

The New Collaborative Region: Suburbs and Cities Working on the Future

January 27, 2006

Panel Presentation:

Transportation, Land Use and Regional Collaboration:

Southern California Experiences

Opening Remarks

Mark Pisano, *Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments*

Let me just note that the issue that we are going to talk about in our panel today, given that this is the collaborative region, is the issue of governance, finance, structure, and how you make it work.

And let me just note this personal interest in this particular area. Bob Yaro -- I am sorry I missed Bob's presentation, but -- I'm sure he noted to you the work that we have underway across this country and with other countries looking at the issue of how large mega-regions might operate and the issues they are confronting and the opportunity that rests in that concept.

Bob has been working through the University of Pennsylvania, and his students and I have participated in a number of his forums and forums abroad as well inputting on the policy, planning, and some of the development issues.

Let me just say that my personal interest and contribution on this is that I teach a class at USC on intergovernmental management. It's a graduate seminar. And I followed the same format as Bob. I had my students working on not the planning and policy issues, but rather the governance and financing issues.

And last year, my students took on the assignment: "If we have these large mega-regions, what are the options? What are the alternative governance strategies and what are the finance strategies for how we make the collaborative region work in the 21st century?"

In this report -- and I don't know if Bob showed you this, because we have been working jointly on it -- this is the latest version of that report.

Many of the planning ideas that Bob discussed are in there and the governance and finance structure were actually the results of what came out of my students in their class papers.

After our panelists discuss the issue, I will just summarize what we learned and what we're bringing forward in the next step of discussions on the issue of governance and finance.