



**March 9, 2017**

**Agenda Item # 14**

**STATE OF THE AGENCY**

Action Requested: Receive and file

Key Staff: Jeffrey Spencer, Executive Director

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The mission of the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) is to maintain and improve the quality of life in Sacramento County. The agency has continued to provide funding under Measure A and is working to effectively managing those funds. There are specific safeguards in the Ordinance to ensure that funding is used properly. These safeguards include an Independent Taxpayers Oversight Committee (ITOC) to supervise fiscal and performance audits regarding the use of all sales tax funds and provide for independent review to ensure that all Measure funds are spent in accordance with provisions of the Ordinance.

The STA has reinvigorated the ITOC with regular public meetings and implemented a new website for the committee to improve transparency to the public. Measure A continues to fund needed projects across the County, including needed road repair, public transit, improved bicycle/pedestrian and safety, specialized transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities; and improved air quality. The STA is providing many resources for projects that otherwise would not be accomplished. For example, we provided funds for the I-80 “over the top” project and the refurbishing of the historic Sacramento Valley Station. We must also be aware of the best investments to provide mobility, stimulate the economy and mitigate our transportation impacts.

Additionally, The STA provides for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) in the area. The STA Program Manager, Jennifer Doll, has been appointed 2017 Vice-Chair of the Statewide Motorist Aid Committee for CalSAFE and FSP. The Governor’s new Corridor Mobility Program includes an increase for the FSP program – a \$25 million annual increase. FSP state funding hasn’t changed in 10 years.

This year will be a time for positioning the agency as a good partner to our recipients by understanding the needs and prioritizing the agency’s ability to meet those needs.

In January, the California State Transportation Agency held a last-minute call with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) across the state. They had been asked by the National Governors’ Association to compile a list of 3-5 transportation projects statewide for possible federal funds under an infrastructure stimulus package. This was more of a fire drill exercise, but it put projects on a list for inclusion of needs for infrastructure financing. We are in a waiting position to see what federal funds may be available for projects and be ready to leverage those opportunities.

I have been involved as a co-chair in the State Legislative Summit. Unfortunately, the summit is taking place today and I am unable to attend. However, I wrote much of the policy paper that is being advanced through our Legislators and we coordinated with other committees on mutual policies. For example, economic development and transportation look to support our region's efforts to form public-private partnerships with autonomous vehicle (AV) and Connected Vehicle (CV) manufacturers and other AV-related companies.

Sacramento is at a unique moment in its history. With the opening of Golden 1 Center, a new City of Sacramento Innovation and Growth Fund, and a growing technology community, we are poised to continue our momentum by becoming a demonstration hub for this new technology. AV and CV testing presents a tangible opportunity to continue the evolution of our innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The USDOT has already designated 18 Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers "to lead research on the transportation challenges" that are identified in their "Beyond Traffic" report.

All efforts have been focused on the automated vehicle being a car. I have been speaking at conferences to change the focus to include automation of transit and other service vehicles that typically serve our communities and add to congestion. These conferences include AV/CV, Smart Cities, Internet of Things and academic conferences. I led the Federal Transit Administration through the Connected Vehicle Safety Pilot. In partnership with the City and County of Sacramento, as well as bringing private enterprise to develop and test transit technologies, Sacramento can be a focal point on transit automation. It is what I hope to help develop as the Sacramento Transit Advanced Research and Test Center on Automation, or START-CA.

Through partnerships with other Self-Help agencies and the Self-Help Counties Coalition, I look to assist in developing the necessary legislation to fund transportation and fix our roads, as well as provide the incentives and policies needed to spur innovation that looks at the future of transportation.

The following year of 2018 will be very active with many projects coming ready and agencies looking to our ability to fund those projects. We plan on continuing our efforts to gain support for meeting the demands of our transportation infrastructure as well as looking to other funding opportunities from both State and federal funds to complete the needed projects.