

August 1, 2007

*North County Measure D Renewal Policy Development Committee
Agenda Item #3.B.*

Questions received from committee members after the July 12 meeting.

1. Q: We would be interested in seeing the break down of how much of the 70% local funding has gone to transit systems (bus, bike, pedestrian) from each of the north county cities. Also, how much from the 30% regional. If you can break that down even further to tell us what transit projects were funded with that money, that would be helpful.

A: The public works directors from the north county will be making a presentation at your August 1 meeting. They will be sharing with you the importance of Measure D to maintaining local infrastructure. Per the committee's request they have been asked to identify local transportation funding needs and to explain how existing Measure D funds have been spent.

About 80% of the funds from the local program are used for street and road maintenance needs. The projects tend to be on the small side--\$50,000 - \$500,000. These are projects that the agencies can usually deliver in a single summer. Local program spending varies according to each agency's local priorities. For example, the city of Santa Barbara passes about 1/3 of its current Measure D local program annual allocation of \$5 million to MTD.

The expenditure plan passed by voters in 1989 included a regional project funded with 0.5% of revenues to subsidize specialized transit services for seniors and disabled to help keep fares low. The expenditure plan has been amended by the SBCAG board to fund the Clean Air Express and Coastal Express from the regional program. The Board has committed approximately \$1.5 million to each service. The board also amended the expenditure plan to add a \$5.2 million southbound auxiliary lane on Highway 101 on the South Coast between Evans Avenue and Sheffield Drive. A bicycle lane was included in the project. Many regional projects that have reconstructed interchanges have included sidewalks and pedestrian improvements, but since they are part of the larger project budget, it is hard to quantify the exact amount of regional funds that were spent on those elements of the projects.

2. Also, please provide committee members with the City of Santa Maria's list of projects at least a week before the meeting. Otherwise, we come in at a disadvantage in being able to fully assess the recommendations and ask the pertinent questions and provide carefully considered feedback.

A: We have transmitted the committee's request to the city of Santa Maria and we will forward to the committee the city's effort at developing a draft plan if we receive it prior to the meeting.