

REGIONAL PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES

November 14, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of October 24, 2003

The Joint Meeting of the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee (RPC) and the SANDAG Transportation Committee (TC) was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Committee Chairs Lori Holt Pfeiler (RPC, North County Inland), and Joe Kellegian (TC, North County Coastal).

Item 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The chairs thanked those present for their attendance. They explained that this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees, as well as the public, to review, discuss and comment on the proposed overall policy and planning framework of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The framework will also be discussed at SANDAG's November 7, 2003 Policy Board meeting.

Attendees included: James Bond (San Diego County Water Authority); Mickey Cafagna (North County Inland); Bill Chopyk (San Diego Unified Port District); David Drucker (NCTD); Bob Emery (MTDB); Jack Feller (North County Coastal); Niall Fritz (TWG); Christy Guerin (North County Coastal); Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal); Terry Johnson (San Diego County Regional Airport Authority); Jerry Jones (East County); Joe Kellejian (North County Coastal); Karen King (NCTD); Jack Limber (MTDB); Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego); Patricia McCoy (South County); Phil Monroe (South County); Ron Morrison (South Bay); Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans); Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland); Jerry Rindone (South Bay); Corky Smith (North County Inland); and Leon Williams (MTDB).

Item 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS / MEMBER COMMENTS

Chuck Lungerhausen, a concerned San Diego citizen speaking on behalf of physically disabled commuters, spoke in favor of sales tax increases to fund transportation. He stated that more funding is needed for transportation than currently available, particularly for accessibility.

Noel Reudeck, also a concerned San Diego citizen speaking on behalf of physically disabled commuters, added his agreement to Chuck Lungerhausen's statement.

Jeff Rowland, a citizen of the City of Encinitas representing himself, commented on the need for universal design when linking city transportation plans together, and suggested that SANDAG develop a resolution to assist each jurisdiction in acquiring the policies necessary to ensure universal design.

Item 4. REVIEW OF THE OVERALL POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP)

The Regional Comprehensive Plan includes an overall policy and planning framework which strengthens the connection between land use and transportation and establishes a structure for future transportation project evaluation criteria. Bob Leiter of SANDAG made a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the following key issues:

1. How should the RCP be structured?
2. What kinds of policies, actions, and criteria will strengthen the connection between transportation and land use?
3. How should transportation planning and evaluation processes be designed to effectively implement the RCP?

The presentation identified seven "target improvement areas" for which RCP policies and actions are recommended:

- Implement 2030 RTP "Mobility Network"
- Improve connectivity of transportation systems
- Provide adequate transportation funding
- Facilitate coordination among jurisdictions
- Consider mobility in approving new land uses
- Design development to reduce auto dependency
- Align timing of transportation and land use

Committee member comments included:

- Concerning the timing of transit and highway development along with growth, how do we keep from falling further behind, especially for very large subdivisions?
- About six cities currently are built out and have already contributed to smart growth. The intent should be to look at existing smart growth areas in the same light as developing areas, particularly for enhancement opportunities.

- Staff is still working on definitions of what constitutes smart growth communities, vis-a-vis criteria, and that process will need to be refined even after the draft RCP is presented to the Board for action this December.
- The plan needs to take into consideration the culture change necessary to achieve smart growth. Commuters must not always think of the car as the only available transportation mode.
- The concept of sub-regional planning is sound. Each of the subregions should work together in transportation and land use planning and implementation.
- Regarding the extension of *TransNet*: Double the money and do it in half the time.
- Concerning the concept of local control: Would jurisdictions give up local control over projects of regional significance for regional transportation funding investments?
- It is cheaper to build in the hinterlands because society is subsidizing that growth. Why not subsidize development in central areas and penalize outer areas?
- There will always be a need for parking, even in smart growth areas.
- It all comes down to two things: Money, and convincing people to live in a different way.
- Policy-makers will need to take the first steps in making a culture change.
- There is a strong need to create positive experiences when using transit.
- It is a good idea to merge all transportation criteria to one system using the proposed evaluated criteria themes.
- Higher population densities close to transit are key to making transit work.
- There need to be “teeth,” or consequences, in the RCP to enhance implementation of the RCP.
- The Plan should be primarily incentive-based.

Item 4. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Hoffman, a resident of San Diego, stated that study after study shows daily public transportation commuter volume is a total of 2% during peak hours, and about 20% at other times. These people are traveling downtown via public transit because it is less expensive than paying to park, with only the elite of our society

being able to afford to drive and park downtown daily. He expressed frustration, and asked why SANDAG is bothering to pursue the Plan.

Item 5. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Upcoming meetings will be held as follows:

1. SANDAG Policy Development Board Meeting on the Overall Policy and Planning Framework for the RCP: Friday, November 7, 2003, at SANDAG from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon.
2. Transportation Committee Meeting: Friday, November 14, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
3. Revised Regional Planning Committee Meeting: Friday, November 14, 2003, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairs Holt Pfeiler and Kellejian adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.