



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 3

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: January 2, 2015

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: State and Federal Advocacy Meetings

Each year at this time we recommend a plan to meet with members of the Bay Area's legislative delegation in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. for your comment and discussion. This memo summarizes staff's proposed approach for 2015.

Sacramento Advocacy

With many newly-elected members from the Bay Area delegation (Assembly Members Baker, Chiu, Chu, Dodd, Low, Thurmond and Wood, and Senators McGuire and Wieckowski, combined with new Chairs in the Senate and Assembly Transportation Committees — both from the Bay Area, Senator Beall (San Jose/Santa Clara County) and Assembly Member Frazier (Solano/Contra Costa Counties), 2015 certainly presents new opportunities for MTC in Sacramento.

The goal of the meetings will be to introduce and familiarize the legislators and their staff with MTC, communicate our 2015 state advocacy priorities, discuss any transportation-related questions or concerns, and, lastly, offer MTC as a resource for information regarding transportation and land use concerns affecting their respective districts.

Overall, 60 percent of the 120 members in the State Legislature have served two years or less. As such, we anticipate the beginning of the legislative session to be an especially busy time for members and their staff. Given this, and the ongoing challenge of securing an individual date and time on the calendar of a large number of legislators and commissioners, we recommend an approach this year that is centered on setting up individual meetings with legislators either in Sacramento or locally while attempting to group multiple meetings on the same day to the greatest extent possible, rather than attempting a single lobby day as we did last year.

Based on advice from our Sacramento lobbying team, February would be the ideal time for these meetings — after the budget is released in January, but before the Legislature begins its committee hearings in March. We anticipate that many of our meetings will be held in Sacramento as this will provide more times available and allow for meetings with the delegation's key legislative and committee staff who play an integral role in drafting legislation.

Staff will be in touch with your scheduler in the next few weeks to find February dates that work for you.

Washington, D.C., Advocacy

A longstanding part of MTC's federal advocacy consists of an advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., for a representative group of commissioners to meet with the Bay Area's 15-member Congressional delegation, other key Congressional members and committee staffers, and Administration officials regarding our federal advocacy priorities.

For 35 years, we have also co-hosted what is now known as the California Transportation Reception, which attracts many members of California's delegation as well as key committee members, their staff, and senior Administration officials. The reception provides an excellent opportunity for MTC's and other sponsoring agencies' board members and staff to meet with members of Congress and federal officials as well as network with colleagues from across the state regarding how to best achieve California's shared federal surface transportation policy goals.

While we have traditionally timed the trip to overlap with the American Public Transportation Association's annual legislative conference in early March, this year the House is out of session that week (March 9-13), so we are seeking an alternate date that can work with our partner co-sponsors.

Considering that MAP 21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) — the current federal surface transportation authorization law — expires on May 31, a late March or April trip could be well timed to engage legislators and their staff in serious discussions about how to fund the next extension, and eventually, long-term funding and the structure for the successor to MAP 21.

Based on our discussions with Bay Area transit agencies, congestion management agencies, and our Southern California partners, a narrow set of dates in late March and mid-April looks the most promising. We hope to settle on a specific date as soon as possible.

We look forward to working closely with you for a productive state and federal legislative session in 2015.



Steve Heminger

SH: RL