



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4e

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: May 1, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: SB 406 (DeSaulnier): Sustainable Communities Strategy: \$2 Vehicle Registration Surcharge

Description

Senate Bill 406 (DeSaulnier) authorizes metropolitan planning organizations, associations of government and county transportation commissions¹ to impose a vehicle registration surcharge of up to \$2 on vehicles registered within their jurisdiction in order to fund the development and implementation of a regional blueprint plan — i.e., a sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy, as required by Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg), Statutes of 2008. The bill requires that if such a surcharge were to be pursued in the Bay Area, both MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) would have to adopt a resolution in support of the surcharge and reach agreement on how the funds would be distributed between the agencies.

The bill also changes the composition and duties of various state agencies involved in long-range planning, including the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the Planning Advisory and Assistance Council (PAAC), and the Strategic Growth Council (SCG). Specifically, the bill changes the membership of the PAAC by adding seven new seats, including a seat for a joint MTC/ABAG representative.

The bill provides that five percent of the revenues collected from the surcharge be transferred to the PAAC and that any amount above \$1 in a jurisdiction with a population greater than 300,000 be spent on grants to cities and counties for planning and projects related to the implementation of a sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy.

The bill also assigns the PAAC and SCG an array of new planning responsibilities in the areas of coordinating regional blueprint projects, state inter-agency coordination, regional performance monitoring and planning data development.

Recommendation: Support and Seek Amendments

Discussion

SB 406 could provide a helpful fund source for the planning component of SB 375. Based on a preliminary assessment of the incremental planning and outreach costs associated with SB 375 by MTC and ABAG planning staff, we estimate an additional \$3.7 million increase to the

¹ Only relevant in Southern California where the county transportation commissions are authorized to develop sub-regional versions of the sustainable communities strategy.

development of the regional transportation plan, including \$2.1 million in additional costs for MTC and \$1.6 million in additional costs for ABAG.

However, as California's regions embark on the challenge of implementing SB 375, it is important to keep in mind that the task before us is not just to *plan* more effectively, but to find the funding necessary to turn these plans into reality. Through the region's FOCUS program, 60 participating jurisdictions identified over \$50 billion of infrastructure and housing needs to support a compact development future in the Bay Area. While the state is in no condition at present to provide a substantial infusion of funding in support of this effort, when the economy recovers and additional funding is identified, it is critical that the state direct these funds in support of the sustainable communities strategies being developed across the state. Therefore, we recommend that the bill be amended to place a greater emphasis on how state agencies can more directly link regional plans to statewide plans, but more importantly, regional plans to the criteria for statewide funding as well. For these reasons, we recommend a support and seek amendments position on SB 406.

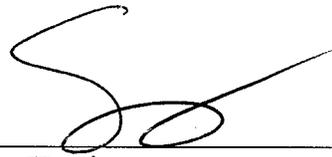
Known Positions

Support

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO)
Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG)
California League of Conservation Voters

Oppose

California New Car Dealers Association
California Taxpayers' Association
SANDAG



Steve Heminger