

General Manager's Report November 14, 2011

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

FEDERAL

The Senate passed the "minibus" that included funding for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for FY 2012. The Senate and House Appropriations Committee are now in conference towards the goal of reaching agreement on the FY 2012 THUD bill that would provide funding for the balance of FY 2012. The House THUD bill contained substantial reductions for the transit and highway programs while including a slight reduction for the New Starts program. The Senate THUD bill included funding that equals the FY 11 funding levels for highways and transit while increasing the New Starts program by \$350 million. The House and Senate hope to approve a bill by November 18th when the current Continuing Resolution expires.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will mark-up MAP-21 on November 9, 2011. The bill authorizes funding for the highway program for FY 2012 and FY 2013 at current funding levels. The Senate Banking Committee will mark-up the transit title to MAP-21 after Thanksgiving. Both committees are waiting for the Senate Finance Committee to identify the additional \$12 billion necessary to ensure current funding prior to bringing the bill to the Senate floor. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee are leaning towards a two year authorization bill rather than a six year bill. The committee has not set a mark-up date. The current extension of SAFETEA-LU expires on March 31, 2012. Thus, Congress must act by then on either a two year bill or further extension. Failure to identify \$12 billion in funding will result in 30-35 percent reduction in highway and transit funding by the end of FY 2012 and FY 2013.

STATE

Rail Transit Advocates Meet with Michael Rossi, Member of HSRA and Governor's Jobs "Czar"

In the wake of a second gubernatorial veto of Prop 1A funds earmarked under Proposition 1A for rail operators to ensure connectivity with the future HSR system, the California Transit Association (CTA) coordinated a meeting to discuss policy concern the administration has with previously appropriated connectivity funds. Although Sacramento RT has reserved its request for its formula share of the connectivity funds for later use, several major rail operators presently have projects with large allocations of federal funds that Prop 1A funds would be used to leverage. Mr. Rossi indicated that the Administration would maintain an open perspective on the future appropriation of Proposition 1A funds for Connectivity projects, consistent with the update business plan.

CONSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE/RT PARKING STRUCTURE GROUNDBREAKING

RT and the Los Rios Community College District hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Blue Line Light Rail / Cosumnes River College parking structure at the CRC campus on Monday, November 7, 2011.

Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui; Assemblymember Roger Dickinson; Don Nottoli, Chair, RT Board of Directors; Bonnie Pannell, Vice Chair, RT Board of Directors; Pamela Haynes, Trustee, Los Rios Community College District; Brice W. Harris, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District; and Deborah Travis, President, Cosumnes River College provided remarks and participated in the ceremonial start of construction. In addition Board members Darrell Fong and Steve Cohn were in attendance. Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony.

The \$31.5 million five-level, four-story parking structure consists of 2,000 spaces that will serve both students of CRC and RT light rail passengers when the Blue Line to Cosumnes River College light rail extension is completed in June 2015.

RIDE TRANSIT OCTOBER

During the month of October, RT staff conducted outreach activities and promotions to show appreciation for its current riders and to encourage new riders to discover the benefits of taking transit. The month-long "Ride Transit October" campaign received positive feedback from riders who participated in the Customer Appreciation Days held at light rail stations and transit centers, and Fun Fridays at the Customer Service and Sales Center. RT received many questions, comments and recommendations during the events. I tracked many of the comments during the Ride with the GM portion of the campaign, in which I had the opportunity to meet and converse with hundreds of people as I toured the system. The people who ride RT on a daily basis have extremely valuable insight on how we can improve service and all of their suggestions will be carefully considered.

RT OPENS RECRUITMENT FOR BUS OPERATORS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION

RT is in the process of accepting applications for bus operator positions. The recruitment period will extend through November 16, 2011, with the goal of creating an eligibility list to fill future positions as needed, in preparation of service restoration. With June 2010 service changes behind us, as well as associated layoffs, this major recruitment will serve as an opportunity to positively promote the message that as the economy rebounds, RT will focus on rebuilding our transit network and restore critical services that our communities desperately need. The attached news release was sent to all regional media outlets as well as to industry trade publications.

RT CALENDAR

Regional Transit Board Meeting

December 12, 2011
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

Executive Committee Meetings for 2011

Will be approved and scheduled by the Chair
on an as needed basis.

Mobility Advisory Council

December 1, 2011
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

December 5, 2011
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

ParaTransit Board Meeting

November 17, 2011
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M