



**METROPOLITAN
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Legislation Committee
May 8, 2009

Minutes

Chair Rubin called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m. Committee members in attendance: Azumbrado, Chu, Haggerty, Halsted, Lempert, Mackenzie, Tissier, Worth, and Yeager. Also in attendance: Commissioners Bates and Kinsey.

Minutes of the Committee's April 10, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

State Legislation

AB 254 (Jeffries) – Emergency Vehicles Toll Exemptions

This bill would expand toll free access on toll bridges to authorized emergency vehicles. Commissioner Mackenzie moved an "oppose" position, Commissioner Worth seconded, and the motion was unanimously referred to Commission.

AB 670 (Berryhill), AB 1500 (Lieu) & SB 535 (Yee) – HOV Lane Occupancy Exceptions

- AB 670 (Berryhill) would allow single-occupant vehicle access to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to veterans or active duty members of the United States Armed Forces.
- AB 1500 (Lieu) would extend the sunset date for hybrid and electric vehicles to 2016.
- SB 535 (Yee) would indefinitely authorize plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles access into HOV lanes regardless of the number of occupants.

Commissioner Worth moved a position of "oppose" on all three bills, with a second by Commissioner Mackenzie. The motion was unanimously referred to Commission.

ACA 9 (Huffman) – Lower Vote Threshold for Local Bonds & Special Taxes for Infrastructure

This constitutional amendment would change the voter-approval requirement for certain bonded indebtedness and special taxes by cities, counties, a city and county, or a special district from two-thirds to 55 percent. Commissioner Worth moved a "support and seek amendments" position on ACA 9 (Huffman), with a second by Commissioner Mackenzie. The motion was unanimously referred to Commission.

SB 205 (Hancock) – Local Vehicle Registration Surcharge for Transportation/Air Quality

This bill authorizes a countywide transportation planning agency to seek voter approval (by a simple majority of voters) to impose a vehicle registration fee of up to \$10 on each registered motor vehicle in that county. Commissioner Haggerty asked if a county implemented the fee, would the revenue stay within the county. Randy Rentschler of MTC staff said yes. Commissioner Chu asked how this bill relates to SB 406 (DeSaulnier), and if it was appropriate to discuss both bills at the same time. Commissioner Azumbrado noted there was no distinction made for low-income people regarding the fees.

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

This bill would authorize metropolitan planning organizations, associations of government and county transportation commissions 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.

Commissioner Rubin asked how the two bills relate. Rebecca Long of MTC staff said the two bills do not overlap or are duplicative because one is geared toward planning and the other is to fund actual projects. Commissioner Rubin suggested that motions for each bill be made separately because the positions were not the same. Commissioner Mackenzie moved a “support” position on SB 205 (Hancock), which was seconded by Commissioner Halsted. Commissioner Worth moved a “support and seek amendments” position on SB 406 (DeSaulnier), and Commissioner Chu seconded. Both motions were unanimously referred to the Commission.

AB 266 (Carter) – Transportation Needs Assessment

This bill would require the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to develop, every five years, an assessment of the unfunded costs of programmed state transportation projects and projects for which there are federal earmarks, and an assessment of the available funding and unmet transportation needs statewide. To develop this assessment, the CTC would consult with Caltrans, regional transportation planning agencies, the California Transit Association, the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The CTC would submit its first report to the Legislature by March 1, 2011. Commissioner Lempert moved a “support” position; Commissioner Worth seconded, and the motion was unanimously referred to the Commission.

Tom Bulger’s Report

The report from MTC’s advocate in Washington, D.C. was received by the committee.

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

There was no other business or public comment. The next Committee meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.