October 9, 2015

SANDAG Board Members
SANDAG
401 B St. Ste. 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: SANDAG Item No. 15-10-2, October, 9 2015, San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan

Dear SANDAG Board Members:

There continues to be a need for a regional plan that prioritizes transit before highway expansion, increases active transportation and connects transit to the northern areas of San Diego. I brought forward the Transit First Resolution (R-306886) passed by the San Diego City Council in 2011 (see attached) which stated that the Regional Transportation Plan should prioritize mass transit infrastructure and sustainable transportation projects over highway expansion.

For decades, our region has over-invested in highways while under-investing in transit. Consequently, the region has an extensive highway system but a limited transit network that does not serve all San Diego residents. As the representative for District 1, I respectfully request that SANDAG include more transit connectivity to northern communities such as Carmel Valley and Torrey Pines Mesa and more East/West connectivity in the SR-56 corridor in the Regional Plan. Additionally, SANDAG should commit to funding retrofits for safe routes to existing transit stations.

This item is scheduled to be heard before the City has adopted its new Climate Action Plan (CAP). The City is moving forward with the adoption of the CAP and at a minimum, we expect, as the largest city in the region, to see our CAP transportation goals incorporated into the Regional Plan. I am concerned that without adequate resources from SANDAG, the City will not be able to achieve the CAP goal of 12% transit mode share by 2020. Given the short timeline to 2020, I respectfully request the SANDAG Board allow for a timely amendment to the proposed Regional Plan to support the implementation of the City’s Climate Action Plan, which is scheduled to be heard by the City Council in late 2015. The CAP’s implementation should not be stalled because SANDAG’s Regional Plan does not include the resources needed to achieve the City’s near term transportation goals.

A priority of the Plan should be to assure implementation of the various climate action plans within SANDAG’s jurisdiction. As CAPs are adopted, the Plan should be modified to reflect the goals and timelines of each, and infrastructure funding should, as much as possible, be prioritized for timely implementation of the various CAPs throughout our region.
Please let me know if my office or I can be of any assistance in incorporating the CAP goals into the regional plan.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sherri S. Lightner
Council President, District One
City of San Diego