

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 1, 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1A**

Action Requested: APPROVE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

APRIL 10, 2009

First Vice Chair Jerome Stocks (Encinitas) called the joint meeting of the SANDAG Board of Directors and Transportation Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. The attendance sheets for the meeting are attached.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Stillwell, a member of the public, spoke in favor of a 1 percent sales tax devoted for public transit operating costs, and asked for bus transfers to be restored. He expressed opposition to proposed bus service reductions on Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Route 14, and asked for the addition of a stop at the Grantville Trolley Station.

Duncan McFetridge, representing Save Our Forests and Ranchlands (SOFAR), spoke in favor of community-based transit and changing the *TransNet* funding formula to provide more money for public transportation.

Chuck Lungerhausen, a member of the public, solicited Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk sponsorship donations and thanked those who provided prior support.

Greg Cox, representing San Diego Job Corps, expressed support for the Trolley and bus system.

Richard Rider, Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters, suggested that public agencies should reduce the salaries of their employees rather than raise taxes or reduce transit services.

Mayor Ron Morrison (National City) announced the passing of Hal Morgan, former mayor of National City, who founded the "Mile of Cars," and initiated steps for the development of Plaza Bonita.

REPORTS (2 through 3)

2. 2008 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT NOS. 8 AND 9: PROGRAMMING FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDS (APPROVE)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides transportation infrastructure funding through both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Staffs of SANDAG, MTS, and North County Transit District

(NCTD) have conferred and developed a list of ARRA transit projects, which are included in proposed Amendment No. 8 to the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Additionally, Amendment No. 9 reflects the March 27, 2009, Board of Directors' action approving FHWA ARRA funding for several projects. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of both RTIP amendments as well as the proposed FY 2009 Budget action.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Jim Desmond (San Marcos) and second by Mayor Jim Wood (Oceanside), the SANDAG Board of Directors approved: (1) Amendment Nos. 8 and 9 to the 2008 RTIP, programming the FTA and FHWA ARRA projects; and (2) an amendment to the FY 2009 Budget to reflect the additional FTA ARRA funds for the transit capital projects. Yes – 17 (weighted vote, 100%). No – 0 (weighted vote, 0%). Abstain – 0 (weighted vote, 0%). Absent – National City and Vista.

3. TRANSIT OPERATIONS FUNDING WORKSHOP (DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

The Board of Directors and Transportation Committee reviewed the status of transit operations funding in the San Diego region. MTS and NCTD staffs provided an overview of their agency operating budgets. SANDAG staff provided an overview of federal and state transportation funding, the original *TransNet* local sales tax measure, the current *TransNet* Extension, and the upcoming Transit Impediments Study.

First Vice Chair Stocks indicated that there were more than 30 requests to speak on this item.

Commissioner John Chalker, California Transportation Commission (CTC), urged the Board not to take any action that would jeopardize its ability to provide the local match to implement Proposition 1B-funded projects.

John Meyer, Independent Taxpayers Oversight Committee (ITOC), expressed the ITOC's extreme concerns about the suggestion to change the *TransNet* program formula approved by the voters in 2004.

Lani Lutar, San Diego County Taxpayers Association, opposed any reorganization of the *TransNet* fund formula.

Judd Halenza, East Otay Mesa Property Owners Association, spoke against doing anything to disturb the ability to generate matching capital funds from the *TransNet* program.

Richard Rider, San Diego Tax Fighters, suggested cost-cutting measures for the transit agencies related to reductions in employee pay, retirement, and health care. He supported the transfer of *TransNet* Extension money from local streets and roads to transit, and supported a future Quality of Life measure to fund transit operations.

Robert Hoffman, a member of the public, suggested increased marketing efforts to those groups who could use public transit.

Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League, advocated a change in the *TransNet* formula for transit operations.

Andrew Poat, San Diego Economic Development Corporation (EDC), spoke in opposition to changing the *TransNet* funding formula. If such a change is made, the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update should be used for funding priorities. He expressed support for a long-term funding strategy for transit operations.

Alex Sax, a transit user, encouraged the SANDAG Board to increase funding for transit, but not in the form of fare increases for riders.

R. Mitchel Beauchamp, City Treasurer of National City, spoke on behalf of the public transit system. He agreed with the need for a sustainable system.

Carolyn Lee, a member of the public, stated that the bond of trust is crucial in the provision of a tax measure, and that violating this bond of trust between the voters and their understanding of the tax measure may cost you future funding.

Deborah Wais, a member of the public, commented on how much society as a whole needs the transit system. She stated that the goal is to improve the system, as some people ride the bus out of choice rather than necessity.

Jim Schmidt, a member of the public, spoke against changing the *TransNet* formula. He said that the public transit funding problem rests at the state level.

Kathy Evans-Calderwood, San Diego Welfare Warriors, said that one area in which they were active was the implementation of a metropolitan enterprise zone in City Heights to encourage development and stimulate business in areas of high unemployment. The implementation of transit service cuts should be mindful of these areas.

Benjamin Rowe, a second-year design architect student, commented that the future of the city lies with public transportation.

Elyse Lowe, Executive Director of Move San Diego, spoke in favor of taking money from capital projects to fund transit operations. She stated that with new state laws requiring reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we will need alternatives to the car and should re-plan our mass transit investments.

Matt Adams, San Diego Building Industry Association (BIA), cautioned the Board against changing the *TransNet* formula as voters like the highway improvements that have been made to date.

Jay Turner, former Executive Director, North Park Main Street, spoke about the revitalization of the North Park area including the implementation of dedicated transit lanes. He was opposed to changes that would affect that kind of transit improvement.

Mike Mendelson, representing the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), opposed cuts to transit operations funding, and strongly urged SANDAG to use *TransNet* funds for transit operations.

Mike Andreen, representing the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, reminded everyone that we are only in the first year of a 40-year *TransNet* program. He encouraged the Board to stay the course and not divert funding.

Aida Reyes, Supportive Parents Independent Network (SPIN), suggested the Board act to save public transportation, and make it more affordable, enjoyable, and accessible.

Joni Halpern, Director of SPIN, expressed support for redirecting some of the *TransNet* money to public transit.

Sandy Smith, Route 810 express bus rider, thanked MTS for improving her bus service. She said that if you don't improve the transit system you will be breaking the faith with the voters.

Michelle Krug, a member of the public, asked that *TransNet* funds be diverted for transit to reduce traffic congestion and provide a transportation option for people with no other choice.

Richard Miiller, representing the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club, suggested that only the most cost-effective projects be funded during this time. He urged the Board to place the Mid-Coast Corridor project on hold and to use those planning dollars for the existing transit system.

Brad Barnum, representing the Associated General Contractors (AGC), spoke in opposition to changing the *TransNet* formula. He stated that if you do this, you will break a promise to the voters. They wanted a long-term capital improvement program for streets, roads, and transit.

Dillon Minet, a student at University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in the Urban Studies and Planning program, suggested a high-speed transportation system for goods movement. This system could be a privately funded option matched by state funds.

John Bragg, Kearny Real Estate Company on behalf of the Otay Mesa Property Owners Association, was in favor of leaving the *TransNet* allocation as it is and not using capital highway project dollars for transit operations.

Angelika Villagrana, representing the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, felt it would be inappropriate to shift *TransNet* dollars for transit operations. Public transit is important and we need to look for additional funding options.

Lorraine Leighton, a member of the public, urged the Board to use more *TransNet* funds for public transit.

Anna Daniels, representing Mid City Moves, said that all regional road construction projects must address congestion within a regional context of traffic relief. Public transit is one of the most cost-effective solutions to fulfilling the reduction of GHG emissions.

Stephen Russell, representing Mid City Moves, asked that the Board defer any fare increases until it reviews options for covering fare increases in the short-term. He suggested looking at the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) for money for transit. He expressed support for a quality of life funding measure.

Teresa Quiroz, representing Mid City Moves, said that a long-term solution will take time to come to fruition, and this body needs to provide short-term bridge funding for transit. She suggested exchanging federal stimulus money for *TransNet* funds, and then giving the *TransNet* monies to the transit operators. An increase in transit was one of the *TransNet* mandates.

Polly Gillette, representing the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association, supported public transit, especially bus rapid transit in the I-15 corridor.

First Vice Chair Stocks said that concluded the public speakers.

Board members provided comments and asked questions related to the information presented.

Motion Made: Supervisor Dianne Jacob (County of San Diego) moved to oppose any change to the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance formula from the highway local streets and roads portion to transit. Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) seconded the motion. Discussion of this motion followed.

Substitute Motion: Councilmember Lesa Heebner (Solana Beach) moved to delay a vote until we have more information, and to direct SANDAG staff to report back at another time with options. Councilmember Marti Emerald (City of San Diego) seconded this motion. Discussion of this motion followed.

Discussion of both of these motions occurred.

First Vice Chair Stocks called for the vote on the Substitute Motion.

Action Taken: Upon the motion by Mayor Heebner and a second by Councilmember Emerald, the SANDAG Board approved the postponement of action on this item, and directed staff to report back at a later date with an evaluation of additional funding options for transit operations. Yes – 10 (weighted vote, 68%). No – Carlsbad, County of San Diego, Escondido, Santee (weighted vote, 32%). Abstain – 0 (weighted vote, 0%). Absent – Chula Vista, Oceanside, Poway, San Marcos, and Vista. The Substitute Motion was approved.

4. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Business meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009, at 9 a.m. The next Policy meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2009, at 10 a.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

DGunn/M/DGU

**ATTENDANCE
SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
APRIL 10, 2009**

JURISDICTION/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	ATTENDING
City of Carlsbad	Matt Hall (Member)	Yes
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Cox (Primary)	Yes
City of Coronado	Al Ovrom (1st Alt.)	Yes
City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford (Primary)	Yes
City of El Cajon	Mark Lewis (Primary)	Yes
City of Encinitas	Jerome Stocks, 1st Vice Chair (Primary)	Yes
City of Escondido	Sam Abed (Alternate)	Yes
City of Imperial Beach	Jim Janney (Primary)	Yes
City of La Mesa	Art Madrid (Member)	Yes
City of Lemon Grove	Mary Sessom (Primary)	Yes
City of National City	Ron Morrison (Member)	Yes
City of Oceanside	James Wood (Member)	Yes
City of Poway	Don Higginson (1st Alt.)	Yes
City of San Diego - A	Tony Young (1st Alt.)	Yes
City of San Diego - B	Marti Emerald (1st Alt.)	Yes
City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond (Member)	Yes
City of Santee	Jack Dale (2nd Vice Chair)	Yes
City of Solana Beach	Lesa Heebner (Primary)	Yes
City of Vista	Judy Ritter (Primary)	No
County of San Diego - A	Dianne Jacob (Primary, Seat A)	Yes
County of San Diego - B	Pam Slater-Price (Primary, Seat B)	Yes
Caltrans	Pedro Orso-Delgado (1st. Alt.)	Yes
MTS	Harry Mathis (Member)	Yes
NCTD	Bob Campbell (Primary)	No
Imperial County	Victor Carrillo (Member)	No
US Dept. of Defense	CAPT Steve Wirshing (Member)	No
SD Unified Port District	Laurie Black (Member)	No
SD County Water Authority	Howard Williams (1st. Alt.)	Yes
Baja California/Mexico	Remedios Gómez-Arnau (Member)	No
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Robert H. Smith (Member)	No

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
SANDAG JOINT POLICY BOARD AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 10, 2009**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA/ ORGANIZATION	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING
North County Coastal	City of Carlsbad	Matt Hall (Vice Chair)	Member	Yes
	City of Del Mar	Carl Hilliard	Alternate	Yes
North County Inland	City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond	Member	Yes
	City of Vista	Judy Ritter	Alternate	No
East County	City of Santee	Jack Dale (Chair)	Member	Yes
	City of La Mesa	Art Madrid	Alternate	Yes
South County	City of Coronado	Carrie Downey	Member	No
	City of Imperial Beach	Jim King	Alternate	Yes
City of San Diego	----	Anthony Young	Member	Yes
	----	Todd Gloria	Alternate	Yes
	----	Marti Emerald	Alternate	No
County of San Diego	----	Ron Roberts	Member	Yes
	----	Greg Cox	Alternate	No
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	Yes
Metropolitan Transit System	MTS	Harry Mathis	Member	Yes
	MTS	Jerry Rindone	Alternate	Yes
North County Transit District	NCTD	Bob Campbell	Member	No
	NCTD	Dave Roberts	Alternate	No
	NCTD	Jerome Stocks	Alternate	Yes
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority		Charlene Zettel	Member	Yes
		Tom Smisek	Alternate	No
ADVISORY/LIAISON Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	Yes
	—	Bill Figge	Alternate	No
SCTCA	—	Albert Phoenix	Member	No
		Francine Kupsch	Alternate	No