

SANBAG 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Platform

Funding

SANBAG will seek:

- The highest level of federal transportation dollars to California and San Bernardino County.
- Early action on extending and expanding the federal Surface Transportation bill (MAP-21).

SANBAG will support funding including, but not limited to:

- Federal investment in interstate highways, transit, and intercity, commuter, and higher speed rail.
- Goods movement projects addressing community impacts and the environment.
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and new technologies that maximize the productivity of existing infrastructure.
- The safe development and operation of all transportation modes in San Bernardino County.
- Airport ground access and other airport development needs in San Bernardino County.
- Support efforts for Council of Government development and funding.

SANBAG will advocate for the protection of current transportation revenues and accelerated national investment in infrastructure:

- Support regional consensus building efforts for potential new funding strategies for transportation, including strategies modeled on California State Local Partnership Program (SLPP).
- Oppose efforts to eliminate or erode contract authority for the Highway Trust Fund and support efforts to maintain the principle that transportation-based revenue should be reserved only for transportation purposes.
- Support the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program which provides Federal credit assistance in the form of direct Treasury loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit to finance highway, rail, and green energy projects of national and regional significance.
- Support Build America Bonds program to help states and localities pursue needed capital projects which build infrastructure.

Goods Movement

- SANBAG will advocate for federal investment in goods movement infrastructure, and policies that properly recognize Southern California and San Bernardino County's role as the nation's premier containerized freight gateway.
- Support targeted funding for goods movement projects of national significance that are beyond the funding capacity of local and state transportation programs and budgets (e.g. dedicated exclusive clean truck lanes).
- Advocate that any federal goods movement program is funded at a level that is commensurate with national needs.
- Ensure that revenues generated by any fee that is levied on freight be specifically designated to fund projects that mitigate congestion, air quality, and community impacts directly associated with the movement of freight, and a clear causal relationship should exist between the freight system on which fees are levied and the impacts to be mitigated.
- Ensure that revenue collected on freight be administered in partnership with local and regional

elected officials and entities impacted by freight movement. SANBAG should be included in any governance structure dealing with revenue collected from freight moved through San Bernardino County.

- Support development of a national/regional freight movement plan with clearly defined ports and corridors and inland improvement needs to provide for timely, reliable freight transport, timely implementation of freight-related strategies needed for attainment of federal health-based air quality standards and mitigation of freight-related impacts in communities.
- Ensure that federal goods movement legislation imposes no unfunded mandates for administration or oversight regarding new revenue mechanisms.
- Oppose legislation that allows triple trailers in urbanized areas of San Bernardino County because of safety concerns with the exception of border cities and/or bump stations, or dedicated truck lanes (e.g. Barstow/Needles).
- Support legislation to reduce road damage from heavy trucks by reduced axle loading rather than an exclusive focus on gross vehicle weight.
- Participate in national dialogue on freight policy and its focus on improving the performance of the freight network and advocate for improving Southern California's freight strategy.

Project Delivery & Innovation

SANBAG will advocate for reforms that will accelerate project procurement and promote flexibility and innovation in financing, while respecting local control:

- Support the use of design-build project delivery.
- Support the streamlining of federal reporting/monitoring requirements.
- Support regional transportation entities implementing pricing measures on federal-aid highways.
- Support local options to privatize various aspects of transportation that would maximize available federal funding (e.g. P3s).
- Support continued delegation to Caltrans of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) oversight.
- Support streamlined environmental revisions that remove duplication of state and federal processes when state regulations exceed federal requirements.

Local Control on Ontario International Airport

The Inland Empire has taken a large economic hit over the past three years as air service and passenger traffic at the Ontario International Airport has plummeted to levels not seen since the 1980s. Under absentee ownership, the severe decline in activity has cost our region \$400 million annually and 8,000 jobs. The City of Ontario proposes to return the airport to local control to work towards improved operations and protect the local economy.

- SANBAG will work with the Congressional delegation and local stakeholders to aggressively advocate for legislation, budget actions or proposals that transfer Ontario International Airport to local control.

Energy

- Support legislation and administrative actions that enable the implementation of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in San Bernardino County.

- Advocate that any federal revenue generated from taxes or fees on energy products used for transportation are utilized for transportation purposes.
- Support utility planning and upgrades of electrical infrastructure to support fleet conversion and possible rail electrification programs.
- Monitor national Cap and Trade policies as they relate to infrastructure impacts.

Transit & Commuter Rail

SANBAG will advocate for policies that keep our rail systems safe and increase federal investment in commuter rail services:

- Support federal funding of Positive Train Control (PTC) and rail safety programs.
- Advocate that the appropriate local or regional entity, such as SANBAG, be partners in on-going federal policy discussions to alter the liability cap for commuter rail accidents.
- Support legislation to change and/or exempt level boarding access requirements for existing commuter rail systems.
- Support policies that recognize the importance and fund commuter rail and transit connectivity to High Speed Rail (HSR).

Air Quality

SANBAG will vigorously protect funding sources for congestion relief and pollution reduction related to the transportation sector:

- Support efforts to secure funds to facilitate the conversion of public sector fleets to alternative fuels to meet local, state and federal fleet conversion mandates, and provide for the replacement of aging alternative fuel fleets.
- Support tax benefits and/or incentives for private sector transportation demand management programs and alternative fuel programs.
- Ensure that federal goods movement legislation considers and underscores federal responsibilities for facilitation of international trade and interstate commerce, and regulation of interstate commerce in ways consistent with attainment of federal air quality standards and NEPA.
- Support efforts to increase the amount and proportion of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds received by SANBAG and the South Coast and Mojave Desert Air Basins.
- Assure that CMAQ funding continues to be allocated directly to transportation commissions, such as SANBAG.
- Participate in the development of livability and sustainability programs for the citizens of San Bernardino County.

Coalitions

SANBAG will continue to partner with public and private sector entities to support common objectives in Washington:

- Foster the unity of the Southern California Consensus Group.
- Gain support for SANBAG's program through participation in the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC), Mobility 21 on a national freight system, and the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority.