



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: Nov. 7, 2008

FR: Executive Director

RE: November 4 Election Results

The November 4 election brings sweeping changes across the nation, including in the realm of transportation. In Washington, a new Obama administration and an increasingly Democratic-controlled Congress will consider a new federal role for America’s surface transportation system. Back on the West Coast, California and Bay Area voters signaled a renewed commitment to transportation investments, with a few exceptions.

California High-Speed Rail Bond Measure Approved

Voters throughout the state gave their approval to Proposition 1A, a \$10-billion high-speed rail bond measure to link San Diego, Los Angeles, the Central Valley and the Bay Area. Statewide, the measure, which needed only simple majority approval, garnered 52 percent support, with even stronger approval in most of the nine Bay Area counties. The measure was supported by MTC. (See chart below for details.)

County	% Approval
Alameda	63
Contra Costa	54
Marin	65
Napa	51
San Francisco	79
San Mateo	61
Santa Clara	60
Solano	54
Sonoma	64
All California Counties	52

North Bay Rail Measure Q Passes

Marin and Sonoma county voters together mustered the needed two-thirds support to pass Measure Q, with a combined approval threshold of 70 percent. An impressive 75 percent approval in Sonoma County bolstered the slightly weaker support in Marin County, where the measure had “just” 63 percent approval. Measure Q, also supported by MTC, authorizes a quarter-cent sales tax to help pay for a commuter rail system and bicycle-pedestrian pathway from Cloverdale in Sonoma County to near the Larkspur Ferry Terminal in Marin County.

AC Transit Property Tax Assessment Wins Easily

MTC-supported Measure V V to double AC Transit's existing parcel tax of \$48 per parcel for an additional 10 years won easily, with 72 percent of voters approving. The measure was on the ballot throughout the AC Transit service area, except in Union City and Fremont and in certain unincorporated areas of Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The parcel tax increase will help to address an estimated \$20 million deficit.

Berkeley Removes Rapid-Bus Road Blocks

Berkeley voters overwhelmingly rejected a bid (73 percent voted "no") to require voter approval before the city could dedicate a public street or lane to "bus-only, transit-only, or high occupancy vehicle-only use." The measure was specifically aimed at requiring voter approval for the implementation of one of MTC's priority transit expansion projects – AC Transit's bus rapid transit (BRT) project from International Boulevard in Oakland to Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

Santa Clara County BART Sales Tax Outcome Too Close to Call

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's Measure B currently stands at 66.4 percent approval, just shy of the needed two-thirds margin needed for approval of a special tax. The 30-year, 1/8-cent sales tax is supported by MTC. Ballot counting continues. Estimated revenue generated by the tax would have paid operating and maintenance costs associated with extending BART into Santa Clara County.

A total of six self-help measures were on the ballot in California. Of these, three garnered the required two-thirds supermajority for approval, including an additional quarter-cent sales tax in Los Angeles County. Of those measures that failed, the lowest approval margin still garnered 62 percent approval. See Attachment 1 for a round up of voting results for local self-help measures.

New, Familiar Faces in Sacramento...

The Bay Area will see several new members in its state legislative delegation, including current MTC Commissioner and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who will replace Mark Leno in the State Assembly (13th District). Mr. Leno is moving to the State Senate (3rd District), replacing outgoing State Senator Carole Migden.

Moving to the East Bay, Assemblymember Loni Hancock was elected to represent the State Senate's 9th District, replacing outgoing Senator Don Perata. Hancock's Assembly seat will be filled by Democrat Nancy Skinner, a former Berkeley city councilmember who currently serves on the board of the East Bay Regional Parks District.

In Contra Costa County, State Senator Tom Torlakson will return to his former seat in the State Assembly (11th District), swapping jobs with former MTC Commissioner and current Assemblymember Mark DeSaulnier, who will take Torlakson's 7th District seat in the State Senate. Replacing termed-out Assemblymember Guy Houston in the 15th Assembly District will be Joan Buchanan of Alamo, a Democrat and member of the San Ramon Valley School District Board of Education.

In Santa Clara County, termed-out Assemblymember Sally Lieber will be replaced by Democrat Paul Fong of Sunnyvale to represent the 22nd Assembly District. Fong is a political science professor and serves as a trustee for the Foothill/DeAnza Community College District. Democrat Bill Monning of Monterey, a law professor, will replace termed-out Assemblymember John Laird in the 27th Assembly District.

Finally, congratulations to MTC Commissioners running in local races

- Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover won his re-election bid.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Dave Cortese, won election to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors (3rd District).
- Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates won re-election.
- Rohnert Park City Council member Jake Mackenzie won re-election.

Steve Heminger

Attachment 1

Attachment 1

Local Transportation Sales Tax Measures on the November 2008 Ballot in California

Passed (need 66.67% approval)

Santa Barbara - Measure A
(local transportation)
78.63 percent - Yes
21.37 percent - No

Imperial County - Measure D
(local transportation)
83.16 percent - Yes
16.84 percent - No
Passed

Los Angeles County - Measure R
(local transportation)
67.41 percent - Yes
32.59 percent - No

Failed

Monterey County - Measure Z
(local transportation)
61.89 percent - Yes
38.11 percent - No

Santa Clara County - Measure B
(BART extension operating funds)
66.27 percent - Yes
33.73 percent - No

Stanislaus County - Measure S
(local transportation)
65.88 percent - Yes
34.12 percent - No