A Forum for Regional Decision-making

The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. The agency builds consensus, makes strategic plans, obtains and allocates resources, and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region’s quality of life.

On January 1, 2003, a new state law (SB 1703) consolidated all of the roles and responsibilities of SANDAG with many of the transit functions of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD). SANDAG now is responsible for transit planning, funding allocation, project development, and construction in the San Diego region, in addition to its ongoing transportation responsibilities and other regional roles.

Leadership

SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and county supervisors from each of the region’s 19 local governments. Supplementing these voting members are advisory representatives from Imperial County, Caltrans, MTS, NCTD, the U.S. Department of Defense, San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego County Water Authority, Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association, and Mexico. The Board of Directors is assisted by a professional staff of planners, engineers, and research specialists.

Responsibilities

Current major initiatives are jump-starting transportation projects with TransNet funding, the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, and an update of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Monthly Board and Policy Committee meetings provide the public forums and decision points for significant regional issues such as growth and land use, transportation and transit funds, environmental management, housing, open space, air quality, energy, fiscal management, economic development, and public safety. SANDAG Directors establish policies, adopt plans, allocate transportation funds, and develop programs for regional issues. These interdependent and interrelated responsibilities permit a more streamlined, comprehensive, and coordinated approach to planning for the region’s future. Citizens and representatives from community, civic, environmental, education, and business, groups are involved in the planning and approval process by participating in committees, workshops, and public hearings.

Each year, SANDAG adopts an overall work program and budget with federal, state, and local funds to support its regional responsibilities. The fiscal year 2008 program budget, covering the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, totals $359 million, and includes major items such as building highway and transit projects using TransNet sales tax dollars; conducting a comprehensive update of the Regional Transportation Plan; implementing the TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program; partnering with our neighbors to enhance border planning; developing the ARJIS Enterprise System; and expanding the 511 traffic information system.
THE SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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As of July 1, 2007