



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: January 4, 2013

FR: Executive Director

W. I.

RE: State and Federal Legislative Visits

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

Sacramento Advocacy

The 2012 general election brings seven new members to the Bay Area's Assembly delegation. Staff is planning a Bay Area caucus luncheon in February 2013 for MTC commissioners and staff to meet the new members, greet the returning members, hear about their legislative priorities, and inform the delegation about MTC's various activities and areas of responsibility, as well as our Advocacy Program. Staff plans to give a presentation that will provide an overview of MTC, the funding sources we are responsible for, our key regional programs (Clipper, 511 and FasTrak) and the development and pending adoption of Plan Bay Area. We welcome your feedback about other topic areas you would like us to emphasize.

After this initial event in February, staff will schedule one-on-one meetings with commissioners and members, as needed, to focus on specific legislative issues that emerge during the year. We welcome your input about any meetings you would like us to arrange on specific bills or budget issues pertinent to Bay Area transportation.

Washington, D.C. Advocacy

At the federal level, MTC and transportation agencies from throughout California are planning our annual reception on Capitol Hill. As you know, this reception is widely attended by board members and staff from transportation agencies across California and provides an excellent opportunity for commissioners to network with these agencies as well as members of Congress, their staff, and senior Administration officials.

The reception is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2013 which coincides with the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) annual legislative conference (set for March 10 -12th), increasing the chances of participation from California transit agency officials and staff.

With MAP 21 enacted last summer and authorized through September 2014, Congress is not expected to make any significant policy changes to surface transportation law this year. However, given that the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is forecast to run a deficit in by late 2014, there is an urgent need for Congress to enact a long-term solution to restore solvency to this account and such a solution will take years of consensus-building to develop. So, 2013 is not too early to start. Failure to identify more funding for the HTF will necessitate further General Fund bailouts or trigger major cuts (potentially as high as 30 percent) to the federal transportation program.

Accordingly, consistent with MTC's Advocacy Program, the focus of the MTC's 2013 trip to Washington will be to urge Congress to raise, index, or convert the mode of the federal gas tax to provide additional revenue to better address the nation's deteriorating infrastructure and provide for the HTF's long-term solvency at current funding levels through 2020.

Below are key dates for the Washington trip:

- Monday, March 11 — Meetings with the Bay Area congressional delegation, Administration officials and key legislative staff.
- Tuesday, March 12 — 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 13 — Additional meetings with members of the Bay Area congressional delegation, Administration officials and key legislative staff.

We look forward to working closely with you for a productive legislative session in 2013.



Steve Heninger