



MAY 10, 2007

AGENDA ITEM # 14

SUMMARY REPORT OF 2007 METRO CHAMBER CAPITOL-TO-CAPITOL TRIP

Action Requested: Receive and file

Key Staff: Brian Williams, Executive Director

Recommendation

Receive and file this summary report of Transportation team activities during the 2007 Sacramento Metro Chamber Capitol-to-Capitol Trip.

Discussion

The Executive Director and 14 members of the STA Board—representing the County of Sacramento and five incorporated cities—traveled to Washington DC during last month’s Cap-to-Cap trip. Seven Board members participated on the delegation’s 69-member transportation team. The transportation team pursued two policy issues in multiple meetings with Congressional leaders and key transportation agency administrators:

1. Full funding of SAFETEA-LU in the FY 2008 Budget

The current multi-year transportation authorization—the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)—was approved in 2005. It authorizes the expenditure of \$286.4 billion on a variety of federal transportation programs and local priorities between FY 2004-05 and 2008-09. The bill provides for “guaranteed” cumulative funding of \$244.1 billion: \$39.1 billion each year for highways and \$9.731 billion each year for public transit. The Administration’s draft FY 2008 budget calls for highway and transit spending at less than the guaranteed annual rate. Funding at less than the guaranteed rate will inhibit the delivery of key regional projects, including LRT extensions to the south and north and I-80 capacity improvements east of the Sacramento County line. Transportation team members urged our federal partners to pursue FY 2008 federal transportation funding levels at least equal to the guaranteed funding amount.

2. Legislation to authorize and fund Amtrak for 5 years, including the establishment of a federal – state/local match program for intercity rail

Amtrak currently operates without legislative authority. On behalf of the Capitol Corridor, the transportation team advocated for S.294 to reauthorize Amtrak for the period FY 2007-12, and HR1300 to provide federal funding for intercity rail projects. Reauthorization would ensure that the Capitols and other intercity passenger rail programs can continue to operate in privately-owned freight railroad corridors. It would also provide liability insurance coverage for intercity passenger rail operators. HR1300 would provide federal funding—subject to state/local match—for continued service enhancements in the Capitol Corridor, including track improvements to facilitate more and faster trips, along with upgrades to Sacramento Valley Station. Transportation team members reminded our federal partners that the Capitol Corridor is the 3rd busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the nation, and that ridership demand is growing.

The transportation team also advocated for FY 2008 federal appropriations for several transportation projects/programs in Sacramento County:

- Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility: \$20 million (Sec. 9002) for track relocation
- Hazel Avenue Improvements: \$10 million for construction

- South Line LRT Extension: \$20 million (Sec. 5309 New Starts) for project delivery
- Consolidated Regional Bus/Paratransit Vehicle Replacement: \$35 million (Sec. 5309 Bus & Bus Facility) for vehicle replacement
- Bus Maintenance Facility: \$3.6 million (Sec. 5309 Bus & Bus Facility) for CNG rapid refueling facility & bus wash at McClellan Park
- Universal Fare Transit Card: \$1.2 million (Sec. 5309 Bus & Bus Facility)

A significant part of the message regarding these appropriations requests was that local transportation providers in Sacramento County contribute significant matching resources from the Measure A transportation sales tax program, local development impact fee programs, and the State Infrastructure Bond.

Attachments

- *Cap-to-Cap Transportation team issue papers*
- *Cap-to-Cap Transportation team appointment schedule*