

# San Bernardino Associated Governments 2009 State Legislative Program

## Mission Statement

*“SANBAG’s mission is to enhance the quality of life for all residents in San Bernardino County by improving cooperative regional planning, developing an accessible, efficient, multi-modal transportation system, strengthening economic development efforts and exerting leadership in creative problem solving.”*

## OVERALL OBJECTIVES

1. Increase advocacy efforts.
2. Maximize current funding levels.
3. Optimize transportation revenues and funding sources that enhance SANBAG’s ability to develop and deliver planned projects.
4. Maximize flexibility in the use of existing transportation revenues.
5. Streamline administrative and regulatory processes.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

1. **Increase Advocacy Efforts.**
  - A. Influence decision makers to enact policies and supply funds supporting and advancing transportation needs in San Bernardino County.
  - B. Continue to seek money for the maintenance and preservation of our existing roads, highways, bridges and transit.
  - C. Continue to support legislation that aims to reduce congestion and freight impacts to San Bernardino County.
  - D. Increase efforts to advocate for issues relating to housing, water and economic development as directed by the SANBAG Board of Directors.
2. **Maximize current funding levels for transportation programs.**
  - A. Protect existing highway and transit funds, including Proposition 42, Traffic Congestion Relief Program, Public Transportation Account and Transportation Development Act, against suspension, transfer or expenditure for non-transportation uses or for purposes other than those specified in law.

2. **Maximize current funding levels for transportation programs. (Continued)**

- B. Support state budget and California Transportation Commission allocations to fully fund projects for San Bernardino County included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Measure I Expenditure Plan.
- C. Support the protection of the statutory 1.5 percent of revenue cap on administrative fees levied by the Board of Equalization (BOE) for the collection and administration of county transportation sales tax measures.
- D. Support full funding of the regional programming process to provide for regional determination and programming for the use of all current funding sources and to provide total flexibility for all current and future STIP programs.
- E. Support state policies that assure timely allocation of transportation revenue, including allocations of new funds available to the STIP process as soon as they are available.
- F. Continue to support the protection of AB 2766 vehicle license fee funding in the South Coast Air Basin, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), to the cities and the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction. Review Committee (MSRC); support MSRC's independence as a committee.
- G. Support legislation or the development of administrative policies to permit a program credit for local funds spent on accelerating STIP projects through right-of-way purchases, or environmental and engineering consultant efforts.
- H. Support legislation that will allow the state to advance and/or loan funding to local agencies for projects that are funded through sales tax programs, but delayed due to cash flow problems.
- I. Support legislation and/or budgetary actions to assure a fair share of State revenues of intercity rail (provided to Amtrak, Metrolink or other operators) funding for Southern California and San Bernardino County.
- J. Support legislation that ensures equity of benefit from the investment of State passenger rail funds to all passenger rail lines including commuter rail systems.
- K. Oppose legislation that would reduce SANBAG's share of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, the direct allocation of such funds, or the flexibility to use such funds. Also oppose any attempt to change the weighting factors assigned to nonattainment areas.
- L. Oppose any proposal that could reduce San Bernardino County's opportunity to receive transportation funds, including diversion of state transportation revenues for other purposes. Fund sources include, but are not limited to, the State Highway Account (SHA), Public Transit Account (PTA), and Transportation Development Act (TDA) and any ballot initiative sources.

**3. Optimize transportation revenues and funding sources that enhance the ability of SANBAG to implement its transportation programs and plans.**

- A. Support the Southern California Consensus Group, a coalition of transportation stakeholders, that supports project delivery using a regional corridor system plan and corridor share approach to ensure the fair distribution of funding, promote local contributions to projects and address community quality of life concerns throughout the Southern California region.
- B. Support or seek legislation and administrative financing/programming policies and procedures to assure an identified source of funding and an equitable distribution of the funding for bus and rail services in California.
- C. Support legislation to assure that dedicated state intercity rail funding is allocated to the regions administering each portion of the system and assure that funding is distributed on an equitable basis.
- D. Support or seek legislation to assure a dedicated source of funding, other than the State Highway Account, for local streets and road maintenance and repairs.
- E. Support legislation to provide funding for innovative, intelligent/advanced transportation, goods movement, demand management and air quality programs which relieve congestion, improve air quality and enhance economic development.
- F. Support legislation creating the Passenger Rail Improvement, Safety and Modernization (PRISM) program so long as funding comes from new sources of revenue.
- G. Support current local program funding and flexibility of mobility projects, such as Freeway Service Patrol (FSP), ridesharing and call boxes.
- H. Support analysis and consensus building efforts for potential new funding strategies for transportation.

**4. Maximize flexibility in the use of existing transportation revenues.**

- A. Request a fair share for San Bernardino County of any state discretionary funding made available for transportation grants or programs.
- B. Support legislative and/or administrative efforts to improve flexibility with the use of GARVEE bonds, funding such as "AB 3090 financing," and/or other available financing mechanisms to ensure that SANBAG is able to fully leverage state and federal transportation funds during the state's current fiscal crisis.
- C. Support legislation to enable county transportation commissions to utilize design-build and design-sequencing for the design and construction of transportation capital improvements to maximize funding and ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness for project delivery.

**4. Maximize flexibility in the use of existing transportation revenues. (Continued)**

- D. Increase state flexibility to implement performance-based infrastructure projects and public-private partnerships (P3), including innovative finance programs.
- E. Support legislation to ensure that funding for transit operations is commensurate with existing and new demands placed on public transit by air quality and congestion management programs, CalWORKS (welfare to work reform), the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the use of social service funding sources.
- F. Support income tax benefits or incentives that encourage use of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative modes of transportation without reducing existing transportation funding levels. Monitor and, where appropriate, support studies of market-based pricing measure to relieve traffic congestion, improve air quality and/or fund transportation alternatives.
- G. Support legislation to finance cost effective conversion of public transit fleets to alternative fuels.
- H. Work with the State Administration to develop a formal state-level coordination effort with various social service programs to identify transportation needs and funding opportunities for the provision of social service transportation.
- I. Support legislative studies to consider alternative funding for transportation.

**5. Streamline administrative and regulatory processes.**

- A. Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to enhance Caltrans project delivery, such as simultaneous Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and engineering studies, and a reasonable level of contracting out of appropriate activities to the private sector.
- B. Support efforts to simplify and improve the local administration of Transportation Development Act Funds.