

## General Manager's Report May 11, 2015

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

#### FEDERAL

The House is in recess this week and will return for legislative activity on May 12. The Senate is in session.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) will attempt to build support for a clean extension of highway policy into the summer. His goal is to extend spending authority until mid-summer, around the time the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is expected to need a funding infusion. This would give lawmakers more time to decide the funding issue — roughly \$10 billion is needed to keep the HTF solvent through December. However, some lawmakers on the House side would rather deal with both the funding and policy this month, thus pushing these issues off the congressional calendar until at least sometime in the fall. Specifically, House Transportation and Infrastructure chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) said last week that he would prefer an extension past the end of the fiscal year on September 30, since the construction season in many states runs through early October. If Republican leaders in the House and Senate cannot agree on an extension duration, then last-minute brinkmanship is likely, with the House possibly waiting until the last possible moment to pass an extension through the end of December, forcing the Senate and the President to either accept the House-passed bill without change or allow HTF programs to shut down on June 1. Because of more complex procedural requirements, bringing a bill to the Senate floor is always challenging and usually requires the unanimous consent of all 100 Senators, so it is unlikely that the Senate could pass its own, last minute extension.

Last week, the House narrowly passed two of the twelve annual spending bills (FY16 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill and the FY16 Military Construction Appropriations Bill). The somewhat close margin by which these relatively popular funding measures advanced has raised questions about how much further FY16 appropriations work can advance in the House before gridlock forces leaders to reevaluate their approach to spending matters this year. Last week, the House FY16 Transportation-HUD bill was reported out of subcommittee; a full committee markup has not yet been scheduled.

#### STATE

##### Legislature

**SB 508-** The Senate Transportation & Housing Committee approved this measure, sponsored by the California Transit Association, on Tuesday.

The bill makes changes to performance metrics tied to state grants for transit operators. Specifically, it addresses State Transit Assistance (STA), Transportation Development Act (TDA) and other state grants by rationalizing performance metrics. For example, the bill would

apply the same operating cost exemptions for fare box recovery requirements in law to both programs.

Update presented by Mark Watts – Smith, Watts & Company

### **AD HOC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

RT receives two bids for the shelter and bus bench contract. – Oral update by Mike Wiley

RT's webpage is updated with the current report as follows.

## **RT Systemwide Improvement Initiative**

In September 2014, Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna, then-Chair of the RT Board of Directors, convened 12 members of the business community (Business Advisory Panel) to evaluate the service provided by the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) as it relates to the future opening of the regional downtown Entertainment and Sports Center (ESC).



The Business Advisory Panel met several times during fall 2014 and provided a report back to the RT Board on January 12, 2015 with their findings. The Panel's written report can be accessed at: <http://www.sacrt.com/systemimprovement.stm>.

It became immediately clear to everyone involved that the focus must be countywide, including the entire RT system.

As a result of the Business Advisory Panel's work, the RT Board of Directors established an Ad Hoc System Improvement Committee on January 26, 2015, composed of five members of the RT Board: Jay Schenirer, Andy Morin, Steve Hansen and Phil Serna (Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee), and Linda Budge as an alternate. The Ad Hoc System Improvement Committee will assist and recommend action to improve the RT bus and light rail system countywide.

The first Ad Hoc System Improvement Committee meeting was held on February 25, 2015. During that meeting, the Committee formed four working groups to address specific subject areas of RT service: Security and Fare Evasion; Light Rail Stations, Bus Stops, Shelters and Benches; Rolling Stock, Light Rail Vehicles and Buses; and Customer Communication and ESC Operations Plan.

Please stay engaged and check RT's website for updates as RT works with our partners to improve Sacramento's public transit system for everyone.

Thank you for your interest and support of RT.

## Accomplishments

### Security and Fare Evasion

- **May 2015** – RT began a two-month test project placing police officers on every train on the Gold Line at night in lieu of security guards from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The project will gauge whether there is a better perception of safety at night and on weekends, and whether the crime rate and nuisance behavior drop.
- **March 2015** – RT realigned security guard staffing to add visibility in the daytime and presence on nights and weekends.
- **March 2015** – RT security guards began actively monitoring their areas of responsibility for trash.
- **February 2015** – RT implemented stricter enforcement of RT ordinances, such as no smoking, to improve the ridership experience and address nuisance behavior.
- **January 2015** – RT realigned law enforcement staffing to have more sworn officers working evenings and on weekends to address visibility and rider safety perception.

### Light Rail Stations, Bus Stops, Shelters and Benches

- **April 2015** – RT contracted with the City of Rancho Cordova for the City to provide maintenance of light rail stations and bus stops in the city.
- **April 2015** – RT completed fiber installation at the Globe, Arden/Del Paso, Royal Oaks and Swanston light rail stations.
- **April 2015** – RT completed installation of cameras and electronic message signs at the Arden/Del Paso, Royal Oaks and Swanston light rail stations.
- **March 2015** – RT began upgrading light rail stations throughout the system. Improvements at the Watt/I-80 Station are complete.
- **July 2014** – RT contracted with the Del Paso Boulevard Partnership for the organization to provide maintenance of light rail stations and bus stops in the community.
- **January 2014** – RT began earning Carbon Credits for emission reduction activities.

### Rolling Stock, Light Rail Vehicles and Buses

- **April 2015** – RT completed the replacement of the light rail wheelchair ramps on all Siemens vehicles.
- **April 2015** – RT began rolling out 30 of 96 new GILLIG BRT-Plus buses to enhance the transit system.

- **April 2015** – RT completed the reconfiguration of seating in the Siemens light rail vehicles to allow more room for wheelchairs and bicycles.
- **March 2015** – RT completed installation of the new three-position bike racks on the buses to increase capacity. The new equipment replaced the two-position bike racks.
- **August 2014** – RT completed the first application of an exterior vinyl adhesive wrap on a light rail vehicle. The vinyl wrap process is a cost-effective method to improving the appearance of the light rail vehicles.
- **August 2014** – RT began replacing the older fabric seats on RT light rail vehicles with vinyl material that is easier to clean.

### Partnerships

- **March 2015** – RT contracted with a transportation industry consultant to provide operational assessment and recommendations for cost reduction and revenue growth.
- **March 2015** – RT implemented an agreement with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to create a partnership to expand RT's capability to evaluate opportunities to implement service improvements, including:
  1. the evaluation and recommendation of transit stop and station improvements. In this work, SACOG can help RT assess the advantages and disadvantages of proposals to open new light rail stations, or close existing ones.
  2. Prioritization of strategic development opportunities and complementary transportation investments near transit that is likely to attract new choice riders.
  3. Working together (insights and strategies) that can be shared to ensure that service improvements benefit both the choice and transit-dependent rider.

### Meetings

Future Ad Hoc System Improvement Committee meetings will be held in the RT Auditorium at 1400 29th Street (at N Street) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on:

- **Friday, June 12, 2015**
- **Friday, September 11, 2015**
- **Friday, December 11, 2015**

The meeting location is accessible by **light rail** to the 29th Street Station, and Routes **30, 38, 67** and **68**.

### Reports

- **RT Entertainment and Sports Complex (ESC) Business Advisory Panel Report**

**RT CALENDAR**

**Regional Transit Board Meeting**

June 8, 2015  
RT Auditorium  
6:00 P.M

June 22, 2015  
RT Auditorium  
6:00 P.M

July 27, 2015  
RT Auditorium  
6:00 P.M

**Mobility Advisory Council**

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

September 3, 2015  
RT Auditorium  
2:30 P.M

November 5, 2015  
RT Auditorium  
2:30 P.M

**Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting**

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**

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

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