

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

◆ Green Lights Provide Smoother Drive

In June 2009, SANBAG completed tier 1 & 2 of the San Bernardino Valley Coordinated Traffic Signal System Program, which synchronized about 650 traffic signals.

The goal of the program was to decrease arterial travel times, congestion and pollution. Before and after studies were conducted on these tiers to evaluate the benefits of signal synchronization. The study found an approximate 22 percent reduction in travel times, 47 percent reduction in number of stops and approximately 27 percent improvement in travel speeds during morning and afternoon peak hours. Mobile source emission reductions are estimated at 15 percent and fuel consumption reductions are estimated at 12 percent. The final two tiers of the program (tiers 3 & 4) are expected to go to construction in Fall 2010.

◆ IE 511 Travel Info. Program set to Launch

SANBAG is partnering with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) to create an Inland Empire 511 system (IE 511). IE 511 will communicate travel information to motorists via phone and website.



Using data provided by Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol, travel times on major highways can be provided through the IE 511 system, as well as route-specific incidents/sig-alert information. Cameras and changeable message signs will be used to assist in the gathering and dissemination of information.

The traveler information services that are provided through the current Rideshare Programs, such as Commute Smart, also will be incorporated into the new IE 511 system. For example, callers asking for specific transit or rail information will be forwarded to the applicable transit agency, as it is currently done.

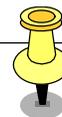
IE 511 will leverage existing programs and products as much as possible. Both SANBAG and RCTC will have full control over content, reliability and quality. Enhancements to the program also will be easy to implement. During a future phase of the program, a Spanish phone option would be made available and possibly the use of a voice activated transit trip planner. Also, all automated traffic information through the IE 511 system will assist commuters as they travel not only within the Inland Empire but Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties.

◆ New Committee Responsibilities

SANBAG's Commuter Rail Committee will now be changed to the Commuter Rail and Transit Committee. The committee will expand its roles to include policy guidance related to transit services.

The recommendation is based upon several transit planning activities in which SANBAG is currently involved. These include the development of a Long Range Transit Plan (LRTP); the San Bernardino to Redlands Corridor Study; further study of extending the LA Metro Gold Line to the Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport; the formation of a Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) in the Valley to improve specialized transit services for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities; the study of commuter needs for the Victor Valley; upcoming studies of improving intercity alternatives between the Valley and Big Bear; and the development and review of the transit operators' biennial Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP).

See meeting calendar below for the next Commuter Rail and Transit Committee meeting.



Meeting Calendar

- **Oct. 14:** Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- **Oct. 15:** Major Projects Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **Oct. 16:** Mountain Desert Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **Oct. 21:** Plans and Programs Com., 12 noon
- **Oct. 22:** Commuter Rail & Transit Com., 12 noon

- **Oct. 15:** High Desert Opportunity, 7:30 a.m.
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, Victorville
- **Oct. 22:** Unmet Transit Needs Hearing, 4 p.m.
Twentynine Palms City Hall
- **Oct. 27:** I-215 Phases 3 & 4 Community Meeting,
Santa Fe Depot, San Bernardino, 4:30-7:30 pm

Special Events Held in September...

I-215, Phase 3 & 4 Groundbreaking



Above: Officials break ground on final phases of I-215 widening project in San Bernardino

On September 14, SANBAG and Caltrans held a ceremonial groundbreaking for Phases 3 & 4 of the I-215 Widening Project, which drew national attention as the country's first \$100 million plus stimulus-funded road improvement project to begin construction.

More than 300 national, state and local officials, businesses and residents gathered at Fairview Ford in Downtown San Bernardino to celebrate the project and jobs that will be created as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Earlier this year, SANBAG led an Inland Empire effort, supported by local agencies and electeds, which successfully secured ARRA funding totaling \$128 for Phase 3 work. Phase three and four work include widening I-215 from Rialto Avenue to University Parkway, as well as the much anticipated I-215 and SR-210 connector ramps.

Among those in attendance at the ceremonial groundbreaking were Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Victor Mendez, State of California Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Dale Bonner, California State Assembly Members Wilmer Amina Carter and Bill Emmerson, and other state and local officials.

Following the ceremony, heavy construction equipment roared and dozens of construction workers began removing fences and clearing brush on the side of the freeway while those in attendance



Left: Crews begin work on I-215 widening immediately after ceremony

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Mobility 21 Southern California Transportation Summit

More than 600 transportation leaders and businesses from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties attended Mobility 21's 8th Annual Southern California Transportation Summit on September 21. The summit was held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles.

Topics of discussion at the day-long summit included:

- ◆ Financing California's transportation infrastructure;
- ◆ Corridor approach to goods movement;
- ◆ Making high speed rail a priority;
- ◆ Making transit and highways work better together;
- ◆ Land use and transportation planning; and
- ◆ Raising transportation infrastructure safety.

A list of IMBY (In My Back Yard) projects were revealed at the summit and include 21 projects targeted at improving rail safety, reducing congestion, moving goods faster, creating the transit system of the 21st century, and moving more people.

Christopher Steiner, Senior staff reporter for *Forbes* Magazine and author of *\$20 per Gallon: How the inevitable Rising Cost of Gasoline Will Change Our Lives for the Better*, was the keynote speaker. Steiner's presentation was as riveting as the title of his book. He states that Americans will turn in their plane tickets for high speed rail tickets and that we will ultimately become a healthier and greener society.

The 2009 Mobility 21 award, which honors an individual or organization that has improved mobility in Southern California through great vision and leadership, was presented to Inland Action, Inc. Inland Action, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan corporation of public spirited citizens who banded together to aid in the economic development of the Inland Empire. Carole Beswick, president and CEO of Inland Action, Inc. accepted the award.



Above: Carole Beswick and Marnie Primmer with Mobility 21 award

Mobility 21 is a six-county coalition bringing together business, civic and public sector leaders to advocate for increased investment in Southern California's transportation network. For more information visit www.mobility21.com.