IN THE RTIP?

Projects in the Regional Plan are included in the RTIP once a commitment is made to fully fund a phase of work. The agency responsible for the project contacts SANDAG to program the funds in the RTIP. Agencies that add their projects in the RTIP include SANDAG, the 18 cities, the County of San Diego, as well as the transit operators, and District 11 of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Local/Transit Projects: Local jurisdictions and transit operators propose projects to their respective council or board for approval of project scope, schedule and cost. Once approved, the project is then submitted to SANDAG for inclusion in the RTIP.

SANDAG/Caltrans Regional Projects: Projects are developed, evaluated and ranked as part of the SANDAG Long Range Transportation Development Plan process. The Regional Plan, including its Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), is built on an integrated set of public policies, strategies, and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the transportation system so that it meets the diverse needs of the San Diego region through 2050.

Transportation projects that propose to add more traffic capacity must be consistent with air quality conformity standards in order to be included in the RTIP. Additionally, an analysis of multimodal strategies and alternatives for corridors is required by all project sponsors when an increase in single occupant vehicle capacity is proposed. Air quality conformity refers to meeting standards in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 which requires that projects included in the RTIP do not delay attainment of air quality standards, worsen existing violations, or cause new violations. These projects may only be added to the RTIP during the biennial update or during an amendment that will include an analysis of air quality conformity, and project information must be consistent with the Regional Plan.

Projects that do not increase capacity of the surface transportation system and are exempt from inclusion in the region’s air quality conformity model may be added to the RTIP at any time.

WHAT IS THE 2016 SAN DIEGO’S REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTIP)?

Any projects funded with federal, state or TransNet funds are required to be programmed in the RTIP.

The graphic at right illustrates the split of funding for projects included in the 2016 RTIP.

RTIP DETAILS

The RTIP reflects a funding period of five years and includes anticipated schedules and costs for funds committed to projects. Only phases of work (preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction) that are fully funded can be included in the RTIP. The RTIP is adopted every two years in order to add new projects, complete projects, and make any changes to scope, cost, or phasing of projects. This process is referred to as an RTIP Update, which occurs every even-numbered year.

The RTIP must be revenue constrained over the five year period, meaning that reasonably-expected revenues must be able to fund the projects listed. RTIP revenues consist generally of taxes, tolls, or fees, and include local, regional, state, and federal funds.

RTIP CHANGES

The RTIP may be amended or changed after it is adopted. SANDAG generally amends the RTIP on a quarterly basis to accommodate changes requested by local jurisdictions, transit operators or Caltrans. RTIP amendments are posted on the SANDAG website for public comment prior to approval and public comment is encouraged.

Reasons for amendments vary. Project costs or schedules may change, there may be a change in anticipated revenues, or project priorities. Amendments may be used to mark projects as complete or delayed when there is no funding remaining in the period covered by the RTIP.

RTIP FUNDING

Any projects funded with federal, state or TransNet funds are required to be programmed in the RTIP. Funding assumptions are generally based upon:

**Authorized or appropriated levels of federal and state funding from current legislation**

**Reasonable projections of future federal and state funding assuming a continuation of current funding levels**

The most current revenue forecasts for TransNet, the local transportation sales tax program

The planning and programming documents of the local transportation providers

**Authorized or appropriated levels of federal and state funding from current legislation**

**Reasonable projections of future federal and state funding assuming a continuation of current funding levels**

The most current revenue forecasts for TransNet, the local transportation sales tax program

The planning and programming documents of the local transportation providers

**Authorized or appropriated levels of federal and state funding from current legislation**

**Reasonable projections of future federal and state funding assuming a continuation of current funding levels**

The most current revenue forecasts for TransNet, the local transportation sales tax program

The planning and programming documents of the local transportation providers.
How we work.

NEW PROJECT
Project idea is approved by local authorities such as a city council, the County Board of Supervisors or transit operator. All RTIP projects must be publically noticed at this level either through a public meeting or public hearing.

SANDAG LONG TERM REGIONAL PLAN
The Regional Plan is developed every four years. The Regional Plan, including its Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), is built on an integrated set of public policies, strategies, and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the transportation system so that it meets the diverse needs of the San Diego region through 2050.

RTIP PROGRAMMING
The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) identifies specific near-term projects over a five-year period to move the region toward its transportation vision. The RTIP includes all surface transportation projects for federal, state and TransNet funded projects. Projects are programmed once approved by the respective council or board.

IMPLEMENTATION
Project owner is able to request funding and move forward with implementation. SANDAG allows amendments to the RTIP to add or modify projects once they are underway.

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE?
The Regional Plan includes regionally significant projects that are ultimately placed in the RTIP. Public involvement is a major component in the development of the Regional Plan to deliberate the merits of transportation projects. The Regional Plan is updated every four years, with the most recent update occurring in October 2015. The next update to the Regional Plan is expected in fall 2019. The public can get involved early by participating in community planning forums or public meetings, providing comments on specific projects, or following the work of local agency boards or councils.

- Stay informed regarding transportation projects planned for your community
- Attend public meetings
- Get involved in community based organizations
- Follow the work of your city council, the County Board of Supervisors or local transit operator
- Get involved with the San Diego Forward; The Regional Plan process

WHERE CAN THE PUBLIC GET MORE INFORMATION?
Resources:
The Regional Transportation Improvement Program
www.sandag.org/rtip or https://projecttrak.sandag.org/
San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan
http://www.sdforward.com/regionalplan
SANDAG Public Participation Plan
www.sandag.org/ppp
Alphabet Soup on Transportation Funding

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