



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: January 6, 2012

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I. 1131

RE: Sacramento & Washington, D.C. Visits 2012

Planning is underway for our annual advocacy efforts in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., as detailed below.

Sacramento Advocacy

Staff is trying to get an early start this year on meetings with commissioners, staff and members of our Sacramento delegation. We have already contacted a number of your offices to check on your availability. The goal of these meetings is to 1) advocate for MTC's 2012 Legislative Program; 2) inform the delegation about key Bay Area transportation projects; and 3) discuss any questions members may have about any topic related to MTC and the Bay Area's transportation system.

While we will try to arrange meetings at district offices, some meetings will need to take place in Sacramento due to busy schedules. We will make every attempt to avoid schedule conflicts, but in order to make sure that the delegation is contacted early in the legislative session, we will move forward with meetings with staff only, as needed.

Washington D.C.

For many years, MTC and transportation agencies from throughout California have participated in an annual Washington D.C. advocacy trip timed to overlap with the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) annual legislative conference (set for March 11 -13th this year). As part of this trip, MTC has co-hosted with transportation agencies from across the state a reception on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress, their staff, and importantly, senior Administration officials. The reception is widely attended by board members and staff from transportation agencies across California and it provides an excellent networking opportunity for members of Congress and their staff.

Unfortunately, this year the House of Representatives has scheduled the entire week of March 12 as a "District Work Period" to allow members to return to their districts to campaign for reelection. This will make it difficult to schedule meetings with members of Congress and their senior staff as we have in the past.

After consulting with other agencies as well as our Washington D.C. representative about changing the timing of the trip, staff has concluded that this week remains an important time for MTC to have a presence in Washington as it is very likely that March will be a critical month for transportation funding. The House is expected to introduce its version of a reauthorization proposal within the next few weeks and March 31st is the deadline for the next extension of the surface transportation program.

Accordingly, MTC staff and our Washington D.C. representative will move forward arranging logistics for the reception and setting up as many meetings as we can with members of Congress, their senior

staff, and senior Administration officials. We also plan other opportunities in Washington DC at other times during 2012, such as the annual Bay Area Council visit that takes place later in the year.

Below are key dates:

- Tuesday, March 13 — Meetings with the Bay Area congressional delegation, Administration officials and key legislative staff. APTA Legislative Reception, 5-7 p.m. and Annual California transportation reception sponsored by MTC and other agencies from 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 14 — Additional meetings with members of the Bay Area congressional delegation, Administration officials and key legislative staff.



Ann Flemer