



## Executive Committee Agenda

Friday, October 13, 2023  
9 a.m.

Welcome to SANDAG. The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2023, will be held in person in the SANDAG Board Room. While Executive Committee members will attend in person, members of the public will have the option of participating either in person or virtually.

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**Public Comments:** Members of the public may speak to the Executive Committee on any item at the time the Executive Committee is considering the item. Public speakers are generally limited to three minutes or less per person.

Persons who wish to address the members on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on non-agendized issues, may email comments to the Clerk at [clerkoftheboard@sandag.org](mailto:clerkoftheboard@sandag.org) (please reference Executive Committee meeting in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain). Comments received by 4 p.m. the business day before the meeting will be provided to members prior to the meeting. All comments received prior to the close of the meeting will be made part of the meeting record.

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# SANDAG

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**Vision Statement:** *Pursuing a brighter future for all*

**Mission Statement:** *We are the regional agency that connects people, places, and innovative ideas by implementing solutions with our unique and diverse communities.*

**Our Commitment to Equity:** *We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve. We acknowledge we have much to learn and much to change; and we firmly uphold equity and inclusion for every person in the San Diego region. This includes historically underserved, systemically marginalized groups impacted by actions and inactions at all levels of our government and society.*

*We have an obligation to eliminate disparities and ensure that safe, healthy, accessible, and inclusive opportunities are available to everyone. The SANDAG equity action plan will inform how we plan, prioritize, fund, and build projects and programs; frame how we work with our communities; define how we recruit and develop our employees; guide our efforts to conduct unbiased research and interpret data; and set expectations for companies and stakeholders that work with us.*

*We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.*

# Executive Committee

Friday, October 13, 2023

## Comments and Communications

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

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Executive Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee that is not on this agenda. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to five public speakers. If the number of public comments under this agenda item exceeds five, additional public comments will be taken at the end of the agenda. Executive Committee members and SANDAG staff also may present brief updates and announcements under this agenda item.

## Consent

### +2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

*Tessa Lero, SANDAG*

Approve

The Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes from its September 8, 2023, meeting.

[September 8, 2023, EC Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

### +3. Review of Draft Board Agendas

*Ariana Galvan, SANDAG*

Approve

+3A. October 27, 2023

+3B. November 3, 2023

[3A - Draft 102723 BOD Agenda.pdf](#)

[3B - Draft 110323 BOD Agenda.pdf](#)

## Reports

### +4. Proposed FY 2024 Program Budget Amendment: Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Awards

*Julian Podgruszewski and Jenny Russo, SANDAG*

Recommend

The Executive Committee is asked to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2024 Program Budget, accepting \$4,680,000 in Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds.

[FY 2024 Budget Amend\\_Caltrans STPG Awards.pdf](#)

[Att. 1 - 3402100-DT Cen Mob H&C.pdf](#)

[Att. 2 - 3402200-DT LaMesa Troll Prioritization.pdf](#)

[Att. 3 - 3402300-Reconnect Communities Study.pdf](#)

[Att. 4 - 3402400-SD Regnl VMT Mitigation.pdf](#)

### +5. Legislative Status Report

*Hannah Stern, Jose Alvarez, and Hector Vanegas, SANDAG*

Information

Staff will present an update on SANDAG legislative and policy activities.

[Legislative Status Report.pdf](#)

[Att. 1 - Report from EWA LLA, State Report.pdf](#)

[Att. 2 - Report from PPA, Federal Report.pdf](#)

**6. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, at 9 a.m.

**7. Adjournment**

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

October 13, 2023

## September 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes

### [View Meeting Video](#)

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

#### **1. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments**

Blair Beekman, member of the public, commented regarding shoreline preservation and sand issues.

TheOriginalDra, member of the public, commented regarding man-made disasters.

#### **Consent**

#### **2. Review of Draft Board Agendas**

The Executive Committee was asked to approve the draft agendas for the September 22, 2023, and October 13, 2023, Board meetings, as amended to add items to the September 22, 2023, Board agenda to consider health impacts and the regional road usage charge in the 2025 Regional Plan and SANDAG's role in efforts to address the Tijuana River Valley crisis.

#### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Executive Committee was asked to approve the minutes from its July 14, 2023, meeting.

#### **4. FY 2024 Annual Working Groups Review and Charter Amendments**

The Executive Committee was asked to review the FY 2024 Annual Working Groups for feedback on possible revisions to membership or scope. Additionally, the Executive Committee is asked to approve the proposed revisions to the Mobility Working Group, Shoreline Preservation Working Group, and Social Equity Working Group Charters.

TheOriginalDra commented regarding various regional issues.

Blair Beekman commented regarding Consent Agenda Item No. 4, and various other issues.

Action: Upon a motion by Second Vice Chair Lesa Heebner (North County Coastal), and a second by Mayor Racquel Vasquez (East County), the Executive Committee voted to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended to add items to the September 22, 2023, Board agenda to consider health impacts and the regional road usage charge in the 2025 Regional Plan and SANDAG's role in efforts to address the Tijuana River Valley crisis.

The motion passed.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Heebner, Councilmember Vivian Moreno (City of San Diego), Mayor Vasquez, and Mayor Rebecca Jones (North County Inland).

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: South County.

## Reports

### 5. Service Bureau Annual Report and Project Prioritization

Senior Director of Data Science Dr. Cindy Burke presented a report on FY 2022 Service Bureau operations and an update on Service Bureau transportation modeling efforts.

TheOriginalDra commented in opposition to this item.

Blair Beekman commented regarding work being done in Santa Clara County.

Action: Information only.

### 6. SourcePoint Annual Report and Recommendation for Dissolution

Dr. Burke presented the item.

The Executive Committee was asked to adopt Resolution No. 2024-01 approving the dissolution of SourcePoint and authorizing staff to take all necessary action to complete the dissolution.

TheOriginalDra commented in opposition to this item.

Action: Upon a motion by Second Vice Chair Heebner, and a second by Mayor Vasquez, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 2024-01, approving the dissolution of SourcePoint and authorized staff to take all necessary action to complete the dissolution.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Heebner, Councilmember Moreno, Mayor Vasquez, and Mayor Jones.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: South County.

### 7. Legislative Status Report

Senior Government Relations Analysts Hannah Stern and Jose Alvarez, and Border Manager Hector Vanegas presented an update on SANDAG legislative and policy activities.

TheOriginalDra commented in opposition to this item.

Blair Beekman commented regarding federal funding for border issues.

Action: Information only.

### 8. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2023, at 9 a.m.

### 9. Adjournment

Chairwoman Vargas adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

## Confirmed Attendance at Executive Committee Meeting

Jurisdiction	Name	Member/ Alternate	Attend
City of San Diego	Council President Sean Elo-Rivera, Vice Chair	Primary	No
	Councilmember Vivian Moreno	Alternate	Yes
	Councilmember Marni von Wilpert	Alternate	No
County of San Diego	Chair Nora Vargas, Chairwoman	Primary	Yes
	Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer	Alternate	No
East County	Mayor Racquel Vasquez	Primary	Yes
	Mayor Mark Arapostathis	Alternate	No
North County Coastal	Mayor Lesa Heebner, 2nd Vice Chair	Primary	Yes
	Councilmember Melanie Burkholder	Alternate	Yes
North County Inland	Mayor Rebecca Jones	Primary	Yes
	Mayor Steve Vaus	Alternate	No
South County	Councilmember Andrea Cardenas	Primary	No
	Mayor Richard Bailey	Alternate	No
Chair, Transportation Committee	Councilmember Jack Shu		Yes
Chair, Public Safety Committee	Councilmember Jose Rodriguez		No
Chair, Borders Committee	Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Leyba-Gonzalez		No
Chair, Audit Committee	Deputy Mayor David Zito		Yes

October 13, 2023

## Draft October 27, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Item No.		Action
<b>Comments and Communications</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments</b> Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Board of Directors on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to five public speakers. If the number of public comments under this agenda item exceeds five, additional public comments will be taken at the end of the agenda. Board members and SANDAG staff also may present brief updates under this agenda item.	
<b>Consent</b>		
<b>+2.</b>	<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b> <i>Tessa Lero, SANDAG</i> The Board of Directors is asked to approve the minutes from its October 13, 2023, meeting.	<b>Approve</b>
<b>+3.</b>	<b>Policy Advisory Committee Actions</b> <i>Francesca Webb, SANDAG</i> The Board of Directors is asked to ratify the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committees since the last Board meeting.	<b>Approve</b>
<b>+4.</b>	<b>Office of the Independent Performance Auditor – First Quarter Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Report for FY 2023-2024</b> <i>Mary Khoshmashrab, Independent Performance Auditor</i> The Board of Directors is provided this report as information.	<b>Information</b>
<b>+5.</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2024 Program Budget Amendment: Caltrans Planning Grants</b> <i>Julian Podgruszewski and Jenny Russo, SANDAG</i> The Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2024 Program Budget, accepting \$4,680,000 in Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds.	<b>Approve</b>



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|--|---------------------------|
| <p><b>+6. Calendar Year 2024 Legislative Calendar</b><br/> <i>Tessa Lero, SANDAG</i></p> <p>The Board of Directors is asked to approve the Calendar Year 2024 legislative calendar of meetings of the Board of Directors and Policy Advisory Committees.</p>   | <p><b>Approve</b></p>     |
| <p><b>+7. Overview of Developments in the Financial Markets, Quarterly Finance Report as of June 30, 2023*</b><br/> <i>Andre Douzdjian and Ray Major, SANDAG</i></p> <p>This report provides an update on the latest developments in the financial markets, economy, sales tax revenues, and strategies being explored and implemented to minimize possible impacts to the TransNet Program.</p> | <p><b>Information</b></p> |
| <p><b>+8. SANDAG Audit Committee: Appointment of Public Members</b><br/> <i>Mayor Lesa Heebner, Public Member Screening Committee Member</i></p> <p>The Board of Directors is asked to approve the public members of the Audit Policy Advisory Committee as nominated by the Public Member Screening Committee.</p>  | <p><b>Approve</b></p>     |
| <p><b>+9. Chief Executive Officer Delegated Actions*</b><br/> <i>Beth Lupu, SANDAG</i></p> <p>In accordance with various Board Policies, this report summarizes certain delegated actions taken by the Chief Executive Officer since the last Board meeting.</p>   | <p><b>Information</b></p> |

**Reports**

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <p><b>+10. Proposed FY 2024 Program Budget Amendment and 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program Proposal*</b><br/> <i>Susan Huntington, SANDAG</i></p> <p>Staff will present an overview of a proposed amendment to the FY 2024 Capital Program Budget and the submission of the proposed 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program to the California Transportation Commission.</p>  | <p><b>Approve</b></p> |
| <p><b>+11. Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project: CM/GC Construction Contracting Delivery Method</b><br/> <i>Allie DeVaux, Maria Molina Rodriguez, and Andrea Hoff, SANDAG</i></p> <p>The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2024-XX, authorizing the use of the Construction Manager General Contractor (CMGC) construction delivery method for the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project.</p>              | <p><b>Adopt</b></p>   |
| <p><b>+12. San Dieguito Double Track &amp; Special Events Platform Project - CM/GC Construction Contracting Delivery Method</b><br/> <i>Angela Anderson, SANDAG</i></p> <p>The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2024-XX, authorizing the use of Construction Manager General Contractor (CMGC) construction delivery method for the San Dieguito Double Track &amp; Special Events Platform Project.</p> | <p><b>Adopt</b></p>   |

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>+13. Purchase Cards Continuous Auditing Operational Process and System Control Review Results</b></p> <p><i>Mary Khoshmashrab, Independent Performance Auditor</i></p> <p>The Board of Directors is asked to accept the Audit Report, discuss the results and recommendations, and direct management on next steps.</p> <p><b>14. Upcoming Meetings</b></p> <p>The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, at 10 a.m. Please note this meeting is scheduled for the first week of the month due to the holiday schedule</p> <p><b>15. Adjournment</b></p> | <p><b>Discussion/<br/>Possible Action</b></p> |
|--|---|

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

\* next to an agenda item indicates that the Board of Directors also is acting as the San Diego County Regional Transportation Commission for that item

October 13, 2023

## Draft November 3, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Item No.		Action
<b>Comments and Communications</b>		
1.	<p><b>Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments</b></p> <p>Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Board of Directors on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to five public speakers. If the number of public comments under this agenda item exceeds five, additional public comments will be taken at the end of the agenda. Board members and SANDAG staff also may present brief updates under this agenda item.</p>	
<b>Consent</b>		
+2.	<p><b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b> <i>Francesca Webb, SANDAG</i></p> <p>The Board of Directors is asked to approve the minutes from its October 27, 2023, meeting.</p>	<b>Approve</b>
+3.	<p><b>Policy Advisory Committee Actions</b> <i>Francesca Webb, SANDAG</i></p> <p>The Board of Directors is asked to ratify the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committees since the last Board meeting.</p>	<b>Approve</b>
+4.	<p><b>Meetings and Events Attended on Behalf of SANDAG</b> <i>Francesca Webb, SANDAG</i></p> <p>This report provides an update on meetings and events attended by Board members.</p>	<b>Information</b>
<b>Reports</b>		
+5.	<p><b>2025 Regional Plan: What We've Heard*</b> <i>Antoinette Meier and Robyn Wapner, SANDAG</i></p> <p>Staff will present an overview of feedback received over the past several months to help inform development of the 2025 Regional Plan.</p>	<b>Discussion</b>
+6.	<p><b>LOSSAN Rail Realignment Project Update</b> <i>Danny Veeh, SANDAG</i></p> <p>Staff will present an update on the LOSSAN Rail Realignment Project.</p>	<b>Information</b>

**7. Upcoming Meetings**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2023, at 10 a.m.

**8. Adjournment**

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

\* next to an agenda item indicates that the Board of Directors also is acting as the San Diego County Regional Transportation Commission for that item

October 13, 2023

## Proposed FY 2024 Program Budget Amendment: Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Awards

### Overview

In August 2023, Caltrans announced the award of four planning grants to SANDAG totaling \$4,680,000 to support Sustainable Transportation Planning. Acceptance of the awards requires amendments to the FY 2024 Program Budget and Overall Work Program (OWP) for the grant amounts and required matching funds.

### Action: Recommend

The Executive Committee is asked to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2024 Program Budget, accepting \$4,680,000 in Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds.

### Key Considerations

The table below lists the work element number for each awarded project, award amount, and match amount. Matching funds for each project will be funded with local funds previously approved in the FY 2024 Program Budget. Additional project details and objectives can be found in Attachments 1-4.

### Fiscal Impact:

Approval of the proposed budget amendments will add \$4,680,000 in grant funds to the FY 2024 Program Budget.

### Schedule/Scope Impact:

Work is anticipated to begin in November 2023 and be completed by June 30, 2026.

Project Name	Work Element No.	Amount Awarded	Local Match	Total Project Cost
Downtown Central Mobility Hub and Connections	3402100	\$3,000,000	\$388,682	\$3,388,682
Downtown La Mesa Trolley Prioritization	3402200	\$500,000	\$64,780	\$564,780
Reconnecting Communities Study	3402300	\$700,000	\$90,692	\$790,692
San Diego Regional VMT Mitigation Program*	3402400	\$480,000	\$135,750	\$615,750
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$4,680,000</b>	<b>\$679,904</b>	<b>\$5,359,904</b>

\*\$135,750 is a local in-kind match. Total amount being added to SANDAG budget is only the award amount of \$480,000.

In addition to the awards received by SANDAG, other successful local grant recipients are noted below:

- City of National City - National City Sustainable Mobility Plan
- City of Oceanside - Oceanside Inland Rail Multimodal Path Feasibility Study
- City of San Diego - City of San Diego Bicycle Master Plan Update
- North County Transit District - Resilient NCTD

## **Next Steps**

Pending approval by the Board of Directors, staff will coordinate with Caltrans District 11 to amend the FY 2024 Program Budget and the OWP Agreement to accept the grant funds. Planning work will commence in November 2024 and be completed by June 30, 2026.

### ***Susan Huntington, Director of Financial Planning, Budgets, and Grants***

Key Staff Contacts: Julian Podgruszewski, (619) 595-5637, [julian.podgruszewski@sandag.org](mailto:julian.podgruszewski@sandag.org)  
Jenny Russo, (619) 699-7314, [jenny.russo@sandag.org](mailto:jenny.russo@sandag.org)

Attachments:

1. Downtown Central Mobility Hub and Connections – New Work Element No. 3402100
2. Downtown La Mesa Trolley Prioritization – New Work Element No. 3402200
3. Reconnecting Communities Study – New Work Element No. 3402300
4. San Diego Regional VMT Mitigation Program – New Work Element No. 3402400

**WORK ELEMENT:** 3402100 NEW-Downtown Central Mobility Hub and Connections

**FY 2024 BUDGET:** \$0 \$368,684

**AREA OF EMPHASIS:** Sustainable Development: Planning and Funding Strategies

Amendment Title: Caltrans Planning Grant: Downtown Central Mobility Hub and Connections

Note: This amendment adds this Caltrans Planning Grant into the FY 2024 Budget

Funds Source				
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
SB1 Sustainable Communities Grant	\$0 \$326,396	\$0 \$2,561,044	\$0 \$112,560	\$0 \$3,000,000
TDA Planning/Administration	\$0 \$42,288	\$0 \$331,811	\$0 \$14,583	\$0 \$388,682
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0 \$368,684</b>	<b>\$0 \$2,892,855</b>	<b>\$0 \$127,243</b>	<b>\$0 \$3,388,682</b>

Funds Application				
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Salaries, Benefits, Indirect	\$0 \$115,684	\$0 \$27,000	\$0 \$26,750	\$0 \$169,434
Contracted Services	\$0 \$253,000	\$0 \$2,865,855	\$0 \$100,393	\$0 \$3,219,248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0 \$368,684</b>	<b>\$0 \$2,892,855</b>	<b>\$0 \$127,243</b>	<b>\$0 \$3,388,682</b>

Staff Hours: 730

#### OBJECTIVE

The project will identify climate stressors (e.g., sea level rise, extreme heat, flood, drought) and possible climate adaptation strategies for up to six corridors connecting the San Diego region to the urban core. Development of more advanced corridor adaptation concepts will be produced for up to three of the identified regional corridors.

#### PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completion of the Central Mobility Hub and Connections Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP).

**Project Manager:** Mangan, Marisa

**Committee(s):** Transportation Committee

**Working Group(s):** Mobility Working Group

**PRODUCTS, TASKS, AND SCHEDULES FOR FY2024**

Task No.	% of Effort	Task Description / Product / Schedule
1	30	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Consultant procurement</p> <p><b>Product:</b> On-call request for proposals and executed Task Order</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 3/31/2024</p>
2	15	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Project administration</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Grant agreement progress reporting and quarterly monitoring</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>
3	25	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Corridor Conditions Analysis &amp; Climate Adaptation Literature Review</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Climate adaptation literature review and summary of existing conditions</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>
4	30	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Project stakeholder engagement</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Project study team meetings and coordination</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>



**WORK ELEMENT:** 3402200 NEW-Downtown La Mesa Trolley Prioritization  
**FY 2024 BUDGET:** \$0 \$82,352  
**AREA OF EMPHASIS:** Sustainable Development: Planning and Funding Strategies

Amendment Title: Caltrans Planning Grant: Downtown La Mesa Trolley Prioritization  
 Note: This amendment adds this Caltrans Planning Grant into the FY 2024 Budget

<b>Funds Source</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
FTA 5304 Strategic Partnerships Transit	\$0 \$72,907	\$0 \$260,736	\$0 \$166,357	\$0 \$500,000
TDA Planning/Administration	\$0 \$9,446	\$0 \$33,781	\$0 \$21,553	\$0 \$64,780
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0 \$82,352</b>	<b>\$0 \$294,517</b>	<b>\$0 \$187,911</b>	<b>\$0 \$564,780</b>

<b>Funds Application</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries, Benefits, Indirect	\$0 \$72,352	\$0 \$63,824	\$0 \$63,824	\$0 \$200,000
Contracted Services	\$0 \$10,000	\$0 \$230,693	\$0 \$124,087	\$0 \$364,780
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0 \$82,352</b>	<b>\$0 \$294,517</b>	<b>\$0 \$187,911</b>	<b>\$0 \$564,780</b>

Staff Hours: 480

## OBJECTIVE

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), in partnership with the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the City of La Mesa (City), will identify and assess alternatives to enhance operations of the Orange Line Trolley within downtown La Mesa, including but not limited to the feasibility of grade separation. This study will explore solutions to improve the Orange Line corridor through Downtown La Mesa in order to support planned service increases. Considerations could include grade separations, alternative rail alignments or road configurations, and supportive technology. Proposed solutions will have the co-benefit of mitigating congestion and travel delays and reducing the frequency of conflicts and crashes between pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. The Downtown La Mesa Prioritization project will examine and recommend improvements for individual crossings or a group of crossings, identify impacts and benefits of proposed crossing improvements, and prepare a scope and schedule identifying high-level costs and requirements for further analysis in design. Conceptual plans and high-level cost estimates will be developed for alternatives that would potentially increase transit operations efficiency and lower the traffic volumes for the four intersections along Spring Street: University Avenue, Allison Avenue, La Mesa Boulevard and Lemon Avenue.

## PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Project Manager:** Montijo, Marina

**Committee(s):** Transportation Committee

**Working Group(s):** Mobility Working Group

**PRODUCTS, TASKS, AND SCHEDULES FOR FY2024**

Task No.	% of Effort	Task Description / Product / Schedule
1	10	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Consultant procurement - select and award a qualified professional consulting firm who will support this Scope of Work, schedule regular project meetings, and submit complete invoice and progress report packages to the City on a monthly basis.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> (1) RFP package with DBE goal; (2) Copy of Consultant contract; (3) Project kick-off meeting, agenda, and meeting notes; (4) Project meetings; (5) Invoices and progress report</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 5/30/2024</p>
2	10	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Project administration - develop and maintain the project specific work plan and update project related information.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> (1) Kick-off meeting with Caltrans, agenda, and meeting notes; (2) Quarterly progress reports and invoices with DBE reporting</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>
3	10	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Review studies and develop current conditions report - consultant will obtain and review existing plans, studies, traffic counts, future traffic demands, data, and relative information on the project site for developing a summary report with SANDAG staff including an assessment of the corridor.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> (1) Review of Existing Project Documentation; (2) Review of existing topography survey; (3) Supplemental field surveying, (4) Draft of Existing Conditions and Data Summary Report</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>
4	20	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Public outreach - Develop an outreach plan to identify and develop presentations, briefings, farmers market outreach events, and/or workshops with community members, stakeholders and elected officials to gather feedback and share updates with respect to project progress and direction. The project team will participate in three outreach events.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> (1) Project Outreach Plan; (2) La Mesa Community Commission Meeting; (3) Outreach materials; (4) Factsheet</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>
5	35	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Mobility solutions development and analysis - develop a draft list of possible mobility solutions, an evaluation criterion for identifying recommendations, conceptual plans, and a summary memo.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> (1) Brainstorm of Mobility Solutions; (2) Methodology and Evaluation Criterion; (3) Conceptual Plans; (4) Summary memo with high-level cost estimates, right-of-way impacts, regional impacts, feasibility assessment, phased implementation approach, and challenges</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>
6	15	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Draft and final report - consultant will develop and Project Summary Report including final summary recommendations for implementation of the preferred solution and a Title IV Social Equity Analysis.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> (1) Draft Project Report; (2) Comment Log with responses to comment; (3) Final Project Report</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/30/2024</p>

**WORK ELEMENT:** 3402300 NEW-Reconnecting Communities Study  
**FY 2024 BUDGET:** \$0 \$709,643  
**AREA OF EMPHASIS:** Sustainable Development: Planning and Funding Strategies

Amendment Title: Caltrans Planning Grant: Reconnecting Communities Study  
 Note: This amendment adds this Caltrans Planning Grant into the FY 2024 Budget

<b>Funds Source</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
SB1 Sustainable Communities Grant	<u>\$0 \$628,247</u>	<u>\$0 \$57,016</u>	<u>\$0 \$14,737</u>	<u>\$0 \$700,000</u>
TDA Planning/Administration	<u>\$0 \$81,396</u>	<u>\$0 \$7,387</u>	<u>\$0 \$1,909</u>	<u>\$0 \$90,692</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$0 \$709,643</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 \$64,403</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 \$16,646</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 \$790,692</u></b>

<b>Funds Application</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries, Benefits, Indirect	<u>\$0 \$40,765</u>	<u>\$0 \$63,403</u>	<u>\$0 \$16,646</u>	<u>\$0 \$120,814</u>
Other Direct Costs	<u>\$0 \$500</u>	<u>\$0 \$1,000</u>	\$0	<u>\$0 \$1,500</u>
Contracted Services	<u>\$0 \$668,378</u>	\$0	\$0	<u>\$0 \$668,378</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$0 \$709,643</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 \$64,403</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 \$16,646</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 \$790,692</u></b>

Staff Hours: 289

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Guided by the 2021 Regional Plan and SANDAG's Commitment to Equity, the Reconnecting Communities study will leverage an innovative data-driven approach to identify communities in the San Diego region where harmful transportation infrastructure has splintered communities and created barriers to accessing resources and opportunities. In collaboration with Caltrans and the City of San Diego and leveraging SANDAG's partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs), this study will conduct meaningful public outreach through an iterative process to capture lived experiences, ground-truth data, and collaborate to develop community-led solutions that result in feasible projects that enhance mobility, accessibility, safety, resilience, and economic opportunities. This study aligns with the strategic imperatives and goals of the Caltrans 2020-24 Strategic Plan and State Planning Priorities to improve and expand community partnerships and advance equity and livability in all communities. Further, this study will prepare SANDAG and regional partners to capitalize on new state and federal funding opportunities to begin implementing solutions that will benefit communities most harmed by past inequities in transportation infrastructure.

#### **PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

SANDAG has submitted multiple applications for "Reconnecting Communities" types of funding programs at the state and federal level.

**Project Manager:** Havey, Elizabeth  
**Committee(s):** Regional Planning Committee  
**Working Group(s):** Social Equity Working Group

**PRODUCTS, TASKS, AND SCHEDULES FOR FY2024**

Task No.	% of Effort	Task Description / Product / Schedule
1	<u>10</u>	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Project Administration</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Kick-off meeting with Caltrans, Kick-off meeting with Consultant, notes, Quarterly invoices and progress reports, DBE reporting (federal Grants only)</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 5/31/2024</p>
2	<u>25</u>	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Consultant Procurement</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Procurement process inclusive to the development of Independent Cost Estimates, Scopes of Work, scoring proposals, etc. Request for Proposals/Qualifications materials including consultant scope of work. Agreement between SANDAG and the selected consultant. Meeting agenda and minutes from consultant project kick-off.</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 5/31/2024</p>
3	<u>50</u>	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Data Acquisition and Analytics Development</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Definition of "disconnected communities" and metrics of "harmful transportation infrastructure." Internal and third-party data sets. Description of research and analytics methodology. Draft and final map of impacted communities and the associated key characteristics. Summary of findings</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 5/31/2024</p>
4	<u>10</u>	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Existing Conditions and Study Areas</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Draft and Final Study Area Memo, maps, and geospatial data. Draft and Final Existing Conditions Report</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 5/31/2024</p>
5	<u>5</u>	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Outreach and Engagement</p> <p><b>Product:</b> Collateral and other public outreach materials (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, agendas, etc.) Meeting attendance. Public outreach summary report</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 5/31/2024</p>

**WORK ELEMENT:** 3402400 NEW-SD Regional VMT Mitigation Program  
**FY 2024 BUDGET:** ~~\$0~~ \$98,908  
**AREA OF EMPHASIS:** Sustainable Development: Planning and Funding Strategies

Amendment Title: Caltrans Planning Grant: SD Regional VMT Mitigation Program  
 Note: This amendment adds this Caltrans Planning Grant into the FY 2024 Budget

<b>Funds Source</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
FHWA State Planning and Research Part I - Strategic Partnerships Grants	<del>\$0</del> \$98,908	<del>\$0</del> \$198,342	<del>\$0</del> \$198,342	<del>\$0</del> \$480,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$98,908</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$198,342</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$182,750</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$480,000</b>

Note: In-kind match: \$135,750

<b>Funds Application</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries, Benefits, Indirect	<del>\$0</del> \$12,458	<del>\$0</del> \$60,592	<del>\$0</del> \$45,000	<del>\$0</del> \$118,050
Pass Through to Other Agencies	<del>\$0</del> \$86,450	<del>\$0</del> \$137,750	<del>\$0</del> \$137,750	<del>\$0</del> \$361,950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$98,908</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$198,342</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$182,750</b>	<del>\$0</del> <b>\$480,000</b>

Staff Hours: 86

## OBJECTIVE

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the County of San Diego are partnering together to develop a Regional VMT Mitigation program for the San Diego Region. The program will provide an equitable and feasible path forward for new developments, of all sizes, to mitigate their VMT related impacts based on regional resources and infrastructure. The Program will do this by contributing to the funding and implementation of the multi-modal improvements identified in SANDAG's 2021 Regional Plan, which includes the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the San Diego Region.

## PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

None. New Grant in FY 24

**Project Manager:** Greer, Keith  
**Committee(s):** Transportation Committee  
**Working Group(s):** Mobility Working Group

**PRODUCTS, TASKS, AND SCHEDULES FOR FY2024**

Task No.	% of Effort	Task Description / Product / Schedule
1	15	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Task 1. Selection of Consultant. The County of San Diego will procure the services of a transportation consultant to assist on project. SANDAG will work with the County on the procurement and selection of consultant.</p> <p><b>Product:</b> 1. Contract with transportation consult contract</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 1/15/2024</p>
2	60	<p><b>Task Description:</b> <b>Task 2: Technical Advisory Committee and Public Outreach</b> SANDAG, County of San Diego, and the selected consultant team (Project Team) will form a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and an Policy Committee to advise on policy decisions for the VMT Mitigation Program.</p> <p><b>Product:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outreach Plan</li> <li>2. TAC Meeting #1 Summary</li> <li>3. Policy Meeting #1 Summary</li> <li>4. Stakeholder Interviews &amp; Summaries</li> </ol> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/28/2024</p>
3	25	<p><b>Task Description:</b> Task 3: Develop Evaluation Criteria. The Project Team will develop a series of criteria to evaluate potential mitigation framework options. At a minimum, these criteria will address the following: Legal Requirements, Quantification, Cost Effectiveness and Affordability, Additionality, Equity and Geographic Scope</p> <p><b>Product:</b> 1. Draft Evaluation Criteria</p> <p><b>Completion Date:</b> 6/28/2024</p>

October 13, 2023

## Legislative Status Report

### Overview

Status reports on SANDAG legislative activities are provided to the Executive Committee on a regular basis.

Attachment 1 includes a summary from Ellison Wilson, LLC on state legislative activity related to SANDAG for September 2023.

Attachment 2 includes a summary from Peyser Associates, LLC on federal legislative activity related to SANDAG for September 2023.

**Action: Information**

Staff will present an update on SANDAG legislative and policy activities.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None.

**Schedule/Scope Impact:**

None.

***Robyn Wapner, Director of Public Affairs***

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Attachments: 1. Report from Ellison Wilson Advocacy, LLC  
2. Report from Peter Peyser Associates, LLC



**TO:** SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** ELLISON WILSON ADVOCACY, LLC  
**SUBJECT:** SANDAG LEGISLATIVE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

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### **Legislative Overview**

The Legislature adjourned for their Interim Study Recess on September 14<sup>th</sup> and will not return to the Capitol until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The Governor has until October 14<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto all bills passed to him prior to this adjournment.

### **SANDAG-Sponsored Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Legislation Signed by the Governor**

At the request of SANDAG, Assembly Member David Alvarez introduced Assembly Bill 427 to update the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Act to streamline contracting methods in order to move the critical Otay Mesa East Project forward in a timely manner. Specifically, AB 427 clarifies that SANDAG can use the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) contracting method on the SR11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project (POE). The bill did not receive a single “no” votes throughout the legislative process. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Governor Newsom signed AB 427 into law. As it was an urgency measure, it went into effect immediately upon his signature.

### **Final Month Decided Fate of Key Bills**

As the 2023 legislative year drew to a close on September 14<sup>th</sup>, the outcome of the following additional key legislation was determined in the final few chaotic weeks:

- **AB 7 (Friedman) Transportation planning: project selection processes**  
Status: Ordered to inactive file. 2-year bill  
Summary: Requires CalSTA, Caltrans, and the CTC, on or after, January 1, 2025, to the extent applicable and cost effective, to incorporate the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) principles into their existing program guidelines and planning processes.
- **AB 610 (Holden) Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program**  
Status: Ordered to inactive file. 2-year bill  
Summary: Creates a Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program to provide grants to transit agencies to create or expand free fare transit programs for college and K-12 students.  
SANDAG Position: Support
- **AB 662 (Boerner) Federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funds**  
Status: Held on Senate Appropriations Committee’s suspense file.



Summary: Establishes requirements for the CPUC administration of federal broadband funds under the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and prohibits the CPUC from taking any actions to administer the BEAD program that are not specified in this bill.

- **AB 1335 (Zbur) Transportation planning and land use: sustainable communities strategy**  
Status: Held by author. 2-year bill  
Summary: Makes changes to the housing projections included in regional transportation plan/sustainable communities strategies (RTP/SCS)s and adds additional reporting requirements for local governments.
- **SB 617 (Newman) Progressive Design-build Public Contracts: transit.**  
Status: Enrolled and presented to the Governor on 9/7.  
Summary: Would, until January 1, 2029, authorize a transit district, municipal operator, consolidated agency, joint powers authority, regional transportation agency, or local or regional agency responsible for the construction of transit projects to use the progressive design-build process for up to 10 public works projects in excess of \$5,000,000 for each project.
- **SB 677 (Blakespear) LOSSAN Rail Corridor**  
Status: Enrolled and presented to the Governor on 9/15.  
Summary: Requires the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency to include a description of the effects of climate change and identify planned projects to increase climate resiliency in its annual Business Plan.
- **SB 706 (Caballero) Progressive Design-build Public Contracts: local agencies.**  
Status: Enrolled and presented to the Governor on 9/7.  
Summary: Would, until January 1, 2030, provide additional authority for cities, counties, cities and counties, or special districts to use the progressive design-build process for up to 10 public works in excess of \$5,000,000, not limited to water-related projects, excluding projects on state-owned or state-operated facilities.
- **SB 825 (Limón) Local government: public broadband services.**  
Status: Signed by the Governor on 9/8. Chapter 186, Statutes of 2023.  
Summary: Would add metropolitan planning organizations and regional transportation planning authorities to the list of local government agencies eligible for broadband infrastructure planning grant funding from the California Public Utilities Commission.  
SANDAG Position: Support
- **SB 891 (Committee on Transportation) Transportation omnibus bill**  
Status: Signed by the Governor on 9/22. Chapter 219, Statutes of 2023.  
Summary: Among other provisions, changes the deadline for SANDAG's annual public transit report to the Legislature to December 31 of each year.

The Governor has until October 14<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto all bills presented to him from the Legislature. We'll be providing an updated report with the Governor's actions, including an expanded list of pertinent legislation to SANDAG as soon as possible.

Peter A. Peyser

September 1, 2023

### **Transportation Update from Peyser Associates**

#### **McCarthy Continues Push for a Continuing Resolution**

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) this week tried a new argument to convince recalcitrant Members of his caucus to back a continuing resolution to keep the government functioning when the new fiscal year begins 30 days from now. In an interview on Fox News on Sunday he pointed out that a shutdown would slow down the House's impeachment inquiry aimed at President Biden.

Resorting to this argument is indicative of McCarthy's growing desperation about his current predicament. There do not appear to be 218 votes in his 222-member caucus to support a CR that would run from October 1 into mid-December. But if he turns to Democrats to provide votes for the measure, as he did for debt limit/spending deal back in May, he almost certainly will face a vote in the House to remove him as Speaker.

Members of the House Freedom Caucus like Reps. Ken Buck (R-CO) and Matt Rosendale (R-MT) immediately expressed their derision for McCarthy's new argument. If they speak for only two additional Members – and it is almost certain that they speak for many more than that – McCarthy's gambit is unlikely to succeed.

The Senate returns to work next week and the House the following week. Attention will turn immediately upon Congress' return to work on the CR. But given the short time available and the troubles in the House GOP caucus, a government shutdown for some period of time beginning on October 1 is gaining likelihood.

#### **CRISI Grant Announcements Expected Week of September 18**

The Federal Railroad Administration is signaling that award announcements for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants (CRISI) for this year's cycle will be coming around September 18. The agency had been saying awards would come in the summer, so they are coming in just under the wire.

September 8, 2023

## **Transportation Update from Peysers Associates**

### **Senate Returns to Work while McCarthy Seeks a Path**

The Senate returned Tuesday from its August recess and began staging appropriations bills for floor action. In an effort to demonstrate the stark contrast between the hyper-partisan House and the bipartisan (at least on appropriations bills) Senate, the leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee announced they will bring to the floor next week a package of three appropriations bills that were approved unanimously in committee. The Transportation-HUD measure will be part of that package along with Military Construction-VA and Agriculture-FDA.

The House returns next Tuesday and is expected to focus mostly on how to advance a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government operating after the end of the fiscal year on September 30. In the past couple of weeks, Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has been floating ideas among Members of his caucus about the duration of a CR and what might be attached to it. Some more conservative Members of the caucus have been insisting on attaching to the CR a border security measure already passed by the House. More moderate Members have been interested in attaching a supplemental appropriation for disaster relief and aid to Ukraine. Attaching the border bill to the CR would almost certainly doom it in the Senate. Trying to attach the supplemental funding measure to it will likely make it impossible to gain 218 votes from the House GOP caucus.

Understanding these things, McCarthy has come up with a plan to move the CR with neither attachment but schedule a separate vote on a bill that would include both the border legislation and the supplemental funding package. Apparently, he feels he can get his caucus to support that. However, that leaves the problem of the United States Senate, which will not abide such an approach to passing a border security measure. If the end result of his strategy is that the Senate passes the CR and does not take up the border-plus-supplemental bill, McCarthy will almost certainly face a mutiny in his caucus and a vote on the House floor on “vacating the Chair” (i.e. removing him as Speaker).

When Members return next week they will have the opportunity to discuss their views on moving a CR. By next Friday, it is likely we will have a better fix on the strength of sentiment in the House GOP caucus for a shutdown. One GOP Member, Rep. Nicole Malliatakis (R-NY) told a reporter this week she thinks a shutdown is likely, because of “some within my own party who are digging their heels in and saying they want a shutdown regardless.”

### **Shutdown Would Have a Mixed Impact at DOT**

If a shutdown occurs on October 1, it will not shut down all of U.S. DOT. Agencies whose operating expenses are funded out of a trust fund will not have to shut down. The Federal Highway Administration has long been the main member of that club, but thanks to a provision in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law the Federal Transit Administration is now as well. In a conversation with senior leadership at the FTA this week, your reporter learned that the agency is not preparing a shutdown plan because of their protected funding.

The Office of the Secretary and the Federal Railroad Administration do NOT have that protection and all their employees deemed not essential will have to cease work. This means that evaluation of pending grant applications and development of new NOFO's for future rounds will go on pause. The most recent shutdown in late 2018 and early 2019 set a record at 35 days. If a shutdown this Fall were to last that long, it will likely have an impact on DOT's calendar for

advancing grant programs funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This could mean a delay in announcing awards and delays in issuance of NOFOs.

September 15, 2023

## **Transportation Update from Peyser Associates**

### **House Efforts to Advance Spending Bills Falter – Senate Makes Progress**

With the return of House Members from recess this week we got a clearer picture of the dynamics in the GOP caucus that will determine whether or not Congress can pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the government fully open after September 30. The picture does not look good.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy's (R-CA) opening gambit as Members returned on Tuesday was to direct three committees to begin an impeachment inquiry on President Biden. This is the first formal step in the impeachment process. McCarthy's move was an effort to appease his most conservative Members in hopes they would support him in getting a CR passed. In fact, instead of appeasing them his move incensed the group further. Almost immediately a chorus of Freedom Caucus Members arose indicating the impeachment move was not connected to the spending conversation. They are insisting on a CR that includes deep spending cuts and a border security measure the House passed earlier this year.

The feisty attitude of these Members on the CR spilled over into the debate over the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal 2024, which Speaker McCarthy put on the floor schedule for this week. McCarthy apparently believed the Defense measure was a safe one to push forward because GOP Members typically support that one. Once again, he misread his caucus. As the bill began its path through the House Rules Committee on its way to the floor, it became clear the votes were not there on the Republican side to advance it. McCarthy's only option was to pull the bill back and hope he can find a path to move it next week.

As noted last week, bipartisan Senate leadership has been working hard to model a different way to do business. They continued that this week by putting on the floor a three-bill package of spending bills for fiscal 2024 that includes the Transportation-HUD measure. In an extraordinary show of bipartisanship, a procedural vote on the package yesterday yielded 91 votes in favor. A vote on the bill itself is expected next week. After that, the Senate is likely to act on a CR that would keep the government open into December.

The week's activities make it clear that the odds of a shutdown are growing. Guessing when the shutdown will occur and how long it will last is the new #1 parlor game in DC.

September 22, 2023

## **Transportation Update from Peyser Associates**

### **Shutdown Likelihood Continues to Grow as McCarthy Efforts on CR Falter**

The House this week made no progress towards resolving the impasse in the GOP Caucus over a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government running past September 30. As a result, the potential for a partial government shutdown at midnight next Saturday night is growing.

This week began with Speaker McCarthy proposing a CR for the month of October that would assume an 8% cut in domestic discretionary spending and the inclusion of a border security measure the House passed earlier this year. When that plan failed to gain sufficient traction, McCarthy changed it on Wednesday by adding the creation of a commission to examine entitlement spending cuts and a full-year spending cap for fiscal 2024 \$65 billion below the amount passed in May by Congress as part of the debt limit/spending bill. By week's end, it is unclear this plan will pick up the support necessary to pass the House. Even if it did, the Senate would summarily reject it and pass its own CR that would almost certainly be unacceptable to the House GOP.

Hoping that his Wednesday revisions had calmed the waters in his caucus, McCarthy made an attempt yesterday to revive the full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. In an extraordinary vote on Wednesday, his caucus failed to give him the votes to pass a procedural vote to set the rules for floor debate on the bill. McCarthy believed his Wednesday proposal on the CR had made it possible to advance the Defense bill but found out he was wrong, as the rule was once again rejected yesterday.

It is almost unheard of for a rule to be rejected on the House floor. To have it happen twice in two days is likely unprecedented. Speaker McCarthy recognized this Thursday when he said: "This is a whole new concept of individuals that just want to burn the whole place down." After the failure of the vote McCarthy, who earlier this week had said he would keep the House session through the weekend, recessed the House until Tuesday.

Members on both sides of the aisle this week began to urge McCarthy to sit down with Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and talk about how to pass a CR with Democratic votes. One Republican Member, Mike Lawler (R-NY), on Thursday said he would demand a floor vote on a CR when the House returns and kick off a discharge petition to force that vote. A discharge petition requires signatures of 218 Members to force a vote on the floor. They are very seldom used and even if successful, it would take at least 10 days to bring the vote to fruition according to experts in congressional procedure.

Last week, this report noted that Washington's favorite parlor game was guessing when a shutdown would occur and how long it would be. This week, people are more focused on the second half of that guessing game.

### **CRISI Grant Award List Leaked – Official Announcement Expected**

On Wednesday, the list of CRISI grant awards for the fiscal 2022 cycle started circulating on Capitol Hill. An official announcement of the awards is expected either today or early next week.

The 70 grants on the awards list total \$1.44 billion. Of that amount, \$588, or 41%, went to just four projects, all of which benefit intercity passenger rail and/or commuter rail. Those four are:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| · California High Speed Rail Authority (Central Valley) | \$201.9 million |
| · Amtrak (Gulf Coast)                                   | 178.4 million   |
| · Mass DOT (Lakeshore Limited Amtrak Service)           | 108.1 million   |
| · VA Passenger Rail Authority (VRE and Amtrak Service)  | 100.0 million.  |

Of the remaining grants 3 were in the range of \$40 - \$75 million, 8 ranged from \$20 - \$40 million, 17 were between \$10 and \$20 million, 13 ranged from \$5-10 million, 17 were between \$2 and \$5 million and the remaining 7 were below \$ 2 million.

September 29, 2023

## **Transportation Update from Peyser Associates**

### **Shutdown Appears Certain**

As this Friday begins, a partial government shutdown at midnight on Saturday appears a virtual certainty. Thirty-six hours before the deadline neither House of Congress has passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) and the two versions being prepared for action are so far apart as to leave almost no potential for a reconciliation.

As has been the case for weeks now, most of the action was in the House this week and, more specifically, within the House GOP Caucus. After a difficult few days of discussion, Speaker Kevin McCarthy acquiesced on Wednesday night to the desire of his right-wing Member to take votes on individual fiscal 2024 spending bills before taking up a CR. Last night the House passed the Defense, State and Foreign Operations, and Homeland Security Appropriations bills. The House failed to pass the Agriculture/FDA measure. In allowing the measures to come up, Speaker McCarthy also allowed dozens of votes on amendments -- almost all of which came from his own caucus. The amendments ranged from limiting Ukraine aid to restricting abortion access, and, in a new twist, reducing to \$1 the annual salary of key political officials in the Biden Administration -- including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. Many of the amendments, including the one on Austin's salary, passed on voice votes on the House floor. After stripping Ukraine aid out of the regular defense appropriations bill, the House passed a supplemental funding bill including a portion of the President's request.

Allowing all of those actions to take place, even though each measure is doomed in the Senate, placated the more conservative Members of the House GOP caucus sufficiently so that they would agree to let Speaker McCarthy bring up a continuing resolution -- provided he re-tooled his earlier proposal more to their liking. Last week, this report summarized the McCarthy proposal's provisions to keep the government running until November 15, cut discretionary spending by 8%, include border security and immigration legislation and empanel a commission to explore entitlement reform. In order to gain his caucus' assent to advancing a CR, McCarthy had to change the duration of the CR to one month (through October 31) and hold constant Defense and Veterans' benefits while cutting other domestic discretionary spending by 30%. That new proposal will be voted on today by the House. It is still not certain it will pass.

Meanwhile, the Senate is preparing a more traditional CR which is likely to extend deep into November, if not December, while holding spending level and potentially including Ukraine aid and disaster relief. A vote on the Senate floor tomorrow morning looks likely.

Even if both Houses pass their respective bills by tomorrow, the potential they could agree on a stopgap measure is virtually nil. No conversations have occurred between House and Senate leaders on a compromise measure so far and a path to agreement is very hard to see.

Meanwhile, Federal agencies today are instructing their employees on how the shutdown will proceed. Credit unions that serve federal employees are offering no interest loans to tide them

over and bars and restaurants are already promoting shutdown menus. Washington is girding for what could be significant impacts to the local economy this Fall.

### **Sen. Feinstein's Death Rocks Washington**

The death of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) came as a surprise in Washington even though her health challenges had been well chronicled and much remarked-upon in recent months. While her passing should have no immediate impact on Senate votes, her death stills a voice that for decades has been an important part of key policy debates in Washington.

California Governor Gavin Newsom (D) will appoint a successor. Given that an active Democratic primary to replace Feinstein is already underway, he is likely to appoint someone who will act as a caretaker until voters can choose a permanent replacement next year.