

General Manager's Report September 28, 2015

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

FEDERAL

Congress is in session this week. Though, the schedule is abbreviated and fluid due to Yom Kippur and a visit from the Pope.

The text of a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government funded when the new fiscal year begins on October 1 could be released as soon as this evening (September 22). In what appears to be the most likely scenario, the stopgap spending bill would originate in the Senate. The CR could include a provision to defund Planned Parenthood, meaning it would almost certainly be blocked in a Senate vote as early as Thursday. If the Senate fails to pass a CR that would strip the group of funding, it could take up a clean CR over the weekend and send it to the House, which could then approve it next week (if all goes according to plan).

Appropriations staff is saying the CR would keep agencies funded at FY15 levels potentially until mid-December, though a decision regarding the length of the CR is not yet final.

Meanwhile, the White House Office of Management and Budget is reviewing government agencies' shutdown plans. All agencies were supposed to submit updated plans in early August for how they would manage a shutdown. The Antideficiency Act (PL 97-258) bars agencies from incurring obligations that exceed or are undertaken prior to receiving their annual appropriation from Congress. Only programs and activities that are considered "excepted" can stay open during a shutdown, and their employees work without pay during that period. "Excepted" activities include those that are required for the protection of human life or property, conducting presidential duties such as foreign relations and other types of work that are determined necessary.

On September 14, FTA announced that 21 organizations around the country will receive a share of \$19.5 million in grants to support comprehensive planning projects that improve access to public transit. The funds are made available through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program for communities that are developing new or improved mass transit systems. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) will receive approximately \$1.1 million to work with local partners to develop a toolkit of policy and regulatory changes to encourage transit-oriented development in the areas surrounding the planned Downtown Riverfront Streetcar project. The toolkit will include updated plans and guidelines for areas along the streetcar route, updated zoning codes that encourage transit-oriented development, an infrastructure assessment, and an analysis of affordable housing.

FTA is undertaking an effort to speed up planning, approval and delivery of FTA capital investments and better support innovative financing methods that support capital investments in transit. The Expedited Public Transportation Improvement (XPEDITE) Initiative will attempt to enhance and increase the transit industry's access to:

- Improved public transportation technologies; and
- Proven methods to speed up planning, development, approval and delivery of FTA supported capital investments; and
- Enhanced financing methods and opportunities for public-private partnerships through “value capture” that support improved capital project delivery.

To gather public comment on the initiative, FTA has launched an Online Dialogue that will run through October 16, 2015. The dialogue will be free, open to all and accessible 24/7.

STATE

Special Session on Transportation

As the legislature wound down its regular session calendar on September 11, leadership committed to continue to work on the Transportation Session. To facilitate ongoing discussions, two bills, one from each house, were sent to conference committee, ABX1 3(Frazier) and SBX1 4 (Beall).

On September 22, leadership in each house released the names of their conferees and in an interesting development established the conference committee with 10 members, instead of the traditional 6. Each house will have 5 representatives on the conference committee, with 3 Democrats and 2 Republicans:

Assembly

Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, D-Los Angeles
Assemblymember Jim Frazier, D-Antioch
Assemblymember Autumn Burke, D- Inglewood
Assemblymember Melissa Melendez, R- Murrieta
Assemblymember Jay Olberholte, R – Hesperia

Senate

Senator Jim Beall, D – San Jose
Senator Connie Leyva, D – Chino
Senator Ben Allen, D – Redondo Beach
Senator Ted Gaines, R – El Dorado Hills
Senator Anthony Canella, R - Merced

SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Oral report by Laura Ham.

RT CALENDAR

Regional Transit Board Meeting

October 12, 2015
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

October 26, 2015
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

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

Mobility Advisory Council

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

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

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

Paratransit Board Meeting

November 19, 2015
Sutter Senior Care
7000 Franklin Street
Sacramento, CA