

## **General Manager's Report November 10, 2014**

### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

#### **FEDERAL**

Congress is currently in recess and will return for legislative business on November 12.

House and Senate appropriations staffers are quietly laying the groundwork for an ambitious wrap-up “omnibus” spending package that they hope will be considered during the lame duck session. However, given that the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 11, House and Senate leaders will have a small window of time to decide whether to shoot for an omnibus — or settle for another Continuing Resolution that lasts until early 2015 or through the end of the fiscal year. The path forward will not be known until Members return to Washington next week.

With Republicans winning control of the Senate, it could have significant implications for the transportation world in 2015. It is anticipated that, Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) would be poised to take control of the Environment and Public Works Committee and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) would lead the Finance Committee in 2015, right as lawmakers are again faced with the challenge of reauthorizing and funding a long-term highway and transit bill.

In the House, there is likely to be less transition following the elections. However, the House Appropriations Transportation-HUD panel that controls DOT funding will see some major changes since the panel's top Republican and Democrat are retiring after this year. Chairman Tom Latham (R-IA) and ranking member Ed Pastor (D-AZ) are not running for reelection.

#### **STATE**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **RT - ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS COMPLEX BUSINESS ADVISORY PANEL**

RT Board Chair Phil Serna invited a handful of business leaders with interest in Downtown Sacramento to consider serving on an Advisory Panel. The Panel's purpose is to provide the Board, RT management and the general public, honest advice about how to improve the system. For many future Entertainment and Sports Complex (ESC) attendees their first encounter with the new experience won't be at the turnstiles of the arena. It will be using RT buses and light rail trains, in many instances for the first time. That means RT has to do things differently that complement the experience of a new, urban entertainment and sports complex. The following business leaders, each a major Stakeholder in the downtown area and beyond, has actively participated in this process.

#### **Participants:**

Michael Ault

Dain Domich

Dion Dwyer  
Mark Friedman  
Michael Heller  
Larry Kelley  
Warren Smith  
David Taylor  
Tina Thomas  
Ali Youssefi

The RT/ESC Business Panel has met three times: September 29<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and November 5<sup>th</sup>. They have discussed a number of issues and ideas to improve operating and maintenance efficiencies, real and perceived safety issues, possible station/stop consolidations near the ESC, marketing and branding, and greater private citizen and private sector stakeholder support and involvement in RT.

Chair Serna and the RT/ESC facilitator Wendy Hoyt will make an oral presentation at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The Business Panel members will attend the December 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to present their findings and recommendations.

### **MILITARY DISCOUNT UPDATE**

Recently a member of the public, Christian Wellisch, Army National Guard, requested that the Board consider offering a discount to members of the US Armed Forces. The reasons for offering a discount were summarized as follows: Improved public relations, other transit agencies offer discounts to US Armed members, increase in revenues, and improved security.

Staff researched other agencies' fare policies and found the following:

- Staff has completed a review of the Board-approved peer agencies and concluded that 2 of the ~~47~~**12** peer agencies (17%) have some type of discount program in place for active or disabled veterans. See chart attached.
- Staff expanded the scope to include other agencies and found that 7 of 28 agencies, ~~28~~**25**%, have some type of discount program for members of the Armed Forces.

Currently RT does not have a military discount program, however in the past, RT had a retail outlet agreement in the VA hospital. Under this arrangement, RT provided media to the VA hospital at RT's full price, and staff at the hospital provided free or discounted media to their patients. Currently, California Veteran's Affairs has a similar program, whereby the agency purchases small quantities of daily passes directly from RT at full fare. The quantities are small because these purchases are made based on public donations.

According to the 2013 Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are an estimated 512 active duty members and 98,345 veterans in Sacramento County. Additionally, Sacramento County has a population of approximately 1,101,237 (18 years or older).

Due to the large number of veterans and the potential for lost revenue associated with providing a discount to this group of individuals, staff will focus attention on estimating the

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fiscal impact for providing free or 50% discounts to active members of the US Armed Services. Additionally, prior to making any recommend fare changes, a Title VI analysis must be completed.

**HIGH SCHOOL (OVER AGE 18) DISCOUNT UPDATE**

RT staff is continuing to gather information about providing discounted fares to riders over the age of 18 whom are actively pursuing their High school diploma and providing free rides to all high school students.

**RT CALENDAR**

**Regional Transit Board Meeting**

December 8, 2014

RT Auditorium

6:00 P.M

**Mobility Advisory Council**

To Be Announced

RT Auditorium

2:30 P.M

**Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting**

December 17, 2014

RT Auditorium

9:00 A.M

**Paratransit Board Meeting**

November 20, 2014

2501 Florin Road

6:00 P.M

**RT Peer Review of Discount Policies for Military Personnel**

**Table 1: Board Approved Peer Group**

Transit Agency	Military Disc?	Eligibility	% Disc Full Single Fare	\$ Disc Full Single Fare
Columbus	Yes	Disabled Veterans	50%	Disabled veteran discount equal to standard disabled discount
Long Beach	No			
San Carlos	No			
San Jose	No			
Tacoma	No			
Dallas	No			
San Diego	No			
Tri-Met (Portland)	No			
UTA (Salt Lake City)	No			
Denver RTD	Yes	Active Duty	100%	Free
NFTA (Buffalo)	No			
CATS (Charlotte)	No			

Number of Agencies                    10                    2                                      16.7%

Total Number of Agencies            12

**Table 2: Larger Peer Group**

Transit Agency	Military Disc?	Eligibility	% Disc Full Single Fare	\$ Disc Full Single Fare
Columbus	Yes	Disabled Veterans	50%	Disabled veteran discount equal to standard disabled discount
Long Beach	No			
San Carlos	No			
San Jose	No			
Tacoma	No			
Dallas	No			
San Diego	No			
Tri-Met (Portland)	No			
UTA (Salt Lake City)	No			
Metro (Houston)	No			
SEPTA (Philadelphia)	No			
Marta (Atlanta)	No			
IndyGo (Indianapolis)	No			
Valley Metro (Phoenix)	No			
METRO (St. Louis)	No			
Denver RTD	Yes	Active Duty	100%	Free
Santa Clara VTA	No			
SFMTA	No			
NFTA (Buffalo)	No			
CATS (Charlotte)	No			
DART	No			
METRO (Minneapolis)	Yes	Disabled Veterans	100%	Free
CCJPA (Capitol Corridor)	Yes	Active Duty	10%	
CCJPA (Capitol Corridor)	Yes	Veterans	15%	
BART	Yes			
Monterey-Salinas	No			
OCTA (Orange County)	No			
Chicago	Yes	Active Duty/Disabled	100%	Free

Number of Agencies                    21                    7                                      25.0%

Total Number of Agencies            28

## Active Duty/ Veteran Populations

Sacramento County	Population	% of Pop 18 & up	% of Total Pop
Veterans	98,345	8.93%	6.73%
Active Duty	512	0.05%	0.04%
Total Population 18 years and over	1,101,237		75.32%
Total Population	1,462,131		

Cook County	Population	% of Pop 18 & up	% of Total Pop
Veterans	224,033	5.54%	4.27%
Active Duty	1,048	0.03%	0.02%
Total Population 18 years and over	4,042,528		77.14%
Total Population	5,240,700		

\*US Census ACS 2013 Estimates

### Other Notes

Sacramento County has 4 National Security Industry (armed forces) establishments that employ a total of 542 employees, reported in 2013.

\*Bureau of Labor Statistics