

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 16, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2007

The meeting of the Transportation Committee was called to order by Chair Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego) at 9:07 a.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Transportation Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Upon a motion by Chairman Ron Roberts (Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego) and a second by Deputy Mayor Dave Druker (North County Coastal), the Transportation Committee approved the minutes from the October 5, 2007, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Chuck Lungerhausen, a member of the public submitted written comments, which he read into the record, regarding a recent news story on the MTS proposed fare increases. He stated that the newscast did not mention the fact that the State had diverted funds from the Public Transit Account to balance the State budget. He stated that people need to be aware of this State raid on transit funds so they can understand that is the real reason for fare increases.

Clive Richard, a member of the public stated that the MTS Board approved a resolution condemning the Legislator's diversion of Public Transit Funds. He stated that he read a recent comment by one of the Board members that the State raid eliminated MTS's ability to expand services and called into question the ability to maintain current services. He asked that the SANDAG Board of Directors adopt a similar resolution.

Chair Madaffer stated that Consent Items 3 and 4 were pulled from the agenda and continued to a future meeting.

### CONSENT ITEMS

3. METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM AND NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT SERVICE CHANGES (INFORMATION)

This item was pulled from the agenda.

4. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT CLAIM AMENDMENT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO (APPROVE)

This item was pulled from the agenda.

### **CHAIR'S REPORTS**

Supervisor Bill Horn (Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego) left the Board room at 9:19 a.m. for Item 9 to avoid Brown Act conflicts while Supervisor Greg Cox was in the chambers.

9. OVERVIEW OF SAN DIEGO REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN (INFORMATION)

Chris Kluth, Associate Regional Planner, presented the item. SANDAG received a Caltrans Community-Based Planning Grant to develop the San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan. The plan will prioritize regional bicycle projects and establish policies and strategies for funding the projects. The funding policies set forth in the plan will also affect how the other components of the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Neighborhood Safety Program are implemented as part of the TransNet extension.

Mr. Kluth stated that the development of a comprehensive bicycle transportation system will contribute to the success of achieving all seven primary goals and policy objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). In addition to regional objectives, federal and state directives, such as Caltrans Deputy Directive (DD) 64, issued in 2001, are placing greater emphasis on accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists when designing roadway facilities. As part of SANDAG's effort to implement our regional goals and broaden state and federal directives, SANDAG applied for and received a Caltrans Community-Based Planning Grant to develop the San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan. This work effort was included and resourced in the FY 2008 Overall Work Program and Budget.

The San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan will be a component of the RTP and will be regional in focus. It will concentrate on broader policies and programs, while providing a framework for local decision-makers to determine specific local routes and facilities. Mr. Kluth briefed the committee on the timeline for development of the plan and next steps.

Supervisor Greg Cox, representing himself, stated his support of the Regional Bike Plan. He commented that the Regional Plan will bring together all the separate bike paths in the different jurisdictions. He stated that he would like to have planning efforts focus on connecting bike paths and trails with the parks and recreation areas in the various watersheds in the region. He commented that at a recent Rails-to-Trails Conference, the San Diego Region was identified as a potential recipient for grant funds of \$50 million for bike trail networks to be awarded in 2010. Our Region has several rail trails and bike path networks that will benefit from these funds and needs to be prepared to compete for these funds. If our Regional Bike Plan was completed by 2009, we would be very competitive for these funds.

Chanelle Hawken, representing City of San Diego Council President Scott Peters, stated a Regional Bike Plan is necessary for the Region to compete for Rails-to-Trails grant funds and

other grants. The City of San Diego is meeting with key personnel from Rails-to-Trails to develop the implementation committee.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

Supervisor Horn returned to the meeting at 9:30 a.m. after Item 9 was completed.

5. REPORT ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (INFORMATION)

The SANDAG Board of Directors created the Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group (SWG) in December 2004 to assist with the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and the creation of the Draft 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The SWG has been meeting for two and a half years and was first chaired by Santee Councilmember Jack Dale and is currently chaired by Del Mar Councilmember Crystal Crawford. The SWG will have fulfilled its responsibilities and will sunset, per its Charter, upon adoption of the final 2007 RTP.

Chair Crawford reported on the group's contributions and accomplishments during this time period. Chair Crawford commented that she has enjoyed the opportunity to chair the SWG and stated that the committee has done a great service to the region. She expressed her appreciation to the SWG members.

Chair Madaffer stated his appreciation to the SWG members and their commitment to the implementation of the RCP and the draft RTP.

Clive Richard, member of the SWG, thanked both Vice Chair Jack Dale (East County) and Councilmember Crawford for chairing the committee over the past several years. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the SWG and stated his hope that the committee's efforts and contributions will be useful to the Region.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

6. STATE ROUTE 905 STATUS UPDATE (INFORMATION)

Chairman Madaffer introduced the item and Bill Figge, Caltrans District 11 provided the monthly update of the discussion by the State Route 905 Strike Team. Mr. Figge stated that funding for Phase 1A was approved and the CTC has allocated the funds. Caltrans will begin construction on Phase 1A in March 2008. Mr. Figge stated that it is hoped that the project will be fully funded with the TCIF funding approval for Phase 1B.

Chair Madaffer stated that Business, Transportation, and Housing Secretary Dale Bonner held a hearing on Monday regarding the TCIF funding from Prop 1B for Goods Movement. SANDAG has an approved matrix of projects to compete for these funds. The State Route 905 project is ranked first for TCIF funding. He encouraged the members and the public to contact their legislators and ask them to push for approval of TCIF funds for our region.

Gary Gallegos, Executive Director stated that Item 10 on today's agenda is an update to the members on the current status of TCIF funding for Goods Movement and that he would also brief the committee on the air quality component of the TCIF funding.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

## REPORTS

### 7. SECOND READING AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO FARE ORDINANCE (HOLD SECOND READING AND APPROVE)

Chair Madaffer introduced the item and explained the process for the second reading and approval to the Fare Ordinance amendments. Chair Madaffer called for a vote to waive the second reading of the Fare Ordinance.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland) and Chair Pro Tem Bob Emery (Metropolitan Transit System [MTS]), the Transportation Committee waived the second reading of the Fare Ordinance.

Chair Madaffer requested that Julie Wiley, General Counsel, discuss a recent letter received regarding the proposed amendments.

Ms. Wiley stated that SANDAG received a letter from the Briggs Law Corporation alleging that the action to increase fares would cause more people to use their cars thus triggering an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The letter also alleges that the Transportation Committee does not have legal authority to give final approval to the Amendments to the Fare Ordinance today as only the Board of Directors has legislative power. Ms. Wiley stated that she has reviewed the documents attached to the letter. An increase in fares to cover operating expenses qualifies as a statutory exemption to CEQA and a Notice of Exemption will be filed once a final action is taken. The Transportation Committee is also asked to adopt Resolution No. 2008-07, Findings in Support of Notice of Exemption under CEQA Relating to Proposed Amendments to the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance. As to the second allegation in the letter, all policy advisory committee actions are reported to the Board. The action on the Fare Ordinance will be reported to the Board, and it will have the option whether or not to approve the action taken today by the Transportation Committee.

Daniel Levy, Senior Regional Planner, presented the item. This was the second reading of proposed amendments to the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance (the Ordinance) to increase the price of the Regional Monthly Passes, including senior passes, juror passes, disabled and Medicare passes, and youth passes. Other changes include adding provisions for a SPRINTER fare, elimination of transfers for MTS, and raising the MTS local bus fare. Additional changes reflect a new revenue sharing agreement due to the introduction of new media. He stated that staff confirmed that the Federal requirements are to use the poverty line as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The following comments are from members of the public:

John Swaim stated his opposition to service cuts and fare increases. He stated that cutting services in the past has not increased ridership.

Clive Richard stated his concern that the need to raise fares is predicated on the State's takeaway of transit funds. He commented that SANDAG should find other opportunities for transit funding and not just raise fares and eliminate services.

Mohan Kanungo stated his opposition to the fare increases and commented that the fare increases negatively affect the poor in the region.

Rob Steppke stated his opposition to the elimination of transfers and commented that the elimination would decrease ridership and decrease revenues.

Theresa Quiroz expressed her disappointment in the actions of MTS at its Board meeting and stated her opposition to the proposed changes to the Ordinance. She asked the Transportation Committee to reconsider the approval of the ordinance.

Michelle Krug requested the Transportation Committee consider a continuation of this item in order to allow the community to provide input. She requested the Committee create a working group to consider alternatives to the proposed changes.

Jay Powell submitted written comments and stated his opposition to the elimination of transfers. He stated that SANDAG could reallocate transit funding from other sources to cover the budget deficit. He commented that SANDAG should create a working group to look at other alternatives.

Mekaela Gladden submitted written comments from the Briggs Law Corporation and requested that SANDAG take their comments into consideration when making their decision.

Chair Madaffer stated that he understood the issues that have been raised by the public and commented that a continuance would not have any effect on the outcome. He stated that the changes to the ordinance have been well publicized and that there have been several public meetings. He commented that there are no other opportunities right now to find funding for transit other than cutting service or raising fares. He stated that the State takeaway of funds has had a huge negative effect on our Region. Chair Madaffer stated that this Region has historically under funded transit. He commented that in the Los Angeles County Region, transit subsidy is a full one cent of the sales tax. This Region's transit subsidy is 1/6 of one cent of the sales tax collected.

Chairman Ed Gallo (North County Transit District [NCTD]) stated that there have been several public meetings held for public outreach and input. He commented that the State takeaway has seriously affected funding negatively for transit in our Region. He commented that raising fares and cutting services is the last choice, but unfortunately, the only choice at this time. Chairman Gallo commented that funds are earmarked for specific purposes and cannot be moved from one project to another. He requested members of the Committee and the public contact their legislative delegates to lobby for transit funding for our Region.

Supervisor Roberts commented that our Region can't rely on the State to provide transit funding. The State has to find funds to balance the budget, and unfortunately for transit, it is the first area from which funds are taken. He stated that at a recent Board meeting, members discussed a long-term solution of increasing the sales tax subsidy from 1/6 of one cent to a higher level. The Board expressed its support for a tax increase for transit funding and approved studies to place a measure on the ballot. Supervisor Roberts commented that advertising on the trolleys had always been avoided in the past but was one of the methods used to help raise revenues this year. Supervisor Roberts also addressed the issue of the prohibitive cost of a monthly pass and stated that one solution is to offer a two-week pass. MTS is also working with the City Heights Corporation to create a revolving fund to make no interest loans for the purpose of purchasing a monthly pass. Supervisor Roberts reiterated his commitment to work with NCTD and the City Heights Community Development Commission to develop this revolving fund.

Chair Pro Tem Emery commented that the previous day's public hearing at MTS was the fifth for the Region. One of the comments at that hearing was that MTS was only interested in making money. He commented that every single route and rider in the transit system is subsidized. We do bring in revenue to fund operations, but it is not enough to cover expenditures.

Action: Upon a motion by Chairman Gallo and a second by Chair Pro Tem Emery, the Transportation Committee held the second reading of the Ordinance and approved the amendments to the Ordinance and Resolution No. 2008-07.

8. FY 2008 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM BUDGET AMENDMENT: PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM (APPROVE)

Alex Estrella, Senior Transportation Planner presented the item. The SANDAG FY 2008 Overall Work Program (OWP) includes an element to develop a multimodal performance monitoring system in coordination with Caltrans and other local and regional partners. This effort involves the use of the existing performance monitoring system that is currently limited to collection and analysis of freeway performance data. The system is called the Performance Monitoring System (PeMS) and is a key tool for evaluating performance and determining transportation trends along the region's freeway network.

The Performance Measurement System is a web-enabled tool that allows transportation professionals and the public to obtain information on the performance of the state highway system. SANDAG has developed a vision that is shared by Caltrans to extend the capabilities of PeMS beyond the freeway network by enhancing the current system to collect transit and arterial performance data. These enhancements, once implemented, will help the region develop door-to-door travel times and compare trip times across all modes.

SANDAG needs to accept state funds to enhance PeMS to include arterial data by undertaking an arterial detection systems evaluation and integration effort. The Transportation Committee is asked to approve an amendment to the FY 2008 OWP Budget to add \$300,000 in Caltrans Planning and Research Funds to complete an Arterial Detection Systems Evaluation and Integration work task as part of OWP element #40007 (Develop and Enhance Tools for Transportation Performance Monitoring).

Deputy Mayor Druker questioned whether the enhancements would allow PeMS to interface with the 511 system.

Mr. Estrella stated that one of the goals is to provide real-time travel information, and it could feed into the 511 system.

Deputy Mayor Druker commented that the Regional Planning Commission published a draft report on performance, and one of the statistics reported was that the travel time from Oceanside to downtown during rush hour was 40 minutes. He expressed his concern that the data was not reported correctly or was flawed, and if this statistic came from PeMS, he would question a greater investment in the system.

Mr. Estrella stated that part of the effort is to further understand PeMS. He stated that the time reported would be an average and that it is possible that it could be affected by other factors. This grant would provide an opportunity to investigate the algorithms to ensure the data is at acceptable levels.

Action: Upon a motion by Chair Pro Tem Emery and a second by Vice Chair Jack Dale (East County), the Transportation Committee: (1) accepted State Planning and Research funds through the approval of Resolution No. 2008-06; and (2) approved an amendment to the Overall Work Program budget to add \$300,000 for consultant services to complete an Arterial Detections Systems Evaluation and Integration task.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE BOND FUNDING: GOODS MOVEMENT PROGRAMS (INFORMATION)

Mr. Gallegos presented the item. Proposition 1B, approved by the voters in November 2006, includes two new funding programs related to goods movement on California's trade corridors. He stated that our Region has competed very well for funds under Proposition 1B, which includes local streets and roads, public transit, Corridor Mobility Improvement Account, SR 99, and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) augmentation. Mr. Gallegos briefed the Transportation Committee on the status of the Trade Corridors Improvement Funds and Emissions Reduction programs. He stated that our Region is focusing on projects that benefit the State of California. We are emphasizing that the Los Angeles Region's port is more of a pass-through for goods movement and supports other states more than California and that other Regions have already received a significant amount of funding for their projects. Goods Movement in our Region has a greater benefit directly to the State and improves gateways to California. Mr. Gallegos briefly summarized the goods movement approach for the region and the action plan adopted by the Board of Directors, which includes the prioritization of goods movement candidate projects. Mr. Gallegos stated that our Region plans to compete for a small portion of the Emissions Reduction funds in partnership with the California Air Resources Board. The Emissions Reduction Program is a \$1 billion component of Prop 1B that specifically addresses freight-related air pollution emissions in trade corridors. Our focus would be in three different areas. One on retrofitting approximately 700 diesel trucks with emissions control devices that enter the Port of San Diego on a daily basis. Another opportunity is to retrofit approximately 300 trucks that enter the airport. The third opportunity is to explore retrofitting trucks that cross the border. Unfortunately, the guidelines prohibit any

investments in trucks with dual Mexico-California plates. SANDAG is lobbying for a change to the guidelines to allow this investment.

Chairman Gallo questioned whether SANDAG has kept aware of the growth and developments of the ports of Mexico.

Mr. Gallegos stated that we are tracking them very closely in terms of growth at Ensenada and the development of the Port at Punta Colonet.

Chairman Gallo stated that we need to continue to track these ports. With an increase in utilization of ports in Mexico, the ports on the West Coast could be in jeopardy.

Deputy Mayor Druker commented on the prioritization of projects for TCIF funding. He stated that the LOSSAN corridor should be prioritized higher. He also commented that a great number of the population of the Inland Empire is employed by port activities in that Region. He also commented that the widening of the Panama Canal will have a big effect on goods movement throughout the country as it will be cheaper to move goods by ship than by rail.

Chair Madaffer stated that the northern routes through the Arctic would also have an effect on goods movement.

Mr. Gallegos stated that SANDAG is aware of the logistics issue. We are focusing on advocating as a team at the federal level to get greater funding for the State.

Karen King, Executive Director, NCTD, stated that she sent a letter to Secretary Dale Bonner supporting the SANDAG goods movement action plan and stating the importance of rail and rail infrastructure in California for goods and people movement.

Supervisor Roberts commented that at a recent meeting with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BN&SF) Railroad leadership, there was discussion that our rail corridor was considered as only a minor contributor to goods movement. BN&SF Railroad did not consider our Region as a viable investment because land costs are prohibitive for rail. The Region needs to focus on other methods of goods movement.

Ms. King concurred that there would not be an increase in demand for rail for goods movement. She stated that she supports the current investment strategy for TCIF funding but wants to ensure consideration of the coastal rail for future investment.

Mr. Gallegos stated that the competition for these funds is very intense, and our focus is on projects that will compete successfully for the funds. He stated that Commissioner Chalker has been working with us to bring in funds for double tracking in Carlsbad and Miramar, and we are working at finding funding sources for the coastal rail.

Chair Madaffer reiterated comments by Supervisor Roberts from the meeting with BN&SF Railroad and stated that the rail leadership considers investment in rail in our Region a low priority, but they stated we should concentrate on what we are doing well for the Region, such as tourism.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

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

Jim Linthicum, Division Director, provided the monthly status report on the SPRINTER rail project, including discussion of implementation and effectiveness of project cost control measures. He briefed the committee on the current progress of the mainline tracks, stations and parking lots, the critical work on signals and communications, the SPRINTER operations facility and San Marcos loop, and the Diesel Multiple Units. Mr. Linthicum briefed the members on the status of the completion schedule, including the Settlement Agreement and the current milestones. Several milestones have not been met on time. Mr. Linthicum also briefed the members on the mitigation measures for these milestones. The Estimate at Completion (EAC) was impacted by the Settlement Agreement and the contractor has submitted documentation for impact damages in the amount of \$1.1 million. The new EAC is \$476.4 million, increased from \$470 million, and includes increases in construction expenditures, reserves for start-up costs, and contingency funds. Staff is still calculating final construction quantities and change order costs but project the budget at \$484.1 million, which includes a fine from the water board.

Ms. King invited the Committee members to a December 28, 2007, Grand Opening event for the SPRINTER. Service is scheduled to begin on December 16, 2007. Bus service changes will begin on January 13, 2008, fully integrating bus services and SPRINTER operations.

Supervisor Horn stated that operations will not begin without the safety certifications successfully completed.

Mayor Jim Desmond (City of San Marcos) stated that the testing of the SPRINTER has been taking place in his community. The train horn sounds much like a car horn and is not as loud as expected.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting for Friday, November 2, 2007, is cancelled.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Madaffer stated that the Grand Opening for Highway 125 is November 16, 2007.

Chair Madaffer adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE  
SANDAG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 19, 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	Yes
East County	City of Santee	Jack Dale (Vice Chair)	Member	Yes
	City of La Mesa	Art Madrid	Alternate	No
South County	City of Chula Vista	Jerry Rindone	Member	No
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	No
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	Yes
	---	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	No
		David Druker	Alternate	No
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority		Charlene Zettel	Member	Yes
		Jim Desmond	Alternate	Yes
		Ramona Finnila	Alternate	No
ADVISORY/LIAISON Caltrans	---	Pedro Orso- Delgado	Member	No
	---	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	No
		Albert Phoenix	Alternate	Yes

11/09/2007 11:24 AM