

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 18, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS MEETING OF MAY 4, 2007

The meeting of the Transportation Committee was called to order by Chair Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego) at 9:04 a.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Transportation Committee member attendance.

### 1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ed Gallo, North County Transit District (NCTD) Chairman, stated that page 8, paragraph 3 needs to be corrected to reflect that Ron Roberts, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego, voted against Option 2C and that he voted in favor of it.

Councilmember Phil Monroe, South County, asked that page 12 of the minutes be corrected to reflect the correct jurisdiction for Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Jerry Rindone and himself.

Action: Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Rindone and a second by Chair Pro Tem Bob Emery, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), the Transportation Committee approved the minutes from the April 20, 2007, meeting as corrected.

Chair Madaffer stated that Item 8 was pulled from the agenda and returned to staff. Information in the staff report needs to be modified. The item will be placed on the May 18 Transportation Committee agenda.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Chuck Lungerhausen, a member of the public, thanked the members for their sponsorships for his Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk campaign and asked others to sponsor him. He also commented on the article in today's paper on the projected airport transit hub and stated that he felt it should help with congestion near the airport.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, Caltrans District 11 Director, commented that State Route (SR) 52 opened last week, and he wanted to respond to the letter to the editor in the morning paper. He stated that Caltrans looked at the single-most important and quickest option for SR 52 and that option was implemented first. Meanwhile, Caltrans is getting the final environmental documents approved for the eastbound/westbound auxiliary lanes, which will continue on SR 52 west from Santo Road to Interstate 15 (I-15).

## CONSENT ITEMS

3. 2006 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: AMENDMENT NO. 5 (APPROVE)

Alonzo Gonzales, a representative from Councilmember Ben Hueso's office, expressed the Councilmember's support for Amendment No. 5. This Amendment is critical to Otay Mesa and funding the right-of-way is critical to future opportunities for development of this area. These opportunities would not be available without the SR 905 project. Mr. Gonzales asked the Committee for its continued support.

Caltrans has requested an amendment to the SANDAG 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for the SR 905 project. This amendment proposes to shift funds from the construction phase to the right-of-way phase in order to fully fund the right-of-way phase. The California Transportation Commission is scheduled to consider the same request at its meetings in April and June 2007. The Transportation Committee is asked to adopt Resolution No. 2007-24 approving Amendment No. 5 to the 2006 RTIP.

Action: Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Rindone and a second by Deputy Mayor Dave Druker, North County Coastal, the Transportation Committee approved Consent Item No. 3, including Resolution No. 2007-24.

## REPORTS

4. AGREEMENT WITH REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF *TransNet* EARLY ACTION PROGRAM (APPROVE)

Richard Chavez presented the item and introduced Chiara Clemente, Senior Environmental Scientist, Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), Art Coe, Principal Environmental Scientist, Water Board, and Susanne Glasgow, Deputy District Director, Caltrans District 11, Environmental Division.

Due to the lack of resources, the Water Board does not participate in the development of *TransNet* Early Action Program (EAP) projects. Before construction can begin on EAP projects, the Water Board must issue project conformity permits. Mr. Chavez stated that SANDAG currently has entered into the same type of agreement with other agencies and is asking that the Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into this Agreement with the Water Board. The Agreement would allow Water Board staff to participate in the project development process improving project quality and streamlining the permit process. The Agreement with the Water Board would not exceed \$150,000, and the term would end in June 2008.

Deputy Mayor Druker stated that the coastal cities are currently under strict regulations from the Water Board, and he hoped that by entering into this Agreement, SANDAG would have a better opportunity for funding these state-mandated water regulations, or that the regulations would be less restrictive so that coastal cities could meet them without huge expenditures.

Chair Madaffer agreed with Deputy Mayor Druker's assessment and stated that it was important for SANDAG and the Water Board to work together in the development process.

Action: Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Druker and a second by Chair Madaffer, the Transportation Committee authorized the Executive Director to sign an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board that will provide for California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region staff participation in the project development process for *TransNet* EAP projects. The agreement would last through June 2008. Costs would not exceed \$150,000.

5. URBAN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5309 AND SECTION 5339 APPLICATIONS (RECOMMEND)

On March 23, 2007, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced an opportunity for designated agencies to apply for the \$438 million in FTA Section 5309 Bus and Bus-Related Facilities Program funding available during FY 2007. The FTA has noted that a significant portion of this funding is expected to be made available for projects under approved Urban Partnership Agreements (UPAs), with the remainder made available for bus and bus-related capital projects typically earmarked under this funding program.

Kim York, Financial Project Control Manager, stated that there are two funding programs with three separate applications. The initial application approval for the Urban Partnership Program Agreement was brought to the Transportation Committee last month and was approved by the SANDAG Board of Directors. The two applications before the Committee today are for the two Section 5309, Bus and Bus-related Facilities grants, and the Section 5339 Alternatives Analysis grant. The New Starts/Small Starts Program application will be brought to the Committee at a later date.

Ms. York explained the FTA notices and the process for application, the funding, and the application criteria. She also described the process SANDAG staff used for choosing projects and referred the Committee to the table in the staff report. Ms. York stated that due to the short timeline for application, the process did not lend itself to a formal call for projects. Staff worked with our member agencies to choose current projects that fit the parameters for the program. Ms. York also stated that SANDAG received letters of support from MTS, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the State Department of Transportation, and NCTD, to be included with the application.

Samuel Johnson, Integrated Information Systems Manager, discussed the projects chosen for this program application and the reasoning behind choosing these particular projects. He also explained that there was an overlap in projects in the different applications with the hope that if one application was not accepted, the project or a portion thereof would still be included.

NCTD Chairman Gallo brought staff's attention to project 9, Additional Wi-Fi/Mesh Network installation, and asked if it pertained to the COASTER only.

Mr. Johnson explained that currently it did pertain only to the pilot program already underway along a 10-mile corridor, and this program would be used to extend the wireless access along the full length of the COASTER route.

Ms. York described the next steps for the application process and the timeline involved.

Clive Richard, a member of the public, stated that he supports partnering with other transportation-related agencies and hoped that SANDAG is successful with the grant applications. He stated that he will attend the SANDAG Board meeting to state his support for the applications.

Mayor Art Madrid, East County, asked staff if the intent of item 5, Regional Signal Priority, was to make the buses more competitive with an automobile, and Mr. Johnson answered affirmatively.

Karen King, NCTD Executive Director, stated that as a follow up to the comments on the COASTER corridor wireless access, the WiFi/Mesh network that was in place was installed under a security grant initiative with real-time camera security for monitoring the right-of-way. NCTD would like to have this capability along the full COASTER corridor and the SPRINTER corridor to improve safety and maintenance.

Gary Gallegos, Executive Director, stated that once we have been successfully chosen for the Urban Partnership program, we can negotiate the types of programs and projects we want included. This type of project would be one that we would want included.

Ms. King agreed and stated that since we already have 10 miles of this program in place, limited only by funding, we are more competitive.

Action: Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Rindone and a second by Chair Pro Tem Emery, the Transportation Committee recommended that the SANDAG Board of Directors approve two SANDAG Section 5309 (UPA and Standard) Bus and Bus-Related Facilities grant applications and the Section 5339 Alternatives Analysis grant application, consistent with the March 23, 2007, FTA notices.

6. CORRIDOR MOBILITY IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT-RELATED AMENDMENT TO THE *TransNet* EARLY ACTION PROGRAM (RECOMMEND)

Jose Nuncio provided background information on the Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA), its original funding of \$4.5 billion, and described the San Diego projects included in this program. The adoption of the CMIA program identifies funds that will provide a significant boost of non-*TransNet* funding to corridors included in the *TransNet* Ordinance. CMIA funds, however, can only be programmed for construction. The costs of initial environmental and design phases must be paid with other sources.

Mr. Nuncio also reviewed the Early Action Program (EAP) and the existing status of projects along the Interstate 15 (I-15) and the I-805 corridors. The I-15 Managed Lanes project was fully funded and is not reflected in the Amendment. The Amendment reflects the addition of the projects and the funding required to complete the I-805 from Carroll Canyon Road to

the I-5/I-805 merge in the Sorrento Valley area and the I-805 from the SR 54 interchange to the E Street interchange in Chula Vista through construction. The addition of these two projects balances the *TransNet* funding with other funding.

With the Transportation Committee recommendation, SANDAG will take the item to the Board of Directors for approval of these changes to the *TransNet* EAP.

Deputy Mayor Rindone stated that these changes would positively impact the county in general and the South Bay in particular.

Deputy Mayor Druker stated that approval of the Amendment and funding these two projects through to construction is very important for Sorrento Valley as it will fund another on-ramp to I-805.

Chair Madaffer stated that the City of San Diego is in full support of the Amendment.

Action: Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Rindone and a second by Deputy Mayor Druker, the Transportation Committee recommended that the SANDAG Board of Directors approve amending the *TransNet* EAP to include the design, right-of-way, and construction phases of the following two projects: I-805 from Carroll Canyon Road to the I-5/I-805 merge in the Sorrento Valley area of San Diego; and I-805 from the State Route 54 interchange to the E Street interchange in Chula Vista.

Councilmember Monroe commented after the vote that he would like to see SANDAG analyze our current highway system in regard to travel times, speeds, congestion, and other key elements and develop a baseline of data to measure the future assumptions that we are using to develop these types of projects. SANDAG should have this analysis in place by the start of *TransNet* in 2008.

Bob Leiter stated that SANDAG has in place a program that, beginning next year, would provide this information on an annual basis on this type of data for each of the major corridors, including future assumptions and predictions.

Chair Madaffer referred Councilmember Monroe's comments to staff and requested they report back at a future meeting.

7. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT TRIENNIAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT (APPROVE)

Danielle Kochman, Assistant Planner, presented the item. The Triennial Transportation Development Act (TDA) Audit of the MTS, NCTD, and SANDAG has been completed. The audit was conducted by the independent entity Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc. The audit report includes a compliance review of state requirements for each agency, a review of management controls, and reporting and performance trends. Under state law, this performance audit must be completed every three years. This audit covered the period 2004 to 2006. The audit report includes recommendations for each agency. The full audit is available on the Web site or upon request.

Ms. Kochman introduced the two auditors, Cindy Pollan, Project Manager, Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., and Kelly Hines, Principal, Kelly Hines Consulting.

Ms. Pollan stated that the audit is required in order to continue to receive TDA funding, and she described the process of the audit.

Ms. Hines briefed the Committee on the SANDAG audit stating that overall, the audit went extremely well. She reviewed the results of the audit and stated that SANDAG is in compliance with Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requirements in 11 of 12 areas. SANDAG has met or is addressing the four recommendations from the previous audit. Ms. Hines stated that there were few areas that were in need of improvement and identified key opportunities for SANDAG. Ms. Hines stated that SANDAG has effectively accomplished its TDA responsibilities, and she discussed the recommendations that resulted from the audit.

Ms. Pollan briefed the Committee on the MTS audit and stated that MTS is in compliance with TDA requirements for operators. MTS also addressed the prior audit recommendations effectively. MTS faced challenges post-consolidation, such as operating and capital shortfalls and the ability to attract and retain operators, due to its low starting wage. Ms. Pollan stated that MTS had several accomplishments which enhanced service and productivity and improved efficiency and effectiveness. System-wide performance was generally positive and demonstrated stable cost efficiency and service productivity but showed declining cost-effectiveness. Ms. Pollan reviewed the five recommendations offered in the audit for MTS consideration.

Ms. Pollan then briefed the Committee on the NCTD audit and its results stating that NCTD is also in compliance with the TDA requirements. NCTD also faced challenges and made accomplishments over the audit period. Overall, service efficiency and effectiveness declined while service productivity improved. Ms. Pollan discussed the data supporting these findings and presented three recommendations for NCTD to improve efficiency and effectiveness in its services.

Ms. Kochman stated that SANDAG will monitor the actions of both agencies in implementing the recommendations from the audit and will report back to the Transportation Committee.

Mayor Madrid asked if there were consequences if any of the agencies did not implement the recommendations for compliance in a timely manner.

Ms. Pollan stated that if the recommendations relate specifically to TDA requirements for funding, funding for these projects would be held until the requirements were met.

Ms. Hines added that funds also would not be available in future years if compliance is not met for these audits.

Councilmember Monroe questioned the auditors on the breakdown of costs over which the agency has no control, such as increased fuel costs, and he asked how that affected the audit.

Ms. Pollan stated that the breakdown is in the full report, and she would have to analyze the data to provide the information on fuel costs separately.

Councilmember Monroe posed several questions to the auditors including how MTS low wages affected its ability to retain operators; the condition of the bus fleet and the fact that the data only reflected the age and mileage of the fleet and not the improved and upgraded condition of the fleet; and the operator performance and labor productivity data.

Ms. Pollan stated that all of these concerns are included in the full report, and the objective of the data was to create overall performance standards, although it could be broken down to reflect individual performance data if needed.

Chair Madaffer stated that the full audit will be sent to each agency, and these items can be addressed when the MTS Board is briefed.

Sandor Shapery, Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group, stated that both MTS and NCTD should be acknowledged for the fact that they were in compliance with all aspects of the audit.

Chair Madaffer agreed that MTS and NCTD should be commended for the good work and compliance with the audit.

Paul Jablonski, Chief Executive Director, MTS thanked the auditors and stated that changes made as a result of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) will make an impact in future audits. He also stated that with the fare study update, MTS will focus on revenues.

Mayor Madrid questioned whether the Transportation Committee had the authority to transmit the audit directly to the Director of the State Department of Transportation or if the audit needed to go first to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

Julie Wiley, General Counsel, stated that this authority was delegated to the Committee.

NCTD Chair Gallo questioned the auditors on whether the issue of capturing transit-related incidents at BREEZE bus stops and on the buses themselves has been an issue and asked why this recommendation was made.

Ms. Pollan explained that each auditor bases his or her recommendation on their own observations, and the auditor who conducted the NCTD portion is sensitive to the area of security and thus formed this recommendation.

NCTD Chair Gallo requested that the auditors report to the NCTD Board. Ms. King, stated that it was already on the May 17 NCTD Board agenda.

Action: Upon a motion by Chair Pro Tem Emery and a second by Deputy Mayor Druker, the Transportation Committee authorized the Executive Director to: (1) transmit the

performance audit report of SANDAG to the Director of the State Department of Transportation, as required; (2) implement the performance audit recommendations pertaining to SANDAG TDA activities; and (3) transmit the other recommendations to the transit operators for implementation.

8. 2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN WHITE PAPER: AVIATION AND GROUND ACCESS ISSUES (INFORMATION)

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be heard at the May 18, 2007, meeting.

9. SPRINTER PROJECT STATUS REPORT AND SANDAG INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT (INFORMATION)

Jim Linthicum, Division Director of Engineering and Construction, presented the current progress for the SPRINTER project and stated that the highlight of this report is the fact that six diesel-multiple unit (DMU) vehicles, which represent half the fleet, have been accepted. Also, SANDAG held a workshop with regulatory agencies to identify any problems and none were identified. Mr. Linthicum stated that he still felt that a December 2007 date for completion and revenue operations is feasible. The schedule of remaining work has not changed. The cost estimate at completion has increased from last month and additional cost increases are likely due to past design changes. Change order values are not surprising although the Vehicle Maintenance Facility costs are less than in most projects. Staff is currently completing a detailed analysis of costs for the Inland Rail Trail portion of the project and should be able to present that report at the next meeting. The major project concern is that the Estimate at Completion should not be rising at its current pace, and staff will be conducting a workshop this month to review all costs and assumptions.

MTS Chair Pro Tem Emery commented that he would like to be notified of future SPRINTER media events.

Ms. King stated that there will be a number of events in the future to which Committee members will be invited once construction is completed or near completion.

Councilmember Monroe requested staff identify the additional costs for past design changes and for the Inland Rail Trail.

Mr. Linthicum stated that these additional costs were being negotiated in closed session with the NCTD Board. The number continues to fluctuate, and he did not want to report on the number until he had a better idea of what it will be.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Chair Madaffer announced that on May 18 at 8:30 a.m., prior to the Transportation Committee meeting, the State Route 905 Strike Team will meet, and he invited the public to attend.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for May 18, 2007, at 9 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Madaffer adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE**  
**SANDAG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 4, 2007**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA/ ORGANIZATION	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING
North County Coastal	City of Del Mar	David Druker	Member	Yes
	City of Oceanside	Jerry Kern	Alternate	Yes
North County Inland	City of Escondido	Lori Holt Pfeiler	Member	Yes
	City of Vista	Bob Campbell	Alternate	No
East County	City of Santee	Jack Dale (Vice Chair)	Member	No
	City of La Mesa	Art Madrid	Alternate	Yes
South County	City of Chula Vista	Jerry Rindone	Member	Yes
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	Yes
City of San Diego	----	Jim Madaffer (Chair)	Member	Yes
	----	Scott Peters	Alternate	No
	----	Ben Hueso	Alternate	No
County of San Diego	----	Ron Roberts	Member	Yes
	----	Bill Horn	Alternate	No
	----	Greg Cox	Alternate	No
Metropolitan Transit System	City of Poway	Bob Emery	Member	Yes
	MTS	Harry Mathis	Alternate	Yes
North County Transit District		Ed Gallo	Member	Yes
		Jerome Stocks	Alternate	Yes
		David Druker	Alternate	?
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority		Paul Nieto	Member	No
		Vacant	Alternate	?
ADVISORY/LIAISON Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	Yes
	---	Bill Figge	Alternate	Yes
Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group	---	Sandor Shapery	Member	Yes
		Gary Nordstrom	Alternate	No
		Kathy Keehan	Alternate	No
SCTCA	---	Kevin Siva	Member	Yes
		Albert Phoenix	Alternate	Yes