The San Diego region is home to 3.35 million residents who live in 18 incorporated cities and unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the public agency that serves as the regional forum for those local governments to come together and plan, make decisions, and implement projects. With oversight by a Board of Directors – made up of elected officials from the 18 city councils and the County Board of Supervisors – SANDAG works on a wide array of projects, programs, and initiatives that support the region’s economy and protect our environment and quality of life. This report highlights some of SANDAG’s accomplishments during fiscal year 2020 (FY 2020).

A special thank you to our transportation partners, Caltrans, MTS, and NCTD for their collaboration during FY 2020 on several of the projects and programs listed in this report.
In September 2019 and January 2020, SANDAG signed agreements with the Navy to explore development options of the Navy Old Town Campus. The Central Mobility Hub is intended to serve as a multimodal transportation center where all types of regional public transportation can come together, including a direct connection to San Diego International Airport.

The extension of the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley completed several construction milestones in FY 2020, including the second Trolley bridge over Interstate 5, the tunnel that will allow the Trolley to travel under an existing roadway, the realignment of the adjacent Rose Canyon Bike Path, and removal of all falsework—or temporary support structures—from the Trolley bridges. Ongoing efforts include the construction of the nine new Trolley stations as well as the Nobel Drive parking structure, track work along the length of the alignment, installation of overhead catenary poles, as well as additional signal work, landscaping work, and efforts to realign Campus Point Drive.

Construction began on Phase 4 of the Del Mar Bluffs stabilization project. Continued stabilization of the bluffs is critical to support railroad operations, while SANDAG studies and develops alternative strategies to move the tracks completely off the bluffs.

SANDAG delivered hundreds of presentations to stakeholders on topics related to the Regional Plan vision and hosted a series of seven educational webinars. In late 2019, the SANDAG Board approved the 2019 Federal Regional Transportation Plan to keep important transportation funding coming to the region while the vision is being developed.

The project team is working with federal, state, and local governments in both the United States and Mexico to plan for a new land port of entry east of the Otay Mesa border crossing. SANDAG and Caltrans crews continue work on the SR 11 highway and southbound connectors project (SR 11/SR 905/SR 125), including a one-year closure of a segment of Enrico Fermi Drive which began in April 2020. Construction of the southbound SR 125 to westbound SR 905 connector began in late 2020. The Innovation Analysis report was completed in April 2020, and a new Traffic & Revenue investment grade study began, which will guide the development of an investment grade bonding package.

In September 2019 and January 2020, SANDAG signed agreements with the Navy to explore development options of the Navy Old Town Campus. The Central Mobility Hub is intended to serve as a multimodal transportation center where all types of regional public transportation can come together, including a direct connection to San Diego International Airport.

Click on each project’s title for more information.
SOUTH BAY RAPID

Crews made substantial progress towards completion of the final segment along East Palomar Street between Heritage Road and Medical Center Drive in Chula Vista. In June, a major milestone was reached when construction of the transit guideway wrapped up, and MTS buses began operating in the guideway. The remaining landscaping and south parkway work activities are expected to be mostly complete in December 2020.

BUILD NCC

SANDAG and Caltrans Build NCC crews completed the protected bike and pedestrian lanes beneath I-5 at Encinitas Boulevard and Santa Fe Drive. In late July 2020, and continued construction of I-5 carpool lanes, one in each direction, from Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach to Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad. Construction crews also completed the outside lanes of the new highway bridge over the San Elizio Lagoon and started construction on the inside lanes.

LOSSAN PROJECTS

San Diego River Double Track - This $93.9 million project was completed in February 2020. This consists of approximately one mile of double-tracked railway along the southernmost segment of the LOSSAN rail corridor, including two bridges over the San Diego River in the City of San Diego.

Elvira to Morena Double Track - This $192 million project consists of 2.6 miles of double-tracked railway between State Route 52 and Garnet Avenue/Balboa Avenue in the City of San Diego. The project also constructed seven bridges, two rail crossovers, and several retaining walls in addition to completing signal, utility, and drainage improvements.

BIKE PROJECTS

Inland Rail Trail Phase 2 - Construction on the San Marcos to Vista (Phase 2) segment of the Inland Rail Trail continued to progress during FY 2020. Significant construction accomplishments achieved this fiscal year include the installation of a steel bridge over Buena Creek and traffic signals at the Mar Vista Drive and Phillips Street intersection. Three miles of the Inland Rail Trail are expected to be completed through Phase 2 in December 2020 and will connect to completed portions of the Inland Rail Trail in San Marcos and Escondido.

Rose Creek Bikeway - The Rose Creek Bikeway project made significant construction progress on both the trail segment and the Santa Fe Street segment. Notable progress included crews constructing retaining walls along the trail segment and forming curbs and gutters along the Santa Fe Street segment. Other accomplishments included gutter and drain installation for stormwater control, irrigation and landscaping, driveway reconstruction, and utility relocations and adjustments.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SANDAG Data Science and Analytics team released a series of economic impact reports and forecasts analyzing the impact of COVID-19 on employment and the economy. SANDAG also analyzed the change in travel patterns during the pandemic and released several reports with the findings.

The iCommute program became the region's trusted source for teleworking resources – providing employers with sample agreements, guidelines, articles, and webinars. SANDAG also is focusing on updating agency technology – including providing every employee with a laptop to enable easier teleworking.

As the regional agency appointed to coordinate the 2020 Census outreach, SANDAG led public education efforts alongside local jurisdictions and Count Me 2020, a coalition of more than 150 community-based organizations led by United Way of San Diego County. SANDAG convened the 2020 Census Complete Count Stakeholder Working Group to facilitate this coordination and managed an extensive outreach campaign.

The SANDAG Criminal Justice Clearinghouse prepared reports with useful information for policymakers as well as law enforcement, prevention, and treatment professionals regarding drug use trends and involvement in other risky or illegal behavior.

In July 2020, SANDAG staff released the Specialized Transportation Grant Program Cycle 11 Call for Projects, which makes available an estimated $7.2 million to fund local agencies to provide specialized transportation projects for seniors and individuals with disabilities in the region.

The Board of Directors is scheduled to review funding recommendations in spring 2020.

The TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program funded the restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon, which made significant progress during FY 2020. Restoration will be complete in late 2021, coinciding with the completion of I-5 San Elijo Lagoon highway bridge construction, and long-term monitoring will continue to measure the restoration's success for the next 10 years. Design and permitting for the San Dieguito Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Phase II project is underway, with construction slated to begin in late fall 2021. Staff is currently working with the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program, and stakeholders to develop metrics that measure the state of the preserve system in San Diego County.