

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276  
www.sanbag.ca.gov

### ■ May Board Meeting Briefs

#### ◆ **I-215 and Mt. Vernon Avenue/Washington Street Interchange Project Moves Forward**

SANBAG Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase of the Interstate 215 and Mt. Vernon Avenue/Washington Street interchange project. The agreement allocates the roles and responsibilities between both agencies.

Two alternative designs for this project are being reviewed to replace the current five lane bridge with a possible eight lane structure. Other than widening the bridge, the project also will widen freeway on and off ramps and local streets. Once completed, the project will accommodate higher traffic volumes and allow for the future widening of I-215.

#### ◆ **SANBAG Works to Gain Support for Transit Programs**

SANBAG Board of Directors received information on recent legislative advocacy efforts regarding transit programs and funding.

The objective at the California Transit Association's *Sacramento Lobby Day*, held on March 25, was to gain support for restoring the State Transit Assistance (STA) funds, which are used for transit operations costs. Another objective was to support AB 729, a bill that would provide design-build authority for transit facilities and support AB 1072, which would provide greater flexibility to use transit planning funds under Prop 1B.

#### ◆ **President Obama's 2010 Budget Priorities**

SANBAG's Director of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs, Jennifer Franco, outlined President Barack Obama's priorities for FY 2010, which include \$72.5 billion for the Department of Transportation.

The Obama administration plans to work with Congress to reform surface transportation programs, improve the system's financial viability, enhance transit operations, promote public transit and better target spending to help communities explore innovative solutions to transportation issues.

Specifically highlighted within the budget is a new federal commitment to high speed rail. The administration proposes a five year \$5 billion high-speed rail State grant program. Another key factor to note within the budget is that the administration proposes to no longer score contract authority as budget authority for major transportation infrastructure programs and instead suggests that government score the obligation limitations that are imposed on transportation programs in the annual appropriations bills approved by Congress. In response to this proposal, at least 14 members of Congress, including Senator Barbara Boxer, signed a letter requesting that President Obama repeal this proposal.

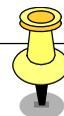
### ◆ **SANBAG Implements Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program**

SANBAG affirms the utilization and participation of qualified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (UDBE) firms in its contracting and procurement activities.

Although the implementation date for the DBE goal and methodology is June 2, 2009, SANBAG will begin implementing the program immediately. The program will ensure nondiscrimination in awarding of contracts, specifically to African American, Asian, Pacific American, native American and Women.

Implementation of this program also means that projects funded through the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 adhere to the new race conscious contract specifications listed within the DBE regulations.

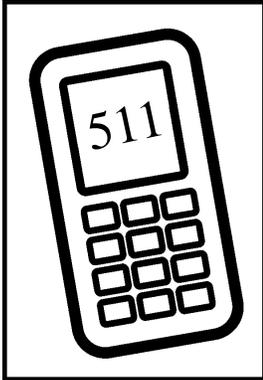
For more information please visit [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep). Information regarding DBE and UDBE will be posted on the SANBAG website soon.



### *Meeting Calendar*

- **May 13:** Administrative Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **May 14:** Major Projects Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **May 15:** Mountain Desert Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **May 20:** Plans and Programs Com., 1:00 p.m.
- **May 21:** Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- **May 14:** I-15/I-215 Interchange Reconstruction (Devore) public meeting, 6:30
- **May 28:** I-10/Live Oak Canyon Road Interchange Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, 10 a.m.

## 511– Motorist Aid Traveler Information System Coming Soon



SANBAG Board of Directors approved for SANBAG staff to develop an agreement with Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) to create an Inland Empire 511 system. The Inland Empire 511 Motorist Aid Traveler Information System will integrate into the overall countywide Rideshare Program, of which RCTC is the lead.

In July 2000 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 511 as the national travel

information phone number. However, the FCC did not provide a funding source and left the implementation and funding decisions to the states and local agencies.

A section in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) requires that a national 511 system, including a comprehensive website, be established by 2010. Currently, 36 states have some form of a 511 system and by October 2009 it is expected that the Inland Empire also will provide this service to its motorists.

The Los Angeles Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (LA SAFE), acting on behalf of Los Angeles County metropolitan Transportation Authority (or Metro), offered to create and fund an initial baseline 511 system, on behalf of Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange and Ventura Counties.

Some advantages to joining with LA SAFE are:

- Initially, there would be no cost to SANBAG;
- Regardless of the origin of the caller, the caller would receive consistent information from a five-county 511 system; and
- LA SAFE bears all liability responsibilities.

Some of the disadvantages to joining with LA SAFE are:

- LA SAFE has final say on all decisions;
- Should any component of the system not be satisfactory to SANBAG, there is no leverage to remedy or implement components, without offering to finance the resolution;
- Should SANBAG want to leave the program for any reason, transition to a system away from LA SAFE would be costly; and
- There could be future cost implications to SANBAG, should additional services want to be implemented and/or if LA SAFE's financial condition changes and requires contributions to continue the program.

However, due to many limitations, lack of control and uncertainties with the LA SAFE 511 system, an Inland Empire 511 system will instead be implemented. The Inland Empire 511 system has more benefits, compared to joining the Los Angeles system. The Inland Empire 511 will leverage, as much as possible, existing programs and products already in place. Both SANBAG and RCTC will have full control over content, reliability and quality. Enhancements to the program also will be easier to implement.

SANBAG and RCTC have a long standing history of joint program implementation and partnership. By teaming up with RCTC on the 511 system, callers will have a smooth flow of information, since SANBAG and RCTC already have experience working together on the 1-800-Commute helpline. 1-800-Commute offers limited services in regard to traveler information, but these services will continue in the new 511 system.

Using data provided by Caltrans, travel times on major highways can be provided through the 511 system, as well as route-specific incidents/sig-alert information provided by the California Highway Patrol. Camera and changeable message signs also would be made available. Callers asking for specific transit or rail information will be forwarded to the applicable transit agency, as it is currently done with 1-800-Commute. During a future phase of the 511 program, a Spanish phone option would be made available and possibly the use of a voice activated transit trip planner. Also, all automated traffic information through the 511 system will assist commuters as they travel not only within the Inland Empire but Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties. For more information about the 511 program contact SANBAG's Director of Air Quality and Mobility, Michelle Kirkhoff at (909) 884-8276.

### Transportation Management Center



*Above: Elected officials break ground on the construction of an Inland Empire Transportation Management Center in Fontana in April.*