

## General Manager's Report March 8, 2010

### FEDERAL UPDATE

Congress returned on February 22 from a one week recess. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passed the first in a series of three Senate Jobs packages. The Senate's \$15 billion version of the "Jobs Bill" and the initial \$174 billion House version passed in December of 2009, both contain an extension to SAFETEA-LU through December 31, 2010. The legislation containing the longer extension for SAFETEA-LU did not make the trek through both chambers and SAFETEA-LU expired on midnight Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. The short lapse had over two thousand Department of Transportation staff furloughed and this week, our federal lobbyists report that the Senate has approved a package of temporary extensions that the House passed on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The passage of this package is now paving the way for a one-month extension of SAFETEA-LU and other critical items such as unemployment insurance, COBRA and flood insurance. The Senate Jobs packages that includes the 10-month extension of SAFETEA-LU and funding for major transportation and other infrastructure programs is on a path to move forward with the House expected to vote on the measure on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### STATE UPDATE

A few weeks ago the Democrat leadership outlined an alternative to Governor's Schwarzenegger's gas sales tax elimination proposal by announcing a budget plan that could possibly increase the State's General Fund while providing funding for public transit. Last week, our state lobbyists reported no significant movement with respect to the budget and the transportation tax swap after the Assembly passed a plan that alters the way the state taxes gasoline. The Senate plan has been introduced but has not yet been taken up on the Senate floor as discussions between Governor Schwarzenegger's Administration and Democrats are on going. The Legislature plans on finalizing a variation on the Governor's tax swap and is expected to send its version to the Governor possibly this week or next. On Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Legislature is scheduled to act on the tax swap measure that currently includes a \$400 million appropriation for the State Transit Assistance (STA) fund.

### RT MEETING CALENDAR

#### Regional Transit Board Meeting

March 22, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
6:00 P.M

April 12, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
6:00 P.M

April 26, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
6:00 P.M

**Executive Committee Meetings for 2010**  
Will be approved and scheduled by the Chair  
on an as needed basis.

**Mobility Advisory Council**

April 1, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
2:30-4:30 P.M.

May 6, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
2:30-4:30 P.M.

June 3, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
2:30-4:30 P.M.

**Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting**

March 15, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
9:00 A.M. – Noon

June 14, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
9:00 A.M. – Noon

September 14, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
9:00 A.M. – Noon

December 6, 2010  
RT Auditorium  
9:00 A.M. – Noon