

## **December 13, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

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Chairwoman Nora Vargas (County of San Diego) called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:03 a.m.

#### **1. Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments**

Public Comments: Michael Brando, Truth, Ellen Bure, Cesar Javier, Purita Javier.

Member Comments: Mayor Rebecca Jones (City of San Marcos), Council President Joe LaCava (City of San Diego).

#### **Consent**

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Directors was asked to approve the minutes from its December 6, 2024, meeting.

#### **3. Policy Advisory Committee Actions**

The Board of Directors was asked to ratify the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committees as noted in the report.

#### **4. Regional Safety Planning Updates**

This report provided an update on regional safety efforts in developing the Regional Vision Zero Action Plan.

#### **5. FY 2024 Transportation Development Act Audit Extension Requests**

The Board of Directors was asked to approve Transportation Development Act audit extension requests for the City of Santee and SANDAG until March 27, 2025, as permitted by the California Public Utilities Code and the California Code of Regulations.

#### **6. Review of Draft Board Agenda**

The Board of Directors was asked to approve the draft agenda for the January 10, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

#### **7. Approval of Proposed Budget Amendment and Contract Award for the Uptown Bikeways: Washington Street and Mission Valley Bikeways Project**

The Board of Directors was asked to:

1. Approve the acceptance of additional funds from the City of San Diego in the amount of \$359,000;
2. Approve an amendment to the FY 2025 Program Budget for the Uptown Bikeways: Washington Street and Mission Valley Bikeway Project (CIP Project No. 1223084), increasing the total project budget by \$6.495 million; and
3. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award a contract to Dick Miller, Inc., for the construction of the Uptown Bikeways: Washington Street and Mission Valley Bikeways Project.

## **8. FY 2025 Proposed Budget Amendments for the New Regional Tolling Back Office System project on SR 125 and I-15**

The Board of Directors was asked to approve an amendment to the FY 2025 Annual Program Budget for the New Regional Back-Office System project (Capital Improvement Project Nos. 1400406 and 1400407).

Public Comments: Cesar Javier, Ian Hembree, Michael Brando, Truth, Mark, Katheryn Rhodes, The Original Dra, Consuelo, Paul Jamason, Paul the Bold.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor John Minto (Santee) and a second by Councilmember Carolina Chavez (Chula Vista), the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion passed.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Lesa Heebner (Solana Beach), Councilmember Melanie Burkholder (Carlsbad), Councilmember Chavez, Councilmember John Duncan (Coronado), Mayor Terry Gaasterland (Del Mar), Mayor Bill Wells (El Cajon), Mayor Bruce Ehlers (Encinitas), Mayor Dane White (Escondido), Councilmember Patricia Dillard (La Mesa), Mayor Racquel Vasquez (Lemon Grove), Councilmember Luz Molina (National City), Councilmember Rick Robinson (Oceanside), Councilmember Vivian Moreno (City of San Diego), Mayor Rebecca Jones (San Marcos), and Mayor Minto.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Imperial Beach, Poway, and Vista.

## **Chair's Report**

### **9. Chief Executive Officer FY 2025 Performance Goals and Objectives**

The Board of Directors was asked to provide feedback on the FY 2025 performance goals and objectives for the Chief Executive Officer.

Public Comments: Michael Brando, Truth, Mark, Cesar Javier, Paul the Bold, Katheryn Rhodes, The Original Dra, Consuelo.

Action: Upon a motion by Chairwoman Vargas and a second by Second Vice Chair Heebner, the Board of directors voted to approve the proposed FY 2025 Performance Goals and Objectives for the Chief Executive Officer.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Heebner, Councilmember Burkholder, Councilmember Chavez, Councilmember Duncan, Mayor Gaasterland, Mayor Wells, Mayor Ehlers, Councilmember Dillard, Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Molina, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Moreno, Mayor Jones, and Mayor Minto.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Escondido, Imperial Beach, Poway, and Vista.

### **10. Year in Review**

Chief Executive Officer Mario Orso; Ann Fox, Caltrans; Sharon Cooney, MTS; and Mary Dover, NCTD; presented an update on the delivery of key projects and programs in 2024.

Public Comments: Truth, Michael Brando, Mark, Cesar Javier, Paul the Bold, Katheryn Rhodes, The Original Dra, Consuelo, Blair Beekman.

Councilmember Molina commented that she regularly makes trips using public transit, as it is very accessible in her neighborhood. She recognized that some residents do not have the option to take transit, and that their primary mode of transportation must be their cars. She commented that she is interested in elevating the option of public transportation and spoke in support of the Youth Opportunity

Pass (YOP) program. She highlighted the bus driver strike from earlier in the year, as well as rider safety concerns, but also stated that she had not had negative experiences regarding wait times, frequency, or safety. She inquired about the status of improvements to amenities such as bathrooms for bus and Trolley drivers.

Sharon Cooney responded that they are conducting a transit amenities study to support a policy to distribute those types of amenities.

Councilmember Chavez spoke regarding safety concerns as a barrier for transit ridership. She spoke in support of additional on-site security staff for MTS to ensure that riders were safe. Councilmember Chavez also spoke in support of 15-minute service on all Trolley lines to support the workforce who rely on transit, and in support of a senior opportunity pass similar to the YOP program.

Mayor Jones spoke regarding geographically disadvantaged communities such as Fallbrook, Valley Center, Bonsall, Jamul, Alpine, and Ramona, which are farther away from job centers and high-quality transit. She commented that many residents in those areas live there due to the high cost of housing in the region, and that they should not be penalized or not allowed access to upward mobility because of the areas they live in. Mayor Jones also spoke in support of flexible fleets as an option for the entire region and commented that her constituents have expressed a desire to see flexible fleet service areas expanded in San Marcos.

Mary Dover responded that NCTD will be doing pilot programs in various areas, including Fallbrook, to assess the feasibility of using microtransit in areas that are hard to reach by traditional transit.

Councilmember Burkholder inquired about the average age of transit riders. Sharon Cooney responded that she did not have the exact data, but that a large portion of transit riders are under the age of 30. She confirmed that there is an existing discount for senior riders.

Councilmember Burkholder commented regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on ridership data and stated that she would have preferred a 10-year snapshot of ridership statistics. She spoke in support of repurposing funds to expand flexible fleets and make them more attainable. She also highlighted emerging technologies such as AI and autopiloted cars and encouraged critical thinking about the future. She also requested that Board member comments be provided in the minutes for this report.

Action: Information.

## **Reports**

### **11. TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program**

The Board of Directors was asked to consider the recommendations from the Transportation Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee concerning the evaluation criteria and release of the Cycle 6 Call for Projects for the Smart Growth Incentive Program.

Public Comments: Truth, Michael Brando, Mark, Cesar Javier, Alan C., Katheryn Rhodes, The Original Dra, Paul the Bold, Blair Beekman, Consuelo.

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Minto and a second by Councilmember Chavez, the Board of Directors voted to release the Cycle 6 Call for Projects with no changes to the evaluation criteria or to the call for projects, including the prohibition for applicants to use other TransNet funding as a match.

Yes: Second Vice Chair Heebner, Councilmember Burkholder, Councilmember Chavez, Councilmember Duncan, Deputy Mayor Gaasterland, Mayor Wells, Mayor Ehlers, Mayor White, Councilmember McKay, Councilmember Shu, Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Molina, Councilmember Moreno, Mayor Jones, and Mayor Minto.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Oceanside, Poway, and Vista.

Continued Non-Agenda Public Comment: Mark, Consuelo, Blair Beekman, Paul the Bold, The Original Dra, Katheryn Rhodes.

Continued Non-Agenda Member Comments: Councilmember Duncan.

## **12. Adjournment**

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

Second Vice Chair Heebner adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

## Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors	Title	Name	Attend
City of Carlsbad	Councilmember	Melanie Burkholder (Primary)	Yes
City of Chula Vista	Councilmember	Carolina Chavez (Primary)	Yes
City of Coronado	Councilmember	John Duncan (Primary)	Yes
County of San Diego	Chairwoman	Nora Vargas (Primary)	Yes
County of San Diego	Supervisor	Joel Anderson (Primary)	Yes
City of Del Mar	Mayor	Terry Gaasterland (Primary)	Yes
City of El Cajon	Mayor	Bill Wells (Primary)	Yes
City of Encinitas	Mayor	Bruce Ehlers (Primary)	Yes
City of Escondido	Mayor	Dane White (Primary)	Yes
City of Imperial Beach	Councilmember	Jack Fisher (Primary)	No
City of La Mesa	Councilmember	Patricia Dillard (Alternate)	Yes
City of Lemon Grove	Mayor	Racquel Vasquez (Primary)	Yes
City of National City	Councilmember	Luz Molina (Primary)	Yes
City of Oceanside	Councilmember	Rick Robinson (Alternate)	Yes
City of Poway	Mayor	Steve Vaus (Primary)	No
City of San Diego	Councilmember	Raul Campillo (Alternate)	Yes
City of San Diego	Councilmember	Vivian Moreno (Alternate)	Yes
City of San Marcos	Mayor	Rebecca Jones (Primary)	Yes
City of Santee	Councilmember	John Minto (Primary)	Yes
City of Solana Beach	Councilmember	Lesa Heebner (Primary)	Yes
City of Vista	Deputy Mayor	Katie Melendez (Primary)	No
Caltrans	Executive Director	Ann Fox (Alternate)	Yes
Metropolitan Transit System	Deputy Mayor	Matthew Leyba-Gonzalez (Primary)	No
North County Transit District	Deputy Mayor	Jewel Edson (Primary)	Yes
Imperial County	Supervisor	Jesus Eduardo Escobar (Primary)	No
U.S. Department of Defense	Executive Director	Anna Shepherd (Alternate)	Yes
Port of San Diego	Commissioner	Dan Malcolm (Primary)	No
San Diego County Water Authority	Director	Mel Katz (Primary)	Yes
SDCRAA	Director	Gil Cabrera (Primary)	Yes
Mexico	Consul General	Alicia Kerber (Primary)	No
SCTCA	Chairwoman	Erica Pinto (Primary)	No
Planning Association	Chairwoman	Robin Joy Maxson	Yes