

STREET SMART

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Newsletter and Meeting Schedule for the SANBAG Board of Directors

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

SANBAG NEWS

Employees Receive Five Year Service Awards

SANBAG President Bill Jahn, (center) congratulated Duane Baker, SANBAG Director of Management Services, and Ellen Pollema, Transportation Planning



Analyst, on completing five years of service with SANBAG.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Community Vital Signs Initiative

As part of the ongoing effort to build a healthier San Bernardino County, Trudy Raymundo, Director for the County Department of Public Health, highlighted the value of the Community Vital Signs Initiative to the SANBAG Board of Directors.

"It's extremely critical that all sectors of our community work together to reach the goals that we all share," Raymundo offered.

It was emphasized that we must understand and appreciate the indicators of poor health. We need to develop strategies and action steps that are community driven. We must identify and inventory our existing resources to optimize our effort. A goal to produce a report for launching this initiative is set for November 2013.

County Charter Amendment is Proposed

The County of San Bernardino adopted their original Charter in 1913. During the past century, the County made forty amendments to the Charter. "To bring us into the 21st Century, we are analyzing our policies and want to formalize the Charter to include best practices," reported Chair of the Board of Supervisors Janice Rutherford. "Even when laws are written down, it does not mean they should not be altered as times change." Rutherford informed the SANBAG Board that the Charter has not kept up with changing government. Thus, the County Board of Supervisors recently directed work to begin on ways to modernize the County Charter and to prepare amendments to go before the voters to accomplish those changes. "This is our opportunity to completely rewrite the County Charter and get input from SANBAG and the cities," concluded Rutherford.

Desert Transit Consolidation Study

The SANBAG Board of Directors received the completed Desert Transit Consolidation Study and approved the recommendation that Barstow Area Transit (BAT) merge with the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA). Consolidating the two agencies will provide savings due to lower administrative and operating costs. Benefits of these savings may be realized in enhanced Barstow-Victorville (BV) Link service, the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin service, and improved services on routes throughout the VVTA and BAT service regions and adjoining areas. In addition, cost savings to operate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service could be realized by combining operating costs of both agencies.

Measure I Receipts Reported

SANBAG has now completed its third fiscal year of the renewed Measure I, which is collecting a 1/2 cent sales tax for transportation from 2010-2040. The following revenues were collected during these years:

FY 2010/2011	\$115,603,070
FY 2011/2012	\$130,808,745
FY 2012/2013	\$138,340,881

SEPTEMBER 2013

SEP 11	General Policy	9:00 am
SEP 12	Metro Valley Study	9:00 am
CANCELLED	Commuter Rail/Transit	
SEP 13	Mountain/Desert	9:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 8	SANBAG Vendor Fair Santa Fe Depot Lobby	9 am-Noon
OCT 17	High Desert Opportunity Victorville Fairgrounds	All day
OCT 29	Mobility 21 Summit Los Angeles, Marriott at LA Live	All day

Two Major Construction Projects Completed in August 2013

I-15/LaMesa-Nisqualli Interchange

Giving drivers another east/west option in Victor Valley



The San Bernardino County Fire Department flew the American Flag high overhead for the more than 300 people in attendance for the La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange Dedication Ceremony on August 23.

On a warm and windy August afternoon, hundreds of local business owners and residents joined local, state, and federal officials for the dedication of the La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange in Victorville.

The new \$70 million interchange is a welcome addition to the high desert communities that experience extreme traffic conditions on Interstate 15 and local roads near central Victorville. La Mesa and Nisqualli Roads are expected to relieve the heavy burden of traffic that has existed for years on Bear Valley Road and Palmdale Road.

The project started with a bang back in January 2012 when Mayor Pro Tem and SANBAG Board Member Ryan McEachron hosted a ceremony that ended with 'blasting' away the impossible label that was associated with this project that had been in the planning stages since 1990. Less than two years later the project has been completed on time and on budget.



Victorville Mayor Jim Cox cuts the ribbon for the first crossing over the new bridge.

Finishing touches are ongoing during the final days of the contract as the public awaits the full operation of the interchange. Until then, local traffic has enjoyed the east/west alternative helping to improve local circulation and enhance response time for emergency service providers.

Colton Crossing Opens to Train Traffic

Rail gridlock at one of the busiest at-grade rail intersections in the country has now been eliminated with the completion of the Colton Crossing Rail-to-Rail Grade Separation in Colton, CA. Project partners and the public celebrated this historic occasion on August 28, 2013, as east/west Union Pacific (UPRR) trains began to pass over the north/south Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trains via the new 40 ft. tall rail bridge (see photo, p. 1).

This project relieves road and rail congestion, reduces wait times for motorists at rail crossings, and improves air quality in the region. This crucial infrastructure project was 131 years in the making, following a colorful history that included the infamous Earp brothers patrolling the crossing. Today, approximately 100 trains per day pass through the junction. The project was funded by federal grants, taxpayer-approved state funding, and BNSF and Union Pacific funds. The total project cost was \$93 million, which was \$107 million below the engineer's original estimate.

Project partners included the U.S. Department of Transportation, Caltrans, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Riverside County Transportation Commission, City of Colton, and the two railroads, BNSF and UPRR.



(top photo) More than 300 people attended the historic dedication ceremony for Colton Crossing; (lower photo) speakers and elected officials gather to cut the ribbon for the official opening of Colton Crossing.