



**MAY 18, 2009**

**AGENDA ITEM # 6**

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF 2009 METRO CHAMBER CAPITOL-TO-CAPITOL TRIP**

**Action Requested:** Receive and file

**Key Staff:** Brian Williams, Executive Director

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### **Recommendation**

Receive and file this summary report of Transportation team activities during the 2009 Sacramento Metro Chamber Capitol-to-Capitol Trip to Washington DC.

### **Discussion**

The Executive Director and 5 members of the STA Board—representing the Cities of Sacramento and Citrus Heights—traveled to Washington DC during last month's Cap-to-Cap trip. The participating Board members dedicated all or part of their time to the delegation's 45-member transportation team. The transportation team pursued one key policy issue in multiple meetings with Congressional leaders and key transportation agency administrators:

#### **Reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Act**

The current multi-year federal transportation authorization (SAFETEA-LU) provides "guaranteed" cumulative funding of \$244.1 billion for highways, highway safety, and public transportation during the period 2004-2009. It expires on September 30, 2009. Reauthorization prior to the Act's expiration ensures that federal transportation funds continue to flow uninterrupted to states and regions for project delivery and construction.

In its meetings, Transportation team members highlighted the Sacramento region's collaborative and coordinated approach to transportation, land use, and air quality planning as represented by the *Regional Blueprint*, *Metropolitan Transportation Plan*, and pending *RT Transit Action Plan*. Many federal officials expressed familiarity and interest in the region's planning efforts. We also reported on the region's progress in programming and obligating the federal ARRA stimulus funds. Regarding federal transportation reauthorization, the transportation team advocated several policy priorities:

#### **Federal revenues & programming criteria:**

- Augment the federal fuel tax by 25¢/gal over 5 yrs, with indexed future increases
- Consolidate the number of funding programs, and preserve local/regional programming flexibility
- Formalize performance standards for allocating project funding (mobility, safety, AQ, land use)
- Promote public/private partnerships & innovative financing techniques

#### **Land Use:**

- Require regional transportation plans, local land use plans, and the regional air quality plan to be consistent as represented by the *Regional Blueprint* and SB375
- Provide incentives for projects supportive of land use plans that promote non-automobile travel

#### **Environmental Review:**

- Allow environmental streamlining of projects included in a regional transportation plan
- Extend the pilot program whereby Caltrans simultaneously certifies projects for CEQA & NEPA
- Promote active & collaborative engagement among federal regulatory & resource agencies

**High Priority Projects:**

- To ensure transparency and accountability, require specific project authorization & appropriation requests to be consistent with an adopted regional transportation plan

**FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations Requests**

The transportation team also advocated for FY 2010 federal appropriations for 16 transportation projects, nine of which are in Sacramento County:

- Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility: \$13.2 million (Sec. 9002) for track relocation
- South Line LRT Extension: \$45 million (Sec. 5309 New Starts) for project delivery & construction
- Regional Bus Replacement and Bus Maintenance Facility: \$20.5 million & \$18.8 million respectively (Sec 5309 Bus & Bus Facility) for 38 buses & 75 paratransit vans and 3 new or improved bus maintenance & fueling facilities
- Hazel Avenue widening: \$5 million for construction
- International Drive/Folsom South Canal Bridge: \$2 million
- Kammerer Road, RR Overcrossing, & I-5/Hood-Franklin Interchange (\$5 million) and Grant Line Road improvements (\$5 million)
- US 50 / Watt Avenue reconstruction: \$5 million
- Interstate 80 Bus/Carpool Lanes: \$10 million
- Interstate 5 Bus/Carpool Lanes: \$5 million

A significant part of the message regarding these appropriations requests was that all are listed in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and that local transportation providers in Sacramento County contribute significant matching resources from the Measure A transportation sales tax, local development impact fee programs, and State Prop. 1B transportation bond proceeds.

*Attachment*

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