

General Manager's Report February 14, 2011

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

FEDERAL

Last week, Representatives took the week to work from their respective congressional district offices. On Thursday, February 3, we had the opportunity to meet with Joel Bailey, Congresswoman Matsui's D.C. based legislative staff member. An overview of the District's priority transit projects was presented to Mr. Bailey who will now handle transportation and environmental issues. Rob Mosher, Congresswoman Matsui's Legislative Director, who previously handled transportation issues, has announced his departure from the Congresswoman's office effective February 15.

Last week, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye announced a two-year ban on earmark spending. The District normally prepares Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations requests for the South Line light rail extension and regional bus and bus facilities but there will be no process in the House or Senate to support appropriations requests. The Senate earmark moratorium applies to the current fiscal year and fiscal year 2012.

During a recent Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing, Senator Barbara Boxer, who chairs the committee, set a goal to move a surface transportation authorization measure through her committee before Memorial Day. In order to obtain input on transportation needs and craft a successor to the \$286 billion surface transportation bill, the Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative John Mica has scheduled "listening sessions" across the country. Two sessions are scheduled to be held in California during the week of February 21st – one session will be held in Los Angeles and the other in Fresno. RT's federal lobbyists have noted an invitation will go out to potential speakers for these forums. RT has indicated its interest in participating to convey the importance of funding surface transportation projects and discuss the public transit needs for the greater Sacramento region. The Continuing Resolution that is currently funding federal programs is scheduled to expire on March 4. RT's federal lobbyists have indicated the House Republican Leadership is planning to take up a new Continuing Resolution to fund FY11 federal government operations the week of February 14th, the same week President Obama is expected to release his FY 2012 budget.

On February 15th, the Assistant General Manager of Marketing and Communications, Alane Masui and I will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with House members, Senators, and federal administration staff. Along with Chair Nottoli, we plan to discuss the District's priority projects, the importance of the Federal Transit Administration New Starts program and the renewal of a multi-year surface transportation measure.

STATE

On February 10, along with the California Transit Association and the District's state lobbyist, RT is scheduled to testify before the Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 to discuss the State Transit Assistance program and present testimony in support of Governor Brown's legislative

Agenda Item #8

budget proposal that currently maintains funding for public transit. Jan Zolin, Chair of the District's Mobility Advisory Council will testify before the committee as well

For the 2011-2012 Legislative Session, RT has been working with the District's lobbyists to move legislative proposals for potential introduction. The legislative proposals that would benefit the District if enacted are as follows:

- Legislative proposal to extend and improve RT's current Exclusion Policy authorized by SB 1561 (Chapter 528 Statutes of 2008). The District's exclusion policy, which addresses nuisance behavior and security, is scheduled to sunset in 2012. RT and the Fresno Area Express have implemented exclusion procedures. RT has submitted the required annual report and is seeking to strengthen the law and to be granted permanent authority to continue using an exclusion policy.
- Legislative proposal to grant RT the utilization of a "best value" procurement practice. The proposal would grant the District discretionary authority to purchase supplies, equipment and materials on the basis of lowest responsible bid or on a "best value" basis using a combination of quality, price and other elements that provide the greatest overall benefit.
- Legislative proposal granting RT additional borrowing authority granted to other special districts, such as the ability to work in conjunction with the requirements of the Revenue Bond Act of 1941 and grant the District the authority to issue general revenue bonds to utilize as an additional independent financing tool for RT.
- Legislative proposal to improve the District's enabling act by updating the District's enabling statutes, eliminating outdated references and general code maintenance.
- Legislative proposal to grant RT the authority to create trusts for the District's retirement system.

RT MEETING CALENDAR

Regional Transit Board Meeting

February 28, 2011

RT Auditorium

6:00 P.M

March 14, 2011

RT Auditorium

6:00 P.M

March 28, 2011

RT Auditorium

6:00 P.M

Executive Committee Meetings for 2011

Will be approved and scheduled by the Chair
on an as needed basis.

Mobility Advisory Council

March 3, 2011
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

April 7, 2011
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

May 5, 2011
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

March 7, 2011
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

June 6, 2011
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

September 13, 2011
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

December 5, 2011
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

ParaTransit Board Meeting

March 24, 2011
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M

May 26, 2011
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M

July 28, 2011
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M