



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

**Agenda Item 5**

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***Memorandum***

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: Feb. 2, 2007

FR: Executive Director

RE: Sacramento and Washington Legislative Visits

Planning is underway for MTC's annual legislative advocacy meetings in Sacramento and Washington. Meetings in both capitals are an opportunity to present the delegation with a Bay Area perspective, and to hear from members about important issues in the upcoming legislative session.

**Sacramento Advocacy**

Commissioners Rubin, McLemore, Sperring, Dodd, Lempert and Young met with the Bay Area Assembly Caucus on Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>. We are seeking a similar event on the Senate side as well and will keep you informed as to dates as soon as they become available.

Much of this year's Sacramento agenda is focused on bond implementation and we had an opportunity to present MTC's 2007 Report to the Legislature, which outlines our positions on the various bond implementation bills.

**Washington, D.C. Advocacy**

With the recent convening of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and a new Democratic majority in both houses, this will be an interesting year in Washington. The March trip offers Commissioners an opportunity to get a sense first hand of what we can expect from Congress this year. On January 31, the House passed a continuing resolution for FY 2007 that meets the funding guarantees for SAFETEA, but contains no transportation earmarks. The Senate is expected to follow up on this action before the current continuing resolution expires on February 15.

The President is expected to release his proposed FY 2008 budget in early February, after which Congress will begin its own deliberations. In addition to budget activity, a multi-year transit security bill remains an important goal of our federal legislative program and we anticipate continued Congressional interest in this topic.

As in past years, the trip will coincide with the American Public Transportation Association's annual legislative conference and feature the popular California transportation reception on Capitol Hill. Here are some key dates:

- Friday, March 9, 12 noon: pre-departure briefing at MTC.
- Monday, March 12: Briefing on transit security by Congressional staffers for MTC Commissioners and other Bay Area transportation officials. Transit-oriented development tour.
- Tuesday, March 13: Morning briefing session for MTC Commissioners followed by meeting with Bay Area Members.
- Tuesday and Wednesday March 13 and 14th: Additional meetings with members of the Bay Area Congressional Delegation as well as other optional policy briefings, followed by the annual California transportation community's evening reception on March 13 at the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Room (2165 Rayburn House Office Building, 5:30-7:30 p.m.).

We will provide you with the details and other information as it develops in the coming weeks.



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Steve Heminger