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| |  | | --- | | **Friday, November 27, 2012 121127-1**  **In this Issue:**  **House Republican Committee Selects Congressman Shuster (R-PA) to Lead House Transportation Committee**    **U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Slated to Consider Yvonne Burke Nomination for Amtrak Board**  **State Senate Transportation and Housing Committee to hold hearing on Caltrans Major Project Peer Review Process** | | |
| **House Republican Committee Selects Congressman Shuster (R-PA) to Lead House Transportation Committee**  The House Republican Steering Committee voted today to recommend that Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA) should serve as the incoming chairman of the powerful House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The matter of leading the transportation committee and other committees will be formally considered tomorrow by the full House Republican Conference, where support for Congressman Shuster is expected to be strong. Shortly before the vote of the House Republican Steering Committee, current Chairman John Mica (R-FL) withdrew his bid to remain as chairman and endorsed Congressman Shuster. Following the vote by the House Republican Steering Committee, Metro staff in Washington, DC met with a senior aide for the committee and conveyed our agency’s eagerness to continue the positive working relationship we have maintained with the committee. Tomorrow, when the full House Republican Conference formally selects new committee chairmen, our agency will formally and promptly convey our congratulations to Congressman Shuster. Congressman Shuster has visited Los Angeles County several times over the past year and has held several content rich briefings on the scale and scope of our highway and transit programs and projects.  Please click [here](http://www.speaker.gov/press-release/boehner-statement-gop-steering-committee-recommendations-committee-chairmanships-113th) to view Speaker Boehner’s (R-OH) Statement on GOP Steering Committee Recommendations for Committee Chairmanships in the 113th Congress.  <http://www.speaker.gov/press-release/boehner-statement-gop-steering-committee-recommendations-committee-chairmanships-113th>  **U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Slated to Consider Yvonne Burke Nomination for Amtrak Board**  The full U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, chaired by Senator John Rockefeller (D-VA) will meet on December 4, 2012 to consider a number of nominations, including President Obama’s nomination for former Los Angeles County Supervisor and California Transportation Commissioner Yvonne Burke to serve on the Board of Directors of Amtrak. Should the committee and the full Senate confirm her nomination, Commissioner Burke will join the Board of Directors that oversees AMTRAK, the informal name for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. Metro staff have been in consistent communication with Commissioner Burke to provide information on the importance of Amtrak in enhancing mobility across the State of California and specifically in southern California. We look forward to Commissioner Burke’s final confirmation by the U.S. Senate and will continue to provide any additional support she may need in the coming weeks.  **State Senate Transportation and Housing Committee to hold hearing on Caltrans Major Project Peer Review Process**  Tomorrow, the State Senate Transportation and Housing Committee will hold a hearing on the use of peer review panels by Caltrans. Peer review panels have been used by Caltrans on a few major projects and specifically, the peer review panel used on the Bay Bridge replacement project is the main focus of this hearing. The committee will also examine the use of the peer review process on the California High Speed Rail project. Metro's state advocacy team will be monitoring this hearing as Caltrans and Metro are in various stages of delivering major state highway improvements in our region. Please click [here](http://stran.senate.ca.gov/sites/stran.senate.ca.gov/files/11-28-12BackgroundReport.pdf) to view the report prepared for the hearing.  <http://stran.senate.ca.gov/sites/stran.senate.ca.gov/files/11-28-12BackgroundReport.pdf> |
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