



Strategic Planning Committee

January 5, 2009

Federal Advocacy Strategy for 2009

Issue: What advocacy principles should SACOG pursue at the federal level in 2009?

Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend that the Board approve support for seven policy areas outlined below as direction for staff and SACOG's lobbyist to advocate on the Board's behalf in 2009.

Discussion: Staff gathered input from all four SACOG policy committees about where SACOG should focus its federal advocacy in 2009. These principles reflect that input and are based on the best information about key issues for 2009.

Economic Recovery Funding – Seek to ensure the Sacramento region is competitive and receives its fair share of funding for any one-time infrastructure funding. The federal economic recovery bill proposed by President-elect Obama will most likely rely on a combination of additional funding for existing formula-based programs distributed among states, regions and local jurisdictions. Advocate for increased flexibility for funding for transit operations and capital investments.

Transportation Authorization – Seek to influence authorization of the next surface transportation bill. The current bill—*Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*—expires September 30, 2009. Advocate for statewide California Consensus Principles adopted by the SACOG Board in 2008. Advocate for inclusion of projects from the MTP2035 hard-to-fund, large-scale projects, such as the Intermodal Station Relocation, South Line Light Rail Extension, Downtown Natomas Airport Light Rail Extension, and river crossings at the American River near Truxel and Sacramento River near Broadway. Encourage bill to include incentives for linking transportation and land use planning, support for regional planning tools for modeling and data gathering, and ongoing public education and engagement related to travel behavior.

Complete Streets – Seek to influence legislation that supports planning and funding streets designed to accommodate cars, transit, bicyclists and pedestrians including education, encouragement and infrastructure for Safe Routes to Schools.

Blueprint Implementation – Seek funding for SACOG to implement the Blueprint preferred growth scenario and continue technical assistance for cities and counties. Seek to influence legislation or administrative rules that would provide flexible funding for smart growth planning. Continue education and advocacy efforts with Metropolitan Mobility Caucus and key members of the House and Senate regarding Senate Bill 375 and ongoing efforts linking transportation and land use planning.

Discretionary Transit Funding – Continue to seek discretionary funding for light rail projects including Downtown-Natomas-Airport extension, South Line Phase II extension, Northeast and Folsom double tracking, and passenger railcar rehabilitation. Continue to pursue funding for bus replacements and bus facilities. Also seek funding for enhanced passenger rail service on Capital Corridor serving as regional rail service to major employment centers.

Climate Change/Air Quality – Seek to influence legislation or administrative rules addressing climate change, especially those dealing with transportation, land use and air quality. Encourage reduction measures that support Blueprint and Metropolitan Transportation Plan objectives. Work with federal delegation to continue education efforts related to California’s Global Warming Act (AB 32).

Natural Resources – Continue to seek funding from the Army Corps of Engineers for natural resources data development and planning to support habitat conservation plans in the region.

Approved by:

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