

# STREET SMART

November 2009

Governments  
**SANBAG**  
Working Together

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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### ◆ Review Period for I-10 Tippecanoe Interchange ends November 20

On October 21, SANBAG and Caltrans released the draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) for the proposed I-10/Tippecanoe Avenue Interchange Improvement Project. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternatives considered, the existing environment that could be affected, the potential impacts, and the avoidance, minimization and/or mitigated measures required.

The draft IS/EA is available for review at many locations, including the SANBAG offices. Comments on the document will be accepted until 5 p.m. on November 20.

For more information about this process or the project as a whole, please visit the SANBAG project web site at [www.sanbag.ca.gov/projects/interchange\\_tippecanoe.html](http://www.sanbag.ca.gov/projects/interchange_tippecanoe.html).

### ◆ Metrolink First Mile Project on Track

SANBAG, in cooperation with Southern California Regional Rail Authority and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, will be seeking a consultant to provide preliminary and final engineering and secure environmental clearance for the Metrolink First Mile project.

The Metrolink First Mile Project is part of the Redlands Passenger Rail Project Alternative Analysis and consists of extending Metrolink service from the San Bernardino Depot to a proposed station at Rialto Avenue and E Street in San Bernardino.

The total project length is approximately one mile and consists of grade crossing improvements at 3rd Street, 2nd Street, Rialto Avenue/1 Street intersection, I-215 overpass, G Street, and E Street. Additional components of the project include retaining walls, drainage facilities, utility protection and relocation, railroad signaling, and more.

Environmental clearance for this project is expected in 2011. Future rail service east of E Street, known as the Redlands Passenger Rail Project, is currently in the Alternative Analysis phase.

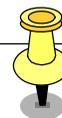


### ◆ SANBAG's ARRA Obligation Plan

SANBAG has obtained a list of projects that could possibly receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds in March 2010.

As of September 2009, 81.5 percent of ARRA funds, a total of \$1.6 billion, has been obligated. The remaining 18.5 percent, a total of \$296 million, must be obligated by March 2, 2010. SANBAG has submitted to Caltrans a list of the following projects that could potentially receive ARRA funds through this redistribution:

- ◆ Highland— Baseline beautification, Cole Ave. to SR 210;
- ◆ Yucaipa— Live Oak Canyon Rd./I-10 landscaping; Wildwood Canyon Rd. street improvements; Oak Glen Rd. street improvements, Bryant St. to Panorama Dr.;
- ◆ Fontana— Pacific Electric Trail, I-15/Duncan Canyon Interchange;
- ◆ Hesperia— Rancho Rd. Railroad Crossing;
- ◆ Victorville— Amethyst Rd, reconstruction and rehabilitation, Bear Valley Rd. to Luna Rd.; and Village Dr. reconstruction and rehabilitation, Mojave Dr. to Air Expressway.



### Meeting Calendar

- **Nov. 12:** Major Projects Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **Nov. 18:** Administrative Committee, 11 a.m.
- **Nov. 19:** Commuter Rail & Transit Com., 12 noon
- **Nov. 20:** Mountain Desert Committee, 9:00 a.m.

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- **Nov. 19:** I-15/I-215 (Devore) Interchange Public Mtg., 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Kimbark Elementary School, Devore

## Santa is Coming To Town



For the 13th year in a row Metrolink will cruise through station cities with the 2009 Holiday Toy Express, which features a 450-ton train decorated with holiday displays and 50,000 twinkling lights. The holiday train delivers a live musical performance with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, costumed characters, and sign along. The event is free and fun for the whole family.

Santa's glittering train will visit 47 cities in six counties, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Orange, San Diego, and Los Angeles. Traveling from city to city, the train will entertain families and collect toys for those in need of some holiday goodwill this season. Before heading out to the station to enjoy the event, guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Southland Firefighters' "Spark of Love" toy drive, which is supported by Metrolink and KABC Channel 7.

Local firefighters typically collect more than 100,000 toys annually for the toy drive during Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express season. All toys collected will be distributed by firefighters to families in each local community, who may not be able to afford gifts this holiday season.

The Metrolink Holiday Toy Express will stop at San Bernardino County station cities on November 21 and 29, and December 19:

### November 21

- ◆ Rancho Cucamonga 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Fontana 6:05 p.m.
- ◆ San Bernardino 7:15 p.m.
- ◆ Rialto 8:15 p.m.

### November 29

- ◆ East Ontario 5:50 p.m.

### December 19

- ◆ Claremont 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Montclair 7:45 p.m.

While Santa's sleigh is magical, his train cannot run in the rain. In the event of inclement weather, please call Metrolink customer service at (800) 371-LINK (5465) to find out whether your hometown visit will be rescheduled. For more information, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

## High Speed Rail: Full Speed Ahead

The development of a high speed rail system in California, which would operate at speeds of up to 200 mph and greater, has been ongoing for more than thirteen years. The system ultimately would connect the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento with Los Angeles, through the Central Valley, and San Diego, through the Inland Empire.

The California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) has issued a Notice of Preparation for a project Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire segment. Scoping meetings were held in each county in October and November. At the meetings, attendees were able to view display boards



*Above: CHSR Scoping Meeting held on November 3 in San Bernardino*

describing the project, view video simulations, have one-on-one conversations with project planners, and provide their feedback

and comments about the project. Two meetings were held in San Bernardino County (Ontario and San Bernardino), attracting more than 140 attendees combined.

Other than service at the Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport, alternative alignments under consideration include: diverting the line south following the I-15 corridor to Murrieta with a stop south of Corona; or diverting north to San Bernardino and then south through the City of Riverside following I-215 to Murrieta. From Murrieta either alignment would continue to San Diego via I-15. A trip from San Bernardino/Riverside to Los Angeles would take about 35 minutes and a trip from San Bernardino/Riverside to San Francisco would take approximately three hours and ten minutes.

High speed trains will reduce congestion on roads and freeways, use one third the energy of air travel and one fifth the energy of auto travel. They also will eliminate more than 12 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

One of the hurdles facing the CHSRA has been establishing a financial plan for the project. Proposition 1A, the high speed rail bond, passed by voters in November 2008, will provide \$9 billion to advance the project, with another \$1 billion provided for connections with other transportation systems.

Construction of the system could begin as early as 2011 for this 800 mile statewide system. For more information visit <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov>.