

General Manager's Report February 23, 2015

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

FEDERAL

Congress is not in session this week. Members will return for legislative business on February 24.

A bipartisan group of House lawmakers is working on legislation that would create a joint congressional panel to find a permanent fix for the Highway Trust fund that is due to run out of money by June. House Ways and Means member James Renacci, (R-OH), said the group is considering whether unspecified triggers could compel action, but conceded the proposal could face skepticism from lawmakers who feel such committees have a mixed track record in solving problems. Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) backs a long-term funding fix for the Highway fund, but has yet to endorse a special panel to examine it. Rep. Renacci's group, made up of both Ways and Means members and others, is also looking at options to keep the Highway Trust Fund going for 10 years or more and has not dismissed an increase in the gas tax, despite resistance from GOP leaders. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) who is working on the proposal, said he hoped to introduce a bill "within the next month."

Appropriations season is off to a rocky start as the majority is having difficulty finishing last year's unresolved FY15 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. GOP efforts to move House-passed funding legislation (HR 240) with immigration riders attached has faced sharp resistance from Senate Democrats, who have blocked any action due to the add-on provisions. For now, the minority appears to have the upper hand as their caucus is united in a call for a clean funding bill and the Senate majority is unable to move the House plan. The Senate Majority Leader has limited options with the threat of a DHS shutdown in five scheduled work days. This initial skirmish will likely impact the effort to move FY16 appropriations bills which Congress will begin drafting in the spring. The ability of the majority to move all 12 FY16 appropriations bills under regular order appears to have diminished significantly.

In addition, from February 10-13, I traveled to DC to participate in the annual DC Transit discussions with the following individuals:

Wednesday, February 11

- 10:00 a.m. Therese McMillan, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
- 1:00 p.m. Rachel Milberg, Senate THUD Appropriations (Minority)
- 2:00 p.m. Kyle Chapman and Anne Clement Transportation Policy Staff,
Office of Senator Boxer
- 3:00 p.m. Shannon Hines, Majority Staff, Senate Banking Committee
Homer Carlisle, Minority Staff, Senate Banking Committee
- 4:00 p.m. Kate Hallahan, Minority Clerk House THUD Appropriations Subcommittee

Thursday, February 12

11:00 a.m. Joshua Esquivel, Appropriations Advisor, Office of Senator Feinstein
11:45 a.m. Heideh Shahmoradi, Majority Clerk, Senate THUD Appropriations Subcommittee
1:00 p.m. Congressman Ami Bera,
2:00 p.m. Congresswoman Doris Matsui,
4:30 p.m. Caryn Lund Moore, Majority Professional Staff, Auke Mahar-Piersma, Minority Professional Staff, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The primary issues that were discussed were:

- Blue Line to Cosumnes River College
- The Street Car Project
- The Reauthorization of Map 21
- Consistent Reliable Funding

Further discussions included updates on RT's capital projects which included the plans for the Green Line and Bus and LRV replacement vehicles.

STATE

Nothing to report at this time.

AD HOC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

All of the meetings will be held in Regional Transit's Auditorium (1400 29th Street - First Floor) from 11:30 - 1:30. Below is the listing of dates for 2015.

February 25, 2015
March 13, 2015
April 10, 2015
May 8, 2015
June 12, 2015
July 10, 2015
August 14, 2015
September 11, 2015
October 9, 2015
November 13, 2015
December 11, 2015

On February 25, 2015, the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will take place with focus on safety and fare evasion improvements. Upon concluding this meeting, it was agreed that further discussions on these topics may need to take place in future meetings.

The following topics will occur in order at the following meetings:

- Light Rail Stations and Bus Stops
- Replacement Buses and Light Rail Vehicles
- Customer Communication
- ESC Operations Plan

All of the members of the ESC Business Advisory Panel were invited to participate in discussions, and were provided the current schedule.

RT CALENDAR

Regional Transit Board Meeting

March 9, 2015
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

March 23, 2015
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

April 13, 2015
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

Mobility Advisory Council

March 05, 2015
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

May 07, 2015
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

July 2, 2015
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

March 18, 2015
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

June 17, 2015
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

September 16, 2015
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

December 16, 2015
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

Paratransit Board Meeting

March 26, 2015
Health for All
2730 Florin Road
Sacramento, CA 95822

May 28, 2015
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M

June 25, 2015
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M