



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: February 6, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: Legislative Visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Planning is underway for MTC's annual legislative advocacy meetings in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Meetings in both capitals are an opportunity to present the delegation with a Bay Area perspective, and to hear from members about important issues in the upcoming legislative session.

Sacramento Advocacy Visits – Late March/Early April

Given the state budget crisis, it appears better to visit Sacramento in late March/early April when the Legislature will hopefully have an adopted budget. Similar to recent years, we intend to brief the Assembly's Bay Area Caucus and highlight our top legislative priorities for the year seeking: 1) toll bridge seismic retrofit legislation to integrate the Antioch and Dumbarton toll bridges into the Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program, and 2) authority for a regional HOT lane network. On that same day, or immediately following, we will also seek meetings with Senators and Transportation Committee Chairs from both houses.

Washington, D.C. Advocacy – March 8-11

The March 2009 trip will be in the context of a new Administration, the current surface transportation act expiring by September, and the Highway Trust Fund running out of money again to keep pace with authorized funding order. By March, when MTC Commissioners convene in Washington, D.C., President Obama will likely have signed the economic recovery legislation. Our message will be to keep the pressure on to enact bold legislation charting a new direction for the nation's transportation system; one that includes a substantial increase in transportation funding over the long-term.

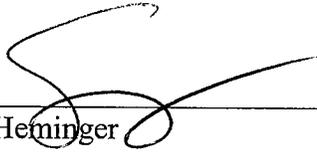
As in past years, the trip will coincide with the American Public Transportation Association's annual legislative conference and will feature the popular California transportation reception on Capitol Hill. Here are key dates:

- Monday, March 9th – 9 a.m. orientation briefing session for MTC Commissioners and meetings.
- Tuesday, March 10th – Meetings throughout the day with members of the Bay Area congressional delegation and key staff, followed by the annual California transportation community's reception at the House Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee Room (2165 Rayburn House Office Building, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.).

- Wednesday, March 11th – Spillover meetings with members of the Bay Area congressional delegation and key staff (optional). Return to the Bay Area.

We will provide you with more detail and other information in the coming weeks, but please do not hesitate to contact Randy Rentschler (510.817.5780) or Rebecca Long (510.817.5889) if you have questions.



Steve Heminger