

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 14, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Transportation Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Joe Kellejian (North County Coastal). See attached Attendance SANDAG Transportation Committee Meeting, October 17, 2003.

1. APPROVAL OF DRAFT DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

On a motion by Mayor Terry Johnson (San Diego County Regional Airport Authority) and a second by Councilmember Judy Ritter (North County Transit District [NCTD]) the minutes of the September 19, 2003, Transportation Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilmember Jack Feller (NCTD) invited Committee members to attend a parade in Oceanside on October 25, 2003, honoring our military. Chair Kellejian said that to arrange seating and parking arrangements, interested members should contact Greta in the Oceanside City Manager's office.

Councilmember Jerry Rindone (South County) stated that all of the right-of-way for the Mission Valley East Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project has not been secured. He asked that the SANDAG Chair and Vice Chair work with the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) to ensure that it is in place.

CONSENT ITEMS (2 through 5)

2. FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES (TEA) PROGRAM: QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT (INFORMATION)

This quarterly progress report covers the period July to September 2003 for the nine Federal TEA program funded projects. Two projects are complete (City of La Mesa's El Cajon Boulevard Revitalization and City of San Diego's Mission Beach Boardwalk), and the remaining seven projects are progressing according to their approved schedules.

3. PROPOSED NEW PROCUREMENT POLICIES (REVIEW/COMMENT)

SANDAG's legal staff has prepared two procurement and contracting policies for review and comment by the Transportation Committee. Any changes requested by Transportation Committee members or staff over the next month will be incorporated into these proposed policies and brought back to the Transportation Committee in November. At the November meeting, the Transportation Committee will be asked to recommend approval of the policies to the SANDAG Board at its November meeting.

4. WELFARE TO WORK TRANSIT STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS (APPROVE)

The Welfare To Work Transit Study, funded through a Caltrans planning grant, documents the unmet transit needs of CalWORKs participants transitioning from welfare to work, and recommends transit service improvements to address those needs. The recommendations from this report will provide a basis for future funding consideration (including Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant funding applications) and service improvements. The Transportation Committee is asked to approve the Welfare to Work Transit Study and its Service Improvement Plan.

5. LOS ANGELES – SAN DIEGO – SAN LUIS OBISPO RAIL CORRIDOR AGENCY (LOSSAN) BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP (INFORMATION)

The LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency seeks to increase ridership, revenue, capacity, reliability, and safety on the coastal rail line from San Diego to Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo. Known as Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* corridor, it is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor nationwide and Amtrak's fastest growing. This report summarizes the results of the Board's workshop held on September 13, 2003.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Mickey Cafagna (North County Inland) and a second by Mayor Johnson, the Transportation Committee approved Consent Items 2 through 5.

REPORTS

6. TRANSPORTATION PROJECT BUDGET DEFICITS AND POTENTIAL STRATEGIES (APPROVE)

Chair Kellejian noted that the action on this item has been changed from review/comment to approval.

Staff requested that due to the budget shortfalls, the Committee is being asked to approve a series of policy decision on projects. At the September meeting staff was asked for status of projects and funds available and a risk assessment for each project. That information was provided to the Committee in Attachments 1 and 2 to the agenda report. The current fiscal year budget deficit is \$309.7 million. SANDAG staff will make recommendations in three categories to reduce this amount: project adjustments with recommendations of \$200.8 million, policy decisions at \$82.1 million, and project delays of \$26.8 million.

Staff reviewed project adjustments on the following projects: State Route (SR) 905, the Sprinter, Interstate 15 (I-15) Managed Lanes, Encinitas pedestrian crossing, and fare technology. The total shortfall after adjustments is \$108.9 million.

The policy decisions involve those projects to pursue this fiscal year. The projects that are being recommended not to pursue at this time are the I-15 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because the funds are not needed until 2003 and SR 52 because the project is underfunded due to the State budget crisis. The existing SR 52 funds have been redirected to cover cost increases to Forester Creek and right-of-way. The SR 52 corridor construction completion date of 2009 is still planned. The Coastal Transit and the Regional Arterial projects were recommended to move forward with no delays.

The projects that are being recommended for delay include: Caltrans Operational Projects, NCTD Buses, and SR 52 Construction. These projects total \$41.3 million.

These actions will provide flexibility to meet this year's needs and give the region flexibility into the next year. Staff reviewed the three-step approval to cover the FY 2003/04 budget shortfall of \$309.7 million: (1) approve budget adjustments of \$200.8 million, (2) approve policy decisions totaling \$82.1 million, and (3) delay projects in an amount of \$41.3 million.

The Executive Director suggested that the Committee enforce a strict "use it or lose it" funding policy for the regional arterial projects. Having this policy will be healthy for us to keep critical projects on schedule and help us solve problems in the future. We also recommend the delay of more projects to provide additional funding flexibility.

Chair Kellejian commended SANDAG and area agency staffs for working cooperatively on this difficult process. He expressed support for the recommended actions.

Board Discussion:

Mayor Pro Tem Phil Monroe (South County – Alternate) expressed concern about strict adherence to the "use it or lose it" policy. He said that we have to also be flexible when unexpected circumstances arise.

Chair Kellejian suggested that staff mail a copy of this funding policy to each Board member.

Mayor Art Madrid (East County – Alternate) reminded the Committee that there are no guarantees or assurances that the funding situation will improve in the short term. He suggested that a project status review be conducted on a quarterly basis if not sooner. He also suggested that SANDAG issue a press release indicating this funding policy has been discussed with all regional representatives.

Public Comment

Fred Luedtke, representing the City of Escondido, thanked SANDAG for including them in this process.

Nathan Johnson, representing the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1309 (Bus Drivers Union), asked if the 40 percent of the *TransNet* formula will still be used for operations. He wondered if operations money is being used to subsidize any of these projects. *Chair Kellejian told Mr. Johnson that his concerns did not relate to this issue. He asked staff to meet with Mr. Johnson about his concerns.*

Councilmember Ritter, on behalf of NCTD, requested SANDAG's support in the pursuit of funding for the Sprinter project.

The Executive Director reminded the Committee that there is some funding flexibility due to the *TransNet* program.

Mayor Corky Smith cautioned the Committee about moving money around when there is a possibility that the new governor might cut programs of the former governor.

Action: Upon motion by Vice Chair Dick Murphy and second by Councilmember Rindone, the Transportation Committee unanimously approved: (1) a series of adjustments to the programming and scheduling of various projects that will reduce the FY 2003/04 totaling \$200.8 million; (2) policy decisions that total \$82.1 million; and (3) policy decisions on delaying projects totaling \$41.3 million. The Transportation Committee also expressed its support for the Sprinter project.

7. TRANSIT SERVICE PLANNING FOR THE CONSOLIDATED AGENCY (DISCUSSION)

Staff reported that with consolidation SANDAG is now responsible for regional transit service planning, monitoring the performance of those services, and programming funding for those service changes. SANDAG needs to adopt a policy for this process. The two primary components of such a policy are to develop a framework for service planning, service priorities, and funding within SANDAG's budget, as well as a service evaluation and implementation process. Staff described the proposed process. The remaining issues relate to the service performance evaluation process and the service adjustment authority. The schedule has this item returning to the Joint Committee on Regional Transit (JCRT) on October 30 for further discussion. It will then come back to the Transportation Committee in November/December and to the Board for budget input early next year.

Chair Kellejian asked if major service changes would come to the Transportation Committee for action. *Staff replied that only those major service changes that might have implication on regional policies would come back to the Transportation Committee.*

Board Comment

Chair Kellejian indicated his preference for public hearings where necessary and in locations where the change would take place.

Councilmember Rindone agreed that public hearings on major service changes should be held. He commented that the first two years of a new service is to build up ridership and it should not be subject to elimination during that time period.

Councilmember Ritter wanted assurance that the consolidated agency agreed to maintain initial service concepts and initial levels of service for each operator. *Staff indicated that they are aware of this commitment.*

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe questioned SANDAG's involvement in major service changes. He didn't feel it was necessary so long as the changes were within the adopted budget levels of the districts. He thought that the transit agencies could notify SANDAG of the changes on a periodic basis. *Staff agreed that only changes that resulted in major capital investments would be brought to SANDAG.*

The SANDAG Executive Director clarified that the transition documents agreed that only major changes would have oversight from the policy board.

Karen King, NCTD Executive Director, suggested that the transit agencies report on service changes to the Transportation Committee on a quarterly basis.

Councilmember Christy Guerin (North County Coastal – Alternate) requested a policy that included flexibility for service change public hearings to be held at times and locations that would be convenient to the public.

Chair Kellejian clarified that SANDAG would only be holding public hearings on major services changes that would have a regionwide impact.

Councilmember Rindone indicated the consensus that minor service changes should stay with the operating boards. He asked staff to report back with a clear definition of what constitutes minor and major issues.

Mayor Cafagna suggested that the Transportation Committee review this policy on an annual basis.

Councilmember Rindone noted that as of October 16, 2003, MTDB no longer exists and it is now the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS).

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe stated that at the recent American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Annual Meeting there was discussion about selling the experience of transit. He thought that we should pursue this concept.

Action: On a motion by Councilmember Rindone and a second by Mayor Cafagna, the Transportation Committee unanimously accepted this report and directed staff to incorporate Committee member comments.

Chair Kellejian called a five-minute break at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

8. MID-COAST UNIVERSITY CITY LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) ALIGNMENTS (DISCUSSION)

Staff provided an introduction to this item. The Mid-Coast LRT Project was included in the original *TransNet* measure in 1987. The alignments were described. Staff indicated that

MTDB elected to break this project into two segments: one from Old Town to Balboa Avenue, and then a second segment from Balboa Avenue north to the University City area. MTDB has been advancing the Balboa Segment project through the design and environmental phases. This project has been forwarded to the federal government for potential federal funding. Staff has since reviewed the alignment north of Balboa Avenue and will present a proposal for a new alignment in the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and University City areas.

Staff reported that alignments have been narrowed down to two: UC West and I-5 East. Each of these alignments was described as well as variations for side running or median running and some elevated sections.

Staff also provided preliminary information related to ridership, environmental impacts, and capital costs. Further analysis is needed to determine the best alignment on the east side. A comparison matrix on the alignments (with variations) showed that the UCSD West Side (Voigt-Regents-Executive) received the highest score. A number of public and community involvement activities were noted and next steps were reviewed.

Board Comments:

Mayor Corky Smith (North County Inland – Alternate) asked about the sound barrier study. *Staff replied that some noise impacts can be mitigated through the use of sound walls and ballast mats.*

Chair Kellejian commented that this item is for information only, and that this item will come back to the committee for a final decision on November 14.

Mayor Cafagna wondered if the costs are worth the ridership gain on some of the more expensive alignment options. Staff responded that we have not yet conducted the cost per rider analysis.

Mayor Cafagna suggested that a potential shuttle service from the west side to the east side might be a less expensive alternative. Staff stated that it is a question of regional policies and goals. In the Regional Transit Vision, part of the policy is to provide convenient access.

Vice Chair Murphy suggested that staff keep the alignments at grade as much as possible to reduce costs. Staff commented that in the next phase we will review that issue related to topography and environment.

Mayor Art Madrid (East County) expressed his support for providing direct service to the UCSD campus. He added his opinion that the long-term public transit benefit was more important than aesthetics and we should not cater to pressures from people who don't want a transit system adjacent to them.

Mayor Cafagna expressed a concern about at-grade crossings increasing traffic congestion.

Public Comment

Milton Phegley, UCSD, Campus Community Planner, said that they have been involved with this project since 1989. He thanked SANDAG staff for presenting this as an information item to give the Committee more opportunity to be prepared for a decision in November. He stated that the selection of a preferred alignment presents a great opportunity to integrate current land use planning and transportation activities. UCSD wants to be a supportive and cooperative partner, and they hope to have a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide the design and construction process in the future.

Robert Hoffman, a member of the public, provided comments that suggested transit should use new technologies to solve the problems of today.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Chair Kellejian reminded Committee members of the joint Transportation Committee/Regional Planning Committee meeting on Friday, October 24, 2003, to be held 30 minutes following the end of the Board of Directors meeting.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for November 14, 2003, at 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kellejian adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE
SANDAG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2003**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA/ORGANIZATION	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	COMMENTS
North County Coastal	City of Solana Beach	Joe Kellejian (Chair)	Member	Yes	
	City of Encinitas	Christy Guerin	Alternate	Yes	
North County Inland	City of Poway	Mickey Cafagna	Member	Yes	
	City of San Marcos	Corky Smith	Alternate	Yes	
East County	City of La Mesa	Art Madrid	Member	Yes	
	City of Santee	Jack Dale	Alternate	Yes	Part time
South County	City of Chula Vista	Jerry Rindone	Member	Yes	
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	Yes	
City of San Diego	----	Dick Murphy (Vice Chair)	Member	Yes	
County of San Diego	----	Bill Horn	Alternate	Yes	
Metropolitan Transit Development Board	MTDB	Leon Williams	Alternate	Yes	
North County Transit Development Board	City of Vista	Judy Ritter	Member	Yes	
	City of Oceanside	Jack Feller	Alternate	Yes	
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority	City of Oceanside	Terry Johnson	Member	Yes	
	City of Lemon Grove	Mary Sessom	Alternate	Yes	
ADVISORY/LIAISON Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	Yes	
	—	Bill Figge	Alternate	No	