



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4f

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: May 1, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 266 (Carter) – Transportation Needs Assessment

Description

This bill would require the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to develop every five years, a statewide assessment of the unfunded costs of programmed state transportation projects and projects for which there are federal earmarks, as well as an assessment of the available funding and unmet transportation needs statewide. The bill would require the CTC to consult with Caltrans, regional transportation planning agencies, the California Transit Association, the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties to develop this assessment, and to submit its first report to the Legislature by March 1, 2011.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

Ten years ago, Senator Burton authored Senate Resolution 8, requiring the CTC to conduct a statewide transportation needs assessment. The findings were a wake-up call to elected officials and transportation professionals alike: the state's unfunded needs over a ten-year period totaled \$117 billion. This oft-cited study helped galvanize support for Proposition 42, and it was also used in campaign materials for Proposition 1B (the \$20 billion transportation infrastructure bond passed by the voters in 2006) despite the fact that the data was already seven years old. By requiring the CTC to conduct an update by March 2011 (by which point the next federal surface transportation act should be in place) and subsequent updates every five years, the bill would ensure that policy makers have current information about the state's transportation needs, which will no doubt change over time.

This bill is virtually identical to AB 945 (Carter) of 2007, which was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger on the grounds that "Californians do not need another report to tell them that the state's transportation needs are great." To the contrary, we think that the state should regularly reevaluate its infrastructure investment needs as a matter of sound asset management practice.

For this reason, we recommend a "support" position on AB 266 (Carter).

Known Positions

Support

AFSCME

Automobile Club of Southern California

Support (cont'd)

CALCOG

California Transit Association

California State Association of Counties

California State Automobile Association

League of California Cities

Regional Council of Rural Counties

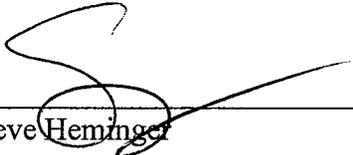
San Mateo County Transit District

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

State Building and Construction Trades Council

Oppose

None



Steve Heminger