

**Regional Transit Chair's Report  
Steve Cohn's Final Report  
January 11, 2010**

***BOARD INITIATIVES ADOPTED ON JANUARY 26, 2009***

**1. CREATE A RAIL REGIONAL ALLIANCE/COALITION – HIGH SPEED RAIL**

On April 16, 2009, at my request, the SACOG Board established an ad hoc subcommittee on rail issues, to advocate for enhanced Capitol Corridor service to Auburn, Truckee and Reno, regional rail service, and expediting the Sacramento extension to the High Speed Rail (HSR) system, and to include \$3 million in funding for improvements to the Sacramento-Roseville-Auburn portion of the Capitol Corridor as a High Priority Project for federal funding.

On May 7, 2009, the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) Board approved Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with both the City of Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rail Commission to collaborate on work for the Sacramento extension to the HSR system.

Starting in fall 2009, RT Chair Cohn, RT General Manager/CEO Wiley, and SACOG staff, together with officials from the corresponding COGS for Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) commuter trains, and High Speed Rail (HSR) Authority Deputy Director Dan Leavitt, and Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani have been meeting monthly in Stockton as a working group to jointly plan both the Merced to Sacramento HSR extension and interim improvements, including commuter service on the corridor. RT Chair Cohn, Director Dickinson and Dan Leavitt also spoke on a HSR panel at the October 26, 2009 Breathe California lunch. One of the themes of the discussion was using HSR bond funds to improve travel time on the Capitol Corridor and provide dedicated passenger rail tracks, both as an interim measure while awaiting the Merced to Sacramento extension and as a long term connection.

**2. THE BOARD CHAIR ALONG WITH THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO WILL MEET WITH EACH JURISDICTION DURING CALENDAR 2009.**

RT has renewed contracts with each contract city. See also item 4 below.

**3. CONDUCT THE FIRST ANNUAL STATE OF RT BREAKFAST WITH THE SACRAMENTO METRO CHAMBER.**

This breakfast was held on March 19, 2009, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, and was a huge success. Awards were given to Congresswoman Doris Matsui as elected official of the year, Cyris Youseffi and Skip Rosenblum for the Globe Mills development as the transit oriented project of the year, and Dain Domich for transit advocate of the year, and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District for Agency of the Year.

**4. WORK WITH VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS TO DEVELOP AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF DEDICATED LOCAL REVENUE TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSIT MASTER PLAN BY NOVEMBER 2010.**

The RT Board adopted Sacramento's TransitAction Plan in August 2009. The preferred scenarios in Tiers 2 and 3 would significantly increase the regional rail and bus network, but would require additional, dedicated local revenue streams, such as a half-cent countywide sales tax dedicated to transit. We are currently working with the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), the Building Industry Association (BIA) of Superior California, and other stakeholders who are currently conducting briefings with elected officials in each jurisdiction.

**5. BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON THE SOUTH LINE PHASE 2 LIGHT RAIL PROJECT BY DECEMBER 2009.**

Unfortunately, this is the one Board goal that was not met in 2009. Although the RT Board approved the use of certificates of participation to help finance the South Line Phase 2 project, final design and the execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement with FTA has been delayed. General Manager Wiley will discuss the status of this project at the Board meeting.

**6. BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PHASE (MOS#1) OF THE DOWNTOWN/NATOMAS/AIRPORT LIGHT RAIL PROJECT (GREEN LINE TO THE RIVER DISTRICT) BY SEPTEMBER 2009.**

On October 12, 2009, Chair Cohn, Directors Dickinson and Tretheway, joined with Congresswoman Matsui, General Manager Wiley and other stakeholders to celebrate the groundbreaking of construction on the first phase of the Green Line to the River District. The project is anticipated to be complete and ready for operation in fall 2010.

**7. IMPLEMENT THE RT EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE POLICY DIRECTION ON KEY ISSUES.**

Starting on February 2, 2009, the Executive Board Committee has been meeting periodically as needed, replacing the Finance and Operations Committees.