



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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# County of San Diego

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CLEAN OF THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS

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1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

**DATE:** April 21, 2009

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
Air Pollution Control Board

**SUBJECT:** **Keep The Transnet Promise!**

## **SUMMARY:**

In 2004, County residents voted to extend a half-cent transportation sales tax for 40 years, known as the TransNet Extension. The current voter-approved funding distribution formula is approximately one-third for highways, one-third for transit operations/capital, and one-third for local streets and roads. This Board did not support the TransNet Extension, partly because the ballot measure included a provision that would enable the shift of taxpayer revenue from roads and highways to transit upon a 2/3 majority vote of the San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) Board of Directors.

Here we are only one year into the 40-year sales tax program and the discussion to change the voter-approved distribution formula is already taking place. Some are suggesting a shift from highway and local streets and road dollars to transit operations. In addition, there have been suggestions to utilize one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars (Recovery Act) to assist transit operators with closing their budget gaps. There may also be efforts to shift the Air Pollution Control District's portion of Vehicle License Fees to fund ongoing transit operations. This is one-time money and should be used for capital expenditures. And, to breach a promise to the voters is wrong.

Today's action will put the County of San Diego on record in opposition to these possible shifts of funding to transit operations.

**SUBJECT:      Keep The Transnet Promise!**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price**

1. Oppose the transfer of Transnet highway and local street and road dollars to transit operations.
2. Oppose changes to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding allocations approved on March 27, 2009 by the SANDAG Board of Directors for capital infrastructure projects.
3. Oppose changes to TransNet allocations to local governments approved on March 27, 2009 by the SANDAG Board of Directors that were based on an exchange with Economic Stimulus funds received by SANDAG.
4. Oppose utilizing Air Pollution Control District's Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funding for the purpose of funding transit operations.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for signature by the Chairwoman and Vice Chairwoman to the Executive Director and Board Members of the San Diego Association of Governments reflecting the actions included in this Board Action.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1987, San Diego County residents voted to approve a half-cent transportation sales tax for transportation improvements throughout the county. In 2004, County residents voted to extend a half-cent transportation sales tax for 40 years, known as the TransNet Extension. The current voter-approved funding distribution formula is approximately one-third for highways, one-third for transit operations/capital, and one-third for local streets and roads. This is year one of the 40-year program.

This Board did not support the TransNet Extension. One reason for this opposition was that the ballot measure included a provision that would enable the shift of taxpayer revenue from local streets and roads and highways to transit upon a 2/3 majority vote of the San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) Board of Directors. We opposed the ability to shift dollars because this would be a breach of the public trust, completely changing the original voter-approved ballot language.

**SUBJECT: Keep The Transnet Promise!**


There have been recent discussions to transfer highway and local street and road dollars to transit operations. Our Board supports transit. However, only 3.3% of commuters use transit now and it's projected in 2030 the percent will be 7.4%. Transit operators currently receive more than 34% of TransNet Extension tax revenue. We encourage collaborative efforts to assist transit operators in identifying dollars that may help them with their ongoing operations costs, however, not to the detriment of our County programs, highway or local streets and road improvements.

In addition, there have been suggestions to utilize one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars (Recovery Act) to assist transit operators with closing their budget gaps. Stimulus dollars should be allocated to TransNet Early Action Projects that SANDAG has identified (SR 76, Interstate 805 at Carroll Canyon and the Grossmont Station Pedestrian Enhancement Project). Stimulus funding that local governments will receive (40% allocation to county and cities) should be spent on projects determined by those local governmental entities. This is one-time money and should be used for capital expenditures.

Finally, the Air Pollution Control District's portion of the Vehicle License Fee is utilized to match grant opportunities, which enable the District to improve air quality through a variety of activities. The dollars generated from these fees enable the Air Pollution Control District to fund its mobile source emission reductions programs and leverage significant dollars for further motor vehicle emissions reductions. Diverting APCD funding to assist transit operators would result in fewer dollars flowing to our region for air quality improvements.

Today's action will put the County of San Diego on record in opposition to these proposed shifts of funding to transit operations. We urge your support.

Respectfully Submitted,



DIANNE JACOB  
Chairwoman



PAM SLATER-PRICE  
Vice Chairwoman

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

- COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW  Yes
- GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR  Yes  N/A
- CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  Yes  N/A  
Requires Four Votes  Yes  No
- GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR  Yes  N/A
- CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER  Yes  N/A
- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  Yes  N/A

Other Concurrence(s):

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