

Agenda Item 7



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: October 3, 2012

FR: Rebecca Long, Senior Legislative Analyst

W.I. 1131

RE: MTC's 2013 Legislative Program

Overview

Each year MTC adopts a legislative program to guide staff's advocacy efforts in Sacramento and Washington D.C. The program also helps inform legislators, the public, transportation stakeholders and partner transportation agencies about MTC's legislative priorities.

What Is Included in the Legislative Program?

MTC staff begins the development of the legislative program by including any bills the agency plans to sponsored or co-sponsor. In addition, legislation proposed by partner agencies or organizations, such as the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), California Transit Association (CTA) or the Self Help Counties Coalition, is often included for support or opposition. However, the legislative program is by no means a roadmap for the entire year; the full scope of what MTC staff will engage on during the course of a year is fluid and not known until after legislation is introduced and bills are amended — including bills whose subject changes entirely, known in Sacramento as “gut-and-amend” bills. Any bill that MTC takes a position on is first brought before MTC's Legislation Committee for a recommendation, which must be subsequently approved by the Commission.

The Best Legislative Program is Bold, But Realistic

Staff strives for a balance of visionary and realistic when crafting our legislative program. Given the current difficulty (some might say “impossibility”) of raising taxes in Sacramento due to the two-thirds vote required, statewide tax proposals in the Legislature are very unlikely to pass. Proposals to authorize new local or regional tax measures require a simple majority, but still require a two-thirds vote at the local level. A few topic areas you might consider for our discussion include:

- Ways to encourage transit-oriented development
- Ways to expedite project delivery and reform the California Environmental Quality Act
- Ways to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Ways to reduce the combined cost of transportation and housing

The Draft 2013 Legislative Program will be presented to the Legislation Committee and the Commission in November, with final adoption by the Legislation Committee and the Commission scheduled for December. I will return in November to present the draft to the Council. I look forward to meeting with you in October and November to hear your ideas MTC should consider including in the program.