



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

46

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 16, 2006

SUBJECT: 2007 ADVOCACY PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

ACTION: ADOPT 2007 ADVOCACY PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt proposed 2007 Advocacy Plan for Federal and State Legislative Affairs.

ISSUE

The Metro Board of Directors has indicated its desire to more proactively engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of Metro's legislative program for the upcoming sessions of the California Legislature and U.S. Congress.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Metro's legislative program, which is designed to further the agency's goals and objectives, can be greatly enhanced through the active involvement of Board members and implementation of the 2007 Advocacy Plan for Legislative Affairs.

OPTIONS

The Board of Directors could determine that Board involvement in Metro's legislative program is not necessary. Failure to incorporate Board member advocacy on behalf of the agency's legislative program may result in lost funding opportunities for Metro's priority programs and projects and could diminish Metro's standing in Sacramento and Washington.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The advocacy plan will have a minimal impact on the FY 07 budget.

DISCUSSION

Each year, Metro's Government Relations Department organizes comprehensive policy briefings in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles for the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation as well as House and Senate appropriations and authorizing committee staff (see attachment A). In Sacramento, similar briefings are held for new and returning members of the Legislature, the Administration and key committee staff (see attachment B).

In addition, Metro participates in a number of legislative meetings in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento organized by groups as varied as Mobility 21, the American Public Transportation Association and the California Transit Association. Metro Government Relations also organizes Quarterly Legislative briefings for Los Angeles-based staff of federal and state elected officials to update them on the agency's latest projects and programs. Additionally, CEO Roger Snoble periodically meets with Members of Congress and state legislators who are in a position to influence the outcome of Metro's legislative program.

Specifically, it is anticipated that Board member involvement related to legislative advocacy in Sacramento and Washington may include testimony at relevant hearings and submitting testimony for the record to appropriate legislative committees and/or national or state commissions. This effort will be strategically focused to utilize the particular interests and associations of individual Board members. Staff will contact Board members to verify interest and confirm participation.

Metro's Legislative program is designed to maximize our ability to implement the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Metro's various projects and programs. The successful implementation of our advocacy plan with support from Board members will enhance Metro's ability to fully implement the LRTP.

NEXT STEPS

Should the 2007 Advocacy plan for legislative affairs be adopted, Metro's Government Relations department will strategically request Board member participation in policy briefings and meetings held in Washington, D.C., Sacramento and Los Angeles. In addition, as other elements of the advocacy plan are carried out, the office of the CEO will advise Board members of potential opportunities for participation. Metro's Daily Brief will serve as notification to Board members and be used to convey details on upcoming briefings and meetings.

ATTACHMENT

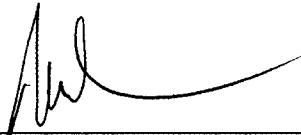
Attachment A – Federal Advocacy Plan Outline
Attachment B – State Advocacy Plan Outline

Prepared by:

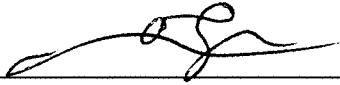
David Kim
Director of Federal Advocacy

Raffi Hamparian
Manager, Federal Affairs

Michael Turner
Manager, State Affairs



Matthew Raymond
Executive Officer, Communications



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

Federal Advocacy Plan Outline:
Proposed Timeline for Metro Board Involvement

January/February

Metro holds policy briefing in Washington for members and staff of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation and staff of House and Senate appropriations and authorizing committees. Briefing should include the participation of Metro Board Chair and/or individual members of the Board.

President's Fiscal Year 2008 budget submitted to Congress. Metro Board Chair and/or individual members of the Board to reach out to local media and provide public comments on proposed budget and its impact on transit in general and Metro in particular.

National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission holds two-day field hearing in Los Angeles. Metro Board Chair and/or individual members may have an opportunity to directly participate in the field hearing or by submitting written testimony for the record.

Spring

Metro hosts congressional staff trip to Los Angeles. Tour agenda (i.e. policy briefings and site visits) to include the participation of Board Chair and/or individuals members of the Board.

Metro participates in APTA's annual legislative conference in Washington. Board Chair and/or individual members attend conference. While in Washington, Board members meet with members of Congress to reiterate Metro's legislative agenda.

Metro participates in the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's annual lobbying trip ("Access D.C."). Board Chair and/or individual members should consider participating in this effort, which complements Metro's legislative agenda. While in Washington, Board members meet with members of Congress to reiterate Metro's agenda.

Mid-Summer

House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee marks up FY08 Transportation Appropriations bill. Board Chair and/or individual Board members send thank you letter to Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member following markup session.

Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee marks up FY08 Transportation Appropriations bill. Board Chair and/or individual Board members send thank you letter to Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member following markup session.

In the event of major floor amendments to Transportation Appropriations bill or Homeland Security Appropriations bill that directly impact Metro, Board Chair and/or individual members to issue action alert to local congressional delegation and urge members to take appropriate action.

August

Metro invites key members of Congress (i.e. House and Senate committee chairmen and ranking members) to visit Los Angeles. Board Chair and/or individual members participate in meetings, briefings or site visits with out of town congressional guests.

Fall

Transportation Appropriations bill and Homeland Security Appropriations bill go to conference. Lobbying effort to include a letter signed by Board Chair and/or individual members urging conferees to take specific action on Metro priorities pending final action in appropriations bills.

Mid/Late Fall

Final action on all FY 08 spending bills anticipated. Board Chair and/or individual members to thank key appropriators and other members for their support and assistance in championing Metro's priorities throughout the FY 08 appropriations cycle. In addition, Board Chair to issue media statement in response to final congressional action on Metro's funding priorities.

State Advocacy Plan Outline:
Proposed Timeline for Metro Board Involvement

December/January

Metro holds policy briefings for new and returning members and briefings for members in key leadership positions. Briefings should include the participation of Metro Board Chair and/or individual members. Throughout the year Metro will also host tours for legislative staff from Sacramento to brief them on Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan and Metro's various projects and programs.

Metro introduces bond implementation legislation. Metro Board members would support solicitation of authors.

The Governor releases his proposed State Budget in January. Metro Board Chair and/or members to reach out to local media and respond to proposed budget and its impact on transit in general and Metro in particular.

The California Transportation Commission will begin to consider Metro's Corridor Mobility Improvement Program project proposals. Metro Board members should be poised to support these projects by contacting commissioners and the Administration.

In addition, the CTC will consider projects in Metro's Long Range Plan and Board members could be mobilized to support specific projects throughout the year.

February/March

Policy committees will begin to consider legislative proposals including bond implementation measures and various transportation proposals that are submitted each year. Metro Board members should be poised to communicate Metro's position to the Chairs and members of the policy committees.

The California Transit Association and Los Angeles Chamber both conduct lobby days in Sacramento to move individual legislative agenda's forward. Metro Board Members could participate in these efforts which support the advancement of Metro's legislative agenda.

Metro's advocacy team begins to lobby members in support of Metro's legislative agenda including bond implementation legislation. Board members' participation in both communications to legislators and trips to Sacramento would support this objective.

Spring

As the Legislature begins to deliberate the State Budget, Metro Board members should be poised to provide input to members of the Senate and Assembly Budget committees, legislative leadership and the Administration.

Mid-Summer

During the legislative recess, Metro conducts legislative briefings as appropriate given the progress of particular legislative issues.

August

During August, the Legislature engages in a flurry of negotiations as they conclude their legislative session. The Metro board should be involved in securing passage or defeat of legislation consistent with Metro's legislative program.

Mid/Late Fall

As the session ends, the Governor considers hundreds of bills submitted to him by the Legislature. Board Members could support the advancement of Metro's legislative agenda by communicating with the Administration. Depending on the issue Metro would meet with key members of the Administration at which point Metro Board members could participate.