

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANBAG starts new fiscal year with new officers and a look at the past “Year in Review”



Paul Eaton
SANBAG President
Mayor of Montclair



Brad Mitzelfelt
SANBAG Vice Pres.
SB County Supervisor

See complete Year in Review on front page of website:
www.sanbag.ca.gov

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – In spite of major financial woes facing our nation, state and county, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) accomplished some major transportation projects during the past fiscal year, it was reported at the July 1 meeting of the SANBAG Board of Directors.

This was the first board meeting of Fiscal Year 2009/2010 that was conducted by SANBAG’s new President Paul Eaton, Mayor of Montclair, and new Vice President Brad Mitzelfelt, San Bernardino County First District Supervisor. The new officers were voted in at the June meeting and took the reins at the July meeting.

Mayor Eaton was vice president of the SANBAG board during the previous year and replaces outgoing President Gary Ovitt, Fourth District County Supervisor.

To reflect on the past year, the SANBAG Board received a presentation and publication summarizing the past “Year in Review.” It was a year most people will never forget, as our nation entered a financial crisis at the same time it was electing a new president.

At the start of FY 2008-2009 (July 2008), SANBAG was still feeling good about the approval of Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF) allocations that had been tentatively approved. However, a crippled California budget soon affected SANBAG’s ability to receive those funds. Consequently, SANBAG spent much

of the year trying to find ways to fund projects in order to keep them moving forward.

By mid-year, home foreclosures and bank failures had sent a ripple effect across the country and around the world, as a collapsing US economy trickled down and the financial crisis intensified.

As the end of the fiscal year approached, SANBAG had cause to celebrate as \$128 million in federal stimulus funds were awarded to SANBAG to keep the I-215 Freeway widening project going. Combining other funding mechanisms, bonding and short-term notes, SANBAG was able to create a local stimulus fund to pass transportation dollars on to cities throughout the county.

Three major projects were completed, including the State Street/University Street Grade Separation bridge in north San Bernardino, the 5th Street Bridge over the I-215 Fwy in downtown San Bernardino, the I-10 Fwy/Live Oak Canyon Road Interchange in Yucaipa, and the Colton Bike and Pedestrian Path. Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for the Ramona Avenue Grade Separation in Montclair and the Transportation Management Center in Fontana.

Many freeway projects, interchanges, grade separations and environmental or engineering design studies advanced during the past year, including the I-10 Fwy/Riverside Interchange in Rialto, the Colton Crossing Rail-to-Rail Grade Separation, I-10/Tippecanoe Interchange, I-15/I-215 Devore Interchange and others.

Completion and adoption of the Measure I 2010-2040 Strategic Plan was among the year's foremost accomplishments. This plan outlines how the multi-billion dollar voter-approved ½ cent sales tax Measure I funds will be spent on transportation projects in the county over the next 30 years. The Mountain/Desert Regions of the county also adopted their segment of the new Strategic Plan.

Metrolink Passenger Train service added four more weekday trains to the San Bernardino Line and the Board approved the contract to conduct the Victor Valley Commuter Needs Study.

Three Park 'n' Ride lots were opened and are located in the cities of Highland, Fontana and Chino Hills. The Freeway Service Patrol assisted 35,000 motorists on the freeway during rush-hour traffic during the past year.

Members of SANBAG's Board made advocacy trips to Washington, D.C., and Sacramento, seeking federal and state funding for transportation projects in the county.

The biggest news of the past year came when SANBAG was awarded stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Through diligent planning and proposal efforts, SANBAG was able to receive \$128 million to continue construction of the I-215 Freeway through San Bernardino. The Board also approved the allocation of \$33.2 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act transit capital funds for rail and transit projects in the county.

Subsequently, SANBAG created a \$31.4 million local stimulus program to grant transportation funds to every city in the county, as well as the county as a whole.

As SANBAG moves on to the next fiscal year, a budget with estimated expenditures of \$294.4 million for transportation projects was adopted. (*see charts below*)

The public can view the entire “Year in Review” report and presentation by going to SANBAG’s website at:

www.sanbag.ca.gov

