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CTC Vote Leaves SoCal Short of Transportation Funding, Snoble Says

- Delegation asks for up to \$2.2 billion, but region may receive only \$1.5 to \$1.7 billion

(Nov. 28, 2007) The California Transportation Commission doesn't "understand or appreciate" goods movement problems in Southern California, says CEO Roger Snoble, following a commission vote in Sacramento, Tuesday, that left the region short of needed funding.

Photo by Juan Ocampo



CEO Roger Snoble addressed the Mobility 21 conference in November.

Although 36 legislators, Snoble and others called on the CTC to allocate up to \$2.2 billion to the region from a \$3 billion state transportation fund, the commission adopted guidelines that could provide between \$1.5 and \$1.7 billion for goods movement in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire.

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and other legislators argued that the region should get at least 70 to 75 percent of the funding since 85 percent of the ocean cargo handled in California comes through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The CTC-adopted guidelines would provide \$640 million to \$840 million for the Bay area; \$250 million to \$400 million for San Diego; and \$60 million to \$80 million for projects in other areas.

In a statement released Wednesday, Snoble said, "It is unfortunate, that in approving the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF) program today, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) continues to demonstrate that it does not completely understand or appreciate the full magnitude of the goods movement problems in our region.

'Will shortchange the region'

"Today's decision to share goods movement dollars 'evenly' across the state aimed to satisfy everyone, but in the end will shortchange the region that, by any objective measure, deserves these funds.

"I make no apologies for fighting for goods movement dollars that should rightfully be spent in our region. The fact is, according to the California Air Resources Board, over 1,200 residents from our region die prematurely every year due to the effects of air pollution related to the goods movement industry.

"Today's CTC action is further proof that Los Angeles County must look to its own resources if we are going to comprehensively address the

needs of our region.

“It is unfortunate that the State does not fully recognize the magnitude of the goods movement problem in our region.”

Snoble thanked Nunez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee Chairman Mike Feuer, Assembly Member Bob Huff, Assembly Transportation Committee Chairman Pedro Nava and the members of the Southern California legislative delegation “for fighting so hard for our fair share of funding.”

He also thanked CTC Commissioner Larry Zarian, a former Metro Board chairman and LA County's only commissioner, for supporting the region.