



## ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** Board of Directors **DATE:** January 12, 2010

**FROM:** Celia McAdam, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 2010

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

- 1) Adopt the Federal Legislative Program for 2010 as shown in Attachment 1.
- 2) Direct staff and federal advocates to represent these positions, including participation in the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's Cap-to-Cap federal advocacy trip in April.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization***

Federal transportation bills fund a tremendous number of transportation programs here in California and in Placer County, including Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), and most all of the funding for maintaining and addressing safety on the state and federal highway system. The most recent Federal transportation bill known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) covered the years 2003 through 2009. Though the bill expired September 30, 2009, funding has continued via continuing resolutions by Congress.

Reauthorization is an opportunity to keep pressure on the Federal government to not only increase the stability of Federal funding, but to allow greater flexibility in its use by local entities to ensure that the money is used as effectively as possible in addressing our specific transportation needs.

Finally, eliminating unnecessary or overly time-consuming processes that increase cost, scope, and schedule of projects must be a continued focus to get the best result for the travelling public and the best use of our transportation dollars.

#### ***Economic Stimulus Package***

The first round of economic stimulus, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), brought approximately \$10 million in funding for transportation projects in Placer jurisdictions. These funds, while greatly appreciated, came with even more strings than the already significant requirements already in place for use of federal funds. This has caused an unexpected jump in administrative oversight for PCTPA, as the newness of the program and short timeframes have generated some confusing directives from regulators.

In December, the House passed the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, which is essentially another round of federal stimulus funding. The bill includes another \$27.5 billion nationally for

infrastructure, almost identical to the previous ARRA. This bill is slated for consideration by the Senate in January.

### **DISCUSSION**

Staff recommends the Board adopt the policies and priorities as shown in the Draft Federal Legislative Program for 2010, shown in Attachment 1.

#### ***Federal Earmarks***

The current environment in Washington indicates that large earmarks, such as the \$71.6 million received by PCTPA in 2005 for the I-80 Bottleneck, are not likely. That said, Congress has not yet acted on our requests for funding allocations from SAFETEA-LU reauthorization, while Senators Feinstein and Boxer have already put out a call for transportation appropriations requests for FY 11, due February 5.

Staff recommends that the Board continue to support the SAFETEA-LU reauthorization earmarks submitted by Congressman McClintock for the Lincoln Bypass Phase 2 and by Congresswoman Matsui for track improvements to the Union Pacific Railroad east of Sacramento.

Staff further recommends the Board add a transportation appropriations budget request of \$4.1 million for preconstruction of the I-80/SR 65 Interchange Improvements.

Finally, staff recommends the Board support earmark requests by Placer County for the Placer Parkway and Auburn-Folsom Road.

#### ***Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Request***

The Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) is well poised to take advantage of recent legislation that passed Congress to significantly expand rail funding. The CCJPA has submitted a request for FRA funding for track improvements on the Union Pacific Railroad east of Sacramento to support increased passenger rail to Placer County. Staff recommends the Board support this request.

#### ***Advocacy***

Staff recommends these positions be forwarded to Sante Esposito of Federal Advocates to represent the agency's interests in Washington DC. Staff further recommends that the Board designate the Chair and Executive Director to represent these positions as part of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce's annual Cap to Cap Advocacy trip in April.

CM:ss

**PLACER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY  
DRAFT  
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 2010**

**PROGRAMS/POLICIES**

1. Support the California Consensus principles for SAFETEA-LU reauthorization:
  - Increase federal revenues and make funding more flexible and performance based
  - Streamline environmental review to expedite project delivery
  - Enhance mobility through congestion relief within and between metropolitan areas
  - Support safety and security including rural road safety
  - Require coordinated land use, transportation and environmental planning and make greenhouse gas reductions a factor in transportation funding
  - Ensure transparency in the earmark and appropriations process
  
2. Maximize flexibility and funding available to local entities for infrastructure projects in future Federal stimulus programs such as the proposed Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, better ensuring dollars are spent on the highest priority improvements over administration.

**PROJECTS/FUNDING**

- Request funding earmark of \$4.1 million in the FY 11 Federal Transportation Appropriations bill to fund preconstruction of the I-80/SR 65 Interchange Improvements
  
- Continue support for SAFETEA-LU reauthorization project allocation request from Congressman McClintock of \$4M to fund design and construction of Lincoln Bypass Phase 2 to complete the 4 lane highway on SR 65 from Markham Ravine to Sheridan
  
- Continue support for SAFETEA-LU reauthorization project allocation request from Congresswoman Matsui of \$3M to fund construction of track capacity improvements to the Union Pacific Railroad east of Sacramento to accommodate additional passenger rail service to Placer County
  
- Support CCJPA's request for Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funding for track capacity improvements to the Union Pacific Railroad east of Sacramento to accommodate additional passenger rail service to Placer County.
  
- Support Placer County's request for Federal funding for the Placer Parkway
  
- Support Placer County's request for Federal funding for Auburn-Folsom Road