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Assembly Transportation and Utilities Committees Approve Our Sponsored Legislation

Yesterday, the Assembly Transportation Committee approved AB 2321 (Feuer) relating to our sales tax authority and AB 2558 (Feuer) which would authorize us to pursue a greenhouse gas fee in Los Angeles County. During the committee hearing, a number of supporters spoke in favor of these measures. Specifically speaking in support of AB 2321 were representatives of the California Transit Association, Metrolink, the Automobile Club of Southern California, California Public Interest Research Group, Environment California and the League of Conservation Voters amongst others. These measures will now be referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Additionally, the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee approved AB 2195 (Brownley) which would streamline the grade crossing approval process at the Public Utilities Commission.

Very Small Starts Application Update for Van Nuys & Sepulveda Blvds.

Last week, we received a formal notification from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that the Very Small Starts Applications we submitted for a bus lane on Sepulveda Boulevard and bus speed improvements on Van Nuys Boulevard had been declined. The FTA recognized both projects had merit; however, regarding Van Nuys, the FTA ruled that the length of the exclusive bus lane was inadequate for Very Small Starts funding. As for Sepulveda, the FTA informed us that the cost per mile was too high to qualify for Very Small Starts.

In recognition of the need for north/south bus speed improvement projects in the San Fernando Valley, the Board instructed staff in September 2006 to work with the Los

Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to identify projects that could increase bus speeds on four eastern San Fernando Valley Corridors. These corridors include Van Nuys and Sepulveda Boulevards, along with Lankershim and Reseda Boulevards. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed that made \$900,000 available to LADOT for the purpose of identifying and completing preliminary engineering on bus speed projects in these corridors. Once we have more definition from the City, we will look at future funding. We look forward to receiving project recommendations from LADOT.

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