

General Manager's Report September 12, 2011

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

FEDERAL

Congress reconvened on September 6 and will have a few weeks this month to take congressional action on the pending expiration of surface transportation authorization and the federal gas tax, which expires on September 30, 2011. While text of the actual reauthorization legislation has not been released, the longer-term transportation authorization outline for both the House and Senate was made public in July. The outlines have differing levels of funding, the House plan calls for \$230 billion over the next six-year period, a significant reduction from current levels, and the Senate plan calls for funding levels significantly over the House proposed levels (\$109 billion) but would only authorize two years of funding.

The last transportation reauthorization bill, enacted in 2005, set funding levels at \$286 billion and on August 31, President Obama called for a clean extension of the bill indicating he did not want to see this bill or the gas tax lapse. This week, in response to the President's call to act, House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman, Representative John Mica announced he would support one additional transportation reauthorization extension. The District's federal lobbyists report Senator Barbara Boxer may move a short-term extension of the existing surface transportation authorization bill that will continue current funding levels and policies for duration of four months. If an extension is passed, it will be the eighth extension since the bill expired.

STATE

The California State Legislature has until September 9 to pass all bills for this legislative year. Below is the status of legislative action on measures the District supports and/or is sponsoring.

- AB 716 (Dickinson) - This measure extends the prohibition order statute enacted under SB 1561 (Steinberg). This measure passed the Assembly Floor; it will be enrolled and delivered to Governor Brown's Desk.
- AB 957 (Transportation Omnibus bill) – This measure includes a number of minor “statutory clean up” changes to RT's enabling statutes. The measure is pending Senate approval on the Senate Floor.
- AB 1143 (Dickinson) - In collaboration with the author, who provided this bill at RT's request to serve as a legislative vehicle this past June, the bill now provides RT with a range of revenue bonding options. This measure passed the Assembly Floor; it will be enrolled and delivered to Governor Brown's Desk.
- SB 565 (DeSaulnier) – The State Transit Assistance Program funds may not be allocated to a transit operator for operating purposes unless the operator meets one of 2 specified efficiency standards, subject to certain exceptions. Existing law suspends those restrictions with respect to allocations for operating purposes made to those

transit operators after January 1, 2010, through the 2011-12 fiscal year. SB 565 would extend the suspension of those restrictions through the 2014-15 fiscal year. This measure passed the Senate Floor; it will be enrolled and delivered to Governor Brown's Desk.

- SB 791 (Steinberg) - This measure would provide supplemental funding for public transit through local voter approved gas fees. SB 791 seeks to provide funding to support the efforts of SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008). SB 791 would directly provide the necessary authority to regional entities to pursue funding for the programs and projects identified in Regional Transportation Plans, which are being developed pursuant to the provisions of SB 375. Hearing dates are to be determined for this two-year measure.

RT CALENDAR

Regional Transit Board Meeting

September 26, 2011
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

October 24, 2011
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

November 14, 2011
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

December 12, 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

October 6 2011
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

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

December 1, 2011
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

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

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

ParaTransit Board Meeting

September 15, 2011
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M