



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4

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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: January 4, 2010

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**

Given the prospects for an extremely difficult state budget in FY 2010-11, it appears preferable to visit Sacramento in the earlier part of the year, no later than the end of February. Similar to recent years, we intend to brief the Assembly's Bay Area Caucus and set up individual meetings with key members of our Senate delegation and the Assembly and Senate Transportation committees. We will highlight our top legislative priorities for the year: 1) authority for a regional express lane network; 2) restoration of State Transit Assistance in the FY 2010-11 budget; 3) mandatory license plates for all vehicles; 4) funding to support SB 375 planning and implementation, and 5) ending the accessibility exemption for townhomes located within 1/2-mile of public transit.

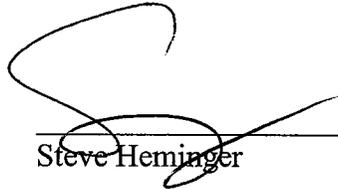
**Washington, D.C. Advocacy Visits — March 15-17**

A national recession and high unemployment levels — against the backdrop of the November 2010 elections — will likely be on the minds of each member of Congress when we make our annual visit to Washington, D.C. next March. Our message in 2010 will be to chart a new direction for the nation's transportation system: one that includes a substantial increase in transportation funding over the long-term with a focus on: a well-maintained system, metropolitan mobility, sustainable transportation and a national goods movement strategy. We will also urge that any cap-and-trade legislation designed to regulate greenhouse gas emissions provide a reasonable share of allowances to benefit sustainable transportation, including public transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

As in past years, the trip will coincide with the American Public Transportation Association's annual legislative conference (held a week later than usual this year) and will feature the popular California transportation reception on Capitol Hill. Here are key dates:

- Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> — 9 a.m. orientation briefing session for MTC Commissioners and meetings.
- Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> — 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 17<sup>th</sup> — 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 or Rebecca Long if you have questions.



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Steve Heminger