Agenda Item 2f

METROPOLITAN
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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: April 3, 2015

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: H.R. 1308 (Lowenthal): Economy in Motion: The National Multimodal and Sustainable Freight Infrastructure Act

Background
Congressman Alan Lowenthal's H.R. 1308 provides a blueprint for a potential freight title that could be incorporated into the next surface transportation authorization bill. The bill establishes a Multimodal Freight Funding Formula Program and a National Freight Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program, which would each receive half of the overall program funds. Consistent with MTC's Freight Advocacy Principles adopted in 2014, the legislation goes beyond simply *authorizing* new programs; it also establishes a new dedicated funding mechanism, — a waybill fee of 1 percent on the cost of transportation — which would generate approximately $8 billion per year. While enactment of this fee is certainly extremely unlikely in the current Congress, we commend Congressman Lowenthal for offering it for debate.

In recognition of the flaws in the approach taken in MAP-21 in which the national freight network was defined as to only include highways, the bill includes a much broader definition for the National Freight System: the publicly and privately-owned transportation facilities that are used in transporting freight within the United States, including roads, railroads, ports, waterways, locks and dams, airports, airways, warehouses, distribution centers, and intermodal facilities.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion
MTC staff recommends we strongly support H.R. 1308 which, if enacted, would achieve all of our key Freight Advocacy Principles.

Known Positions

Support
Altamont Corridor Express (ACE)
City of Long Beach
Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors
LA Metro
Port of Long Beach
South Coast Air Quality Management
Southern California Association of Governments

Oppose
None on file

Steve Heminger

SH: RL
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