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**AGENDA**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Chairman Jerome Stocks, Bill Horn, Julianne Nygaard, Dave Roberts  
Staff Committee Liaison: Tom Lichterman

**Thursday, October 4, 2007 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**311 South Tremont, Oceanside, California**

1. Open Meeting
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Hearing for Proposed COASTER Service Changes Effective November 5, 2007  
(Attachments 3A and 3B)
4. Escondido Rapid Bus Project (Attachments 4A and 4B)
5. Temporary Rail Platform at the Del Mar Fairgrounds
6. Other Matters
7. Public Comment
8. Next Meeting: Thursday, **November 1, 2007**, 3:00 pm, 311 South Tremont, Oceanside, CA
9. Adjournment

*For individuals with disabilities, we will provide assistive services. To obtain such services or copies of documents in an alternate format, please call or write, a minimum of 72 hours prior to the event, to request these needed reasonable modifications. We will make every attempt to accommodate requests that do not give 72 hour notice. Please contact our Customer Service Supervisor at (760) 966-6503.*

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**STAFF REPORT TO THE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item #  
3**

**TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED COASTER SERVICE CHANGES  
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5, 2007**

Time Sensitive

Consent

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** **That the Planning Committee set a Public Hearing for October 18, 2007 to hear public comment regarding proposed COASTER service changes.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** To effectively coordinate SPRINTER and COASTER services on Saturday, staff is proposing revisions to the COASTER Saturday schedule and minor weekday schedule adjustments to improve service reliability. NCTD's Public Hearing Policy states that the District must conduct a public hearing for any service changes that changes trip times by more than 10 minutes.

On Saturday, no additional trips are being proposed, and while the service span is slightly longer, it can be accommodated at no extra operating cost. The Saturday timetable is proposed to be revised to provide convenient connection from the SPRINTER to the COASTER in the morning, and for northbound connections in the afternoon. The last COASTER trip from San Diego on Saturday will leave later, at 7:25 PM instead of 6:45 PM, and will meet the last SPRINTER departing Oceanside Transit Center at 8:33 PM.

**ATTACHMENT:** Attachment 3A - Proposed COASTER schedule effective November 5, 2007  
Attachment 3B - Existing COASTER schedule through November 3, 2007

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Not applicable.

**COMMITTEE  
REVIEW:**  
10/4/07

**STAFF CONTACTS:** **Stefan Marks**  
**Manager of Service Development**  
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**STAFF REPORT TO THE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item #  
4**

**TITLE: ESCONDIDO RAPID BUS PROJECT**

**Time Sensitive**

**Consent**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** **That the Planning Committee receive an update from SANDAG staff regarding the Escondido Rapid Bus Project.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

NCTD, SANDAG, and the City of Escondido continue to work together to implement faster travel times and maintain reliable service on NCTD's Route 350 without adversely impacting local traffic. Route 350 (Escondido Transit Center to Westfield Shoppingtown North County) was chosen from a short list of candidate routes because ridership is high, several major activity centers are located along the route, and there are heavy student loads at peak times which impact trip times.

An initial concept study, approved by the three agencies in 2006, identified three key areas for implementation: (1) queue jumper lane along Valley Parkway between Centre City Parkway and Quince just east of the Escondido Transit Center; (2) Transit Signal Priority (TSP) along the corridor to give late buses the ability to either extend green lights or shorten red lights; and (3) bus stop improvements that include new seating, lighting and shelters, and new features such as real-time digital message signs. The SANDAG Board of Directors approved \$2.8 million in TransNet capital funds for this project in March 2007. The project fact sheet is included as Attachment 4A.

Throughout this process, a project working group consisting of NCTD, SANDAG, and City staff and project consultants has met regularly to guide the work for the three phases of the project. The group also developed a unique branding for the route, *BREEZE Rapid*.

(1) Queue Jumper. Design work continues on a bus lane that allows buses to jump the traffic queue at Valley Parkway and Centre City Parkway. Other queue jumpers in the Cities of San Diego and Chula Vista have proven successful, both in terms of transit travel time improvements and minimal negative impacts to general traffic. The staff recommendation is a queue lane at the east side of Valley/Centre City, a transit-only signal, and a lane along the entire block between Centre City and Quince marked for either right-turning vehicles or buses only. We anticipate design to be completed later this fall, with construction currently scheduled in spring 2008.

(2) Transit Signal Priority (TSP). TSP provides late buses with the ability to better adhere to time schedules by sending a message to the traffic signal to either extend the cycle if it is green, or shorten the cycle if it is red. The initial concept study showed no adverse effects to general traffic would result from TSP along the Route 350 corridor. Staff and consultants are currently completing the necessary design details for this system and plan to begin testing equipment in two months. The Escondido Rapid corridor will be the first in the region to deploy TSP, which is currently scheduled for late 2007/early 2008.

(3) Bus Stop Improvements. The project group has further refined the design and branding concept for *BREEZE Rapid* stops (Attachment 4B). In August 2007, the City's internal Aesthetics Committee and stakeholder Design Review Board each reviewed the proposed concept for bus stops and provided detailed comments. Features of these stops include a unique *BREEZE Rapid* brand, new shelters, seating, lighting, and route signs and new features such as digital message signs to tell riders when to expect the next bus.

The Committee is asked to review and provide comments on the three project phases. We will continue to work with the City on the preferred stop design and queue jumper and TSP details. The SANDAG Transportation Committee will hear an update in October.

**ATTACHMENT:** Attachment 4A - Project Fact Sheet  
Attachment 4B - Design and branding concept for *BREEZE Rapid* bus stops

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Not applicable. Funding for the Project is being provided by SANDAG. For FY 07, NCTD has expended \$30,000 to support SANDAG's planning. NCTD is being reimbursed \$24,000 in federal planning funding.

**COMMITTEE  
REVIEW:**  
10/4/07

**STAFF CONTACTS:** **Stefan Marks**  
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**STAFF REPORT TO THE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item #  
5**

**TITLE: TEMPORARY RAIL PLATFORM AT THE DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS**

**Time Sensitive**

**Consent**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** **Receive the report and forward to the Board.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Staff will provide the Committee with a brief oral presentation on the status of the design and construction of a temporary rail platform at the Fairgrounds in Del Mar. This project is a cooperative effort between the District, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural District and the City of Del Mar.

**ATTACHMENT:** None

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**COMMITTEE  
REVIEW:**  
10/4/07

**STAFF CONTACT:** **Lane Fernandes**  
**Manager of Commuter Rail**  
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October 4, 2007

TO: North County Transit District Board Members  
FROM: Clerk of the Board  
SUBJECT: POSTING OF BOARD AGENDA

In Compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, As Amended, the following information is provided.

The Agenda for this meeting of the Planning Committee was posted as follows:

Meeting Date and Time: October 4, 2007; 3:00 pm  
Posted At: 810 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA and  
311 So. Tremont, Oceanside, CA  
Date & Time of Posting: September 28, 2007; 5:00 p.m.  
Posted By: Clerk of the Board