

March, 2014 Monthly Report for MTC

To: Steve Heminger, Executive Director
From: Tom Bulger, President GRI
Re: Monthly Report for March 2014
Date: April 2, 2014

- **MTC Washington, D.C. March Meetings**
- **California Transportation Congressional Reception**
- **Transportation Reauthorization**
- **Comings and Goings**

MTC Washington, D.C. March Meetings

MTC Commissioners were in Washington, D.C. from March 10–12. The following meetings and briefings were held with members of Congress, committee staff and interest groups:

Monday, March 10

- Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors
- Brookings Institute
- Senate Banking Committee (Majority & Minority senior staff)
- House Transportation & Infrastructure (Minority senior staff)
- U.S. Conference of Mayors and Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Therese W. McMillan, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

Tuesday, March 11

- Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA)
- Senator Diane Feinstein (staff)
- Senate Environment & Public Works (Majority senior staff)
- Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
- Rep. Thomas Petri (R-WI)
- Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) (senior staff)
- Rep. John Duncan (R-TN) (senior staff)
- Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
- Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA)

Wednesday, March 12

- Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
- Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) senior appropriations staff
- Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)
- Chris Bertran (House Transportation & Infrastructure Majority chief of staff)
- Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)
- Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- DOT, EPA, HUD presentation by MTC on Plan Bay Area, including Peter Rogoff, USDOT Under Secretary and Beth Osborne, USDOT, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy.

California Transportation Congressional Reception

On the evening of March 11, with our California transportation partners, we hosted the annual Congressional reception in the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee room. This year's reception honored the four retiring California members of Congress. The Bay Area's Rep. George Miller attended and was recognized through a C-SPAN video clip about saving the BART to SFO rail project funding in the 1990s. Reception attendance was high, including members of Congress, Administration officials, trade association executives, Congressional staff, transportation committee staff and MTC and partner guests.

Transportation Reauthorization

The overarching big question facing the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program is where to first, bail out the Highway Trust Fund as early as this summer and find sufficient new revenue to produce a long term authorization bill. A solution to neither financial challenge has been offered or embraced. Instead, "off the wall" financial solutions have been proposed by both the Administration through corporate tax reform of off shore profits as well in the House Ways and Means Committee in their "Tax Reform" framework proposal. In March, MTC sent letters to Senator Boxer (D-CA) and Senator Feinstein (D-CA) urging them to send letters to Senator Wyden (D-OR), the new Senate Finance Committee Chairman, on shoring up the Highway Trust Fund.

Comings and Goings

- Beth Osbourne, Acting Secretary for Policy has resigned from the USDOT. She has accepted a position at Transportation for America.
- Matthew Nelson of Senator Feinstein's transportation staff has resigned and is now at the Department of Energy's Efficiency and Renewable Program.
- Trevor Higgins, formerly at the Department of Energy has taken Mr. Nelson's slot on the Senator's staff.
- Georgia Gann has resigned from Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) and is now at New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's Washington, DC office.